

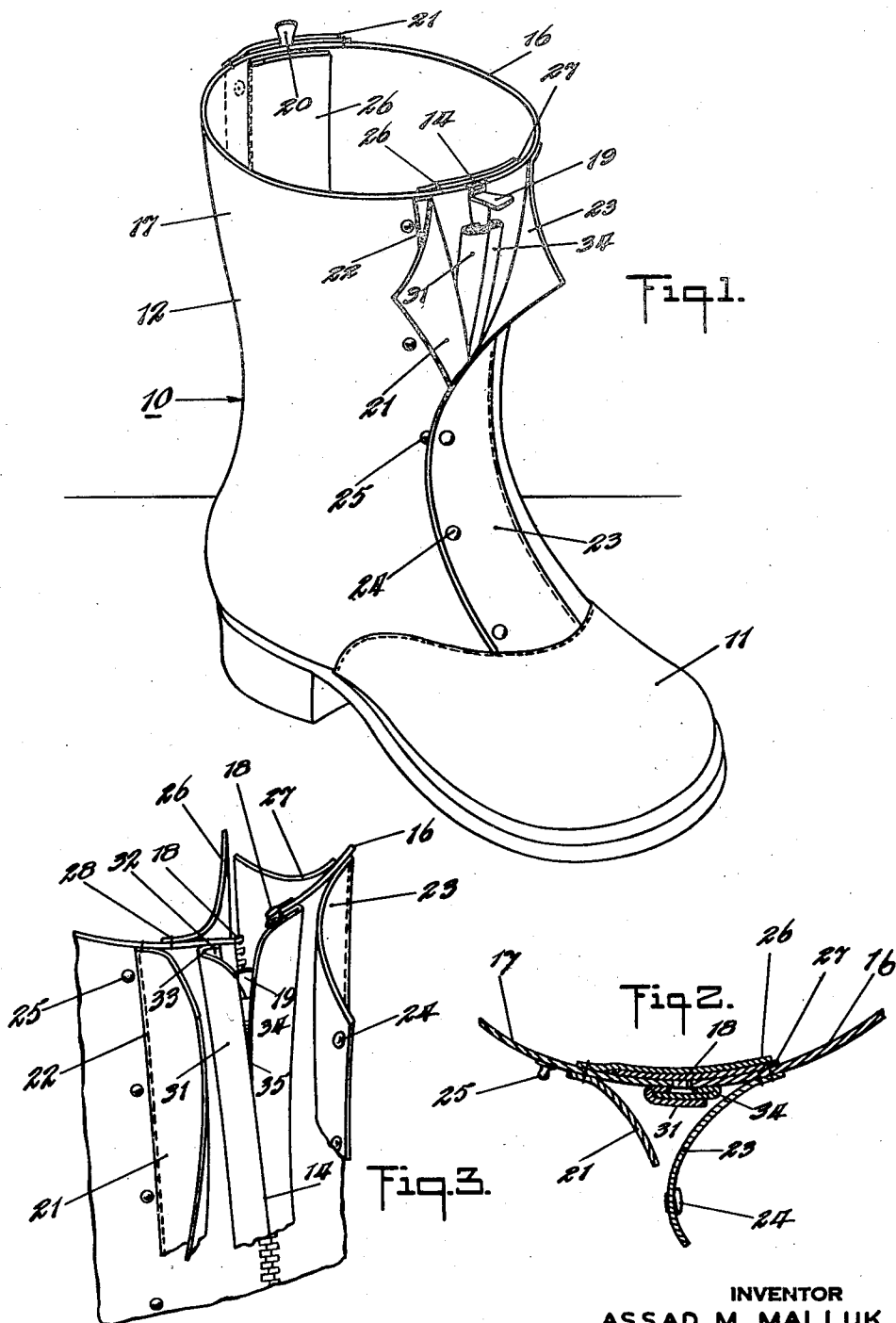
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FOOTWEAR WITH WATER-RESISTANT SLIDE-FASTENER CLOSURE

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FOOTWEAR WITH WATER-RESISTANT
SLIDE-FASTENER CLOSURE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36—50)

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This invention relates to footwear like shoes, boots, rubber boots, etc., with medium or high upper portions, and has for its main object to provide means whereby the putting on or taking off of such footwear will be greatly facilitated, and the inspection, cleaning and repairing of the inside particularly of high boots, made more convenient than at present, and whereby all these operations on such footwear will be made easier and more comfortable than heretofore.

