

(No Model.)

E. MAYER.  
POTTER'S BLOCK AND BATTER.

No. 419,609.

Patented Jan. 14, 1890.

Fig. 1.

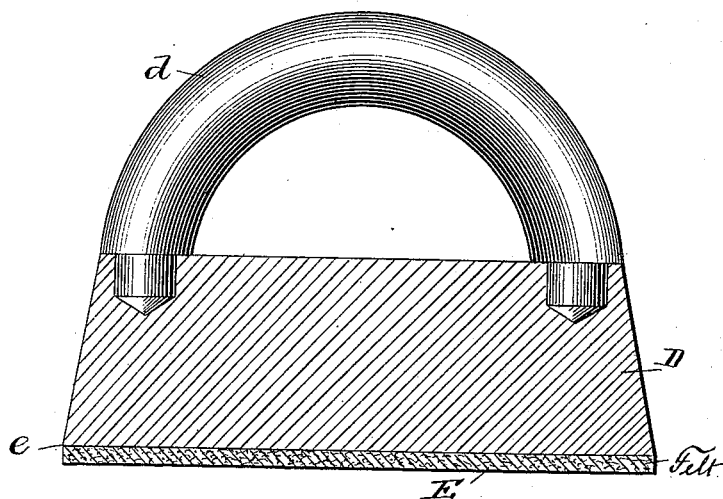
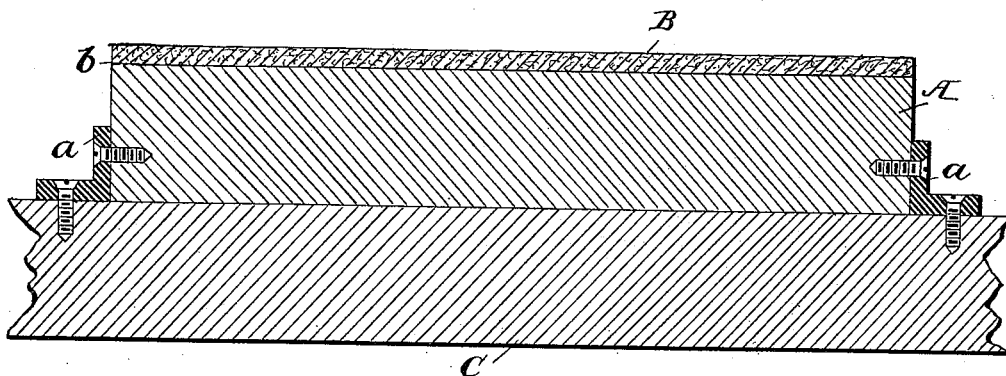


Fig. 2.



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST MAYER, OF NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOSEPH MAYER, OF SAME PLACE.

## POTTER'S BLOCK AND BATTER.

**SPECIFICATION** forming part of Letters Patent No. 419,609, dated January 14, 1890.

Application filed November 26, 1889. Serial No. 331,635. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ERNEST MAYER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Brighton, in the county of Beaver and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Potters' Blocks and Batters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to appliances used in the preparation of the "bat" or lump of clay prior to the last process of molding or forming such clay into the finished shape in which it is to be dried, burned, or fired, and more particularly to what are known as "potters' blocks and batters."

Heretofore it has been the general custom to construct such blocks of plaster-of-paris, and the batters also in like manner, a foundation or core of earthenware or baked clay being used, which was provided with a knob or handle, and the plaster-of-paris was formed or molded upon this foundation. These, however, are open to the objection that they require saturating with a certain volume of water before using, that they are subject to chip, check, or disintegrate, and that small portions of the plaster become detached from the block or batter and are attached to the bat and remain embedded therein, whereby they destroy or at least deteriorate from the value of the finished utensil. It has also been customary to some extent to cover the blocks and batters with chamois-skin or calf-skin attached to the body of the blocks; but this is open to the objection that the clay sticks to the chamois or calf skin, and these surfaces absorb moisture from the bat and become swollen, uneven, and irregular, and, aside from these objections, they are expensive to make and manufacture.

The object of my invention is to overcome the objections to such blocks and batters and to provide blocks and batters which are cheap, simple of construction, and well adapted for the purposes for which they are intended.

To these ends my invention consists in a potter's block or batter constructed of a material which is easy of manufacture into the desired shape and of a nature to retain such shape indefinitely; and it further consists in

providing the working-faces of such blocks and batters with a material that shall be at once smooth, porous, and of a permanent character. This I accomplish by constructing the blocks and batters in the manner substantially hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of one form of batter, and Fig. 2 is a like sectional view of a block embodying my invention.

The batter consists, essentially, of a body D, of wood, which is made of any desired shape, according to the purpose for which it is to be used, and to this body I attach a handle *d* in any approved or convenient manner. Upon the working-face *e* of this block I fix a facing E, of felt, felted hair, felted wool, or similar and equivalent material, of a thickness depending upon the purposes to which it is to be put and the character of the bats to be operated upon. The block A also has a body of wood of the desired shape, and may be provided with lugs *a* or other equivalent devices by which it can be securely attached to a bench or table C, and the working-surface *b* of this block is covered with a facing B, of felt or felted fabric. It will thus be seen that with the blocks and batters constructed, essentially, of a body of wood made in any desired form or shape, and having the working or operative surfaces covered with a facing of felt or felt fabric. I have tools always ready for work without saturating with water or other preparation and having surfaces not liable to injury from any ordinary cause, free from checks, chips, or disintegrations, and not in any way injurious to the bat or ware in its after manipulation.

I have found that a good quality of felted wool yields good results as a facing; but I do not confine myself to the use of wool alone, as felt cloth or felt hair or other equivalent fibrous material may be used.

The felt or other fabric may be secured to the block in any suitable way; but I prefer to cement the surface to the blocks and batters, and I have found ordinary alcoholene shellac forms an excellent cement for this purpose; but I may use any cement or glue which will make a joint impervious to moist-

ure and which does not affect the porosity of the felt.

While I prefer to use wood as the body of the blocks and batters, I do not in all cases  
5 confine myself to such substance, as the body may be made of metal, baked clay, or other similar material, and the facing of felt or felt fabric can be secured thereto and still attain to a great extent the benefits of my invention.  
10 Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A potter's block or batter having a solid body and a facing of fibrous fabric, substantially as described.

2. A potter's block or batter consisting of 15 a body of wood provided with a facing of fibrous fabric, substantially as described.

3. A potter's block or batter consisting of a body of wood having a face of felt or felted fabric cemented thereto, substantially as de- 20 scribed.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ERNEST MAYER.

Witnesses:

I. E. CRAWFORD,  
MAURICE C. WILDE.