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SHOE WITH BELLOWS POCKET UPPER

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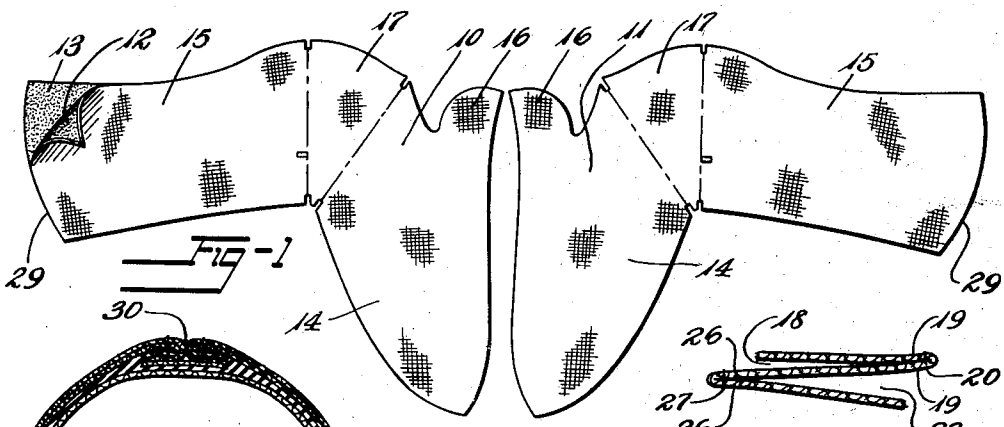


Fig-1

Fig-6

Fig-3

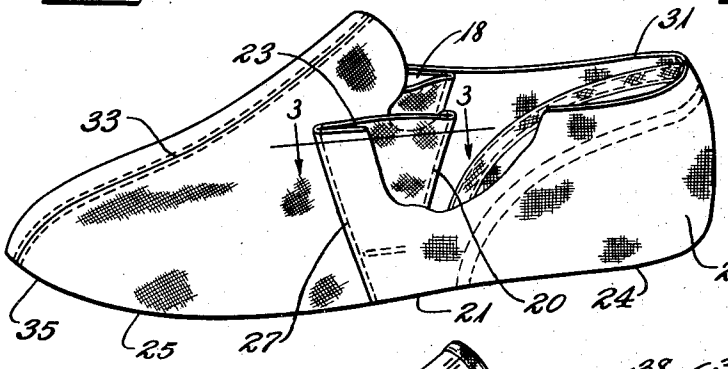


Fig-2

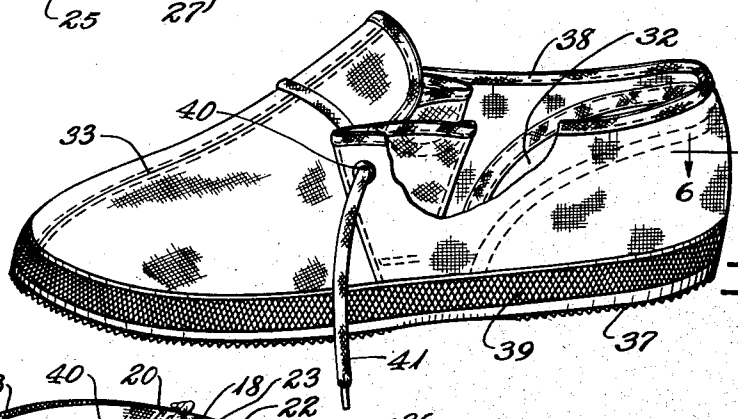


Fig-5

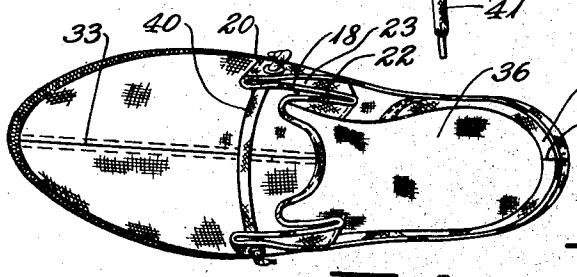


Fig-4

Inventor
Joseph A. Lussier
By Yoke S. Woodruff
Atty

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SHOE WITH BELLOWS POCKET UPPER

