2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. BIGELOW.

Sweat-Leather for Hats.

No. 198,867. **Patented Jan. 1, 1878.**

Fig. 1.

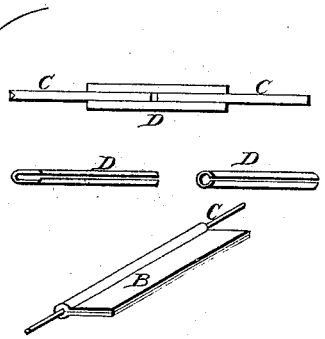


Fig. 3.

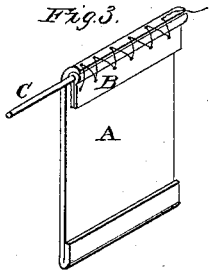


Fig. 2.

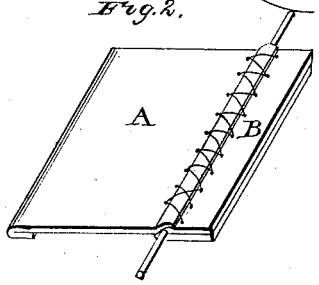


Fig. 4.

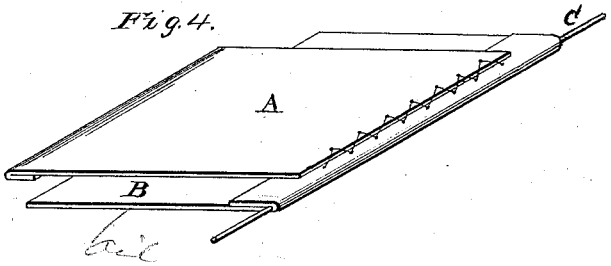


Fig. 5.

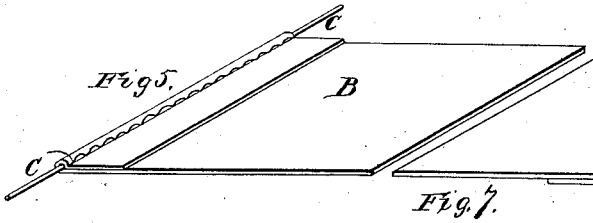


Fig. 6.

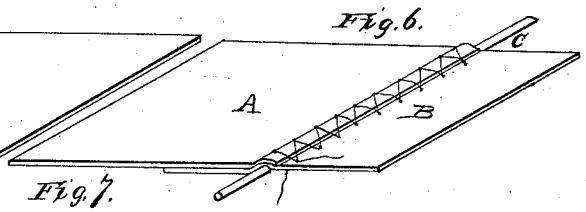
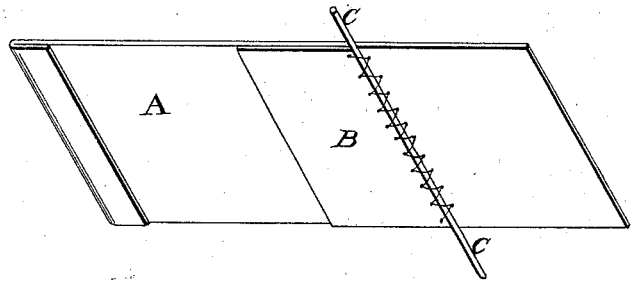


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES

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Sweat-Leather for Hats.

No. 198,867. Patented Jan. 1, 1878.

Fig. 8.

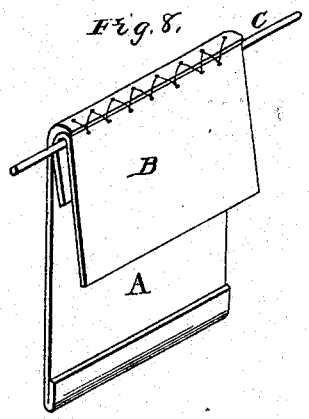


Fig. 9.

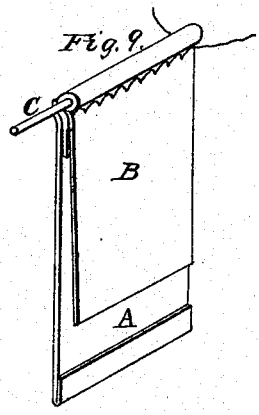


Fig. 10.

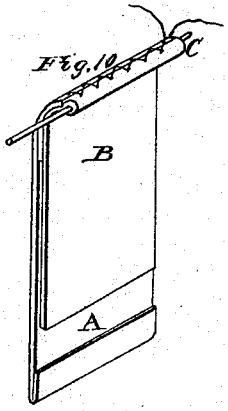


Fig. 12.

