June 7, 1932. W. O. WEISKOTTEN 1,862,168

COMBINATION BOOT AND SHOE TREE

Filed Jan. 12, 1931

FIG. 1

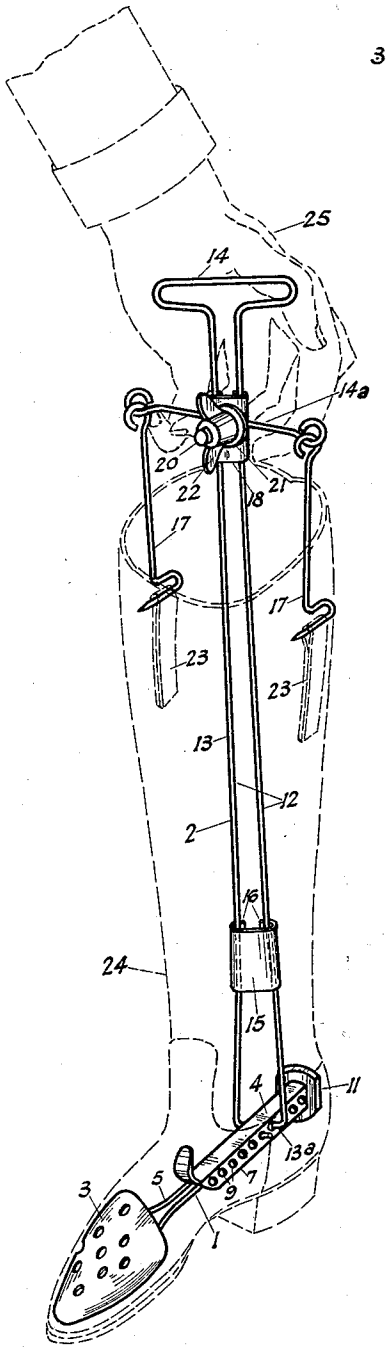


FIG. 2

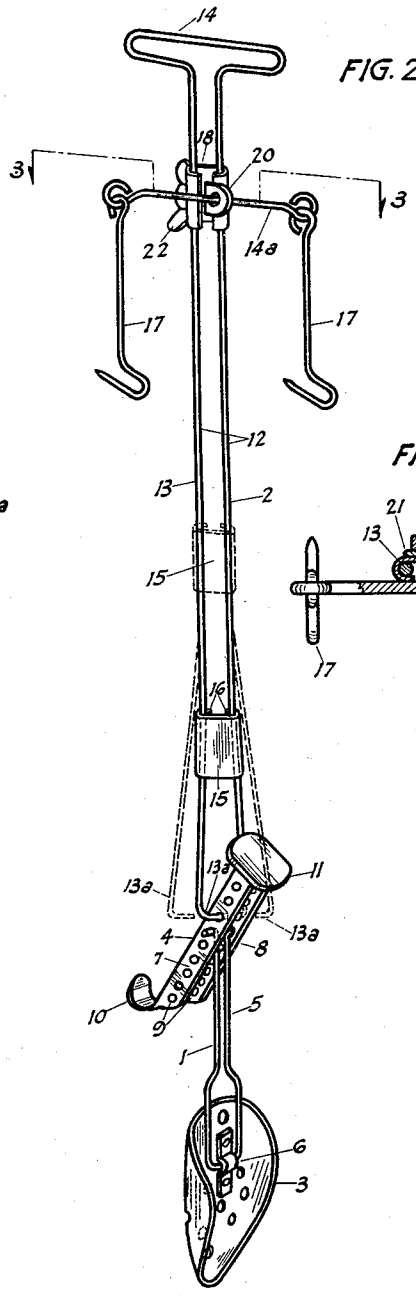
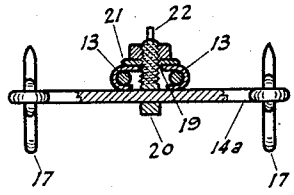


FIG. 3



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COMBINATION BOOT AND SHOE TREE

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My invention relates to boot trees. More particularly my invention relates to a combination boot and shoe tree attachment, whereby a shoe tree may be converted into a boot tree and vice versa.