For these objects I provide longitudinal separations in two or more places in the upper portion of the footwear, going down to the lower thereof, and provide means along said separations whereby the same may be opened or closed quickly and easily, so as to facilitate the putting on and taking off of the footwear, and the opening up of the inside thereof.

My invention mainly aims to provide these improvements for high boots or shoes for rough usage, in the open air, and another object thereof is to provide a footwear, as characterized hereinbefore, in which means are incorporated to close and seal the separations against water, sand, dirt, mud, and the like.

Still further objects of this invention will be apparent as the specification of the same proceeds, and, among others, I may mention; to provide a footwear of the type indicated which will be comparatively simple in construction, inexpensive, adapted to efficient mass manufacturing, efficient in use, and which will be attractive in appearance.

In the drawing, forming a part of this specification and accompanying the same—

Figure 1 is a perspective front view of a high shoe or boot embodying my invention, the same being shown in a closed position with the exception of the upper end of the front separation thereof, which is yet partly open;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary sectional view of the upper front portion of the high shoe or boot to which my invention has been applied and showing the parts in closed position.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of the upper front portion of the high shoe or boot showing the relationship of the parts when in partially closed position.

Referring now to the drawing more in detail, by characters of reference, and particularly to Figure 1 thereof, the numeral 10 indicates a footwear such as a shoe or boot, made in accordance with my invention. The footwear has an upper portion 12 which is higher than in the so called

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low shoes, and is designed to cover the ankle and a desired upper portion of the leg.

The footwear is provided with a longitudinal front separation indicated by the numeral 14. A similar separation at the rear of the footwear may also be provided, thereby dividing the upper 12 into right and lefthand portions or halves 16 and 17.

Slide fasteners 18 are applied along the meeting edges of the halves 16 and 17, the one shown in the drawing being the well known "zipper" type having a manipulating handle 19 and a rear similar device 20, whereby upon an upward pull of said device said separations of the footwear may be closed by said slide fasteners, or, vice versa, upon a downward movement of said manipulating handles 19 and 20, the two halves 16 and 17 may be separated down to the lower portion of the footwear.

When the upper portion of the footwear is thus separated, at both the front and rear thereof, the two halves 16 and 17 will bend or drop sideways, outwardly and downwardly thereby exposing the inner sides of the upper portions and most of the inner side of the lower part of the footwear, thus giving an easy access to the inside of said lower part. When the slide fasteners are put into closed position the footwear is closed, as when worn.

It will be seen that when the footwear is in its open position it will be easy and convenient to take it off the foot of the wearer, or to put it on. It will also be easy and convenient to clean or air it or to make any necessary repairs to the inside of the footwear. Also, the footwear may be put into a closed position easily and quickly thereby embracing a desired portion of the leg of the wearer in a comfortable and well fitting manner.

It is quite essential in such footwear, which is designed for rough usage in the open or in other places where water, mud, dust, sand, etc., may easily get into it, to have the inside thereof well protected against such harmful effects, and it also is important to have the slide fastener 18, protected against such factors which may very quickly destroy its smooth operation. For this reason I provide means for protecting the separations and the slide fasteners.

As shown particularly in Figures 1 and 3, the footwear is provided with a water proof rubber protecting and sealing flap 21 which is secured on a section or half of the footwear adjacent to the separation, as indicated at 22. The said flap may be secured to the section by any appropriate

means such as by cement, stitching etc. I also provide an outer covering and securing flap 23, and an inside protecting leather flap 26. When the footwear is in position, as worn, the flap 21 will extend snugly over the respective parts adjacent the separation 14 and the slide fastener 18.

