

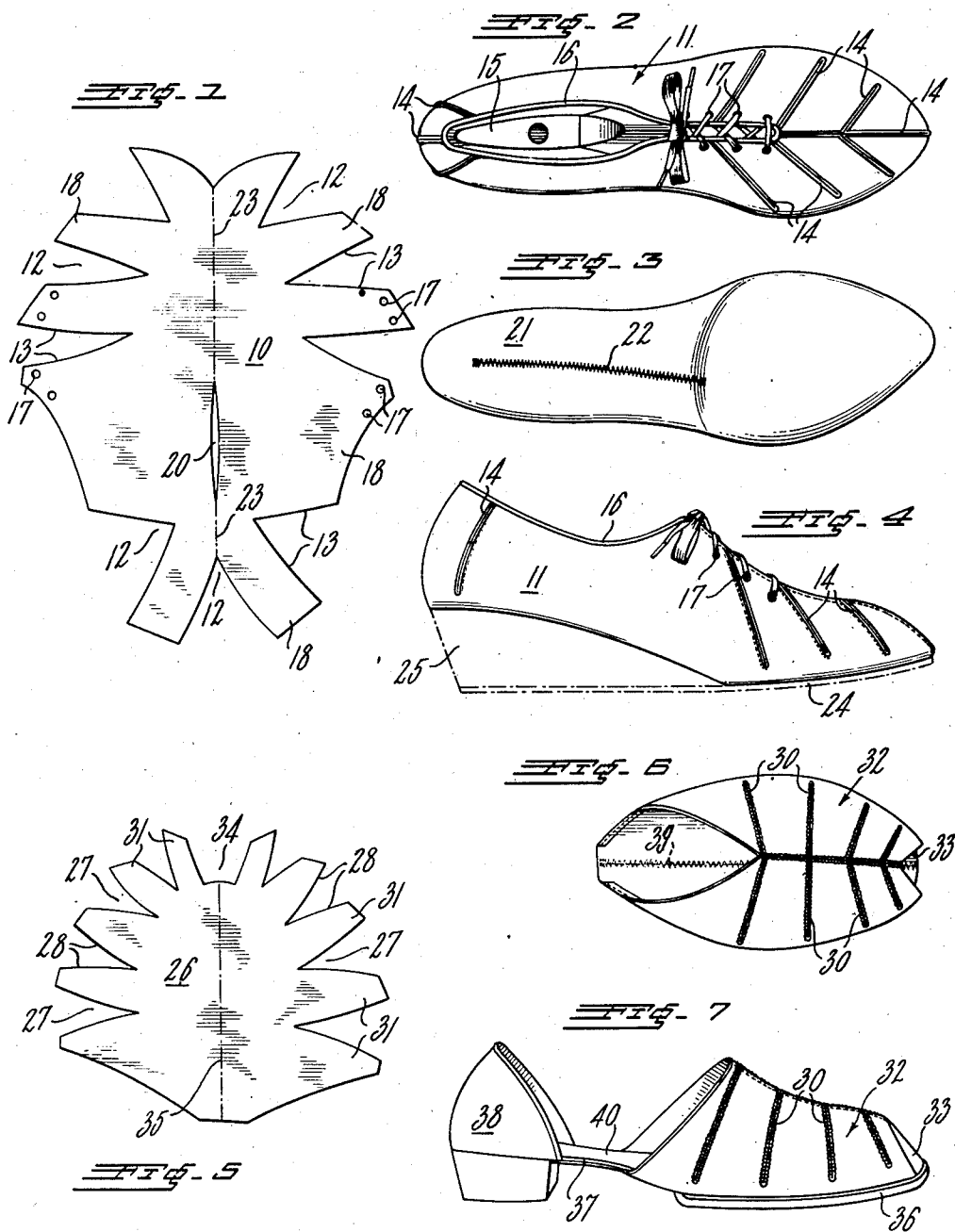
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SHOE CONSTRUCTION

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SHOE CONSTRUCTION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36-4)

This invention relates to novel shoe constructions, and more particularly to novel methods of manufacturing the upper and vamp portions of shoes and slippers in a unitary form.

In accordance with my present invention, I outline a pattern for the upper of the shoe or slipper in such manner as to readily construct the upper directly into its final shape and desired size.

It is among the objects of my invention to produce a shoe or slipper that will "fit like a glove," having definite utility as well as a pleasing design and appearance. Towards this end I prefer to use pliable material for the upper, such as leather, suede, fabric and the like.

The soft construction of the upper, and its shaping to conform with the contour of the foot, makes the resultant shoe or slipper very comfortable. To form a completed shoe, it is only necessary to attach an outer sole and heel to the completely preformed upper. The invention is also applicable to the construction of a vamp section of evening slippers.

