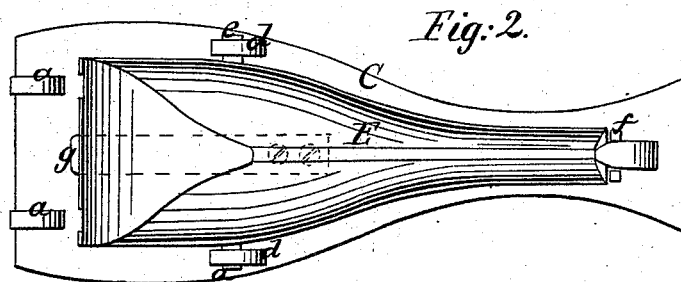
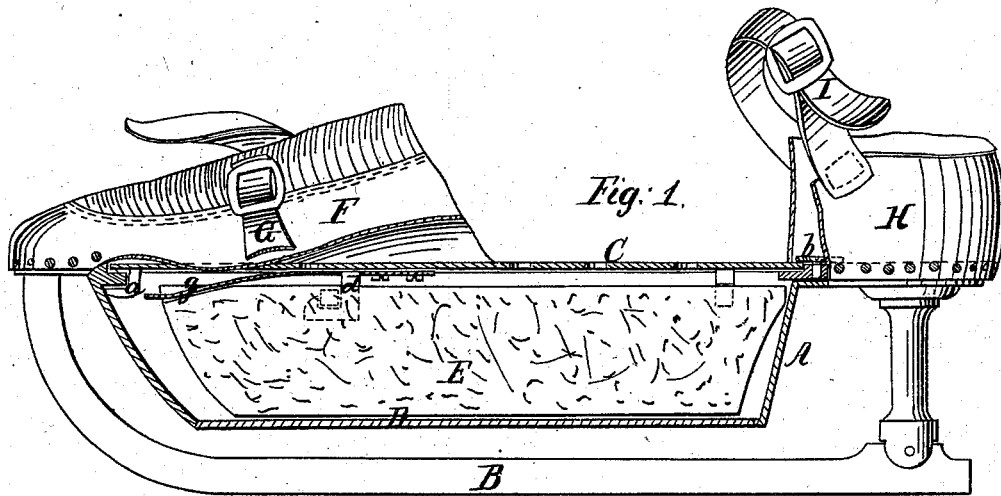


O. W. Taft,

Skate.

N^o 48,601.

Patented July 4, 1865.



Witnesses;

E. L. Topliff
S. M. Croington

Inventor;
Owen W. Taft.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OWEN W. TAFT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN SKATES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,601, dated July 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OWEN W. TAFT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Skates; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a sectional side elevation of this invention. Fig. 2 is an inverted plan of the foot-plate having the heater attached to it.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in the combination of a heating-chamber with the foot-plate of a skate in such a manner that by inserting into said chamber a heated stone or other body or a burning lamp the foot-plate is warmed and the feet of the skater are prevented from getting cold.

It consists, further, in making the foot-plate of a skate removable in such a manner that it can be conveniently taken off in order to get access to the heating-chamber below.

It consists, finally, in the application to the foot-plate of hook-catches, in combination with studs projecting from the sides of the heater, and with a spring secured to the upper surface thereof in such a manner that by the combined action of said spring, studs, and hook-catches the heater is held in position and prevented from moving to and fro in the heating-chamber, and by pressing said heater toward the foot-plate and moving it forward the hook-catches are caused to release the studs, and the heater can thus be readily detached from the foot-plate.

A represents a skate, made in the usual form and manner, with a runner, B, and foot-plate C. Said foot-plate is elevated above the runner to such a height that room is obtained for the heating-chamber D. This chamber is either cast solid with the body of the skate or it may be stamped out of sheet metal and attached to said skate in any suitable manner.

The foot-plate C, or at least the principal portion of the same, is made of a piece of sheet metal, or it may be cast, and it is perforated

with a large number of holes, which are intended to allow the heated air from the interior of the chamber D to come in direct contact with the foot of the skater. Said foot-plate is made removable, being held in place by hooks *a* in front and by a button, *b*, or other device in the rear, so that it can be readily taken off in order to get access to the interior of the heating-chamber. The sides of the heating-chamber are intended to be protected by a lining of felt or other good non-conductor of heat to prevent radiation, and said chamber is made to receive a heater, E, of soapstone or any other suitable material; or it may be arranged to receive a burning lamp, though in practice a heater is preferable. By said heater the foot-plate is kept warm and the foot of the skater is prevented from getting cold.

The heater E is secured to the under surface of the foot-plate C by means of hook-catches *d*, which project downward from said foot-plate, and which are so formed that they catch over studs *e* projecting from the sides of the heater, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The rear end or tail of the heater rests in a forked stud, *f*, secured in a foot-plate, and a spring, *g*, secured to the upper surface of the heater and pressing against the foot-plate, holds the studs *e* and the tail of the heater in place and prevents them from becoming detached spontaneously.

In order to detach the heater from the foot-plate, it must be pressed against said foot-plate and then moved forward—an operation which can be performed instantaneously and with the greatest ease and convenience.

My skate is attached to the foot by a toe-cap, F, with a suitable strap, G, and by a heel-cap, H, with a suitable strap, I, or by any other suitable means, though I prefer to use the toe-cap in combination with the heating-chamber, so as to prevent the feet from cooling off after the heater has become cold. By means of this heating arrangement the skater is enabled to keep his feet warm and the pleasure of skating is not marred by the painful feeling of cold or frost-bitten toes.

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

1. The application to a skate of a heating attachment substantially such as herein de-

scribed, or any equivalent thereof, for the purposes set forth.

2. Making the foot-plate of a skate detachable, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. The hook-catches *d* and forked stud *f*, in combination with the foot-plate C, heater E,

studs *e*, and spring *g*, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

OWEN W. TAFT.

Witnesses:

C. L. TOPLIFF,

M. M. LIVINGSTON.