This invention therefore does not comprise a shoe tree proper, separately considered, which in combination with my attachment forms a boot tree, for such devices are now readily procurable in the market, but my attachment per se does basically set forth a novel means for accomplishing a conversion of certain types of shoe trees into a boot tree, and upon the latter combination is the foundation upon which my invention is constructed, and basically set forth in the appended claims concluding this specification.

An important object of my invention is to provide an attachment which may be detachably applied to a shoe tree for the purpose of converting it into a boot tree, which will preserve the shape of the foot portion of the boot and, including means engageable with the boot straps, to which manual traction being applied, the leg of the boot will be straightened, thus preventing wrinkling at the ankle portion thereof and sagging of the boot in general.

In the absence of an adjunct such as a satisfactory boot tree the boot soon becomes out of shape, undressy, and uncomfortable; especially is this true in the better class of boots which are made of a thinner and more expensive grade of leathers.

My combination boot tree exquisitely preserves the original shape of the boot. Furthermore, it obviates the formation of uncomfortable ankle wrinkles, insures perfect ventilation and permits the storing of small articles within the leg while travelling, yet the entire combination is constructed of very light material, is inexpensive to manufacture, durable, and easy to apply.

In addition to the foregoing objects there are to be considered other improved features which comprise the mechanical construction of the attachment.

Upon detaching the boot tree attachment, the shoe tree may be used as a separate unit for a shoe.

The shoe tree unit, as well as the boot tree attachment unit, are each separably adjustable to ladies' or men's boots and shoes.

The union of the shoe tree and attachment provides a novel combination, consisting of a simple adjustable shoe tree and an adjustable attachment which is applied to the shoe tree after the latter is adjusted to the size of the foot of the boot.

In addition to the foregoing are to be also included the novel arrangement of parts which unitedly compose the structure and which will be dealt with at length in the description following and finally claimed.

Referring to the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my invention applied to a boot.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my invention shown apart from the boot showing the different parts of the assembly in another position.

Fig. 3 is a view taken on line 3,—3 of Fig. 2.

It is well known among those who ride, that riding boots become damp, largely due to perspiration whereby they easily wrinkle, lose their shape, and deteriorate.

A prime prerequisite to maintaining a dressy appearance of riding boots as well as other boots, is in the provision of a satisfactory adjustable boot tree.

To preserve the life of the boot the tree should afford ventilation, thus allowing the dampness to uniformly disappear. Too, the tree should be light and durable, and also adjustable and interchangeable for different sizes of boots. It should be easily applied, and owing to the fact that in the peculiar design of some boots, the pull straps are frequently placed at different heights in the boots there should be incorporated in the tree a differential or equalizer lever whereby the application of manual traction thereto will exert an automatic equalizing action on the pull straps of the boot upper stretching it so that no visible wrinkles are apparent.

Of the shoe tree unit comprising the boot tree satisfactory merchantable articles are now to be had and at nominal cost which meet with the most fastidious taste. They

are adjustable as to size and afford proper ventilation as well as maintain a dressy appearance of the foot portion of the boot. They also require no modification for converting them into a boot tree, since the means which provide for their adjustability may be used for ready application of my improved boot tree attachment thereto. In it therefore is incorporated all the features which cooperate to form with my improved attachment a characteristic boot tree.

The nature and manner in which my improved invention is to be performed in conjunction with a shoe tree of well established popularity will now be set forth.

The invention comprises a shoe tree 1 to which I detachably affix my improved attachment 2. Although as stated supra, I do not broadly claim the shoe tree element, separately considered, yet its parts will be briefly alluded to, since they combine with the attachment to produce the novel combination sought.

The shoe tree element includes a shell shape toe structure 3 adjustably united to a U-shaped heel structure 4 by a spring metal wire frame 5. The toe structure is pivotally connected to the frame 5 by a metal band 6. The free ends of said wire frame are outwardly turned and being of springy material are adapted to be manually compressed toward each other so that the over-all width of the out-turned ends of the wires may enter between the flanges 7 and 8 forming the U and upon manual releasement be fed or directed into apertures 9 complementally arranged in each flange of the U structure.

The heel structure is provided with an outturned tongue 10 and a heel bearing element 11. The frame 5, together with the heel structure 4 adjustably comprise a unit which may be made to accommodate different sizes of shoes, slippers, and foot portions of boots.

