W. J. VAN HORNE.
Measure for Hats and Caps.

No. 200,364. **Patented Feb. 12, 1878.**

Fig. 1.

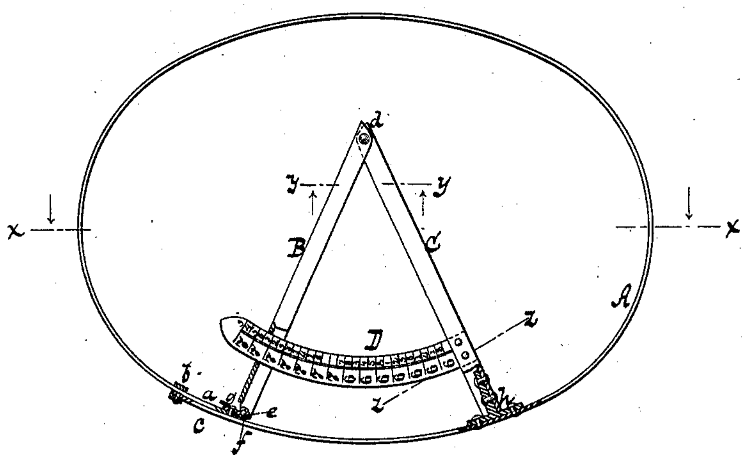


Fig. 2.

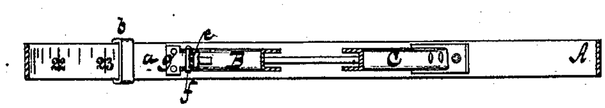


Fig. 3

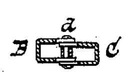
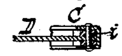


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.
Otto Hufeland.
Robt. E. Miller.

Inventor.
William J. Van Horne
by
Van Santvoord & Hauff
his attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. VAN HORNE, OF SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN MEASURES FOR HATS AND CAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,364**, dated February 12, 1878; application filed December 28, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. VAN HORNE, of the city and county of Schenectady, in the State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Measures for Hats and Caps, 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, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a vertical section in the plane *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the handles in the plane *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a transverse section in the plane *z z*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to certain improvements in that class of measures for hats and caps which are constructed of a thin and elastic strip of sheet metal and two handles, which serve to expand or contract the elastic strip, and which are provided with a graduated segment to indicate the size of the hat or cap, such, for instance, as described in the patent granted to Julius Wehle, August 16, 1859, No. 25,154.

In measures of this class, as heretofore constructed, the handles are made of pieces of wood, connected together by a hinge-joint, and fastened to the elastic strip by metallic brackets, the graduated segment being firmly secured to one of the handles and caused to pass through a slot in the other.

In making the several connections great care must be taken so as not to split the wood. Much time is required to produce all the parts; and, even if ever so well fitted, the wooden handles are liable to become detached, and the measure is rendered useless.

In my measure the handles are stamped up of sheet metal, with a U-shaped cross-section, one handle being made to overlap the other, so that they can be connected by a simple pivot, and another pivot serves to unite the outer end of one of the handles to an eye formed at the end of a bracket, which is riveted to the flexible strip, said eye being made to fit between the sides of the U-shaped handle, while the outer end of the other handle is secured to the elastic strip by a T-shaped bracket, the vertical shank of which fits between the sides of the U-shaped handle, so that all the parts can be readily prepared and fitted together in a durable manner with comparatively little labor. The graduated segment is provided with a head, which fits between the sides of one of the U-shaped handles, and is firmly secured by rivets.

On the inner surface of the flexible strip is an inch-measure, for the purpose of facilitating and controlling the measure by means of the graduated segment.

In the drawing, the letter A designates a strip of thin elastic sheet metal, one end, *a*, of which passes through a loop, *b*, which is secured to the other end, *c*, so that said loose end can be moved through the loop in either direction, and the space inclosed by the elastic strip can be increased or decreased at pleasure. To the loose or sliding end *a* of the elastic strip is secured a handle, B, which is connected by a pivot, *d*, to another handle, C, that is firmly secured to that portion of the elastic strip which carries the loop *b*.

Both the handles B and C are U-shaped in their cross-sections, and they are stamped up of sheet metal, the handle B being made large enough to overlap the handle C, so that the pivot *d* can be made to pass through the sides of both handles, and the handle C will fold up into the handle B. The connection between the handle B and the elastic strip is effected by a pivot, *e*, which passes through the side flanges of said handle, and through an eye, *f*, that is formed at the end of a bracket, *g*, and fits between the side flanges of the handle. The bracket *g* is secured to the elastic strip by rivets. The handle C is connected to the elastic strip A by a T-shaped bracket, *h*, the vertical shank of which fits between the side flanges of the handle, and is fastened to its back by rivets, while the horizontal base of said bracket is riveted to the elastic strip.

To the handle C is secured a graduated segment, D, which consists of a thin blade, with a head, *i*, that fits between the side flanges of the handle, and is secured to it by rivets. (See Fig. 4.)

In the handle B is a slot, through which extends the segment D. The figures and marks on the segment indicate the different sizes of hats or caps.

On the inner surface of the elastic strip A

is marked an inch-measure, which controls the graduation of the segment D and facilitates the operation of measuring.

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

1. The combination, in a measure for hats and caps, of a thin elastic metal strip, A, U-shaped handles B C, made of sheet metal, the handle B being made to overlap the handle C, and a pivot passing through the side flanges of both handles, the handles being secured to the elastic metal strip, substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination, in a measure for hats and caps, of a thin elastic metal strip, A, U-shaped handles B C, made of sheet metal, a pivot passing through the side flanges of both handles, and a bracket, *g*, fitting into an eye between the side flanges of the handle B, for securing said handle to the elastic strip, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, in a measure for hats and caps, of a thin elastic strip A, U-shaped handles B C, made of sheet metal, a pivot passing through the side flanges of both handles, and a T-shaped bracket, *h*, the vertical shank of which fits between the side flanges of the handle C, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The combination, in a measure for hats and caps, of a thin elastic strip, A, having an inch-measure on its inner surface, U-shaped pivoted handles B C, and a graduated segment, D, secured to one of the U-shaped sheet-metal handles, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of December, 1877.

WILLIAM J. VAN HORNE. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

D. A. ATWELL,
WM. VAN DERMOOR,
FRANK J. ATWELL.