

the whole becomes rosy or appears like the white of eggs. Apply it warm. Buff the grain off the leather where it is to be cemented; rub the joint surfaces solidly together, let it dry a few hours, and it is ready for practical use; and if properly put together, it will not need riveting, as the cement is nearly of the same nature as the leather itself. 2. Also a good dressing for same kind of belt? A. Five parts of India rubber are cut fine and melted together with 5 parts of oil of turpentine in an iron, well covered vessel; then add 4 parts of resin, stir well, melt, and add 4 parts of yellow wax, stirring constantly while melting. This mixture while warm is added with constant stirring to a melted mixture of 15 parts fish oil and 5 parts of tallow, and the whole is agitated until it has congealed. The mass is applied to old belts upon both sides in a warm place, and when the belts are in use, from time to time upon the inner side. By this treatment they become very durable. 3. Is it injurious to any kind of dynamo to run for any considerable length of time with any lamps or motors in circuit with it? A. No; unless it becomes unduly heated. 4. How can I find the horse power of a common slide valve engine? A. Multiply the square of the diameter of the cylinder in inches by 0.7854, and this product by the mean engine pressure, and the last product by the piston travel in feet per minute. Divide the last product by 33,000 for the indicated horse power. In the absence of logarithmic formulæ or expansion table, multiply the boiler pressure for 1/2 cut-off by 0.91; for 1/3 cut-off by 0.85; 1/4 cut-off by 0.75; 3-10 cut-off by 0.68. This will give the mean engine pressure per square inch near enough for ordinary practice, for steam pressures between 60 and 100 pounds, always remembering that the piston travel is twice the stroke multiplied by the number of revolutions per minute. 5. What is metallic packing? Is it applicable to the stuffing box of engine? A. Metallic packing is used for steam engine piston rods. It is made in metal rings or mixed with other packing. 6. What is the lubricant for commutators? A. Use a small quantity of oil.

(6531) W. H. M. asks: 1. If the rear sprocket of a bicycle were 6 inches in diameter and the front one in proportion, would it run easier than if made the usual size? A. Possibly. We understand that the principle is now being tried on some French bicycles. 2. If a bicycle had a chain on each side, would it run with less friction than with single chain. A. Data are wanting to determine this. It is so much trouble to keep one chain in order that we should be very slow to introduce a second one.

(6532) F. F. asks: What is the temperature of the bottom sheets of a tubular boiler on the side next to the fire when the boiler is forced to its full capacity? Also what is the temperature on the water side of same? The above question came up at a meeting of our association; one member claimed that it was 1,100 degrees on the side next to fire. Some said he was right, others said he was not, so to settle the matter it was left for you to decide for us. A. The temperature of the water side of fire sheets is but little above the temperature of the water when making steam, probably 150 to 200 degrees. The iron is a quick transmitter of heat, and although the fire against the fire sheet may be 1,400 to 1,600 degrees, the surface of the plate is seldom above 600 degrees.

(6533) R. A. C. writes: I have made motor No. 641, and it works so well that I write you to let you know how I made it. I have provided a bronze bar commutator and a cast field; the field is mounted to stand erect, and the bearings are made of brass and screwed to the poles. I have also made a dynamo like the eight light dynamo except it is two-thirds size, and it runs the above motor nicely.

(6534) J. J. D., Kan., writes: The inner sides of the steam chest of an engine we have are being continually eaten away. The metal becomes so soft that it can be easily cut into with a knife. We can't see any reason for it unless it be that some acid gets mixed up with the steam. But we do not know where it comes from. We use ordinary rain water in the boiler. To prevent leakage between joints the steam chest is packed with asbestos paper. Could the acid come from this, owing to the way the fiber may have been treated? As the chest has been thoroughly cleaned lately, we have no means of examining at present the product formed. If you could tell the real cause and suggest a remedy, you would greatly oblige us. A. The water from the condensing steam on the inner surface of the steam chest is an absorbent of iron and is known to disintegrate and carry away thereon, leaving the graphitic carbon in place, and in a condition to be cut away with a knife. This is notably so with very soft castings, which contain a large percentage of carbon. There is only a partial remedy in the making of engine parts that are in contact with steam to have the iron low in carbon. By cutting off a portion of the soft surface and testing, you will find it characteristic of ordinary graphite.

