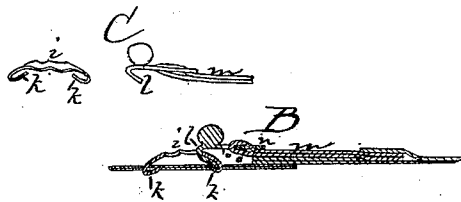
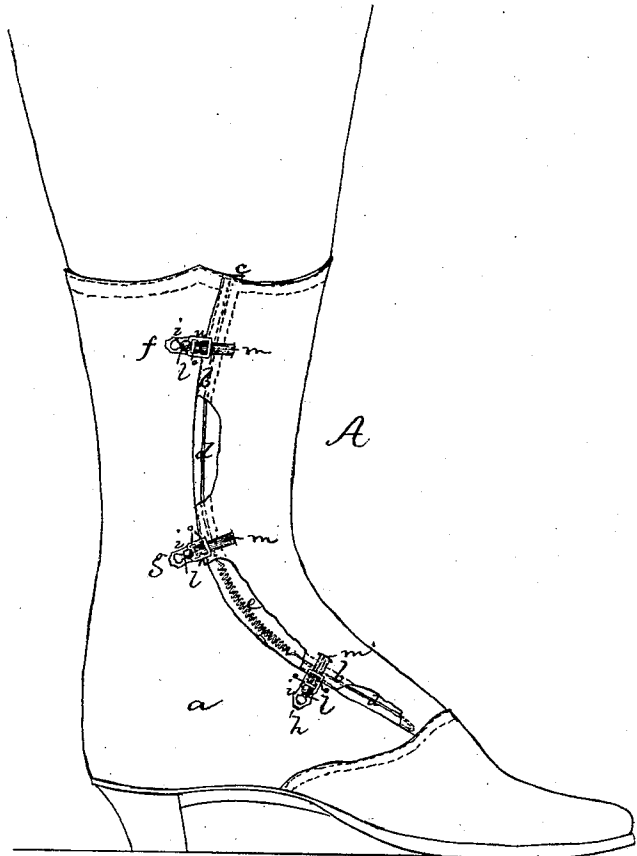


A. M. Kenney,

Shoe Fastener.

No. 102,694.

Patented May 3, 1870.



Witnesses  
J. B. Kilder  
M. W. Frothingham.

Alexander Mc Kenney,  
by his Attys  
Crosby, Halsted & Gould.

# United States Patent Office.

ALENDO MCKENNEY, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

Letters Patent No. 102,694, dated May 3, 1870.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-FASTENERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALENDO MCKENNEY, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented an Improvement in Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

The invention relates particularly to the construction and arrangement of devices employed for fastening and keeping in neat position the upper and leg portion of ladies' boots.

The invention consists, primarily, in a boot having a long spring inserted in the lapping edge of the upper and leg, and in the employment of fastenings, each consisting of an eye attached to the upper on one side of the opening, and a hook, which is attached to the other side, preferably to the flap or lapping edge, by a spring or elastic, which yields in accordance with the part of the foot, leg, or ankle, against which the fastening comes.

The drawings represent a boot having the spring and fastenings applied in accordance with my invention.

A shows a side elevation of the boot.

B, a section of the elastic fastening.

C, an edge view of the hook and eye.

*a* denotes a boot, which, so far as the construction, form, and union of the upper and sole are concerned, is not unlike many ordinary boots.

*b c* denote the open edges of the vamp, which are opened to draw the boot onto the foot, and are closed and fastened together when the boot is on the foot, the edge *b* overlapping the edge *c*.

The edge *b* has a narrow pocket formed in it, between the upper and lining, and running the whole length of the edge, and within this pocket I insert a long spring or spring wire, *d*.

This spring is preferably made with a coil, *e*, just above or opposite to the ankle, as seen at A.

When the boot is drawn on and the edges *b c* are fastened together at the top or around the leg, the strain thereby produced upon the spring, in the direction of its length, causes the whole length of spring and the edge, to which the spring is applied, to hug closely to the surface of the foot, the coil *e* enabling the spring to readily yield to the motions of the foot at the ankle joint.

The edges are thus prevented from gaping, without the employment of a series of closely-arranged buttons or other fastenings, as in ordinary boots.

I prefer, however, to employ three fastenings, one below and one above the ankle, and one at the top of the boot, as seen at A, thus fastening the boot near the top of the leg and on each side of the ankle-joint. But, with these three, no others are necessary or desirable, the spring holding the lapped edge tightly and smoothly to the surface of the foot.

The spring wire may be made without the coil *e*, but the coil adds to its utility.

In connection with the spring I employ, as fastenings, the devices shown at *f g h*, each of which consists of a metal eye, *i*, having at each end a shank, *k*, by which it is fastened to the edge *c*, and a hook, *l*, applied to one end of an elastic, *m*, whose other end is secured to the overlapping edge *b*.

The hook is preferably made with a plate, *n*, through two slots, *o*, in which the elastic is run, as seen at A and B.

When the edges *b c* are fastened together by locking the hook *l* into the eye *i*, or to enable them to be so fastened together, the elastic yields, as may be required, and, while they keep the upper tightly around the leg and against the foot, their flexibility enables the edges to yield to the motions of the foot and ankle, and the part of the leg inclosed in the boot.

Boots thus made and fastened are not only more easy to the foot than boots laced or fastened in the ordinary manner, but they present a very neat appearance at the edges *b c*, and it takes but an instant to connect or release the fastenings.

The coil at the center of the spring wire prevents the spring from breaking, as it inclines to do under the movements of the ankle, if made without the coil.

I claim—

A boot, having a spring or spring wire, *d*, inserted in its lapping edge *b*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Also, the spring *d*, formed with the coil *e*, substantially as shown and described.

ALENDO MCKENNEY.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS GOULD,  
S. B. KIDDER.