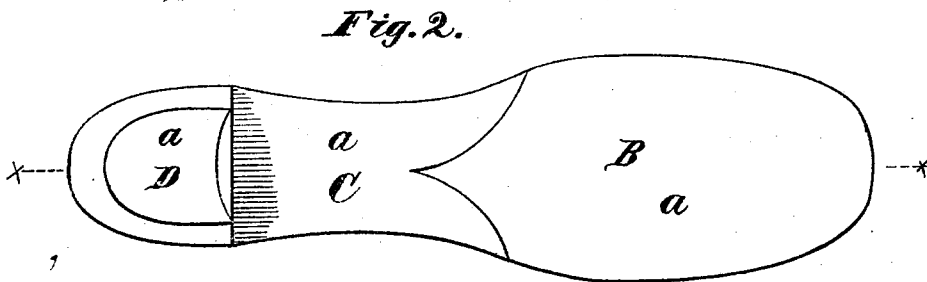
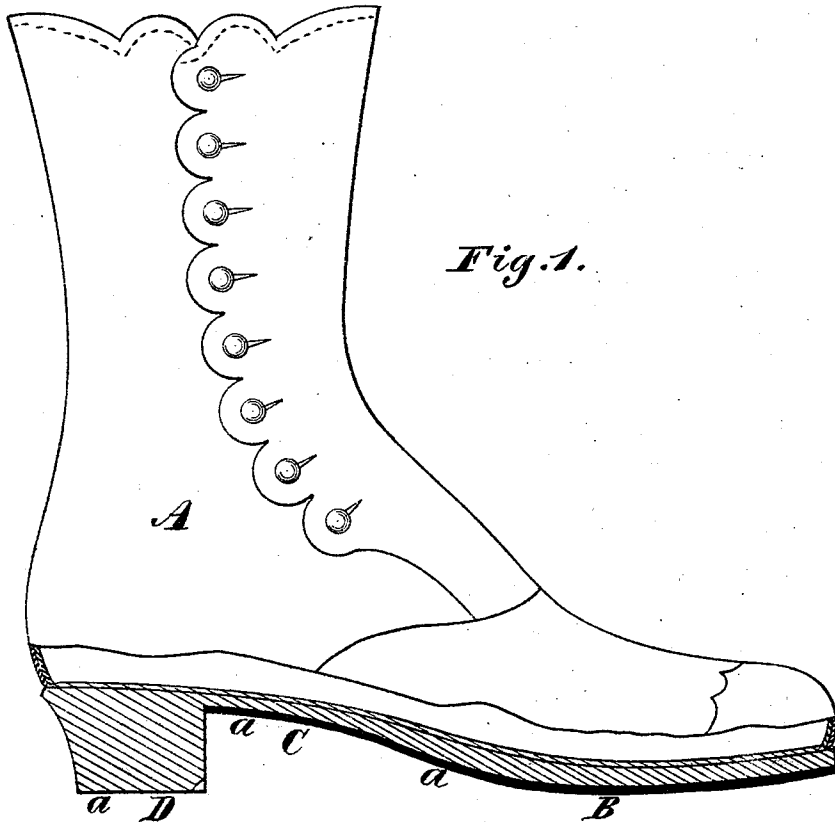


B. S. BRYANT.

Improvement in Modes of Finishing the Soles of Boots and Shoes.

No. 123,450.

Patented Feb. 6, 1872.



Witnesses:

J. P. M<sup>c</sup> Elroy.  
W. H. Mason

Bradley S. Bryant  
Inventor:  
per Brun Brothers,  
Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BRADLEY S. BRYANT, OF HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MODES OF FINISHING THE SOLES OF BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 123,450, dated February 6, 1872.

*To all persons to whom these presents shall come:*

Be it known that I, BRADLEY S. BRYANT, of Hanson, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Finishing the Soles of Boots and Shoes; and that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Heretofore, in the manufacture of boots and shoes, to give the requisite finish to the outer or treading surface of the soles, heels, and shanks, the operation of scraping and buffing, and in some cases of channeling, to hide the stitches from view, were resorted to and performed, as is well known to all conversant with the boot and shoe manufacture. These several operations, while adding greatly to the cost of manufacture and really securing no other result than a neat and pretty finish to the boot and shoe sole, do cause, more especially the scraping, a waste and loss of the enamel side of the leather, which is the best portion, reducing the length of time which the sole will wear at least a week, as estimated by boot and shoe manufacturers.

The object of this invention is to dispense with the several processes heretofore employed to finish boot and shoe soles, to economize time and labor, and to save the enameled surface of the sole-leather; and for this purpose the invention consists in finishing the sole to a boot or shoe either in whole or in part by applying thereto, through the medium of a cement or other suitable adhesive material—preferably a water-proof cement—a flock of wool, silk, cotton, hair, or other suitable material, or any disintegrated or finely-pulverized substance or material suitable.

In carrying out my invention I take a boot or shoe, when sufficiently advanced to have its sole finished by the ordinary modes of manufacture, and, according as the sole is to be finished by my invention, either in whole or in part, I then apply to the portion to be thus finished a coating of glue or cement—by preference a water-proof cement—and then I throw therein the flock or powdered material which is to be used. The cement causes the flock, &c., to adhere to the sole, and thus, covering it, produces the "finish." After applying the flock as above described it is best that the cement should be allowed to dry, and, if desired, a heated or cold smoothing-iron may be passed over the

flocked sole surface to give it a more compact, even, and smoother surface.

Among many advantages secured by my invention may be mentioned the following: That it dispenses with channeling, scraping, and buffing the boot or shoe sole, as heretofore; that it completely covers up the stitches or pegs, as the case may be, the fine condition of the surfacing material entering into all the interstices about or of the stitches and pegs; that it enables a better, more varied, and more attractive finish to be given to a boot or shoe sole; and furthermore, by the use of a properly-colored flock, enables the manufacturer to give to a sole made of hemlock-tanned leather the appearance of oak-tanned leather; that it is at least sixty per cent. cheaper than the ordinary mode of finishing a boot or shoe-sole; that it is much more permanent and durable than the ordinary finish, preventing the sole from having so quick as heretofore a shop-worn appearance.

In the accompanying plate of drawings is represented a child's boot, the sole of which is finished according to this invention, Figure 1 being a side view, with the sole in longitudinal vertical section, and Fig. 2 a plan view of the treading surface.

A represents, in the drawing, the sole to a child's boot, of which B is the ball, C the shank, and D the heel, the treading surface of each of which parts is shown as covered, under the present invention, with a layer or surface of flock, *a*, indicated in drawing by a heavy and thick black line.

I am aware that the soles of boots and shoes have been covered with paper for the purpose of concealing the stitches, pegging, and nailing. Such I do not claim; but,

Having thus described my invention, I shall state my claim as follows:

A boot or shoe-sole having its outer or treading surface either in whole or in part covered or coated with a flock or disintegrated material, substantially as and for the purpose described.

The above specification of my improved mode of finishing the soles of boots and shoes signed by me this 23d day of November, 1871.

Witnesses:

B. S. BRYANT.

ALBERT W. BROWN,  
EDWIN W. BROWN.