(6535) J. M. C. asks how to distinguish between gold and its imitations, either plated articles or alloys. An assay or analysis is the only good method. The following may answer for rough tests: Gold should dissolve in a mixture of one part nitric with three parts hydrochloric acid. A residue indicates silver. If sulphuric acid is added to the solution, a precipitate indicates lead. One quick method is to determine its specific gravity. Silver may be dissolved in nitric acid. It should, with excess of ammonia, give a colorless, clear solution. Sulphuric acid may be used to test for lead.

(6536) G. W. W. says: Will you kindly reproduce the formula for your buffalo moth exterminator? It did its work in a thorough manner, but I have carelessly mislaid your formula and would greatly appreciate its republication. A. Take strips of red or blue flannel, as these colors are particularly attractive to them, dip in solution of arsenic and lay around the edges of carpets or wherever the pests are troublesome.

(6537) T. Y. C. says: Please give me in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN a recipe for an elastic waterproof glue. A. Glue which stands moisture without softening. Dissolve in 8 fl. oz. of strong methylated spirit 1/2 ounce each of sandarac and mastic; next add 1/2 ounce of turpentine. This solution is then added to a hot, thick solution of glue, to which isinglass has been added, and is next filtered while hot through cloth or a sieve

TO INVENTORS.

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted May 14, 1895, AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Alarm. See Fire and water alarm.	
Album, easel, W. Bergner	539,028
Alkaline bicarbonates, making, M. W. Beylikzy	539,029
Animal trap, E. Andrews	539,030
Animal trap, E. Peters	539,033
Annunciator connection for multiple switchboards, G. Taintor	539,039
Back pad, J. S. Powell	539,040
Bag filling machine, H. H. Cummins	539,171
Bale tie fastener, F. D. Van Arsdale	539,218
Barrel, J. Maddock	539,185
Basin clamp, H. B. Sherman	539,197
Bathing appliance, J. L. Prentiss	539,301
Bearing, ball, G. F. Simons	539,079
Bedstead brace, A. S. Bains	539,333
Bedstead head rest, A. W. Darre	539,039
Bicycle clutch, M. Kelly	539,273
Blooms, etc., device for banding, T. James	539,132
Boiler. See Steam boiler.	
Boiler cleaner skimmer, F. W. Hornish	539,272
Book cover, W. Wolman	539,372
Bookmaking machine, Estlin & Craw	539,103
Bottle washer, S. L. Gillett	539,384
Button holder, E. W. Troop	539,101
Bowl, wash, J. Totham	539,208
Box. See Signal call box.	
Bracket attachment for tubular uprights, W. A. Lapham	539,364
Brake. See Cycle brake.	
Brick press, W. Brightmore	539,247
Brinn support, J. W. Davis	539,557
Brush, W. S. Reilly	539,027
Bucket elevator, J. Cavanagh	539,531
Buckle, G. H. P. Maitland	539,103
Buckle, suspender, Jewett & Sargent	539,133
Burner. See Petroleum burner.	
Butcher's derrick, C. F. Brown	539,341
Butter cutter, R. Packard	539,144
Button, T. R. Hyde, Jr.	539,225
Car, convertible, J. H. Mather	539,133
Car apparatus, magnet, E. B. Cook	539,170
Caloric engine, W. P. Arschauloff	539,213
Can. See Tin can.	
Can labeling machine, E. E. Macee	539,230
Can opener, J. Gould, Jr.	539,261
Candlestick, J. O. Q. Stille	539,199
Canopy for brackets or chandeliers, L. F. & W. L. Van de Wiele	539,316
Caponizer, H. M. Seybold	539,309
Car, convertible freight, J. V. Ericson	539,220
Car coupling, C. W. Diederich	539,259
Car coupling, P. McEntee	539,143
Car coupling, T. L. McKee	539,286
Car coupling, H. E. Moomaw	539,339
Car coupling, J. L. Richards	539,306
Car, drop top, H. P. Carroll	539,149
Car fender, Collier & May	539,169
Car fender, A. Edwards	539,042
Car fender, A. E. Plattick	539,048
Car fender, W. B. George	539,050
Car fender, H. P. Johnson	539,134
Car fender, J. E. Meyer	539,349
