

ing a hole $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter at the end of the crack and sawing a kerf along the crack wide enough to prevent the edges from touching by the vibration of the bell. For the bell you describe the kerf should be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide at the rim of the bell and narrower if convenient toward the hole.

(6695) G. G. C. asks us to explain the cause of sound in a steam whistle. A. The cause of sound in a steam whistle is the same as in any form of whistle or an organ pipe, viz.: A vibration of the atmosphere induced by a vibration set up in a steam jet directed against the edge of the bell, the vibration of the air or steam column in the bell influencing the tone according to its length and diameter.

(6696) Wm. N. C. asks the best way to cement a cellar floor 19 feet 8 inches by 26 feet 10 inches, the probable cost and which of the following suggestions is best if any are good: One suggested to me gravel for foundation and then a layer of cement. Another suggested broken brick or cobble stone pounded down for a foundation with cement between the pieces of stone or brick and then a layer of cement for the surface. Another suggested cement on the bare ground, then a layer of paving brick laid into the cement and on this another layer of cement. Also the quantity of sand and cement proportionately. A. If the cellar is liable to become very wet or have standing water, it should have a well rammed bed of concrete of broken stone or very coarse gravel, mixed with equal parts of cement mortar made with one part cement to two parts clean sand. When the concrete is set it should have a coat of cement mortar $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. The whole to be not less than 5 inches inches thick. If the cellar bottom is sandy and moderately moist, a thin coat of broken brick or stone rammed even with the cement mortar above may be made with a half inch of cement plaster rubbed even with a trowel for a finish.

(6697) S. B. W. says: Will you inform me what is the best preparation and what is generally used to polish ivory and how to apply? Also the best preparation and methods for getting a high polish and finish on fine steel such as surgical instruments and dentists' tools when not nickelated. A. To Polish Ivory.—First use pumice stone and finish with putty powder; apply with a buff. To Polish Iron and Steel.—Usually the article to be polished is first rubbed down with emery of gradually increasing fineness, after which the article is moistened with alcohol or water and polished with Vienna lime, rouge or tin putty.

(6698) S. H. R. says: Will you publish a formula for a harmless color for the hair, producing medium chestnut? A. Where, from some personal idiosyncrasy, the color of the hair has disappeared and cannot be restored, a dye may be considered necessary, the following will be of service; but the nitrate of silver dyes should be avoided, and the use of any dye for prolonged time is detrimental to the hair.

1. Brown:
Walnut skins beaten to a pulp..... 4 oz.
Rectified spirit..... 16 "
- The above is perfectly innocent in its character.
- The following is original, and non-injurious:

2. Black:
Sulphate of iron..... 10 grn.
Glycerine..... 1 oz.
Water..... 1 pt.
- The hair must be thoroughly washed with this, dried and brushed once daily for three days; then the following should be applied on a small tooth comb, but it should not be allowed to touch the skin if the other preparation has done so, as a temporary stain would result.

3. Gallic acid..... 4 grn.
Tannic acid..... 4 grn.
Water..... 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

After the first application of formula 2, the hair should be allowed to dry and then be brushed. Subsequently, both formulas may be used once daily at an interval of an hour or so, until a black color is produced. All preparations of lead and mercury are injurious if used for any length of time; they may, however, be legitimately used where some small portion of hair has, from personal idiosyncrasy, lost its color, which cannot be restored.

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the
United States were Granted

December 31, 1895,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

(See note at end of list about copies of these patents.)

