

G. F. BLAUVELT.  
 Boot-Cleaner.

No. 199,497.

Patented Jan. 22, 1878.

Fig. 1.

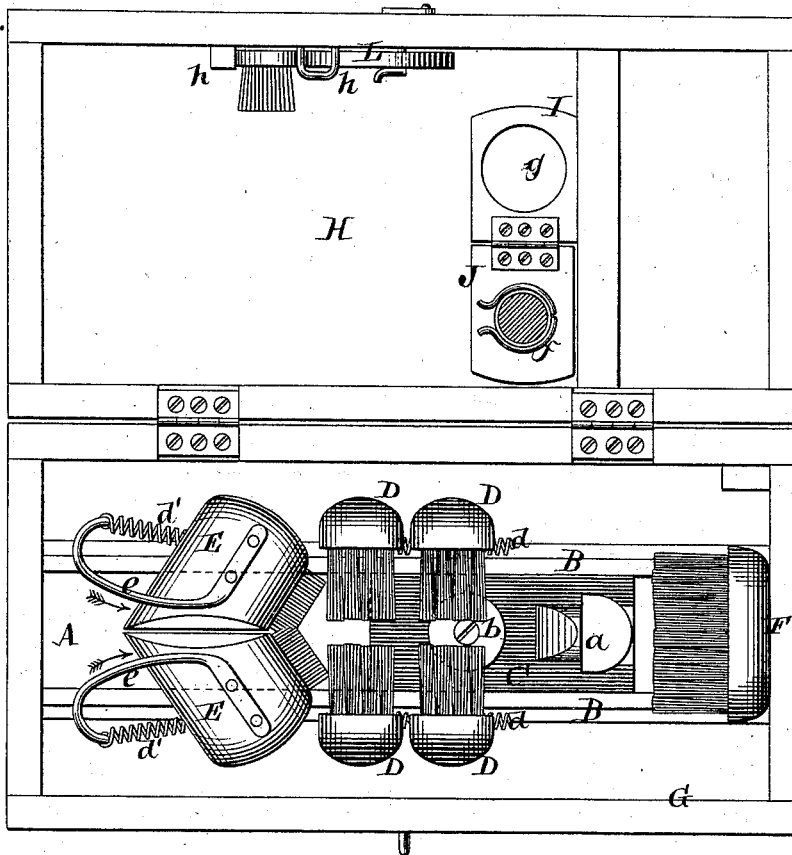
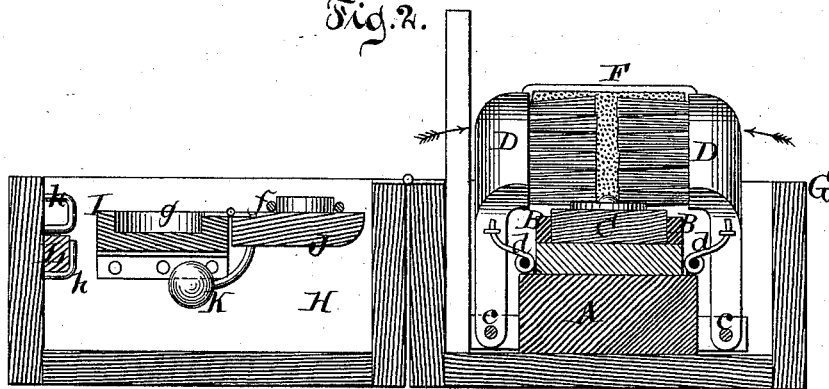


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.  
 Chas. Nahler.  
 Otto Aufeland.

