

(No Model.)

W. WIGGINS.
BUTTON FASTENING.

No. 268,336.

Patented Nov. 28, 1882.

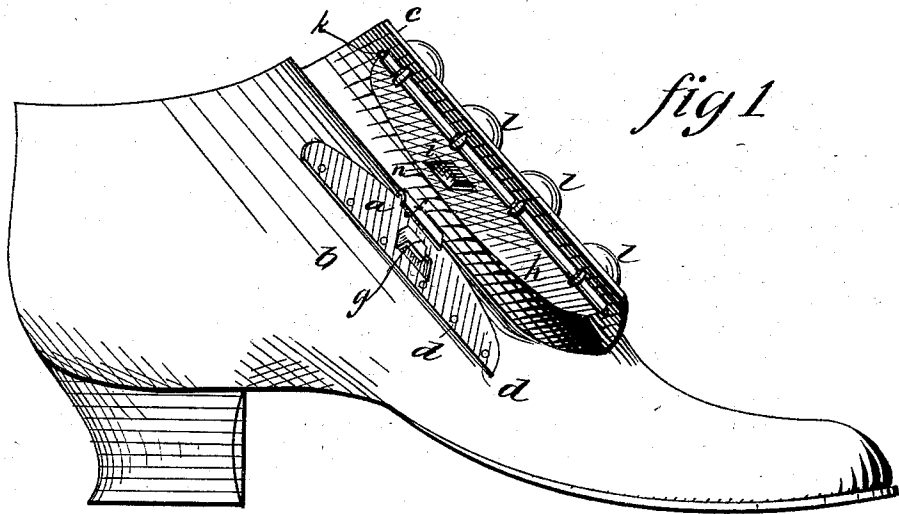


fig 1

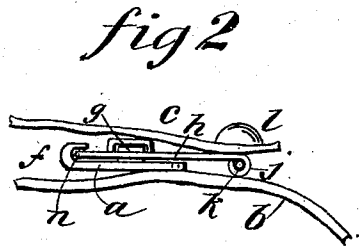


fig 2

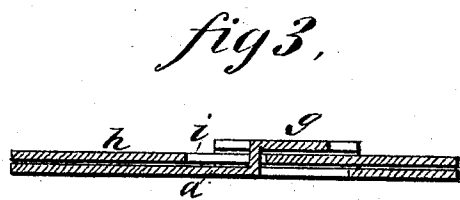


fig 3.

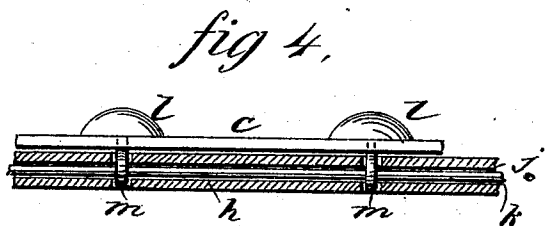


fig 4.

WITNESSES:

Chas. O. Howell,
C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

W. Wiggins

BY *Munn & Co*

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM WIGGINS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BUTTON-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 268,336, dated November 28, 1882.

Application filed September 30, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WIGGINS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Shoe-Fastener, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists of a clasp device designed to be employed for fastening shoes of the kind for which buttons are employed, the object being to avoid the wear and tear of the buttons and holes and avoid much of the labor and loss of time required to fasten button-shoes, and it is contrived for the application of buttons, also to give the appearance of button-shoes when required, but may be used without the buttons, if desired, all as hereinafter fully described.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a shoe provided with my improved fastener. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the fastener. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the fastening-plates through the catch device; and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of the plates through the joint by which the button fly-plate and the buttons are attached to it.

I attach a catch-plate, *a*, of thin metal, to the side of the upper *b*, that is covered by the button-fly *c*, securing it by rivets *d*, having suitably large and flat heads inside to avoid hurting the foot of the wearer, or by any other approved means, the rivets or other fastenings being located along the outer edge of the plate to hold it down close on the leather *b* thereat, so that it will confine the button-fly snugly. The inner edge of the plate *a* has a flange, *f*, turned upward and over toward the outer edge, and between said flange and said outer edge of the plate *a* it is provided with a hook-catch, *g*, which is raised above the surface about the thickness of the plate *h*, attached to the button-fly *c*, for fastening the fly to the plate *a*, plate *h*, having a hole, *i*, made through it for the catch. This plate *h* is attached to the button-fly near its edge by a wire, *k*, to which the buttons *l* are also fastened, said rod being secured in a kind of knuckle or hinge joint, *j*, of the plate, which is nicked at suitable intervals for receiving

the eyes *m* of the buttons. The buttons are by this contrivance attached to the button-fly in the same positions along the edge as in an ordinary button-shoe, the connection being by the same device that attaches the plate, and which is much stronger than sewing or riveting them on separately, and the plate is employed for fastening the fly to avoid the wear and damage of the button and button-hole arrangement, which it is well known is very damaging to the shoe by the effects of the button-hook. In this arrangement the plate *h* serves as a lever-fastener to first draw the button-fly tight by placing the inner edge, *n*, under the flange *f*, the outer edge being elevated, and then swinging the outer edge down, and the fly-plate also being pressed downward a little toward the toe of the shoe from its normal position, to enable the catch *g* to enter hole *i* and engage and hold plate *h* when it is shifted upward again into its proper position after the catch has been thus entered. The edge *n* and flange *f* guide the hook *g* and notch *i*, so as to connect without special care or attention.

Thus I provide a neat, substantial, and easily-operating fastening, which preserves all the appearance of a button-shoe, when so desired, and may be used without the buttons, if preferred. When it is to be applied to low shoes having only three or four buttons, one set or pair of plates will be used; but for higher shoes two or more pairs of plates may be employed, because the shape of the ankle will not allow of the use of plates longer than about the range of four buttons.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, in a shoe-fastener, of the plate *a*, having flange *f* and hook *g*, adapted to be attached to the side *b* of the shoe, and the plate *h*, having hole *i*, and adapted to be attached to the fly *c*, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the fly *c* and plate *h*, of the wire *k* and buttons *l*, forming a joint, *j*, substantially as shown and described.

WILLIAM WIGGINS.

Witnesses:

L. H. D. SHEPHERD,
WALTER W. JACKSON.