Aerial navigation, E. J. Pennington.....	552,443
Air drying and purifying compound, A. M. Purves.....	552,142
Alarm. See Speed indicating alarm.	
Ammunition, miniature, H. Andrews.....	552,090
Autographic register, H. Harrer.....	
Autographic register and cash drawer, combined, Grimes & Harter.....	552,365
Automatic sprinkler, W. Harkness.....	552,473
Automatic sprinkler, M. H. Hart.....	552,247
Axle box, C. Noyes, Jr.....	552,387
Axle box, car, W. M. Shumway.....	552,216
Axle cooler, M. P. Cook.....	552,235
Axes and spindles, machine for repairing, O. H. King.....	552,186
Baling press, J. J. Burnsabire.....	552,094
Baling press, G. V. B. Williams.....	552,310
Bales, apparatus for removing cores from cylindrical cotton, C. W. White.....	552,458
Batting appliances, water mixer for, J. C. DeKean.....	552,356
Batteries and making same, depolarizer for primary, Thomsader & Koen.....	552,211
Battery. See Electric battery. Electrical battery. Secondary battery.	
Bedding, Z. Guzik.....	552,472
Bedstead, O. S. Foster.....	552,176
Bedstead, C. Maher.....	552,253
Bedstead, lounge, sofa, etc., combined, M. Langhorne.....	552,176
Belt joint, M. Mittag.....	552,297
Bicycle crank shaft, W. H. Jordan.....	552,312
Bicycle, electrical, O. Bolton, Jr.....	552,271
Bicycle motor, S. B. Battley.....	552,423
Blower for forges, furnaces, etc., J. S. Hoerner.....	552,178
Boat. See Folding boat. Lifeboat.	
Boiler-off, steam, T. Mitchell.....	552,376
Boiler. See Steam boiler.	
Boiler cleaner, J. D'Veora.....	552,406
Boiler feeding device, G. A. Eddy.....	552,170
Boot strap machine for covering webbing for Emergencies & Buckle.....	552,110
Bottle, non-flammable, B. Hall.....	552,433
Bottle, non-flammable, Michener & Hullstrung.....	552,191
Bottle, siphon, H. Landgraf.....	552,129
Bottles, means for preventing fraudulent use of empty, J. R. Hale.....	552,321
Bouquet holder for garments, J. Frye.....	552,111
Box. See Cash box. Ice box. Lunch box. Retail box.	
Brake. See Car brake. Train brake.	
Brazing furnace, B. Rein.....	552,330
Brush, foot, P. Morck.....	552,388
Brush, tooth, J. Frye.....	552,114
Buglar alarm attachment for railway cars, Bratton & Graham.....	552,465
Burner. See Gas burner. Gasoline or vapor burner. Hydrocarbon burner.	
Button cuff, W. G. Sutton.....	552,154
Camera. See Photographic camera.	
Can. See Oil can.	
Can making machine, C. W. Sleeper.....	552,336
Can opener, E. H. Trenchard.....	552,212
Car plate, A. B. Rooney.....	552,496
Car plates, aluminum, J. Roads.....	552,220
Car coupling, S. Bishop.....	552,352
Car coupling, F. J. Curtis.....	552,118
Car coupling, F. W. Gerlich.....	552,245
Car coupling, T. A. Griffith.....	552,476
Car coupling, A. Kelly.....	552,270
Car fender, J. H. Astruck.....	552,270
Car fender, E. B. Clark.....	552,348
Car fender, S. H. Coffee.....	552,349
Car fender, A. Fryer.....	552,263
Car fender, W. T. Haugh.....	552,475
Car fender, H. Kramer, Jr.....	552,377
Car fender, R. Wilkinson.....	552,162
Car fender, street, J. F. Fiechter.....	552,261
Car fender, street, J. W. Harris.....	552,281
Car journal cooling device, M. P. Cook.....	552,350
Car logging, F. Bedard.....	552,346
Car motor, street, J. H. Elward.....	552,458
Car platform and buffer, continuous, W. H. Stark.....	552,458
Car signal, W. Herrman.....	552,125
Car ventilating device, C. W. Pearseall.....	552,300
Car wheel, W. J. Taylor.....	552,185
Cars, motor suspension for street, G. F. Card.....	552,185
Carding, engine, machine for separating card cloth-up to date, Greaves & Wardle.....	552,284
Cartidge, pyrographite, J. Mahlmann.....	552,188
Case. See Show case.	
Cash box and recorder, safety, E. W. Locke.....	552,381
Cash register, Benton & Hess.....	552,453
Chalk holder, A. A. Stocker.....	552,403
Churn, E. L. Gillis.....	552,120
Cigar machine, J. Reuse.....	552,447
Cigar mould, N. Du Brul.....	552,317
Cigarettes, machine for making all-tobacco, J. S. Detrich.....	552,104
Cloth winding machine, G. Castle.....	552,416
Coal and ash separating device, S. M. Kjellstrom.....	552,250
Cock, R. N. Pratt.....	552,193
Coin freed apparatus, O. Winkler.....	552,460
Collar fastener, W. Hughes.....	552,126
Collar, horse, T. J. Herring.....	552,126
Combining and dressing silk or other fibers, machine for, Hoyle & Scarborough.....	552,440
Conveyer, S. Webber.....	552,107
Cooler, See Azide cooler.	
Corn shocker, P. Mullane.....	552,135