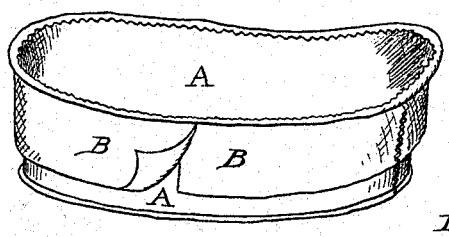


Fig. 13.

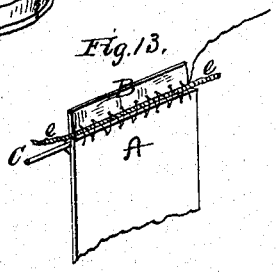
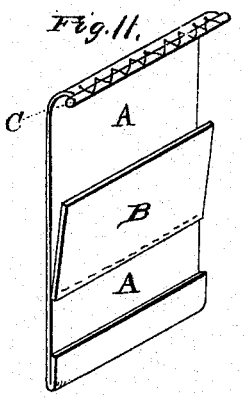


Fig. 11.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BIGELOW, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SWEAT-LEATHERS FOR HATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,867**, dated January 1, 1878; application filed October 6, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BIGELOW, of the city of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sweat-Leathers for Hats, of which the following is a specification:

Figure 1 shows the spring-bands, to which the leathers are attached, the ferrule for securing the ends of the spring-rod, and method of joining the same. Fig. 2 shows one way of joining the spring-band to the sweat-leather according to present invention. Fig. 3 is an end view of Fig. 2, brought into position for attachment to the hat-body. Fig. 4 shows an oil-cloth spring-band attached to a sweat-leather according to present invention. Fig. 5 shows an oil-cloth spring-band prepared by folding the cloth over the spring-rod and sewing the fold close to the rod. Fig. 6 shows another method of sewing together the sweat-leather A, oil-cloth B, and spring-rod C according to present invention when the spring-rod C and oil-cloth B are not prepared as in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is an under view of Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a view of Fig. 6 when folded and ready for attachment to a hat. Fig. 9 shows the stitch on the under side of Fig. 10. Fig. 10 is an end view of Fig. 4, the upper edge flaring, so that the sewing will not come in contact with the head of the wearer when the prepared sweat-leather is placed in a hat. Fig. 11 shows a sweat-leather with the rod C stitched directly to its edge, and the covering B either sewed or pasted independently to the back of the leather A. Fig. 12 shows a prepared sweat-leather complete. Fig. 13 is a perspective view, showing a cord along the edge of the leather.

The object of this invention is to produce a hat sweat-leather with spring-band and tacking-strips made circular or straight by mechanical means, and in readiness to be used on or put into fine stiff or soft hats of felt, straw, or other material.

The method now in use of uniting a sweat-leather and spring-band is to tack, by long stitches made through and to the hat-body, the small spring-band shown in Fig. 1, and then to fit the leathers to the hat, and hand-sew the edge of the leather to the spring-band.

A few of the objections to this method are; that the sewing by hand is slow and expensive; that the edge of the leather has to be prick-marked in order to guide the sewer in making the stitches regular, and to assist in driving the needle through the leather; that since the cloth covering of the whalebone or reed rod is secured by pasting when its tacking to the hat gets loose, the rod itself becomes loose and is with difficulty secured; that when an oil-cloth covering is used for the rod the hand-sewing defaces and mars the glazed surface of the oil-cloth where most exposed, since the sewer has to push the needle through it in order to secure a hold for attaching the leather.

It is the purpose of the present invention to remove these difficulties, as will now be set out and explained in detail.

By means of a Blanchard overseaming or any other zigzag sewing-machine are united the ends of the sweat-leather—already fitted to the size of hat required—by the Blanchard overseam, patented September 7, 1875, or else by hand-sewing.

Using the same sewing-machine, having the sweat-leather thus, a circular band, the raw edge of the leather band A is so placed that it will lie over the spring-rod C of the band B, as shown in Fig. 1.

The position of these parts will be as shown in Fig. 2. Then feed through the machine, so that the needle will take outside alternately the leather edge, but within the rod C and through the cloth covering B of the spring-band; then within the leather edge, but without the rod C and its covering B. Before sewing all around the leather the operator should connect the ends of the rod C by the ferrule D, Fig. 1, or else pass the ends of the rod by each other, properly arranging and lapping the covering-strip B where the ends meet; then finish the sewing. When the covering B is tacked into the hat, or is brought around parallel to the leather A, it will be found that the sewing is rolled over, as in Fig. 3, so that it will not come into contact with the head of the wearer of the hat, while the rod C itself, and not simply its covering, is securely fastened to the leather.

Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are upper, under, and folded views of another method of carrying out this

invention. In these the spring-band is not prepared as in Fig. 1; but the leather A, covering B, and spring-rod C are each separate, and are united by one sewing. It is made by placing the cloth B under the edge of the leather A, and the rod C beneath both. The stitch is then taken alternately within and without the edge of the leather A, each time through the covering B, and alternately on one side, then the other, of the rod C.

Fig. 5 shows an oil-cloth or other covering, secured to the spring-rod C by stitching instead of by pasting, as in Fig. 1.

Figs. 4, 9, and 10 show still a third method of preparing a sweat-leather according to the present invention, and is well adapted to oil-cloth or other covering for the spring-rod where the edge of the rod is wanted to show and the edge of the band to be especially light. It is made by placing the leather A over the cloth B, with its edge close to the rod C, as is shown in Fig. 4, and then stitching within and without the edge of the leather, but each time within the rod C and through the covering B.

The stitching as it appears on the under side is shown in Fig. 9.

The edge of the band can be made to set off or flare out, as is shown in Fig. 10, by stretching the edge of the leather or setting back the spring-rod.

If preferred, these can be sewed with a straight instead of over-edge stitch, although the over-edge stitch, besides its other advantages, will stand the strain of stretching and blocking.

Fig. 11 shows the rod C stitched directly to the edge of the leather A, and the covering B secured in any proper manner, by stitching or pasting, to the body of the leather A. In order that it, B, may be used in securing the leather to the hat, a perfectly-prepared sweat-leather, as shown in Fig. 12, is thus produced, which is adapted to either stiff or soft felt or straw hats, when the stitching of the leather directly to the body of the hat, as is described in my application of even date herewith, would be objectionable, from the liability of the perspiration to follow the sewing-threads, and thus soil the outer finish of the hat.

The appearance of the band or leather thus prepared is better, and its durability greater, than when hand-sewed. It is much more cheaply made, and can be as easily tacked to the hat-body by an independent stitching, which cannot act as a conductor of perspiration.

If preferred, the bands can be prepared in straight strips, and afterward fitted, united, and finished by hand, and still retain the advantages before referred to.

A cord can be fed along the edge of the leather, so as to cover it, and yet be secured by the same stitching, as shown by *e* in Fig. 13.

The spring-rod C so supports the circular band, as it is being stitched to it, that no difficulty will be experienced in stitching around the circle, since the rod keeps the edge of the circular leather band up in the line of the feed.

Under some circumstances or for certain uses, instead of a spring-rod, there may be substituted twine, wire, or a slightly-projecting edge made of tape or folded cloth; or a cord on the plain or folded edge can be employed with good results.

By my method a sweat-leather can be prepared in less than two minutes, when from twenty to thirty minutes are required by hand.

My leathers are prepared free from the hats, while by the old way they are not.

My sewing is perfectly regular, indeed better, without prick-marking.

By my method the rod itself is stitched to the leather, as well as its covering, and so cannot get free, Figs, 1, 4, 6, and 11.

Oil-cloth-covered rods can be sewed to the leathers without injury to their exposed surface, while the edges of the leathers can be corded as nicely as by the best hand-workmanship.

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

1. A sweat-leather for hats with an attaching-slip and spring-band connected to the slip, all combined and prepared substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination of a spring-rod band with the edge of a sweat-leather by a stitch within and without the edge of said leather, but encircling said rod, substantially as described.

3. The combination of a spring-rod to and with the edge of a sweat-leather by stitching within and without the edge of the leather, but within the spring-rod, and each time through the lapped covering of the same, substantially as and for the purposes described.

4. The combination of a spring-rod to and with the edge of a sweat-leather, with a cord along the edge of said leather, substantially as and for the purposes described.

5. The process of uniting an independent attaching-slip having a spring-rod, or its equivalent, substantially as described, to the edge of a sweat-leather by overseaming or zig-zag sewing, substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

6. As a new article of manufacture, a circular spring-band sweat-leather, the several parts united and combined by overseaming or zig-zag sewing, substantially in the manner set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN BIGELOW.

Witnesses:
ROBT. E. LESTER,
JOHN URIAN.