

E. G. FALES.

Machine for Blocking Hats.

No. 167,086.

Patented Aug. 24, 1875.

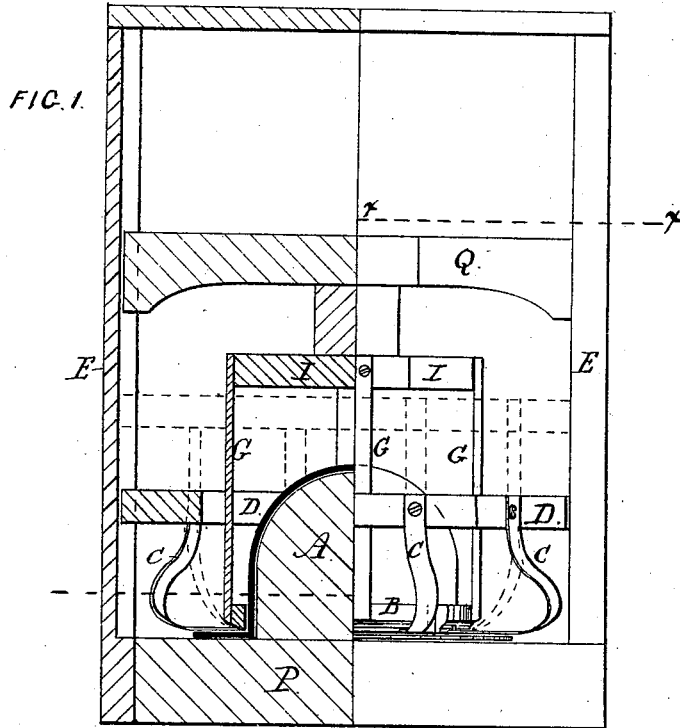


FIG. 2.

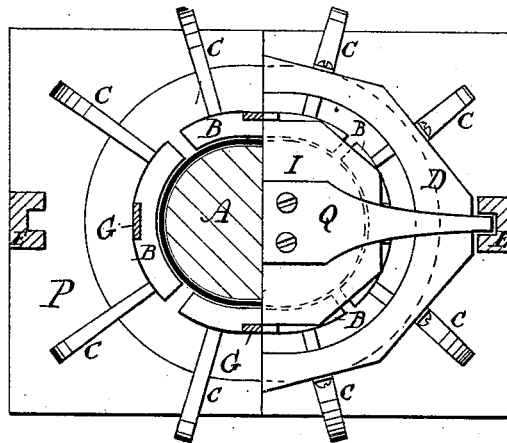
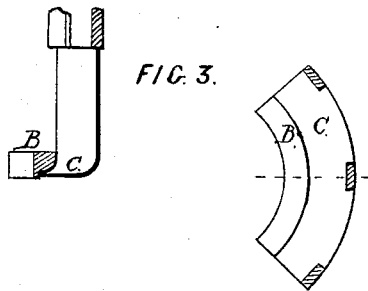


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EBEN C. FALES, OF FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR BLOCKING HATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **167,086**, dated August 24, 1875; application filed July 16, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EBEN C. FALES, of Foxborough, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machine for Blocking Hats, Bonnets, &c., of which the following is a specification:

The present invention relates to a machine or apparatus more especially intended for shaping, pressing, and blocking straw blanks for hats and bonnets into shape, and it more particularly relates to an improvement in the blocking-machine described in the schedule annexed to the Letters Patent of the United States issued to me, dated May 20, 1873, No. 139,133, which improvement consists, as to such machine, in the combination therewith of a series of flexible or elastic bands or ribs, or their equivalents, which are applied and arranged to press and flatten out the brim of the hat blocked and pressed in the machine, and to hold the brim in such flattened position, all substantially as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying plate of drawings the present improvement is illustrated, Figure 1 being in part an elevation and in part a vertical section of the same, and similarly of a sufficient part of the said patented machine to properly illustrate it in connection therewith; and Fig. 2 is a partial plan view and horizontal section on line *x x*, Fig. 1.

In the drawings, A represents the hat-block; B, the sectional stretching ring or band, connected to vertical spring-bands G of a head, I; P, the bed; Q, the cross-head, guided by and between suitable posts E of the bed P, all and otherwise in their details substantially as described in the aforesaid Letters Patent, and therefore needing no more particular description herein; C, a series of spring or flexible bands or ribs, fastened by pairs to the outside of each section of the sectional stretching ring or band B, and all to a common annular cross-head, D, which is arranged to travel in and be guided by the vertical posts E for the travel of the cross-head Q, but independently of said cross-head. These spring-ribs are for pressing and flattening out the brim of the hat, otherwise blocked in the machine, according

to the aforesaid Letters Patent, and they are made to press and flatten out the brim by moving their common head down toward the bed P, which bends them outwardly against the upper side of the brim, and thereby lays and flattens out the brim on the bed P, where, if then the head D be properly secured in such position, the brim can be maintained in its flattened condition, so that when the hat is removed, after having remained sufficiently under the blocking operation of the machine and of the said ribs C, the brim will stand straight out from the side of the body or crown of the hat.

The ribs C may be increased in number at pleasure, and in lieu of ribs, such as described, each section of the stretching ring or band B may be provided with other flexible and elastic attachments—as, for instance, a band, such as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, and this band operated upon by arms suitably projecting from the head D; but ribs, such as described, are found to work most perfectly and satisfactorily.

Obviously the means herein described for pressing and flattening out the brim of the hat otherwise blocked may be applied to other arrangements of apparatus for blocking without substantial change.

Having now described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the block A, sectional stretching-ring B, cross-head I, bed P, flexible ribs C, and cross-head D, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination, in a machine for blocking hats, &c., constructed to operate substantially as hereinbefore described, of the cross-head D and the elastic ribs C, arranged to press and flatten out the brim of the hat, as and for the purpose specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 1st day of July, A. D. 1875.

E. C. FALES.

Witnesses:

EDWIN W. BROWN,  
GEO. H. EARL.