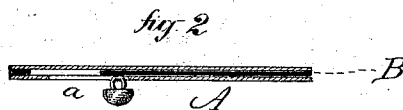
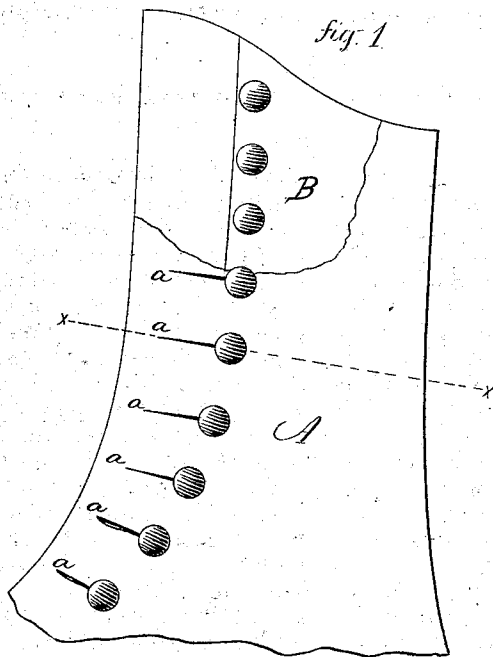


G. W. WARD.

Boot and Shoe Fastenings.

No. 136,111.

Patented Feb. 18, 1873.



Witnesses
John H. Thimney
W. F. Tibbitts

Geo. H. Ward
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. WARD, OF MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOT AND SHOE FASTENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 136,111, dated February 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. WARD, of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Button Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawing constitutes part of this specification, and represents, in—

Figure 1, a side view of the upper portion of a button boot with a part broken away to illustrate my improvement; and in Fig. 2, a transverse section of the upper on line *x x*.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of boots and shoes which are secured upon the foot by means of buttons, the object being to make the buttons adjustable, whereby the same shoe will readily fit different-size ankles, and adjust itself to the movement of the ankle, and thus avoid the breaking of the buttons from the shoe. The invention consists in the arrangement of an elastic material inside the upper to which the buttons are attached through a slit in the upper, so that the buttons can be drawn forward in the said slit, the elastic yielding for the purpose, as more fully hereinafter described.

A is the upper of an ordinary button-shoe, through which slits *a* are made corresponding to the position required for the buttons. Inside the upper and between this and the lining I arrange a strip or strips, B, of elastic

material, as denoted in solid black, Fig. 2. To the front edge of this elastic material, through the slits *a*, the buttons are attached, as seen in Fig. 2, the other edge of the elastic material secured at the heel-seam or at any other desirable point back of the buttons, so as to allow the elastic material to be extended—that is, this material must be free forward of its place of attachment to the upper. The other part of the upper which overlaps is constructed in the usual manner with button-holes corresponding to the buttons.

Placed upon the foot the shoe is buttoned in the usual manner. The elastic, yielding for the purpose, avoids the liability to detach the buttons in the act of buttoning, and also allows the self-adjustment of the buttons to the size of the ankle, whereby the same shoe will fit different-size ankles.

Each button may, if preferred, be attached to independent elastic strips. I prefer, however, a single piece to which all the buttons are attached.

I claim as my invention—

The elastic material B inside the upper combined with slits *a* through the upper, through which the buttons extend and are attached to the said elastic material, substantially as set forth.

GEO. H. WARD.

Witnesses:

J. H. SHUMWAY,
A. J. TIBBITS.