Joseph A. Lussier, Watertown, Mass., assignor to The B. F. Goodrich Company, New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

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3 Claims. (Cl. 36—9)

1

This invention relates to shoes constructed so as to be easily donnable and especially to easily donnable beach-type shoes comprising essentially non-stretchable material and preferred methods of making the same.

The principal objects of this invention are to provide easily donnable shoes comprising essentially non-stretchable material; to construct such shoes in a manner whereby they conform closely to the foot while being worn; to construct shoes whereby additional width is provided in the mouth opening thereof without having any other openings in the upper portion through which sand or other foreign material could enter, to construct such shoes in a simple and economical manner; and, generally, to provide shoes which have a neat and pleasing appearance.

For many types of low shoes, it is desirable to be able to don them easily much as a slipper is donned. This is especially true in the case of beach shoes. It is also desirable to have the shoes fit closely about the wearer's foot after being donned so that the shoes can easily be kept on the foot without the necessity of using lacings or snaps. Two of the prime requisites of such footwear are simplicity and comfort. In the case of beach shoes and similar sport shoes, these requisites have led to the use of such materials as canvas and duck fabrics in constructing the upper portion. These materials allow air to circulate through the shoe while excluding sand and other foreign material.

Such materials, however, are essentially nonstretchable; and, in an ordinary shoe construction, if the mouth opening is made large enough that the shoe is easily donnable the opening is also so large that the shoe is not easily kept on the foot. If the shoe is constructed, as certain slippers are, for ease in donning by cutting away a portion of the upper, sand and foreign material have a means of ingress into the shoe. Most sport shoes have a compromise construction in which they are made close fitting to some degree by sacrificing ease in donning.

By means of this invention, however, the shoe may be constructed of any suitable essentially nonstretchable material so as to have laterally expandable bellows pockets on each side of the mouth of the shoe. The shoe upper is constructed so that the bellows pockets tend to remain in a collapsed condition whereby the shoe fits closely about the wearer's foot after it is donned without the necessity of auxiliary fastenings. The shoe is, however, preferably provided with such auxiliary fastenings so that the bellows pockets may be

2

secured in the collapsed condition if so desired. Further, the bellows pockets are an integral part of the upper so that the only means of ingress for sand and other foreign matter is through the mouth opening of the shoe.

The invention is best understood by reference to a preferred embodiment as typified by the low beach shoe illustrated in the accompanying drawings of which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a pair of upper blanks which are cut as the first operation in building the shoe;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the manner in which the blanks are joined and folded into a shoe-like upper portion; a section of the upper having been cut away for clarity of illustration;

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a top elevation of the assembly after the shoe-like upper portion has been attached to a sole portion;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the shoe subsequent to the finishing operations; and

Fig. 6 is a section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

In the preferred method of constructing a low beach shoe as illustrated by the drawings, a pair of upper blanks 10 and 11 are cut from essentially non-stretchable material which may be any of the suitable woven fabrics or leather; or other suitable material and, in this preferred embodiment, the material consists of a heavy, coarse duck 12 and a light, fine duck 13 plied together. The blanks cut are reverse counterparts, and each comprises half of the vamp 14, 14, quarter 15, 15, and tongue 16, 16 which together constitute the upper portion. Each of the blanks is L-shaped with the vamp and tongue portions of the blank forming one leg of the L and the quarter portion forming the other leg as contrasted to the usual pattern for paired upper blanks where the blank lies in a generally straight line. These L-shaped blanks each have a triangularly shaped section 17, 17 at the region of the juncture of the vamp and quarter portion, such triangular sections being of sufficient size to form bellows pockets.

