(No Model.)

A. MUCKENHAUPT.

INDICATOR FOR BOOT AND SHOE RECEPTACLES.

No. 265,693. Patented Oct. 10, 1882.

Fig. 4

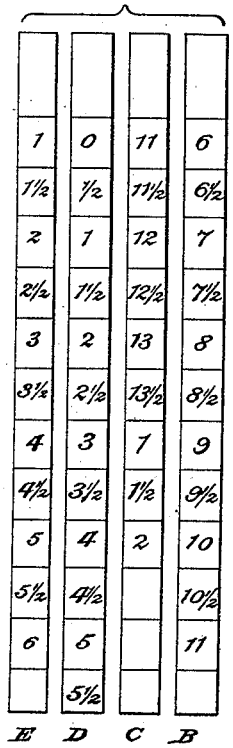


Fig. 1.

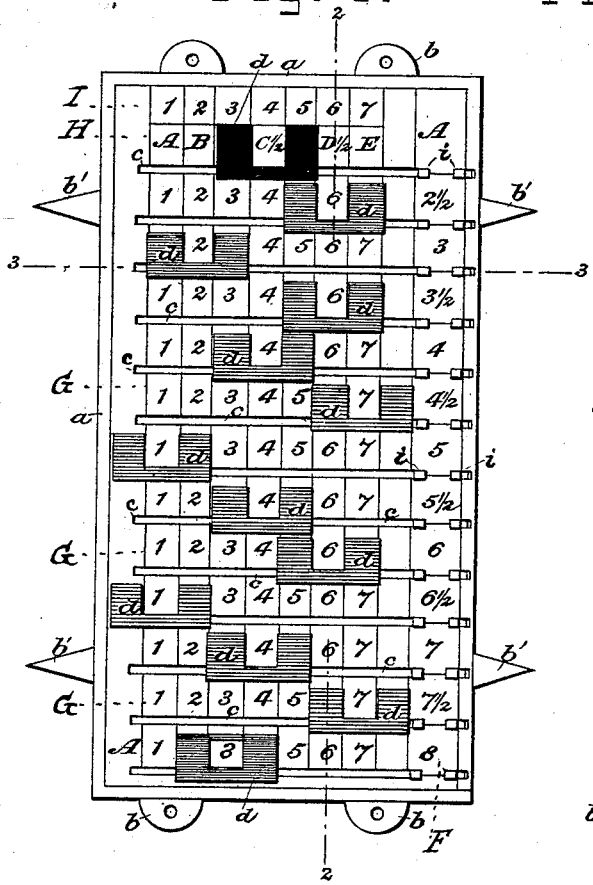


Fig. 2

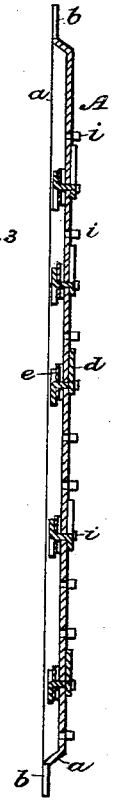


Fig. 3.

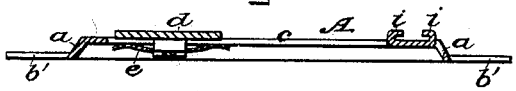
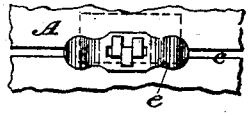


Fig. 6.

Fig. 5.



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ANTHONY MUCKENHAUPT, OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK.

INDICATOR FOR BOOT AND SHOE RECEPTACLES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 265,693, dated October 10, 1882.

Application filed March 15, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTHONY MUCKENHAUPT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Poughkeepsie, in the county of Dutchess and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Indicators for Boot and Shoe Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates in the main to an indicator to be affixed to the front of a box or drawer containing boots or shoes, such as are usually employed in a shoe-store, whereby the sizes of the shoes and the numbers of pairs of each size contained in the box or drawer at any time may be readily ascertained. The indicator is also made to serve as a reflector in order to illuminate the darker parts of the store in some degree. As a large number of them will usually be required and employed, their combined reflecting power will be very considerable.