On the opposite sides of the separations to that to which flap 21 is secured, there is provided the outer covering and securing flap 23, which may be made of leather, and which is somewhat wider than the rubber flap 21. The flap 23 is provided with means 24 to releasably secure the same on the opposite half of the upper portion of the footwear as at 25 (see Figure 2).

There is also provided a protecting flap 26 on the inside or back of the separations 14 and 15, said flap being secured on one section or half of the upper portion of the footwear adjacent the respective separation as indicated at 28, and extending over the adjacent portion of the other half of the footwear, and, as indicated at 27 in Figures 1 and 2, over a similar flap similarly secured to the other half of the footwear, thereby not only protecting the "zipper" 18 from the inside of the footwear, but also protecting the leg of the wearer against a pressure by the elements of the "zipper" and making the inner surface of the upper of the footwear when worn, smooth and even. For this purpose, the inner protector strap 26 may be made of special leather, the inner surface of which, turned against the body of the wearer, may be made soft, while the outer surface of the same may be made harder so as to provide a smooth foundation for and a desired resistance against the slide fastener 18.

Close to the slide fastener element 18 on the section or half 17 of the upper of the footwear, a generally channel shaped member 31 is secured with its opening or mouth 32 towards the separation 14. On the other section 16, another corresponding member or strip 34 is secured adjacent the respective slide fastener elements 18.

When the slide fasteners 18 are closed upon one another by the manipulating device 19, the member 34 will be caused to enter into the channel or U-shaped member 31, its end 35 coming to rest in the bottom 33, and they will provide a very effective watertight and dirt safe protection in front of the slide fastener 18. The members 31 and 34 of this sealing and protecting device may be made of any appropriate rigid but somewhat resilient flexible and yielding material, like metal, a plastic, etc., as Monel metal, Lucite, Vinylite, etc.

In Figure 2, there is shown a fragmentary cross-section of my construction, the thickness of the various layers, as well as the curvatures of the parts when closed upon one another, being exaggerated for clearness of showing.

It will be seen that my invention attains all the objects enumerated hereinbefore; it will provide a footwear of any desired height which will be easily put on or removed practically with a few quick operations, opening and closing the front and rear separations in the upper portion of the footwear. If the footwear has waterproof material, my invention will complete this effect thereof and will not permit any water entering the inside of it.

My invention also provides convenient and quick slide fasteners for opening or closing the separations and provides reliable and quickly and conveniently applied protecting means for the slide fasteners.

A footwear, manufactured according to my invention, may be easily cleaned, both outside and inside, repaired, dried, and sunned, when desired.

My novel footwear, particularly in the case of high boots, will be easier and cheaper to manufacture than is the case with present high boots, the upper portion of which is made of one piece of material, and it will provide a well fitting and still comfortable footwear with great ease of putting on or removing the same.

I claim:

In an article of footwear having a lower portion to cover the foot and an upper portion to cover the leg of the wearer, a longitudinal separation in said upper leg portion separating said portion into two sections from the top edge thereof to the lower part of the foot portion, slide fastener closure means for said separation, a U-shaped member made of waterproof material secured on a section along one side of the separation and extending exteriorly of the slide fastener means, a second U-shaped member made of waterproof material secured along the other side of the separation and also extending exteriorly of the slide fastener closure means and adapted to have one edge thereof enter said first mentioned U-shaped member when said slide fastener means is closed so that said edge will form a substantially water resistant seal with said first mentioned U-shaped member, a flap made of waterproof material secured along one section adjacent to the separation and extending over said members when they are positioned in engaging relation with each other, and a second flap made of water resisting material secured along the opposite section adjacent to the separation and adapted to extend over said first mentioned flap and be releasably secured to the section on the other side of the separation.

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