The foregoing advantages, objects and features of my invention will become more apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments thereof, illustrated in the drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a pattern of the material to form a shoe upper.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the upper, constructed from the pattern of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the upper of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a side view of a shoe completed with the upper of Figs. 2 and 3.

Fig. 5 is a pattern of the material for use in forming a unitary vamp section for a slipper.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the vamp, constructed from the pattern of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a shoe constructed with the vamp of Fig. 6.

Referring now to Fig. 1, the design of the pattern 10 into which the material for the shoe upper is cut, depends upon the size, shape and design that the completed upper 11 is to assume. An important feature of the invention involves the use of slits or V-notches 12 in the pattern 10, that form pairs of contiguous edges 13. The pairs of edges 13, when constructed into the completed upper, constitute the seams 14 thereof. I have found that such construction permits accurate preshaping of an upper 11 for any desired shoe size, shape or form.

The pattern 10 is preferably placed on a properly shaped last 15 during stitching of the seams

14 in order that the completed shoe will be of the desired form and size. The exposed upper edges 16 are formed with a welt, or otherwise finished, as shown. The shoe-lace holes 17 may be formed in the pattern 10, and eyeletted before constructing the completed upper. It will now be evident that the shape of pattern 10, including the type and size of notches 12, and the shape of flaps 18, depend upon the design and size of the completed shoe.

A slot 20 is formed centrally of pattern 10 in order that the bottom or sole portion 21 of upper 11 may be flat. Slot 20 is sewed together by a flat cross-stitch 22, as shown in Fig. 3. Also, pattern 10 may be formed in two pieces by a longitudinal separation along dot-dash lines 23, as seen in Fig. 1. In the latter event the cross-stitch corresponding to 22 will extend across the whole sole portion 21.

The upper 11 corresponding to the showing in Figs. 2 and 3 may be used as a glove-type shoe or slipper, since it accurately fits the foot when seams 14 have been stitched with pattern 10 placed on the last 15. When used for a normal shoe, the sole 24 and heel 25 sections may be attached thereto, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 4. The resultant shoe, as shown in Fig. 4, is very comfortable and form fitting, and can be made in various shapes, styles and sizes, as will now be evident. The innersole of upper 11, corresponding to 21 in Fig. 3, is smooth and flat.

My present invention may be applied to the construction of a vamp for an evening type slipper, as generally illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. Fig. 5 shows the pattern 26 for such vamp construction. Pattern 26 comprises V-notches 27 forming opposed pairs of edges 28, which, when sewed together as the vamp, constitute the seams 30 thereof, in a manner similar to the upper 11 of Figs. 1 to 4. The size and shape of notches 27, and corresponding flaps 31, are such as to combine to form a vamp 32 of the requisite shape and size.

Vamp 32 has an open front portion 33 which is formed by omitting a corresponding section at 34 in pattern 26. If pattern 26 is formed in two sections, corresponding to a severance along the dot-dash line 35, the vamp is completed by cross-stitching along the sole as shown by dotted lines 39 in Fig. 6. The completed slipper, incorporating vamp 32, is shown in perspective in Fig. 7, wherein the vamp is mounted on a sole 36 and connected by a shank or arched portion 37 to heel section 38.

The advantage of an upper or vamp construc-

tion in accordance with my invention is the avoidance of box-type inner support or construction therefor, and a resultant "fit like a glove" characteristic. The manner of incorporating the notches and flaps in the upper patterns may be varied, to impart correspondingly different appearances in the final design of the shoe while retaining the glove fit construction thereof.

An insole, such as 40 in Fig. 7, may be put into the slipper or shoe formed with the upper of the invention. The seams, corresponding to 14 in Figs. 2 and 4, and 30 in Figs. 6 and 7, may be pinked at the edges as they are sewed together, resulting in a characteristically pleasing design.

It is thus evident that the resultant shoe or slipper construction of my present invention provides a comfortable glove fit type construction of pleasing appearance and variable design. The upper or vamp sections do not require a boxed-in construction. The method of forming the shoe is relatively simple and inexpensive once the patterns have been properly laid out.

Although I have illustrated preferred forms which my invention may assume in practice, it is to be understood that variations may be practiced without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention, as set forth in the appended claim.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A shoe comprising a sheet of material defining an insole and containing a plurality of notches defining a series of relatively narrow divergent flaps having contiguous bases defining the toe and ball support portions of said insole, said flaps extending completely around the periphery of such toe and ball support portions, the contiguous sides and abutting outer ends of said flaps being joined together to constitute a foot conforming closed upper for the shoe.

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