It is well known by retail dealers in boots and shoes that a certain number of pairs of each size of a particular kind of shoe is usually placed in a box or drawer, and that in time certain pairs will be sold from the receptacle. Just what sizes and the number of pairs remaining in the box, if any, can only be ascertained by running over, examining, and handling the contents of the box. This consumes much time, annoys the dealer and customer, and mars the fresh appearance of the shoes. Moreover, in his hurry the dealer is apt to overlook the particular article the customer wants, and thus lose a sale.

My invention is intended to remedy this difficulty and render the examination of the stock simple and easy without opening the boxes or drawers and without handling the goods.

In the drawings which serve to illustrate my invention in its preferred form, Figure 1 is a front view of my indicator and reflector. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same on line 2 2 in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on line 3 3 in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 shows views of the several "size-slides" which may be employed. Fig. 5 is a detached rear view of the indicator-plate, showing one of the slides which indicate the number of pairs of boots or shoes of a particular size in the drawer or box. Fig. 6 is a modification which will be hereinafter explained.

A is a plate, which I prefer to make of polished metal, as brass or any metal with a nickel or silver plated or gilded face, so that it may serve as a reflector. This plate has a rim, *a*, on its margin, which rim rests upon the surface of a drawer or box, and thus leaves a hollow or cavity behind the plate for the rear portions of the slides to play freely in. On the rim *a* are formed flanges *b*, whereby the indicator may be secured to a wooden drawer or box, and points or clips *b'*, whereby it may be attached to a pasteboard or other thin box. When the indicator is to be attached to a wooden drawer the clips *b'* may be bent under or cut off, and when it is to be attached to a paper box the flanges *b* may be treated in a like manner. The clips *b'* are passed through slits in the box and clinched on the inside.

Referring now to Fig. 1, at the right-hand side is seen a vertical column, F, of numerals 2½, 3, 3½, &c., up to 8. These represent the length (or what is commonly known as the "size") of the shoes contained in a particular box or drawer. These are the sizes for "women's" shoes; but the size known as "men's," "boys'," "misses'," or "infants'" shoes may be substituted, if desired. Opposite each of the numerals in this "size-column" is a horizontal row, G G, of numerals, 1, 2, 3, &c., up to 7. These represent the number of pairs of shoes or boots of each size originally placed in the box or drawer. I have indicated only seven pairs of each; but this number may be extended as desired. Between each horizontal row G of numerals is a slot, *c*, cut through the plate A, and in these slots are arranged what I will call "number-slides," *d*. The construction of these slides will be understood by reference to Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 5. The face-plate of the slide is made by preference of thin metal—as brass or iron—and has formed in it a recess or aperture, through which one of the numerals in its particular row may appear, the two adjacent numerals at the sides being hidden by the plate. The piece removed to form the opening is bent back at right angles, and passes through a spring piece or plate, *e*, as shown in Figs. 3 and

5, when its projecting end is split into three parts and clinched down upon the plate *e* (see Fig. 5) in opposite directions. The spring-plate draws the slide *d* down to and against the plate A, but permits said slide to be moved along in the slot across the face of the indicator.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the margins of the cross-slots flanged or turned up and the face-plate of the slide *d* recessed by bending, so as to take over the same. This construction serves to guide the slide in its movement and retains it in place better perhaps than as shown in Fig. 5. Either construction may be employed.

The face of the indicator in Fig. 1, so far as described, shows by the positions of slides *d* that there are in the box or drawer six pairs of size 2½, two pairs of 3, six pairs of 3½, four pairs of 4, one pair of 5, four pairs of 5½, six pairs of 6, one pair of 6½, four pairs of 7, seven pairs of 7½, and three pairs of 8. Now, whenever a pair of shoes is sold from the box or drawer the proper slide *d* will be moved along to the left until all are sold of that size, when the opening in the slide will appear over the blank strip or column at the left. The slides are made to project very little and to require some pressure to move them, in order that they may not be accidentally displaced.

In order that the same indicator may be made to serve for boxes or drawers containing other than women's shoes—as men's shoes, for example—I provide the plate A with clips or keepers *i i*, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, made by turning up parts of the plate, and arrange slides, as shown in Fig. 4, to be slipped into these keepers. The slide B exhibits the number for "men's" shoes, the slide C for "misses'" shoes, the slide D for "infants'" shoes, and the slide E for "boys'" shoes. As before stated, however, either of these series of numbers may be marked directly upon the indicator. This is optional with the user.