Car fenders, operating street, C. R. Hall	539,335
Car fender, street, C. R. Hall	539,285
Car guard or fender, J. O. Brown	539,312
Car, poultry, F. X. Mudd	539,229
Car wheel and axle, L. S. Platan	539,256
Car wheel, for electric cars, C. T. Thompson	539,320
Carbon brush holder for dynamos, W. S. Bosley	539,432
Cartridge clip, R. F. Cook	539,038
Cartridge, practice, G. D. Aikin	539,327
Cash register, Breidenbach & Smyth	539,053
Caster, C. A. Tucker	539,156
Casting and die, for casters, car and set of moulds for, Hixon & Dyble	539,270
Casting pig metal, apparatus for, S. W. Vaughen	539,157
Catapult, E. L. Lewis	539,183
Cellar, waterproof, F. B. Gilbreth	539,259
Cellophane apparatus, for sorting and separating pieces of wood for manufacture of, L. Piette	539,226
Chair. See Invalid chair.	
Chest, tea, C. W. Lutes	539,227
Chuck, drill, R. M. Russell	539,193
Clamp. See Basin clamp.	
Clamp die, Ayworth & Leslie	539,332
Clamp, for electric cars, C. T. Thompson	539,320
Clutch and coupling, G. F. Clamer	539,249
Cock, tap, J. A. Wutmer	539,324
Coffee mill and canister, combined, J. F. Buschmann	539,545
Coffee pot, J. H. Burrows	539,105
Collar fastener, P. H. Hughes	539,137
Collar pad, W. T. O'Brien	539,231
Communicating, signaling, etc., to or from movable objects, J. Y. Porter	539,236
Communion service, C. Hall	539,264
Commutator segments, method of and means for assembling, C. H. Ohlsson	539,022
Cooking canned goods, machine for, J. H. Empson	539,124
Corn husking machine, E. A. Partelow	539,081
Corn sheller, E. W. Douglas	539,219
Corn sheller, A. H. Patch	539,062
Corn, P. E. Broome	539,340
Cotton condenser and gin, J. F. Swinerton et al.	539,212
Cotton elevator and distributor, Zedler & Ward	539,325
Coupling. See Car coupling. Flexible coupling.	
Pipe coupling, Thill coupling.	
Cover fastener, H. D. Stocroft	539,085
Creamer, for milk, J. H. Hulse	539,309
Crusher. See Stone crusher.	
Cultivator, F. H. Gilman	539,174
Cultivator, J. A. Head	539,223
Cup head or piston packing, J. F. Pruden	539,085
Curry comb, H. P. Morrison	539,136
Curling iron, E. Broome	539,340
Curtain fixture, I. Williams	539,108
Cutter. See Butter cutter.	
Cutter head for woodwork, rotary, C. E. Zimmermann	539,326
Cycle brake, J. S. Foley	539,125
Dentist's and tooth mirror, combined, D. C. McNaughton	539,076
Die. See Clamp die.	
Digger. See Potato digger.	
Dish cleaner, J. J. Walsh	539,317
Door check, J. S. Shrader	539,088
Door check, H. A. Page	539,236
Door hanger, S. E. Horning	539,271
Door, screen and storm, M. A. Hanson	539,176
Draught equalizer, F. A. Polka	539,084
Draught equalizer, J. Schifer	539,087
Elbow joint, ventilating, R. C. Doenitz	539,300
Electric fastener, J. R. Hare	539,222
Electric light head gear for personal ware, Rodriguez & Rockwell	539,192
Electric motor, J. C. Lincoln	539,277
Electric motor controller, Parshall & Darley, Jr.	539,293
Electric motor starting box, D. M. Bliss	539,376
Electric conductor, J. R. Hare	539,024
Electrical wires, crossarm for carrying, T. T. Eckert	539,123
Elevator. See Bucket elevator. Cotton elevator	
Elevator indicator, R. Cballis	539,351
End gate and scoop board for wagons, combined, Kerr & Moore	539,060
Engine. See Caloric engine. Gas engine. Steam engine.	
Engine indicator, steam, A. C. Lippincott	539,398
Extractor. See Oil extractor.	
Extractor, R. W. Hulse	539,224
Fan, R. Zimmermann	539,208
Fan for rocking chairs, cradles, etc., automatic, F. Finke et al.	539,047
Fence post, J. W. Williams	539,159
Fiber preparing machine, C. A. Green	539,262
Filtration and purification of beer, method of and apparatus for, O. Zwietsch	539,111
Fire and water alarm, electric, G. S. Neu	539,234
Firearm, magazine, R. F. Cook	539,037
Firearm, magazine, J. L. McCullough	539,230
Fireproof partition, etc., Poulson & Ellis	539,334
Fireproof partition, ceiling wall, etc., T. Bailey	539,314

