C. FRANKE.

Apparatus for Shaping Coats.

No. 167,394. Patented Sept. 7, 1875.

Fig. II.

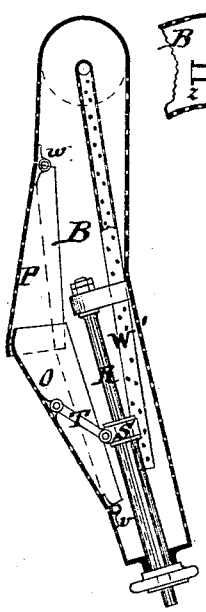
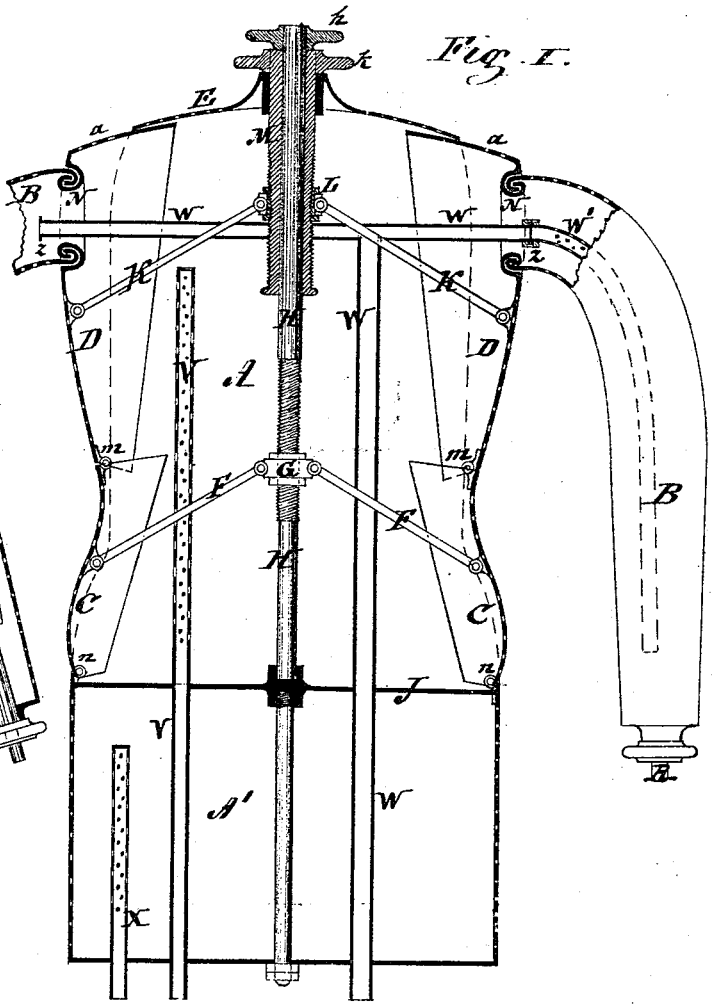


Fig. I.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES FRANKE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN APPARATUS FOR SHAPING COATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **167,394**, dated September 7, 1875; application filed April 1, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES FRANKE, of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Machine for Steaming, Shaping, and Pressing Coats, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention consists in the arrangement of a suitable frame or casing made of metal and perforated, provided with sectional parts, hinged to the body of the casing, and attached by means of rods to sleeves or nuts, operated by screw-spindles, whereby these hinged sections of the frame can be forced outward to increase the circumference of the casing. To the main casing smaller casings are attached by means of suitable ball-joints to correspond with the coat-sleeves, and likewise provided with hinged sections, operated by a screw-rod, to increase the circumference of the same. Perforated steam-pipes are arranged in the inside of the main body and of the sleeve-casings to heat the same.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure I represents a vertical section of the machine embodying my invention. Fig. II is a side view of one of the sleeve-casings in section.