For the purpose of converting the shoe tree into a boot tree, I provide a standard or upright member 12, the sides 13 of which consist of a bent metal rod having the topmost portion preferably looped to form a T 14. The free ends of the T base forming the standard, are slightly inwardly swayed though substantially parallel, and terminate in inwardly directed portions bent at right angles, the extremities 13*a* of which are adapted to spring outwardly whereby they may be manually inserted in the apertures 9, appearing in the U flanges of the horizontal portion of the shoe tree.

The apertures usually selected are those which are adjacent to the apertures which are engaged by the frame 5. Such is the arrangement also shown in the drawing. By so doing a toggle joint is arranged as shown in Fig. 2, and when manual pressure is applied to the top of the standard, or to the T portion, the joint may be made to assume a position as shown in Fig. 1 whereby the foot portion of the boot is caused to expand and assume a dressy appearance, simulating the original shape upon which the boot is lasted.

The T portion 14 of the attachment 2 may be used as a handle for carrying the boot and tree. It provides in conjunction with the standard a means for hanging up the boot while not in use, and it also furnishes a hand grip with which to create manual traction on the equalizer lever 14 as shown by the gripping hand 25 in Fig. 1.

The inturned free extremities 13*a* of the upright wire standard 12, together with the integrally formed loop 14 lie in the same plane. Upon the upright portion of the standard 12 near the lower extremity thereof is slidably mounted a clip 15 which unites the parallel sides of the upright member, and is adapted to be slid downwardly and frictionally engage the same to prevent disengaging of the right angle extremities of the uprights when the boot tree is in use. Sliding the clip upwardly allows spreading of the lower extremities of the metal rods, whereby they may be detached from the shoe tree. In Fig. 2 the clip 15 is shown in dotted lines in such an inoperative position, thus permitting the lower extremities of the upright to automatically spring outwardly from engagement with the apertures. This outwardly sprung relation is also dottedly shown in Fig. 2. The clip 15 comprises a flat piece of metal having inturned flanges 16 which form an open slot wherein the two springy uprights are housed and clasped and the sides of the loop are tapered so as to frictionally contact with the upright elements throughout the length of the clip. This insures a perfect bight when the clip is manually thrust downwardly over the upright when the right angled extremities are engaged within the apertures of the shoe tree, thus holding the device in contact with the shoe tree.

Subjacent to the T handle 14 of the standard is mounted an equalizer lever 14*a*. Upon the extreme ends of the lever are mounted a pair of freely movable pendant hooks 17, said hooks being designed to engage the pull straps 23 of the boot. The mounting of the lever upon the uprights consists of a friction clip 18 of somewhat similar construction and utility as that of the clip 15. In addition, to prevent spreading of the upright rods the clip 18 is designed to aid in supporting the equalizer lever 14*a* in the manner now taught.

There is an aperture 19 in the clip 18 through which is extended a threaded eyebolt 20 and on said bolt is mounted a grip washer 21 on which is bearingly applied the wing nut 22. The wing nut and grip washer insure firm fixation of the equalizer lever and pendant hooks after proper tension has been exerted on the pull straps 23 of the boot. The finest tension adjustment is possible, for

the equalizer lever moves laterally through the eye of the eye-bolt, the eye being large enough to allow the equalizer lever to loosely pivot or gyrate therewithin. Such a construction makes possible equalization of the tension applied to both pull straps which, as a rule, are placed at different heights in the boot. The equalizing lever 14*a* can also be adjusted in an inclined position so as to pull more strongly upon one boot strap than upon the other and then be clamped in such position by screwing down the winged nut 22. This feature is valuable when it is desired to remove wrinkles occurring at one side of the boot only.

This equalizing action of the pressure exerted on the pull straps is in a sense manually automatic, and as such obviates the necessity of any other means of changing the lengths of the supporting pendant hooks.

No matter what angle of pull the position of the lever is made to manually assume, when it is grasped as shown in Fig. 1 this angle is rigidly maintained as soon as the wing nut is forcibly applied to the grip washer in order to contact it with the friction clip, which in turn binds the lever in the eye and the lever itself against the outer face of the inturned flanges of the friction clip. The latter condition is particularly displayed in section in Fig. 3.

