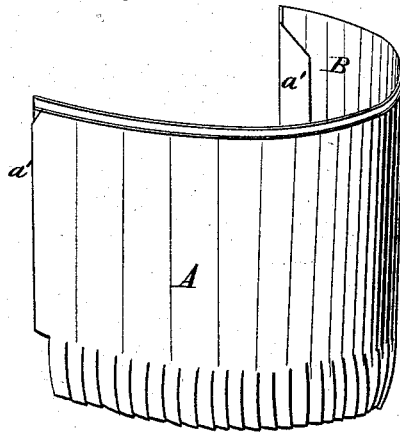
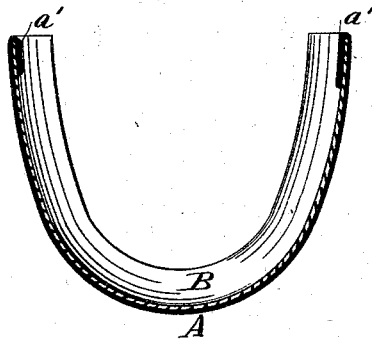


F. AVERY.  
Counter-Stiffeners for Boots and Shoes.  
No. 219,430.      Patented Sept. 9, 1879.

*Fig: 1.*



*Fig: 2.*



WITNESSES:

*Achilles Seehel.*  
*C. Sedgwick*

INVENTOR:

*F. Avery*  
BY *M. Hunt*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK AVERY, OF GARDEN PRAIRIE, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COUNTER-STIFFENERS FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **219,430**, dated September 9, 1879; application filed February 24, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK AVERY, of Garden Prairie, in the county of Boone and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Counter-Stiffener, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is an elevation of the counter in perspective. Fig. 2 is a plan of the counter.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide a counter-stiffener that shall be durable, stiff, and water-proof, and that can be easily applied in the manufacture of all kinds of boots and shoes.

The counter is composed of a thin metal plate, A, attached, it may be, with paste or gum to a piece of leather, paste-board, or other desirable material, (shown at B,) and further secured thereto by lapping the metal plate over the leather or pasteboard at the ends, as shown at *a' a'*.

Along the line of the top the metal plate is slightly curved inward, so that its edge shall not cut the outside of the boot, and the leather projects above the metal, and is brought to a thin edge to gradually decrease the thickness of the combination.

The lower edge of the plate is nicked in such a manner that it may readily be curved and bent inward to conform with the shape of the boot.

Lapping the ends of the plate over the leather not only holds the two together, but also stiffens the counter.

The counter thus constructed may be placed on the outside of a boot and be covered with a piece of leather, or on the inside between the back of the boot and the lining or a piece of leather put in especially to cover it.

It possesses advantages over a sole-leather counter, inasmuch as it is cheaper and water-proof, and over a purely metal counter, because the leather portion of it prevents the metal portion of it from cutting through the boot, and when placed inside the boot still covers the metal when the boot-lining wears away.

I am aware that metallic counters and molded counters have heretofore been designed, and I do not claim either of them; but,

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

The metallic counter-stiffener having the inwardly-curved top edge and nicked and inwardly-curved lower edge, and provided with a suitable lining; all substantially as shown and described.

FRANK AVERY.

Witnesses:

JOHN RHODES,

CARLOS BEECHER RANDALL.