The next step in the construction of the shoe consists of folding each of the blanks to form a bellows pocket. The material in the region of the juncture of the vamp 14 and quarter 15 portions is folded so that the quarter portion extends forwardly along the outside of the vamp portion. This results in a recess 18 extending backwardly (Fig. 3) from the vamp portion. The vertical marginal regions 19, 19 of the material forming this recess 18 are then joined together from the lower margin 21 of the blank to the upper margin

22 of the folded material, preferably by a line of stitching 20.

The quarter portion 15 is then folded back along the outside of the backwardly extending recess 18 forming a forwardly extending outer recess 23. The fold is made such that the entire folded portion is of a generally triangular shape with the apex at the lower margin 21 of the blank, and such that the lower margin 24 of the quarter portion 15 forms a common line with the lower margin 25 of the vamp portion. The triangular section at the juncture of vamp and quarter portions thus forms the outer wall of the backwardly extending recess 18 and the inner wall of the forwardly extending outer recess 23. The vertical marginal regions 26, 26 of the material forming the outer recess 23 are joined together by stitching 27 from the lower margin 21 of the blank to the upper margin 22 of the folded material. In order to form an enclosed heel portion 28, the vertical edges 29, 29 (Figs. 1 and 6) of the quarter portions 15, 15 are joined at a seam 30 extending from the lower margin 24 to the upper margin 31 of the quarter portions. The seam 30 joining the quarter portions bisects the heel portion 28. The heel portion is reinforced by a counter 32 which is attached to the inner surface of the heel portion 28.

The upper blanks 10 and 11 are then stitched together at a longitudinal seam 33 extending from the upper margin 34 of the tongue portions 16, 16 to the forward tip 35 of the vamp portions 14, 14. The upper blanks 10 and 11 thus joined at the longitudinal seam 33 described above and at the vertical seam 30 bisecting the heel portion form a shoe-like upper assembly as shown in Fig. 2.

A suitably shaped sole portion is provided which preferably consists of an insole 36 and an outsole 37. The insole is preferably of a flexible rubber material faced with fabric, although any suitable flexible material may be used. The outsole is preferably of tough, flexible rubber material having a tread design on the outer surface.

The shoe-like upper assembly (Fig. 2) is then marginally attached to the sole portion with the lower margin of the upper assembly preferably being sandwiched between the insole 36 and the outsole 37. The blanks which comprise the upper assembly have been so cut that the upper assembly is attached to the sole portion in a smooth, unwrinkled contour around the entire circumference of the sole portion. This smooth contour is made possible by the shape in which the upper blanks were cut. The sole portion and the shoe-like upper assembly together form a foot-enclosing assembly.

To give the foot-enclosing assembly a neat and finished appearance, a binder strip 38 is applied around the mouth opening of the upper so as to bind the upper margin of the quarter, tongue and bellows pockets. The lower part of the assembly is finished by attaching a foxing strip 39 around the entire outer circumference of the foot-enclosing assembly. The foxing extends over the lower marginal region of the shoe-like upper and the outer edge of the sole portion.

The finished assembly now constitutes a low shoe with a bellows pocket on each side of the tongue. The outer forwardly extending fold of each bellows pocket provides a blucher-type flap. A lacing eyelet 40 is inserted near the top of each blucher-type flap so that the shoe may be held closely about the foot by means of a single lace 41. The bellows pockets are laterally expandable

to provide additional width in the mouth opening to facilitate donning the shoe. The joined margins tend to hold the pockets in a collapsed condition so that the shoe fits closely about the foot. The bellows pockets, being an integral part of the upper, provide additional width without the necessity of an opening in the upper assembly except for the mouth opening. This is especially important in a beach shoe to prevent sand from getting into the shoe. By this method, it is not necessary to use stretchable material in the construction. Instead a material may be used which provides a comfortable shoe for beach wear.

