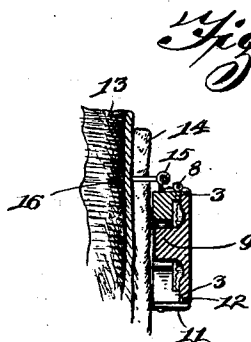
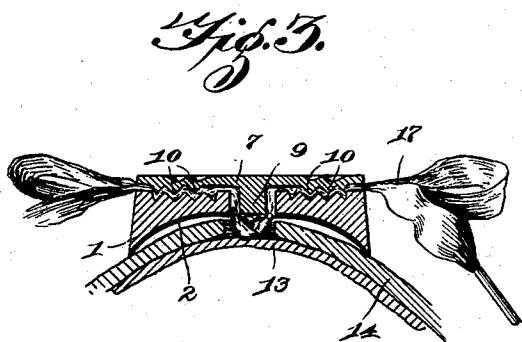
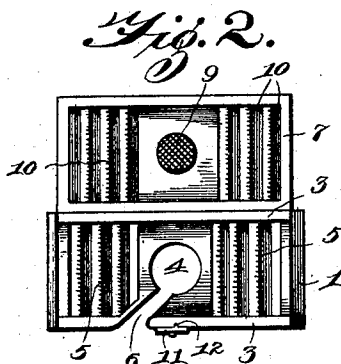
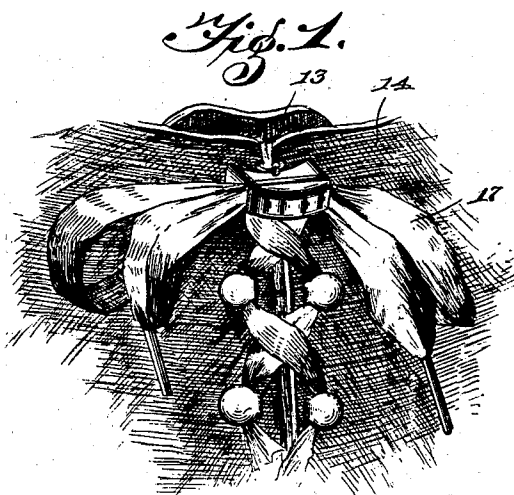


No. 657,606.

Patented Sept. 11, 1900.

W. L. LEE.
SHOE LACE FASTENER.
(Application filed July 6, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM LESTER LEE, OF IOLA, KANSAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO
LEWIS L. NORTHRUP, OF SAME PLACE.

SHOE-LACE FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 657,606, dated September 11, 1900.

Application filed July 6, 1900. Serial No. 22,705. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM LESTER LEE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Iola, in the county of Allen and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Shoe-Lace Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to clasps, and has for one object to provide an improved device of this character which is especially designed for use as a shoestring or lace fastener, so as to obviate the necessity of tying the laces, and arranged to firmly hold the free ends thereof against being accidentally loosened.

Another object of the invention is to arrange the device so as to hold the tongue of the shoe in its proper place, and thereby prevent the same from working downwardly into the shoe by the action of the foot of the wearer. It is furthermore designed to arrange for facilitating the engagement and disengagement of the shoe-lace with the fastener and at the same time to prevent accidental opening or releasing of the device from the lace by the action of the bottoms of trousers or skirts.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a detail perspective view showing the improved fastener applied to the bow-knot of a shoe-lace. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the fastener with the hingedly-connected members thrown open. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the device. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view to show the connection with the tongue of a shoe.

Corresponding parts are designated by like characters of reference in all of the figures of the drawings.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 designates the body of the fastener, which

is concaved upon its under face, as indicated at 2 in Fig. 3 of the drawings, so as to fit the transversely-rounded ankle of the wearer. This body portion or member is substantially rectangular or oblong in shape and is provided upon its outer side with the opposite longitudinal outstanding edge flanges 3, and in the center of the body there is provided a circular opening 4. At opposite sides of the central opening there is provided a plurality of transverse parallel grooves or depressions to form corresponding ribs 5, which are sharp or of substantially inverted-V shape, the upper edges thereof being serrated, as best indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawings. Leading from the front edge of the central opening is a transverse slot 6, which is inclined toward one end of the body, so as to open out through the front edge thereof at one side of the center of the body.

Completely covering the outer side of the body member is a swinging member or jaw 7, which has its rear edge connected to the rear edge of the body by means of a suitable hinge 8, as shown in Fig. 4. Extending outwardly from the center of the inner side of the swinging member is a stud or projection 9, which is somewhat smaller than the central opening in the body, so that said stud may loosely fit therein. The outer end of this stud is serrated or roughened to form a friction-surface. At opposite sides of the stud there is provided a plurality of transverse parallel ribs 10, corresponding to the ribs of the body, but arranged in staggered relation thereto, so that when the two members are closed together the ribs of one member will be received between the adjacent ribs of the other member, so as to form gripping-teeth. To lock the two members together, there is provided a spring-catch 11, which is secured to the outer side of the front edge of the body and has a spur or projection 12 to spring into a suitable notch or recess formed in the front free edge of the swinging member. It will now be understood that the slot 6 is inclined, so as to permit of the spring-catch being located midway between opposite ends of the fastener.

The device is connected to the upper end portion of the tongue 13 of a shoe 14 by means

of a hook or eye 15, projected outwardly from the rear edge of the body and loosely engaged with a ring or eye 16, secured to the front or outer side of the tongue, thereby forming a loose or hinged connection between the fastener and the tongue of the shoe.

In using the device the shoe-laces 17 are entered through the slot 6 into the central opening 4, after which they are folded or looped across the body, and then the swinging member is closed down upon the laces, so that the stud 9 forces the same down into the central opening, and the opposite portions of the laces are firmly clamped between the ribs of the two members, the spring-catch snapping into engagement with the head or swinging member, so as to lock the same. Thus the shoe-lace is held against being accidentally untied or loosened by the action of the foot, and as the device is connected to the tongue the latter is prevented from working down into the shoe. Also the hinged connection of the device facilitates the engagement thereof with the shoe-lace.

What is claimed is—

1. A shoe-lace fastener, comprising a body, having a central opening therein, and a slot communicating therewith, and a swinging member or head hingedly connected to the body, and provided with a central stud or projection which is received within the central opening, when the device is fastened.

2. A shoe-lace fastener, comprising a body, having a central opening, and a transverse longitudinally-inclined slot opening out through the front edge of the body and also communicating with the opening, a swinging member hingedly connected to the rear edge of the body, and provided with a central stud or projection, which is received within the

central opening, in the fastened position of the device, and a spring-catch secured to the middle of the front edge of the body and for engagement with the swinging member.

3. A shoe-lace fastener, comprising a body, having a central opening, and opposite substantially-parallel transverse ribs at opposite sides of the opening, and a swinging member hingedly connected to one edge of the body, and provided with a central stud or projection to enter the opening in the body, and also having ribs located at opposite sides of the stud, and arranged in staggered relation to the ribs of the body.

4. A shoe-lace fastener, comprising a body, having a concaved under or inner side, a central opening formed therein, a lateral slot in communication with the opening and also opening outwardly through the front edge of the body, opposite front and rear longitudinal outstanding flanges upon the outer side of the body, transverse ribs located at opposite sides of the central opening and extending between the flanges, a swinging member hingedly connected to the rear edge of the body, and provided with a central stud or projection to be received within the central opening, and transverse ribs upon the inner side of the member and at opposite sides of the stud, said ribs being in staggered relation to those of the body, and a spring-catch to hold the members closed.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM LESTER LEE.

Witnesses:

BERT E. MILLER,
T. S. STOVER.