Fish hook weed guard, W. P. Shattuck	539,190
Flashlight mechanism, M. W. Newcomb	540,077
Flexible coupling, T. R. Almond	539,161
Floor, for extracting and laying mosaic work, C. D. Jackson	539,131
Flue cleaner, boiler, R. Faries	539,046
Frame. See Metal frame.	
Fruit, drying, F. W. Gibson	539,258
Furnace. See Gasoline furnace. Metallurgical furnace.	
Furnace and apparatus for treatment of refuse of cities, J. J. Storer	539,036
Furniture, convertible, J. S. Shearer	539,310
Furniture, metallic knockdown, S. Schlesinger	539,195
Game apparatus, W. B. Bust	539,346
Garden device, G. Wilentz	539,107
Garbage, method of and apparatus for treatment and reduction of, J. C. Anderson	539,245
Garment supporter, J. Gump	539,127
Gas engine, H. J. Dykes	539,122
Gas, manufacturing, Logan & Janeway, Jr.	539,064
Gas retorts, means for charging, H. M. Pierson	539,235
Gasoline furnace, C. T. Parpenning	539,162
Gate. See end gate.	
Gate, E. C. Moore	539,228
Glass articles, mould for making, J. D. Claypoole	539,168
Glass cutting, electric, I. L. G. Rice	539,302
Grain elevator, A. Fulton	539,244
Grain dump and elevator, A. Fulton	539,244
Guitar, J. Holtvoigt	539,066
Hanger. See Door hanger. Pipe hanger. Shaft hanger.	
Harrow, rake, and truck, combined, H. Rea	539,303
Harvesting machine, fodder, W. G. Smith	539,091
Animal trap, E. Andrews	539,161
Hat hook, J. Savoie	539,194
Heater. See Hot water heater.	
Heater, W. Campbell	539,166
Hinge, W. S. Ivins	539,067
Hook. See Hat hook.	
Hook, for clothes, H. C. Jerome	539,058
Horseshoe pad, J. Sweeney	539,086
Horseshoe, soft tread, J. Gleason	539,053
Hot water heater, B. Etienne	539,043
Ice making tank, S. W. Johnson	539,343
Index, file, W. J. Brewer	539,114
Indicator, case elevator for indicator. Engine indicator. Railway time indicator.	
Inkstand, C. N. Brown	539,343
Insect powder duster, L. W. Turner	539,102
Insulator, L. H. Desilles	539,040
Invalid chair, Doolittle & Schmidt	539,041
Iron, for clothes, H. C. Jerome	539,058
Lamp, arc, C. A. Pfuger	539,392
Lamp, electric, W. B. Luce	539,385
Lamp, electric, C. H. Sheppard	539,150
Lamp, electric arc, C. A. Pfuger	539,393
Lamp, having regenerative gas burner, Gordon & Lathe, J. & J. Young	539,175
Leather blackening and dressing composition, Woods & Maclay	539,323
Leather working machine, I. Vaughn	539,104
Leas, Turner & Reich	539,370
Lock, J. E. Goodhue	539,173
Liquid circulating and pumping apparatus, J. T. Morrow	539,075
Liquid circulating or pumping device, J. T. Morrow	539,074
Liquid elevating apparatus, Roussel & Boucher	539,146
Lock, J. E. Goodhue	539,173
Locomotive bell ringer, H. Breitenstein	539,339
Loz carrier, J. A. Carroll	539,380
Loom for weaving double fabric for plush, H. J. Hope	539,179
Loom, web, J. E. Norton	539,278
Loom shuttle, J. C. Sergeon	539,238
Loom temple, R. P. Pearson	539,188
Loom temple, E. S. Stimpson	539,241
Mail bag delivering apparatus, B. D. Ayars, Jr.	539,373
Mat. See Stove or table mat.	
Match splint coiling machine, J. H. Manton	539,074
Matrix making and stereotyping, A. C. Ferguson	539,253
Metal frame and stock therefor, A. Wanner, Jr.	539,313
Metal planing machine, F. E. Norton	539,078
Metal sawing machine, J. & R. J. Balz	539,246
Meter, gas, automatic, smokeless, F. L. Bartlett	539,021
Meter. See Power meter.	
Mill. See Coffee mill.	
Mining machine, dry placer, J. H. Simson	539,312
Mining, placer, S. S. Harper	539,054
Mixer, for cement, C. J. McLennan	539,258
Motor. See Electric motor. Multiple cylinder motor.	
Mowing machine, G. Chapman	539,217
Mowing machine cutter bar, O. Cook	539,036
Multiple cylinder motor, E. B. Benham	539,025
Musical instrument, C. W. Phillips	539,383