In the shoe constructed according to this invention, the walls of the bellows pockets lie generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shoe, and the pockets are laterally expandable with respect to this axis. Furthermore, since even the inner faces of the pockets lie parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shoe, forward pressure by the wearer's instep on the tongue and vamp of the shoe merely exerts a forward pull on the innermost wall of the bellows pocket and does not tend to expand the bellows pockets and they remain in a collapsed condition flat against the side of the foot. Thus, the shoe always fits closely about the foot even without the use of auxiliary fastenings.

On the other hand, the pockets are easily expanded laterally so that the mouth of the shoe enlarges laterally while the foot is being inserted and then returns to its former condition in which the pockets lie flat against the sides of the foot.

The details of construction may be varied somewhat as may the kind of non-stretchable material used. The method described is applicable for use in the construction of any shoe where additional width is desired to facilitate donning the shoe. In the construction, a standard last may be used and the method involves no special operations or materials except as specifically indicated.

A shoe constructed according to this invention is easily donnable and fits closely about the wearer's foot after being donned without the use of auxiliary fastening means although such auxiliary fastening means are provided to be used if desired. The shoe is constructed of non-stretchable materials which are desirable for comfort in service. The finished shoe has no openings into the body of the shoe except the mouth opening thus preventing the entrance of foreign material into the shoe. The method of manufacture is simple and economical, and is adaptable to various types of footwear employing any suitable essentially non-stretchable material. The finished shoe has a neat and pleasing appearance.

While the invention has been described in considerable detail with reference to certain preferred embodiments and methods of construction, it will be understood that variations and modifications thereof may be effected without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A low shoe comprising a flat sole portion joined to an instep-height upper portion of substantially inelastic textile fabric comprising a vamp, tongue and quarters, said shoe having at each side thereof in the normal region of the juncture of the vamp, tongue and quarters a laterally expandable bellows pocket extending generally normal to the sole portion vertically

throughout the extent of the upper portion in a plane generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shoe, each said pocket lying in a double fold resembling a flattened Z, the inner wall of each pocket being a backwardly directed extension of the vamp and tongue and the outer wall being a forwardly directed extension of the quarters, said pockets being positioned at the sides of the tongue so that forwardly exerted pressure on the tongue and vamp is transmitted to the pocket in the plane of the pocket.

2. A low shoe of the oxford type comprising a substantially flat sole portion extending the length of the shoe joined to an instep-height upper portion of substantially inelastic textile fabric, said upper portion comprising a pair of joined sectional members which are reverse counterparts forming quarters, vamp and tongue, said vamp, tongue and quarters being merged at each side of the shoe in a double folded laterally expandable generally vertical pocket member resembling a flattened Z and consisting of a rearwardly closed inner fold extending backwardly from the tongue and vamp and a forwardly closed outer fold extending forwardly from the quarters and overlying a part of the vamp and tongue, each said double folded pocket lying throughout its extent in a plane generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shoe and extending vertically from the sole portion to the top of the upper portion.

3. A low shoe comprising a substantially flat sole portion extending the length of the shoe joined to an instep-height upper portion of substantially inelastic duck fabric, said upper portion comprising a pair of joined sectional members which are reverse counterparts forming vamp, tongue and quarters, said vamp, tongue and quarters being merged at each side of the shoe in a double folded laterally expandable pocket member extending vertically from the sole portion to the top of the shoe generally normal to the plane of the sole and lying throughout its extent in a plane generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shoe, each said pocket member in cross section resembling a flattened Z and consisting of a rearwardly closed inner fold extending backwardly from the tongue and vamp and a forwardly closed outer fold extending forwardly from the quarters and overlying a part of the vamp and tongue, said pocket member having the folded edges thereof diverging upwardly from the sole portion forming a gradually widened pocket member.

JOSEPH A. LUSSIER.

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