

H. E. West,
Pressing Hats.

2 Sheets, Sheet 1.

No. 49048.

Patented July 25, 1865.

Fig. 2

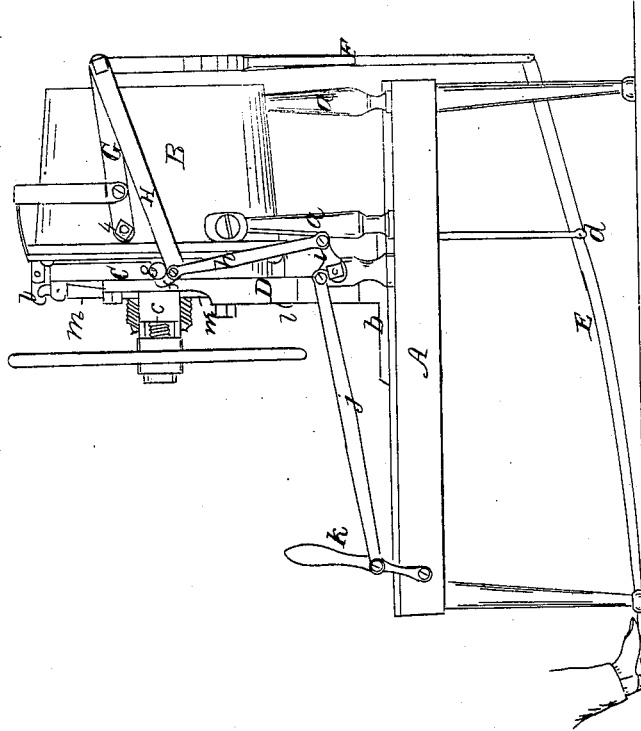
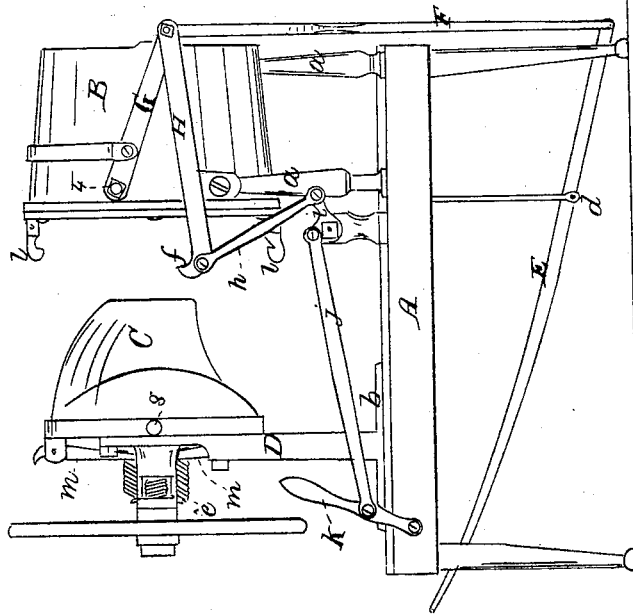


