(No Model.)

J. BRANDY.

FELT BOOT, SHOE, OR STOCKING.

No. 344,438. Patented June 29, 1886.

Fig. 1.

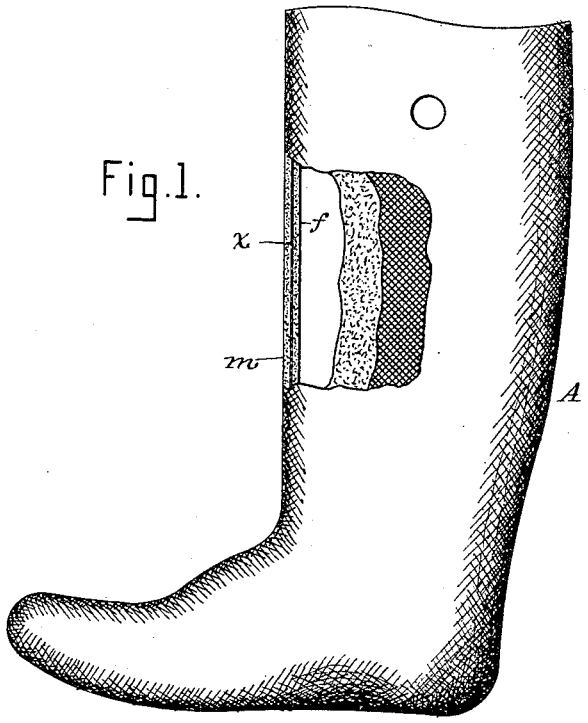
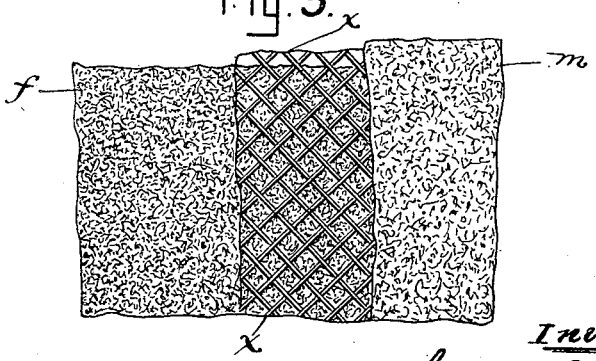


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



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JAMES BRANDY, OF LAWRENCE, ASSIGNOR TO THE BAY STATE FELT BOOT AND SHOE COMPANY, OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS.

FELT BOOT, SHOE, OR STOCKING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 344,438, dated June 29, 1886.

Application filed March 11, 1886. Serial No. 194,883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES BRANDY, of Lawrence, in the county of Essex, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Felt Boots, Shoes, and Stockings, 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 part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a felt boot embodying my improvement, a portion of the leg being represented as removed; Fig. 2, an enlarged vertical section of a piece of the boot detached; and Fig. 3 an enlarged elevation of a piece of the boot detached, a portion of one of the layers of felt being represented as removed to expose the non-elastic fabric.

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

My invention relates to that class of boots, shoes, and stockings which are composed of felt or felted material; and it consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed, by which a more desirable article of this character is produced than is now in ordinary use.

In the drawings, A represents the boot, it not being deemed necessary to illustrate the shoe and stocking, their construction, in so far as relates to my improvement, being substantially the same as the boot.

In constructing the boot a sliver of felt from the card is wound around the cone upon which the "bat" is formed in the usual manner to produce the inner layer, *f*, which may be of any desired thickness. When the inner layer is in position on the cone, a piece of reticulated fabric, *x*, of suitable size and shape is applied to the cone outside of said layer, after which another sliver of felt from the card is wound around the cone outside of the fabric *x* to form the outer layer, *m*, which may be of any desired thickness. The bat thus formed is then submitted to the usual processes of hardening, fulling, &c., or is finished in the ordinary manner. The fabric *x* is non-elastic or substantially so, being preferably composed of cotton, linen, or similar materials which do not to any great extent, if at all, become united with the materials of which the layers *f m* are composed by felting, or by any of the processes to which the bat is subjected after it leaves the cone. Its meshes *v* are also sufficiently coarse or the spaces between its threads sufficiently large in area to permit the layers *f m* to come in contact or touch each other at said spaces, so that when the bat is hardened, fulled, &c., the layers will be firmly united or felted together, the fibers of either layer intermingling with those of the other through the meshes of the fabric in a manner which will be readily obvious without a more explicit description. The outer layer, *m*, is composed of ordinary coarse wool, felt or felting material, preferably of a dark color, and the inner layer, *f*, of finer wool, felt, or felting material, (preferably white,) of a light color, thus rendering the boot, shoe, or stocking softer or more agreeable to the foot or person of the wearer, and also better appearing and more desirable to the trade.

The object of the reticulated fabric *x* is to give the boot strength and keep it in proper shape when worn, the fabric being non-elastic, and thereby preventing the boot from stretching and becoming deformed.

When the inner layer of fine white wool, *f*, and outer layer of coarse dark wool, *m*, are employed and the fabric *x* omitted, the felting processes to which the bat is subjected after it leaves the cone will cause the layers of wool to intermingle to such an extent that the dark wool will show more or less on the inside of the boot and the white wool to the same extent on the outside, thus rendering it difficult to attain the result which the employment of the layers of different colors are designed to attain. The reticulated fabric *x* overcomes this difficulty and enables the boot, shoe, or stocking to be felted and the different-colored layers kept properly separated.

Having thus explained my improvement, what I claim is—

As an improved article of manufacture, a felt boot, shoe, or stocking having an outer layer of coarse wool or felting material, an inner layer of finer wool or felting material, and a reticulated fabric interposed between said layers, said fabric being non-elastic, or approximately so, and said layers united where the fabric intervenes by felting them together through the meshes of the fabric, substantially as specified.

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