Offset mechanism, W. Spalckhauser	539,193
Oil extractor for exhaust steam, H. E. Moffat	539,078
Opera chair, automatically folding, R. Schubert	539,178
Organ action, M. Hetberington	539,178
Organs, means for operating pressure bellows of, W. Schilling	539,308
Overhead fastener, W. C. Arnold	539,329
Overshoes in place, device for holding, I. Good	539,361
Packing, F. J. Waters	539,371
Pad. See Back pad. Collar pad. Saddle pad.	
Paddock, A. A. Page	539,295
Paints, for wood, C. J. McLennan	539,258
Paper cutting machine, R. Miehle	539,071
Paper sheets, receiving needle for sticking on of, C. Burgin	539,215
Pavilion, folding, A. Lorenz	539,226
Paving roller, C. H. Burwinkle	539,053
Pen rest, variable, E. L. Branham	539,115
Pencil attachment, Clark & Vick	539,362
Petroleum burner, L. Baumgartner	539,375
Phonograms, apparatus for reproducing, E. H. Amet	539,212
Presses, etc., frame for, M. C. Julien	539,137
Pile fabric, knife for cutting, D. Scott et al.	539,147
Pipe bender, J. Bropon	539,378
Pipe corrugating machine, W. J. Piecker	539,297
Pipe coupling, J. Barrett	539,112
Pipe hanger, H. Barbeck	539,246
Pipe sleeve, steam, J. Collins	539,119
Pipe wrench, J. Born	539,031
Planter attachment, corn, D. W. Matzier	539,282
Planter, corn, Helvern & McGuire	539,267
Planter, cotton, Head & Kerns	539,362
Planter, potato, F. F. Wolzmann	539,245
Planter, seed, J. A. Mengel	539,065
Plow, rotary, J. C. Lilly	539,131
Plow, rotary gang, W. B. Willis	539,322
Plow subsoil attachment, L. McWhinney	539,289
Pneumatic tool, W. H. Soley	539,240
Pocketbook, L. Cano	539,248
Post. See Fence post.	
Potassium cyanide, for making, W. M. Mackey	539,279
Potato digger, P. Tiedeman	539,314
Power meter, E. L. Abbott	539,244
Press. See Brick press. Printing press.	
Pressure regulator, fluid, P. G. Van Wie	539,305
Printing, J. C. Hemphill	539,268
Printing machine offset mechanism, J. C. Hemphill	539,269
Printing machine, L. Grossman	539,221
Printing press, J. Brooks	539,377
Printing press, J. L. Cox	539,356
Printing side surfaces of metallic capsules, H. C. Heger	539,276
Puller. See Stump puller.	
Pulley, R. F. Hargraves	539,129
Pulley, sash, W. T. Kellogg	539,059
Pulley, speed, W. M. McIntyre (r)	11,495
Pulley, split, A. J. Williams	539,140
Pump, fire, J. B. A. Thomas	539,153
Pump, F. Mis	539,072
Pumps, valve and valve operating mechanism for, J. C. Gibbons	539,052
Push button, electric, A. J. Oebing	539,079
Railway, closed conduit electric, F. Lucas	539,184
Railway signal, J. Strubman	539,336
Railway signal operating device, F. Hardy	539,128
Railway signal system, G. L. Thomas	539,154
Railway switch, automatic, A. C. McKenzie	539,232
Railway tie, metallic, W. H. Addecks	539,210
Railway time indicator, G. H. McGuire	539,285
Register, J. C. Lilly	539,337
Register. See Cash register.	
Regulator. See Pressure regulator. Water supply regulator.	
Rendering and drying apparatus, E. Holtbaus	539,055
Reostat, A. C. Carey	539,217
Reostat, variable, E. F. Warner	539,105
Roaster, J. A. Miller	539,283
Robbers, mechanism for foling train, T. Toomey	539,100
Rock drill actuating device, J. Duncan	539,251
Rock drills, rotary feed, H. Koch	539,062
Roller. See Faying roller.	
Roofing implement, F. G. Caldwell	539,063
Roofing implement, F. G. Caldwell	539,063
Rubber belts, method of and apparatus for joining ends of, T. Robins, Jr.	539,145
Saddle pad, F. W. Wall	539,207
Sash and sash frame, window, Walker & Albert	539,206
Sash fastener, I. W. Lord	539,140
Sash lock, H. Bitner	539,030
Sawmill, band, W. M. Wilkin	539,320
Sawmill carriage, W. M. Wilkin	539,321
Sawmill feeding mechanism, C. Reiser	539,305