

(No Model.)

G. H. CLARK.
BOOT OR SHOE UPPER.

No. 302,238.

Patented July 22, 1884.

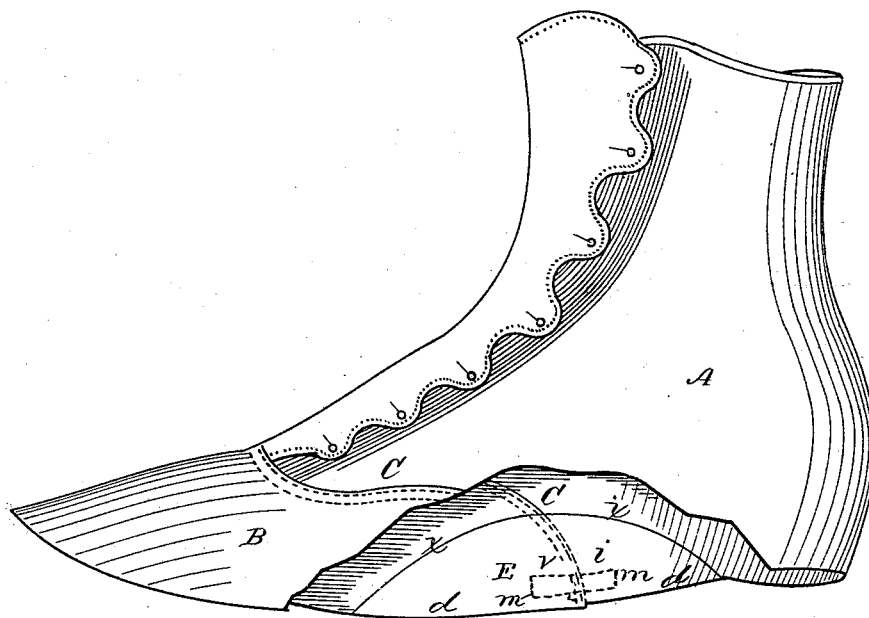


Fig. 1.

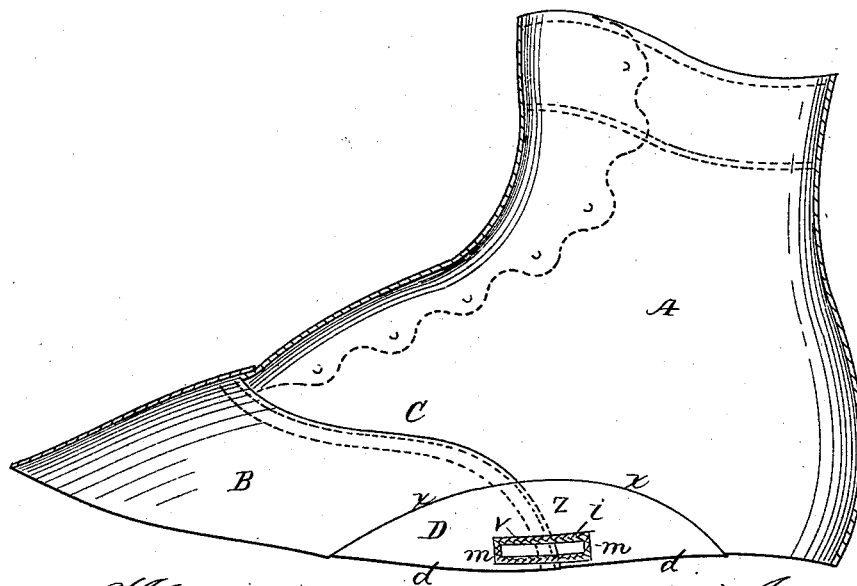


Fig. 2.

Witnesses
H. E. Kinnick
L. J. White.

Inventor,
Geo. H. Clark,
Per C. C. Shaw
att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. CLARK, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO CHARLES ALBERT SHAW, OF SAME PLACE.

BOOT OR SHOE UPPER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,238, dated July 22, 1884.

Application filed April 14, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. CLARK, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Boot and Shoe Up-
pers, of which the following is a description sufficiently full, clear, and exact to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which said invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a boot or shoe upper provided with my improvement, and Fig. 2 a vertical longitudinal section of the same.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures of the drawings.