The case consists of three main parts—first, the main casing A, representing the shape of the upper part or body of the coat, and the two sleeve-casings B B, corresponding with the shape of the coat-sleeves. Below the casing A another case, A′, is arranged to accommodate the skirt of the coat. In the sides of the chamber A movable sections C and D are arranged. The section C is, at its lower part *n*, hinged to the casing A, while the section D is hinged to the upper part of the section C at *m*. The upper part of the section D is provided with a top or cap plate, *a*, fitting against the top plate E of the casing A, to prevent the escape of the steam when the sections are moved outward, and similar plates are arranged on the sides of these sections for the same purpose. The sections C are connected through rods F F to a nut, G, working upon a spindle, H, attached to the division-plate J, and operated by a wheel, *h*. By this arrangement these sections C C can be moved inward or outward by turning said spindle H, increasing or diminishing thereby the circumference of that part of the casing A. The sections D are connected through rods K K to a nut, L, working upon the screwed part of a sleeve, M, placed over the spindle H, and operated by a wheel, *k*, by which arrangement these sections D D can be moved inward or outward by turning said sleeve M, increasing or diminishing thereby the circumference of this upper part of the case A. To the upper part of the sections D D the sleeve-cases B B are attached by means of suitable ball or socket joints N N, to allow said cases B to turn freely backward for the purpose of inserting or passing said cases into the sleeves of the coat. These cases B B are provided with sections O and P, hinged at *v* and *w* to the body of the case B, the section P overlapping the section O at a part corresponding with the elbow of the coat-sleeve. In the lower part of these cases B screw-rods R are arranged, operating nuts S, connected through the rods T with the sections O, (see Fig. II,) by which arrangement the sections O can be moved inward or outward. The outward motion of the section O pushes the section P likewise outward. V, W, and X are steam-pipes entering at the bottom of the main casing. The pipe X passes only into the lower casing A′ for the purpose of heating that part. The pipe V passes through the casing A′ into the casing A, in which latter part it is perforated for the purpose of heating and admitting the steam into that part of the case. The pipe W passes through the casing A′ and A, and is provided with branches at its upper end, leading into the sleeve-casings B B, where, near the socket-joints N N, the perforated pipes W′ W′ are connected to the same by means of suitable universal joints Z Z. These perforated pipes W′ W′ extend nearly to the end of the sleeve-casings B B, and admit the steam into those parts. All the sides, as well as the hinged sections of the frame or case, are very finely perforated, to allow the escape of steam through the same. This frame or casing is inclosed with a linen or cotton cover, over which the coat, after the same has been dyed, washed, or cleaned, is placed. The arm or sleeve cases B being moved backward, as above described, for the purpose of passing the same into the coat-sleeves; an outer cover of some woolen or other heavy substance is then fastened tight

over the coat. The hinged sections C D in the main body A of the case are then moved outward as much as may be required to stretch the body of the coat tight, and then the hinged parts O in the sleeve-casings B are moved outward to stretch the sleeves of the coat tight upon their casings, by which arrangement the coat, as well as its sleeves, will be stretched and shaped in any desired manner. Steam is then admitted into the several compartments forming the case, which will heat the same and pass through the sides, saturating the coat, which may then be stretched still further, if desirable. The outside woolen or other heavy material will confine the steam to the cloth of the coat and prevent the displacement or disarrangement of the nap or fibers of the material. After some time the steam is shut off, and the thus saturated coat is allowed to dry upon the frame or casing, and will then, when removed, be found pressed and shaped without any further necessity of ironing.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The herein-described frame or case, consisting of the chambers or casings A′ A and B B, of the proper form for shaping a coat, and provided with hinged sections C, D, O and P, in combination with rods F, K, and T, operated by spindles H R and sleeve M, together with suitable steam-pipes V, W, X, and W′, the whole being arranged to operate together in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.

2. The sleeve-casings B B, attached to the hinged sections D by means of a ball or socket joint, N, substantially as and for the purpose described.

CHARLES FRANKE.

Witnesses:
HENRY E. ROEDER,
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