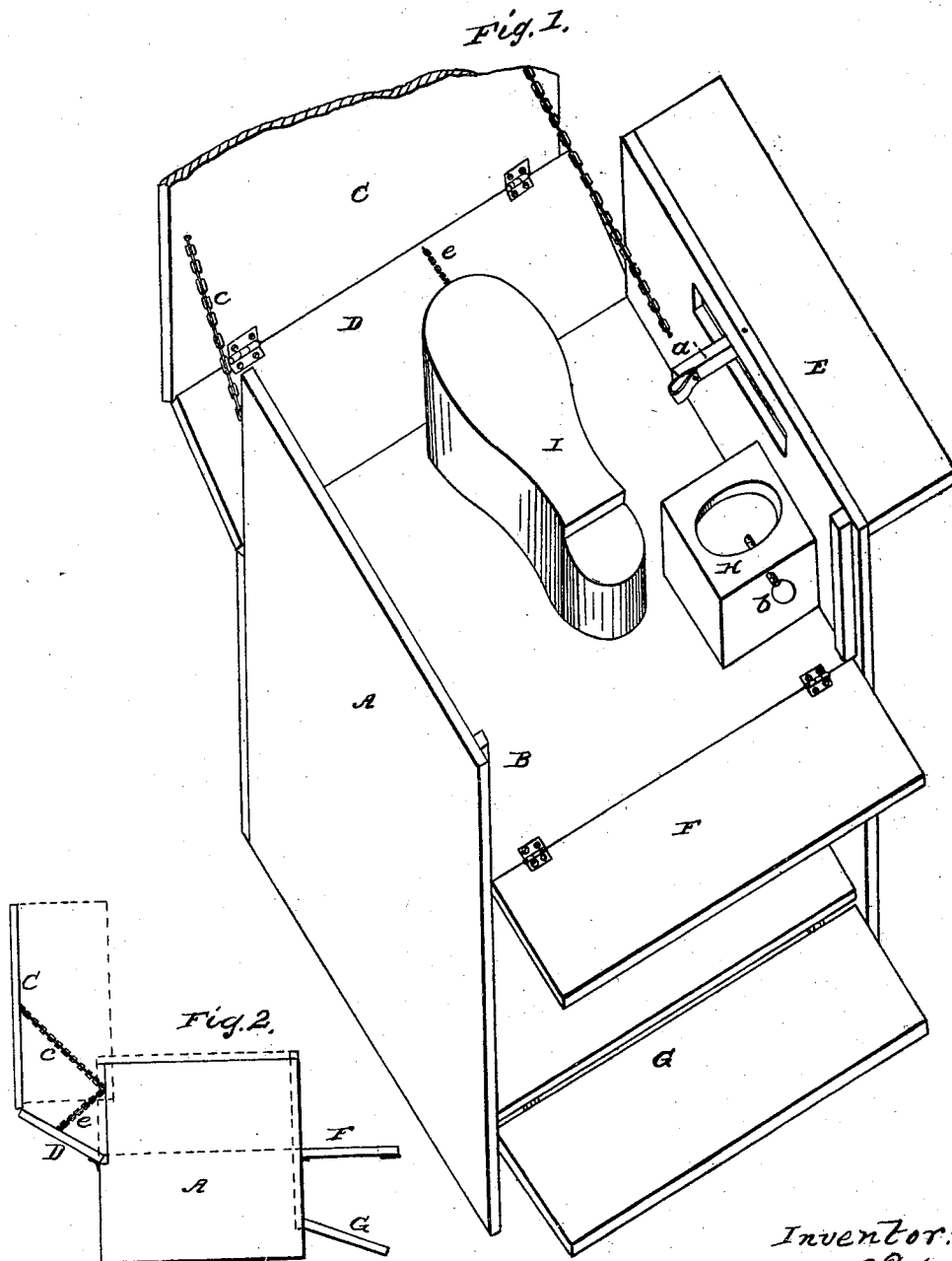


H. H. DODGE.  
Boot Blacking Apparatus.

No. 52,977.

Patented March 6, 1866.



Witnesses:  
Philip L. Dodge  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

H. H. DODGE, OF GEORGETOWN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVED BOOT-BLACKING APPARATUS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 52,977, dated March 6, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY H. DODGE, of Georgetown, in the county of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boxes for Holding Blacking Apparatus; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, like letters indicating like parts wherever they occur.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use the invention, I will proceed to describe it.

Figure 1 is a perspective view, and Fig. 2 is a side elevation, of my improved apparatus.

The nature of my invention consists in a novel construction of a box for containing the necessary implements for blacking boots and shoes, so arranged that it can be used in the house without soiling the carpet or furniture, and at the same time form an article of furniture when not otherwise in use.

I construct a box of any suitable size and form, of which A in the drawings represents one side. A few inches below the top I place a horizontal partition, B, near the center of which is located a stand or rest, I, adapted to rest the foot upon when the boot or shoe is to be polished.

H represents a block, having a circular recess in its upper surface of proper size to receive a box of blacking, the box being secured in said recess by means of the thumb-screw *b*.

The front side of the box is closed by two horizontal doors, F and G, the first of which reaches from the top down to the partition or floor B, and the other door, G, reaching from the floor B to the bottom of the box, both being hinged at their lower edges, as shown in the drawings, so as to open down and outward. The space in the lower portion of the box is intended as a receptacle for the brushes, and may also be used for storing slippers or any similar article during the day, if desired.

In order to prevent the room from being soiled by the dirt which may be brushed off the boots or shoes, and at the same time af-

ford the necessary room for using the brush, the cover C is hinged to a section, D, of the rear side, as shown clearly in Fig. 2, which section is also hinged to the box on a level with the floor B, so as to permit these parts to open out, as shown in the drawings, the door being held nearly upright, when open, by the chains or cords *c*, a similar cord or chain, *e*, serving to hold the hinged section in an inclined position, as shown, at the same time. By this means the dust or dirt is prevented from falling on the floor or carpet, the elevated sides A also serving to keep it from escaping at the sides. The door F not only projects to catch the dirt on that side, but opening on a level with the floor B forms a projecting shelf, over which the dirt can be readily brushed from the box into a dust-pan or other receptacle.

E represents a shelf hinged to the upper edge of the box on one side, and supported when up by the pivoted brace *a*, which, when turned around to permit the shelf E to fold down against the side, just fills the space in the side of the box in which it is pivoted. This shelf E is intended to hold the brushes when the box is opened for use.

If desired, the sides A may be divided transversely, as indicated by the blue line in Fig. 2, the upper section being attached to the cover or lid C, so as to be raised with it, as indicated in blue.

The box may be constructed of walnut or other fine wood and ornamented or finished to any required degree. If desired, it may also be cushioned on the top to form an ottoman or foot-stool, and in this way rendered both ornamental and useful.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

The box A, provided with the doors F and G, hinged as shown, the cover C, attached to the hinged section D, and shelf E, the whole being constructed and arranged substantially as shown and described.

HENRY H. DODGE.

Witnesses:

F. DODGE,  
WM. DODGE.