

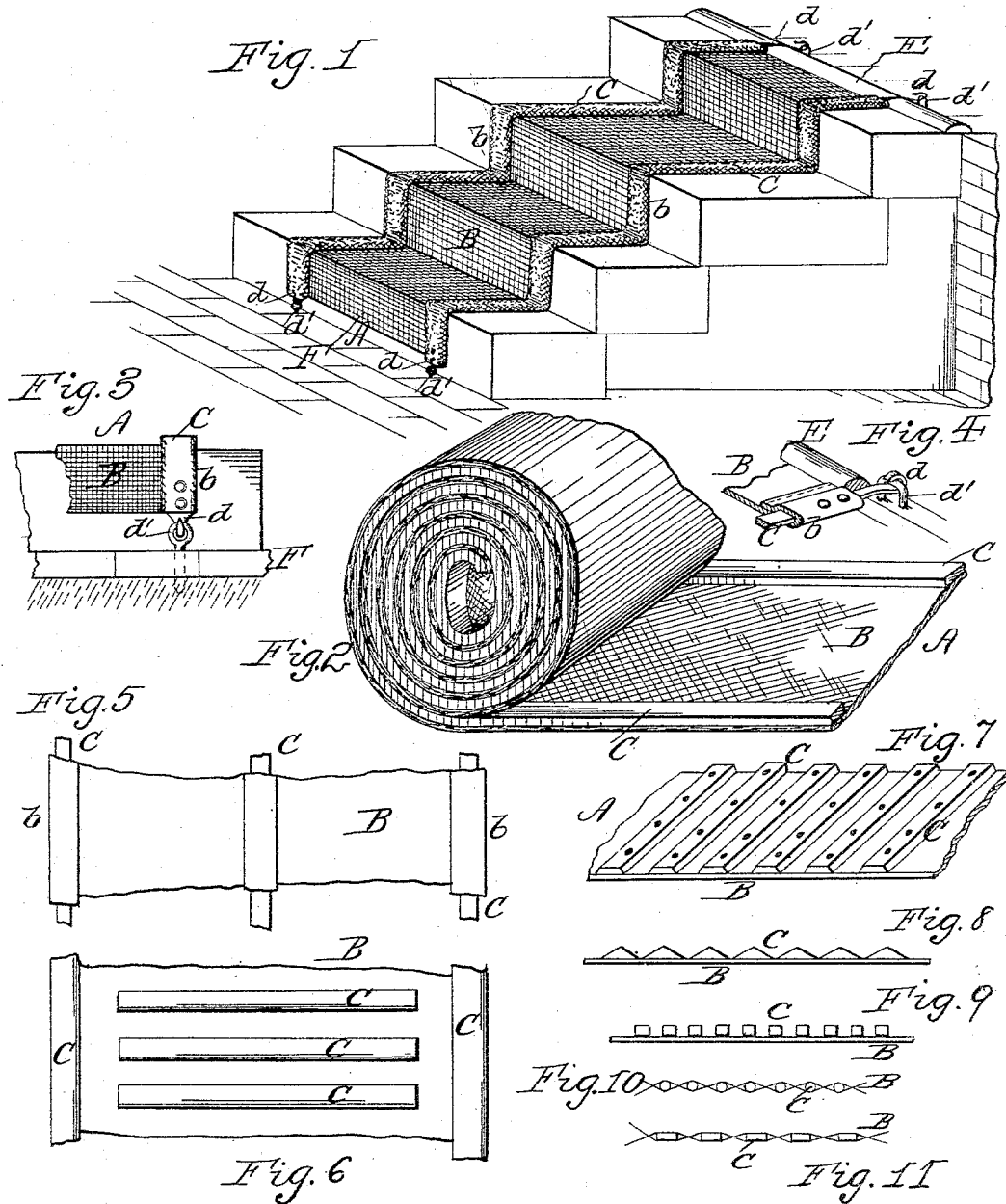
(No Model.)

J. H. POTTS.

STEP OR STOOP PROTECTOR.

No. 304,128.

Patented Aug. 26, 1884.



WITNESSES:

J. F. Holden.

William H. Brooks.

INVENTOR

Joseph H. Potts.

By S. J. Vanstavern
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH HUNT POTTS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

STEP OR STOOP PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 304,128, dated August 26, 1884.

Application filed January 28, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. POTTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Step or Stoop Protectors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective illustrating the application of the protector to the outside steps of a house or building. Fig. 2 is a broken perspective showing a roll of the protector material, or the form in which it is made up for the market. Figs. 3 and 4 are respectively a broken elevation and perspective of the lower and upper end fastenings for securing the protector in position upon a flight of steps. Figs. 5 and 6 are elevations illustrating modifications in construction of the protector. Fig. 7 is a perspective of another modification. Figs. 8, 9, 10, and 11 are edge views of various further modifications, and Fig. 12 is a perspective of still another modification.

My invention has relation to protectors or coverings for the inside and outside steps of buildings or houses, particularly the outside steps, whereby they are preserved from undue wear, and are kept clean and free from icy accumulations.

Heretofore removable wooden steps have been used as a protector or covering for the outside steps of houses; but such covering has to be specially made to suit or fit each step of the flight designed to be protected, and will not, therefore, fit other flights of steps that vary in size or number. The expense of these wooden steps and the time and labor consumed in placing them in position upon the outside steps limit the extent of their use in winter, and that, together with their bulky and unsightly appearance, utterly condemns them for use temporarily or otherwise during rainy or muddy weather in summer.