Fig. 1



Witnesses,
R. E. Johnson
W. W. Wearn

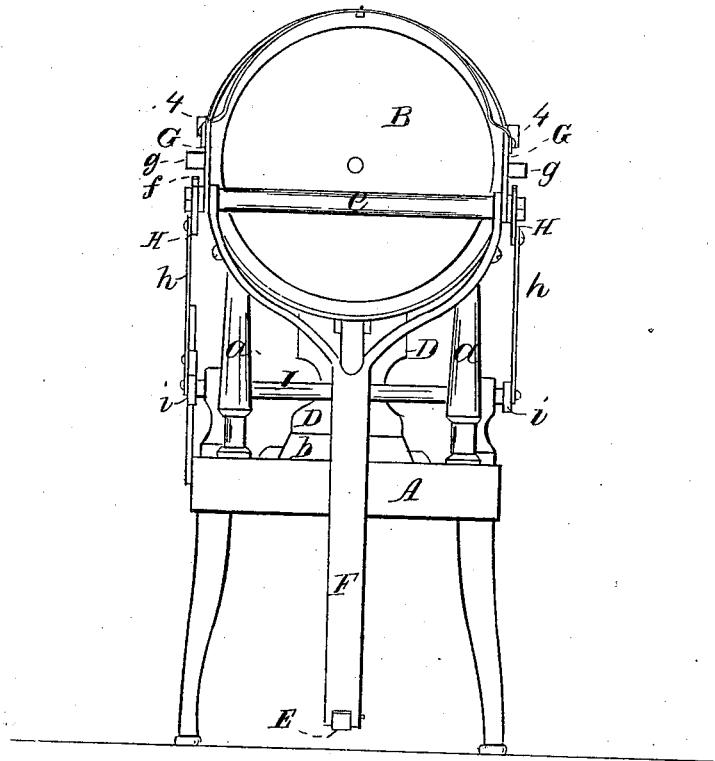
Hiram E. West

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Fig. 3



Witnesses,
N. W. Stearns
G. B. Schumacher

Hiram C. West

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM E. WEST, OF ATTLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO
OLIVER CARPENTER & CO., OF NEW YORK CITY.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR PRESSING HATS AND BONNETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 49,048, dated July 25, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM E. WEST, of Attleborough, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for Pressing Bonnets and other Articles of Varying Thickness, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved machine, the block on which the bonnet is placed being drawn back from the mold. Fig. 2 is a similar elevation, showing the block pressed into the mold; Fig. 3, a rear elevation of the machine.

My invention relates particularly to machines for pressing bonnets, hats, and other articles of varying thickness, for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to me on the 29th day of January, 1861, in which the bonnet-block was made in sections and covered with an elastic material, so as to allow of its being expanded and contracted by means of a wedge and screw. This screw required to be turned back and forth, in order to expand and contract the block, every time a bonnet was pressed, thus consuming considerable time, to economize which is the object of my present invention, which consists in drawing the bonnet block and mold tightly together by means of levers, so as to press the bonnet without operating the screw, it being only necessary to operate the screw slightly when a bonnet of a different thickness is to be pressed.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A is the bed of the machine, on standards *a* rising from which is supported the mold B, in which fits the block C, upon which the bonnet is placed before being pressed. This block C is attached to a standard, D, rising from a carriage, *b*, which slides in dovetailed ways in the bed A, and the block is covered with an elastic material, and made in sections operated by a screw, *c*, as described in my said Letters Patent of January 29, 1861.

The manner in which the block C, with the bonnet thereon, is pressed tightly into the mold B, after being thrown forward by hand, will now be described.

E is a foot-lever, which is pivoted at *d* to an arm projecting down from the base A, and has attached to its outer end a rod, F, the upper end of which is bifurcated and carries a rod, *e*, to the outer ends of which are attached, on each side of the machine, two levers, G H, the former being pivoted at *4* to the mold, while the latter is provided with a hook, *f*, for the purpose of catching over a pin, *g*, projecting from each side of the block C, the levers H being raised so as to bring their hooks *f* opposite the pins *g* by means of arms *h* attached to cranks *i* on the opposite ends of a shaft, I, which is vibrated by means of the rod *j*, operated by a hand-lever, *k*. On the foot-lever E being depressed the rod F is raised and the levers H are drawn back, as seen in Fig. 2, thus forcing the block C tightly into the mold until the hooks *l* catch over the ends of the levers *m* on the face of the block C, the arrangement of the levers G H being such as to draw the block and mold together with great power, thus pressing the bonnet tightly into the mold to give it the required shape. The foot is then taken off the lever E, when the levers H are thrown forward clear of the pins *g*, and the block C is free to be drawn back into the position seen in Fig. 1.

By the use of the above-described machine, after the block has been once adjusted by means of the screw *c*, for a certain thickness of material, it will be unnecessary to operate the screw *c* until a bonnet of a different thickness is to be pressed, the operation of pressing being performed instantly by means of the foot-lever and its connections, as above described, thereby effecting a considerable saving in time and labor.

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

Drawing the block C and mold B together by means of levers, substantially as described.
HIRAM E. WEST.

Witnesses:

P. E. TESCHEMACHER,
N. W. STEARNS.