Inventor.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GERRITT F. BLAUVELT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BOOT-CLEANERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **199,497**, dated January 22, 1878; application filed November 14, 1877.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GERRITT F. BLAUVELT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Blacking Boots or Shoes, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of a machine constructed according to my invention, and Fig. 2 is a cross-section thereof.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

My improvement has relation to devices for cleaning and polishing boots or shoes; and it consists in the combination of a sliding platform, suitable ways for guiding said platform, and lateral brushes for cleaning or polishing the side parts of the boot or shoe, such brushes being located on opposite sides of the platform or its ways, so that by placing one's foot with the boot or shoe on the platform, and sliding the same back and forth, the side parts of the boot or shoe are repeatedly brought in contact with the lateral brushes; also, in the combination of a sliding platform, suitable ways for guiding said platform, and transverse brushes for cleaning or polishing the top or waist and the toe part of the boot or shoe, such transverse brushes being located above the platform; further, in the combination of a sliding platform, suitable ways for guiding said platform, and a brush for cleaning or polishing the heel of the boot or shoe, such brush being located at one end of the ways. It consists, also, in an inclosing-case having a hinged lid, with which is combined a ledge and a weighted blacking-receptacle, which is hinged to said ledge in such a manner that when said lid is shut the blacking-receptacle is brought in contact with said ledge by its weight, whereby the blacking contained in the receptacle is covered or protected, while, when said lid is opened, the blacking-receptacle is laid bare.

In the drawing, the letter A designates a bed, to which are secured ways B B, forming guides for the sliding platform C of my device. This platform is preferably provided with a heel-plate, *a*, and a sole-plate, *b*, and, if desired, it may be mounted on anti-friction rollers.

D D are brushes located on opposite sides of the sliding platform C. These brushes D D

project over the platform C, as shown; and in order to allow the same to yield to the pressure of the boot or shoe forced between them, as hereinafter specified, their shanks are pivoted, as at *c*, and subjected to the action of springs *d*, having a tendency to force them inward.

E E are brushes arranged side by side above the sliding platform C, and transversely thereof, being, moreover, located near one end of the ways B B. These brushes E E have wire shanks, *e*, which are pivoted like the shanks of the brushes D D, and subjected to the action of springs *d'*, serving to force them inward or toward each other. These brushes E E, moreover, are inclined, so that when a boot or shoe is forced beneath them they sweep over the toe part, and also the waist or top part thereof. F is a brush located at the end of the ways B B, opposite the brushes E E, and which is stationary.

The boot or shoe to be cleaned or polished is held on the sliding platform C by resting one's foot thereon, and is moved backward so as to bring the heel in contact with the brush F, and if the heel is then turned a few times it is cleaned or polished, as the case may be. The foot, with the platform C, is then moved backward and forward a number of times, so as to bring the boot or shoe repeatedly in contact with the lateral brushes D D, and also beneath the transverse brushes E E. By the lateral brushes D D the side portions of the boot or shoe are cleaned or polished, while by means of the brushes E E the like object is attained as to the waist or top and toe part of the boot or shoe.

I inclose my device in a case, G, having a hinged lid, H, which, in the example shown, is a counterpart of the case. In the lid H is secured a ledge, I, to one edge of which is hinged a blacking-receptacle, J, which is provided with a weight, K. The blacking-receptacle J has a clamp, *f*, adapted to hold a blacking-box of ordinary form; but it can also be provided with a cavity to receive the blacking. When the clamp *f* is used, I provide the ledge I with a recess, *g*, of sufficient size to receive the box held by said clamp. When the lid H is open, as shown, the blacking-receptacle J is held in such a position as to lay

bare its face, or the blacking, by the action of the weight K, while by the same means said receptacle is turned on its hinges, when the lid H is closed to such a position as to bring the face thereof in contact with the ledge I, whereby the blacking is covered or protected. The lid H is also provided with brackets *h*, to support a dauber, L, by means of which the blacking is applied to the boot or shoe to be polished.

In some cases a supplemental spiral spring is combined with the transverse brushes E, this spring being arranged above said brushes, and the opposite ends thereof being connected to their shanks, respectively.

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

1. The combination of the sliding platform C, ways B B, for guiding said platform, and lateral brushes D D, for cleaning or polishing the side parts of the boot or shoe, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the sliding platform C, ways B B, for guiding said platform, and transverse brushes E E, for cleaning or polishing the waist and the toe part of the boot or shoe, substantially as described.

3. In a boot or shoe blacking device, the foot-support provided with a heel-brush, F, on a level with and arranged transversely to the side brushes D, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination of the case G, its hinged lid H, the ledge I, and weighted blacking-receptacle J, hinged to said ledge, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

G. F. BLAUVELT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

E. F. KASTENHUBER,  
CHAS. WAHLERS.