It is customary to make shoes of one length or size—as sevens, for example—of different widths, and these widths are ordinarily indicated by either a numeral or a letter, or both. For women's shoes letters, and letters and fractions, are usually employed—as C, C½, &c., in row H—and for men's shoes numerals—as 1, 2, &c., in row I. As one box or drawer usually contains but one width of shoe, the drawer or box may be marked independently of the indicator with the proper letter or numeral; but I prefer to provide my indicator with means also for showing the width of shoe contained in the receptacle to which it is attached. This will be seen at the top of Fig. 1.

Across the top of the indicator-plate are marked in a row, H, the letters A, B, C, C½, D, D½, E, and a slide, *d*, is arranged precisely as those before described to indicate the particular width of shoe contained in the box. In this case C½ is the letter exhibited, the letters C and D being covered by the slide *d*. Above the letters are arranged in a row, I, the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. If the shoes in the box be men's shoes, these will be considered and the letters disregarded. As represented the slide *d* would then indicate 4.

I prefer to stamp the letters and numerals in the plate A and the slides B, C, &c., and to fill the same with some black pigment, so that they will appear plain and legible on the polished plate; and I prefer to blacken or color the slides *d*, as indicated by the shadings in the drawings, so that their position may be seen the more readily and the numerals they indicate the more easily distinguished. The apertures in the slides may be of any shape, and the face-plates may be affixed to the back plates, *e*, in various ways.

With boxes and drawers provided with these indicators the dealer is enabled to tell at a glance what sizes he needs and what are in stock, and he may with very little trouble take an account of stock. The size-column F may be at either side, or the indicator be constructed so that the slots in which the slides *d* play will be vertical instead of horizontal. This would only necessitate turning the plate down sidewise and changing the position of the various numerals to correspond. The numerals in row I and letters in row H indicating the "width" may be placed at any point on the plate A.

In lieu of a face-plate on the slide *d* having an aperture through which the indicated numeral appears, I may employ a pointer on the face-plate of the slide to indicate the numeral; but I prefer the construction shown.

I am aware that indicators for show-receptacles have been proposed, said receptacles having a row of numerals to indicate "sizes," and a series of numerals in connection with the size-numerals, arranged in semicircles, to indicate the number of pairs of a size, and that such indicators have been provided with movable pointers; but I am not aware of any indicator for such receptacles constructed as herein described.

I claim as my invention—

1. An indicator for boot and shoe receptacles, comprising a plate to be secured to such receptacle, and said plate being provided, first, with a column, F, of numerals to indicate the sizes of the shoes; second, with a column or row, G, of numerals arranged at an angle to each numeral in the column F; third, with slots *c* in said plate arranged between the rows G; and, fourth, slides *d*, mounted in and arranged to be moved along said slots *c*, the said slides having apertures through which the numerals in rows G appear, and plates to conceal the adjacent numerals, all constructed and arranged substantially as set forth.

2. An indicator for boot and shoe receptacles, comprising the slotted plate A, bearing the size-numerals in column F, and the several rows G of numerals at an angle thereto, arranged between the slots *c*, and the slides *d*, mounted in the slots and provided with apertures to show the numerals, and spring back plates, *e*, all substantially as herein set forth.

3. The combination, in an indicator for boot and shoe receptacles, of a slotted polished metal plate, A, provided with the size-column F of numerals, and the several rows G of numerals arranged at an angle thereto, and the slots *c*, and the colored or blackened slides *d*, mounted in and adapted to be moved along the slots, whereby the plate is made to serve as a reflector and to produce a sharp contrast between the plate and the slides, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. An indicator for boot and shoe receptacles, comprising the slotted plate A, provided with a column, F, of numerals indicating the sizes of the shoes contained in the receptacles, and rows G of numerals connected at an angle with the numerals in the size-column to indicate the number of pairs of each size, and a row, H or I, of letters or numerals, or both, to indicate the width of the shoes, and slides *d*, mounted in the slots *c* in the plate and arranged to be moved along the same to indicate the particular width of the shoes in the receptacle and the number of pairs of each size, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANTHONY MUCKENHAUPT.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH MORSCHAUSER,

RANSOM BAKER.