Corset, sewing, W. L. Norton.....	552,257
Cotton gin, saw, Lumpkin & Ogden.....	552,237
Coupling. See Car coupling. Pipe coupling. shaft and pole coupling. Water closet coupling.	
Coupling for tubular sections, W. Comelly.....	552,315
Cue chalk holder, F. G. Farnham.....	552,171
Cuff holder, A. W. Carlson.....	552,213
Cultivator and harrow, White & Stevens.....	552,163
Curling iron, A. Rush.....	552,457
Curling iron bolder, P. R. Lewis.....	552,251
Current upon moving vehicles, apparatus for automatically maintaining, H. M. Dey.....	552,105
Currents into unidirectional current's apparatus for transforming alternating, C. Pollak.....	552,260
Cutter. See Slat cutter. Wall paper cutter.	
Dampering machine, shirt, W. P. Whitcomb.....	552,457
Dashboard, vehicle, T. R. Steele.....	552,412
Dental handpiece, T. S. Kellogg.....	552,192
Dental syringe, W. C. Midglaugh.....	552,192
Die stock, ratchet, H. W. Oster.....	552,238
Dish cleaner, Stone.....	552,179
Door check, H. Embria.....	552,219
Door check and closer, W. H. Taylor.....	552,463
Door or ass't jack, G. Spires.....	552,357
Door securer, F. A. Potter.....	552,403
Draught equalizer, G. W. Raymond.....	552,454
Draught equalizer, W. S. Sobe.....	552,347
Drawer, J. T. Matthews.....	552,441
Drawing curved lines apparatus for, G. Kubin.....	552,233
Drawing frame, W. V. Threlfall.....	552,339
Drawing or slubbing machines, condensing guide for, R. H. Cook.....	552,276
Dredging apparatus, J. Gwynne.....	552,255
Drill. See Multiple drill.	
Dropper. See Seed dropper.	
Dry kiln, J. C. Linnell.....	552,390
Dumping apparatus, R. D. O. Johnson.....	552,476
Dynamo arc regulator, C. E. Scribner.....	552,397
Electric arc light, L. B. Marks.....	552,190
Electric circuit safety device, P. H. D'Unger.....	552,239
Electric lighting system, J. C. Mayrhofer.....	552,496
Electric meter, Tucker & Hinckley.....	552,398
Electric motor, automatic, H. H. Blades.....	552,094
Electric battery, D. S. Williams.....	552,210
Electromagnetic mechanism, S. D. Field.....	552,172
Elevator controller, C. H. Yates.....	552,223
Fan attachment for baby carriages, H. Snyder.....	552,466
Fan, baby carriage, J. Frye.....	552,151
Feed mill, J. Hanson.....	552,247
Feedwater beater, C. W. McDaniel.....	552,136
Feedwater purifier, galvanic, S. G. Cabell.....	552,414
Feedwater purifying apparatus, S. G. Cabell.....	552,412
Feeding and printing machine, J. H. Goodbar.....	552,132
Fences, device for applying stay wires to wire, E. F. Groome.....	552,471
Fender. See Car fender.	
Fifth wheel, E. Smith.....	552,150
File guide, S. L. Mangan.....	552,244
Fire alarm telegraph, N. H. Suren.....	552,294
Fire escape balcony, H. T. G. Brown.....	552,193
Fire extinguisher, chemical, L. S. Platau.....	552,497
Fire extinguishing apparatus and carriage therefor, W. B. Gull.....	552,123
Fireproof partition, A. G. Cummings.....	552,445
Folding boat, F. Heather.....	552,437
Footwear, J. H. McKeown.....	552,255
Funnel, A. G. Dyer.....	552,240
Furnace. See Brazing furnace. Smelting furnace. Smoke preventing furnace.	
Furnaces, ventilation mechanism for locomotive or other boiler, N. J. Noble.....	552,196
Gage. See Screw thread gage.	
Gas apparatus for charging liquids with, P. J. Maguire.....	552,214
Gas burner, J. F. Barker.....	552,452
Gas engine, Rinehart & Turner.....	552,332
Gas engine generator, G. W. Robt.....	552,293
Gas extinguisher, rotary, T. H. Wilbraham.....	552,448
Gas generating and supplying apparatus, W. C. Theisen.....	552,455
Gasoline or vapor burner, J. Stibbers.....	552,305
Gear, speed changing, J. T. Hamby.....	552,124
Generator. See Gas generator. Gas engine generator.	
Glass articles, machine for ornamenting, L. H. Zeigler.....	552,461
Glass composition for manufacturing, A. P. Ayling.....	552,091
Golf ball holder, D. D. Macpherson.....	552,252
Grading machine, E. Heidler.....	552,249
Grain dump and elevator, J. T. Richmond.....	552,145
Grain elevators, concentrating indicator for, F. E. Parker.....	552,391
Gasoline or vapor burner, J. Stibbers.....	552,305
Gear speed changing, J. T. Hamby.....	552,124
Generator. See Gas generator. Gas engine generator.	
Glass articles, machine for ornamenting, L. H. Zeigler.....	552,461
Glass composition for manufacturing, A. P. Ayling.....	552,091
Glaze, porcelain, H. C. Jones.....	552,394
Grain cutter, S. Glunt.....	552,364
Grain dump and elevator, J. T. Richmond.....	5