Hat-hardening Machine. Hardening or basoning; a preliminary felting operation which converts the fibers into a fabric dense and tenacious enough to enable it to be handled and put through the felting process. In comes from the forming-machine, it is usually done by an auxiliary cone moved over that on which the body was formed. Other bodies are steamed and rolled up in cloths (basoning-cloths). Flat bats are hardened between a table and a flat platen having short, quick reciprocating motion. See Emmon's patent, April 19, 1858.