My invention relates more especially to means for staying or strengthening the side seams, or seams by which the vamp and quarters of the boot or shoe are united at or near the sole to prevent the seams from ripping at that point in lasting, or when the upper is molded or stretched in a molding-machine or former, and also to sustain the upper and keep it in proper position.

My improvement is also designed more especially for use in connection with the uppers of boots or shoes which are molded or stretched on the molding-machine secured to me by Letters Patent of the United States No. 293,631, dated February 19, A. D. 1884, but is well adapted for any other machine of like nature, and is also of great service in preventing the side seams of the upper from ripping at the shank during the process of lasting, or preparing the upper for lasting in the ordinary manner. The inner stay also sustains the upper and prevents it from sagging or wrinkling at the shank, more especially in light work which is not molded.

The nature and operation of the improvement will be readily understood by all conversant with such matters from the following explanation.

In the drawings, A represents the quarter, B the vamp, and C the seam by which the

quarter and vamp are united. A curved leather stay, D, having its upper edge, *x*, thin skived, is inserted on the inner side of the upper at the shank of the shoe, and also at the outer side of the shoe, Fig. 1 representing this stay as applied to the shank, and Fig. 2 as applied to the opposite side of the upper. The stay D is preferably secured in position by the same seam that unites the vamp and quarter, the stay, vamp, and quarter being stitched through and through, as shown at *z*. It is also additionally secured by having its lower edge, *d*, lasted in between the soles and fastened by pegs, nails, or stitches conjointly with the upper. An auxiliary stay, E, is employed to give additional strength to the seam C at its lower end on either side of the upper. The auxiliary stay consists of a strong cord, *v*, laid across the seam C on the inner side of the stay D, near its lower edge, and secured thereto and to the upper by a row or series of stitches, *i*, which pass through and through said cord, the stay D, and body of the upper. The cord is preferably laid in two parallel sections, the sections being connected at the ends *m*, as shown, and is lasted in between the sole and upper when the boot or shoe is lasted, so that the stitches by which it is secured do not show.

The stay D may be omitted, if desired, and the stay E used alone either at the outside or shank of the shoe, or the stay E may be omitted, and the stay D used alone in either place; but I prefer to use both stays, especially at the shank, where the greatest strain comes in molding the upper on the machine, as well as in lasting it by the ordinary process; but both stays may be omitted at the outer side of the shoe, and either one or both used at the shank, if preferred, without entirely departing from the spirit of my invention. The stay E may also be composed of one or more sections, and the end pieces, *m*, omitted, if desired.

I do not confine myself to attaching the stay D to the upper by means of the seam C, as it may be secured by an independent row or series of stitches on either side of said seam or along its lower edge; neither do I confine myself to constructing the stay E of cord, as a strip or piece of leather, or any other suitable

material, may be used instead and perform substantially the same functions, although I deem the cord preferable, as it will yield slightly, and is still sufficiently rigid and strong to prevent the seam from ripping, and for that reason, when but one stay is employed, I prefer the stay E.

It will be obvious that when the stay E is stitched to the upper by the row or series of stitches *i*, which pass through it and the stay D, the seam C will be greatly strengthened at that point irrespective of the strength imparted by the auxiliary stay E. Therefore when the stay E is omitted and the stay D used I prefer to stitch the last-named stay to the upper by one or more rows or series of stitches corresponding with the stitches *i*, disposed near its lower edge, and which pass across the seam C, this forming in itself an auxiliary stay. The stay E, either alone or in conjunction with the stay D, may be employed to strength-

en any of the seams in the upper where it can be applied; and I do not therefore confine myself to using it at the side seams exclusively. It is also useful in strengthening the seam, whether the upper is molded or not.

Having thus explained my invention, what I claim is—

1. A boot or shoe upper provided with a stay at the side seam or seams near the lower edge of the upper, consisting of a cord laid across the seam or seams and stitched to the upper, substantially as set forth.

2. A stay for the seams of boot or shoe uppers, consisting of a cord laid across the seam and an additional stay of leather covering the cord or placed outside thereof, each secured to the upper, substantially as specified.

GEORGE H. CLARK.

Witnesses:

C. A. SHAW,
L. J. WHITE.