My invention has for its object to avoid these disadvantages by providing a flexible weighted protector or covering which is easily and quickly put down upon and removed from the steps, which can be made to fit or conform to the various risers and treads of the differ-

ent steps in the flight without requiring special manipulation to obtain such fit or conformation, and which, in like manner, can be made to fit other or different flights or sets of steps having like or unlike risers and treads. The protector possesses sufficient flexibility to permit of its being fitted to the steps and to fold or roll up into a compact form when not in use, and although its attached weight is also flexible, to provide for such fitting and rolling or folding, yet it affords the necessary gravity for imparting to the protector the requisite rigidity to enable it to maintain itself upon the steps and prevent its being accidentally displaced or blown off or raised therefrom by the wind.

My invention accordingly consists of the novel combination, construction, and arrangement of parts forming a flexible weighted protector or covering, as hereinafter described and claimed; and it further consists of a flexible weighted protector having corner or end fastening devices for securing it in position upon the steps designed to be protected.

In the drawings, A, Fig. 1, represents the protector in position upon a flight of steps. It is composed of a layer or layers of duck-canvas, rubber, carpet, matting, or other suitable or desired flexible material, B, which may be of any desired width. At its edges *b* are secured narrow strips C, of thin sheet-lead or other flexible metal or material which will give weight to the fabric B. These lead strips may be inserted in hems formed by the overlapping or turning over of the edges *b* of fabric B, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 4, or be cemented thereto, as represented in Fig. 2; or they may be riveted to the fabric B or secured therein in the act of weaving, molding, or forming it, or be affixed thereto in any other suitable or desired manner.

In addition to the edge strips or weights, C, the fabric B may also have like lead strips secured in or at its middle part or interposed between the edge strips. The middle strip or weight may be arranged longitudinally or parallel with the edge strips, as shown in Fig. 5, or be composed of a series of short transverse strips, as indicated in Fig. 6. If desired, the edge and longitudinally-arranged central strips

may be dispensed with, and transverse strips or weights running from edge to edge of the protector be substituted, as illustrated in Fig.

7. These strips may be narrow flat lead strips riveted to fabric B, as indicated in said last-named figure; or they may have a triangular, square, oblong, or circular outline in cross-section, as shown in Figs. 8 to 11, inclusive. They may be cemented to the fabric B, as indicated in Figs. 8 and 9, or be inserted therein in the act of making or forming it. (See Figs. 10 and 11.)

Instead of using lead or other strips to weight the fabric B, the former may be of the same width as the latter, and be inserted between two layers of such fabric; or said parts may be otherwise arranged and secured together, as desired. The protector A may be made in short lengths of standard sizes, or it may be manufactured so that it can be rolled up like carpet, as indicated in Fig. 2, for convenience in handling when selling or cutting the material in suitable lengths, such lengths being enough to reach from the sill of the door to the pavement and conform to the risers and treads of all the steps to be covered or protected. The cut piece or protector is then provided at each of its corners with fastening-hooks *d*, which are riveted to the lead strips C, as shown more plainly in Figs. 3 and 4, and engage with eyes *d'*, driven into the floor of the house, just back of the sill-piece E, and into the pavement F. If desired, the hooks *d* may be inserted into the sill and pavement, and the eyes *d'* secured to the protector; or it may be provided with any other suitable devices, or, if desired, they may be dispensed with.

To place the protector in position upon a flight of steps, its upper end or corner hooks are inserted in their respective fastening-eyes. The protector is then spread over the steps and bent to rest upon or conform to the rise and tread of each step. Its lower end hooks are then connected to their fastening-eyes, and the protector is thereby securely held in position. Its flexibility permits it to be easily and quickly laid upon and adjusted to the steps, and it is as readily removed therefrom. When not in use, it is folded or rolled up to a compact form. The weight C gives to the protector sufficient rigidity to prevent its being drawn out of shape by the scraping of feet or travel over it, and whereby it maintains itself in position, so that it cannot be raised from the steps or otherwise accidentally displaced by the force of the wind or from other causes.

The cheapness of the protector, combined with the convenience with which it can be placed upon and removed from the steps, commend it for use for either long or short intervals at any season of the year.

I have shown and described my invention as being particularly adapted for protecting the outside steps of houses; but it is obvious that it may be used as a covering for inside steps, floors of kitchens, outhouses, or other like fixtures and places.

I am aware that extensible step-protectors have been made; but when extended they do not entirely cover the tread of the step, thereby permitting dirt to be deposited upon the latter; also, that other protectors of sheet metal have been used, but these are merely employed to prevent wear of the steps; also, that rubber mats or protectors are now used for like purpose; but I am not aware of a step-protector formed of a continuous piece of flexible material having attached strips or weights, as set forth.

What I claim is—

1. A flexible continuous weighted protector or covering for door-steps, substantially as shown and described.
2. The protector or covering A, composed of a layer of continuous flexible material and attached weight or lead strips, substantially as shown and described.
3. A continuous flexible weighted protector or covering having corner or end fastening devices, substantially as shown and described.
4. The protector A, composed of the continuous flexible fabric B and weight C, substantially as shown and described.
5. The door-step protector A, composed of a continuous flexible layer, B, having loaded or weighted edges *b*, substantially as shown and described.
6. As a new article of manufacture, a flexible weighted door-step protector or covering material formed as a continuous web, substantially as shown and described.
7. A continuous or unjointed weighted covering or protector for door-steps, consisting of a flexible material, substantially as described, and having sufficient rigidity to maintain any desired shape.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH HUNT POTTS.

Witnesses:

S. J. VAN STAVOREN,
CHAS. F. VAN HORN.