

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AND WM. E. WEEKS.

## IMPROVED SOAP FOR CLEANING HARNESS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **45,378**, dated December 6, 1864.

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

Be it known that I, JAMES E. POWELL, of Troy, in the county of Rennselaer and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Soap, called "Powell's American Harness-Soap;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same.

This invention consists in a new and useful composition of matter, the different ingredients of which are hereinafter set forth, by which I am enabled to produce a new soap for treating and cleaning harness and all other articles made of leather, and also for taking stains out of cloth, cleaning painted work, removing stains from the coats of horses, and for washing and softening their feet after traveling.

The materials of which the composition is made and the several proportions thereof are as follows: first, eleven (11) pounds, avoirdupois, of Babbitt's chemical soap or its equivalent; second, three (3) pounds, avoirdupois, of Castile soap; third, two (2) pounds, avoirdupois, of rosin; fourth, one (1) pound, avoirdupois, of beeswax; fifth, one (1) pound, avoirdupois, of palm-oil or its equivalent; sixth, three (3) pounds, avoirdupois, of soda or its equivalent; seventh, two (2) ounces, avoirdupois, of Chinese vermilion; eighth, three (3) gallons of clear water. These materials are mixed and the soap manufactured therefrom in the following manner: The water is heated nearly to the boiling-point, when the soda is dissolved therein. The soap is then added and dissolved in the water, it having been previously cut up or shaved very fine, so that it may dissolve rapidly. The other ingredients are then added to the water, and all are boiled together about thirty minutes in an open vessel. The mass is to be stirred continually the whole time. The mass is then taken off the fire and allowed to stand until it is lukewarm, when it is to be poured into boxes or vessels of tin or other suitable

material and of such a size as will answer the purposes of trade. The boxes being next covered, the soap is ready for transportation and sale.

The manner of using it is as follows: To clean and soften harness, one is to take a damp sponge and apply thereto a little of the soap (more or less, according to the state of the leather) and rub the soap all over the harness. Then put the harness in a tub filled with warm water, (warm water is the best for the purpose, but cold water will answer,) and let it remain immersed therein for about half an hour if the leather is very dirty and stiff. Then take it from the water and rub it well with a clean sponge, when the dirt will be effectually removed. Lastly, wash off the harness in a thick suds made from the soap, and hang it up. Any other articles made of leather can be treated in a similar manner, and when the articles cannot be laid in the water it will be well to apply warm water freely to them instead. The soap softens leather and prevents it from cracking.

In order to remove grease from cloth, rub the soap well on the grease-spot and let it remain about five minutes. Then rub more soap thereon, and afterward take a little warm water and rub on the cloth. Afterward rinse with cold water, when the grease will disappear.

Stains of paint, tar, and pitch can be removed from cloth in the way last described, and also stains from the skins or coats of horses.

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

The composition made of the ingredients and in the manner substantially as above described.

JAMES E. POWELL.

Witnesses:

G. ROBERTSON, Jr.,  
CHARLES B. WHEELER.