The operation of the device will now be set forth:

The toe structure 3 and heel structure 4 will first have been adjusted in accordance with the size of the boot in which it is to be inserted.

The attachment may then be applied to the shoe tree as follows:

The clip 15 will be made to assume an inoperative position as shown in Fig. 2, at which time the free extremities 13*a* of the attachment will swing outwardly, as dottedly indicated in the same figure.

The inturned ends 13*a* of the upright 12 are then inserted into the apertures 9 rearwardly of those engaged by the frame 5 connecting with the toe structure 3.

The assembled device is then fed into the boot. As soon as the toe structure 3 is fed into the toe portion of the boot 24 and the heel structure 11 is inclined against the heel portion of the boot, manual pressure is exerted on the handle straightening out the toggle link. The equalizer lever having previously been loosened, the pendant hooks 17 are engaged with the boot straps 23. The equalizer lever 14*a* is then manually grasped in a manner taught by the illustration of the hand 25 shown in Fig. 1 and manual traction applied to the equalizer lever 14*a*.

The lever 14*a* automatically assumes the proper inclination to adapt it to the boot straps 23 as soon as traction is exerted to pull thereupon, and after sufficient tension is applied to the boot straps to straighten out the wrinkles in the boot the wing nut 22 is adjusted to bear on the friction or grip washer 21 to sustain the pressure thus exerted on the pull straps. The entire combination is then ready to be carried by the handle for whatever purpose sought.

Claims.

1. A boot tree attachment comprising a wirelooped standard the free ends of which are inturned and adapted to be engaged with a shoe tree whereby to convert it into a boot tree, and a vertically adjustable friction clip carried by said standard to releasably hold said inturned ends in engagement with said shoe tree.

2. A boot tree attachment comprising a wirelooped standard the free ends of which are inturned and adapted to be engaged with a shoe tree whereby to convert it into a boot tree, a vertically adjustable friction clip carried by said standard to releasably hold said inturned ends in engagement with said shoe tree, a friction slip, an eye bolt carried by said slip, and a swingle-tree laterally adjustable in the eye of said eye bolt.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a boot tree attachment, comprising a standard consisting of a pair of oppositely disposed sides bent from a single strand of wire, friction slip keepers manually movable lengthwise of and uniting said strands, an equalizer arm swivelly mounted and freely laterally adjustable to one of said keepers, and boot strap engaging members suspended from the extremities of said equalizer arm.

4. A boot tree attachment comprising a standard consisting of a pair of oppositely disposed uprights formed from a strand of wire, friction slip keepers manually movable lengthwise of and uniting said strands, an equalizer arm laterally and swivelly mounted upon one of said keepers, boot strap engaging members freely suspended from the extremities of said arm, and manually regulative means for adjusting said equalizer arm whereby from manual traction applied thereto equal tension is exerted on said boot straps.

5. The combination with a shoe tree, of a boot tree attachment therefor, detachable means for uniting said attachment to said shoe tree whereby it may be converted into a boot tree, a tiltable equalizing device including means engageable with the pull straps of a boot gyrally mounted to said attachment whereby from manual traction applied to said device, the pressure exerted on said pull straps is equalized, and means to clamp said device to said attachment in tilted and manually equalized pulling position.

6. In a boot tree attachment, detachable means for applying said attachment to a shoe tree, a laterally adjustable and freely tiltable equalizer arm, boot strap engaging members

carried by said equalizer arm at each end thereof, said members being rotative and adapted to enter the open eyes of a boot flap, and frictional means manually adjustable to withstand traction applied to said arm by the equalized pull of said members on said boot strap fastened to said attachment.

7. A boot tree attachment comprising a wirelooped standard the free ends of which are inturned and adapted to be engaged with a shoe tree whereby to convert it into a boot tree, a vertically adjustable friction slip carried by said standard, an eye bolt carried by said slip, and an equalizer lever pivotally grippable by said eye bolt, and boot strap engaging members swingably mounted to said lever.

8. An attachment for shoe trees for converting them into boot trees, comprising an elongated open wirelooped structure, the ends of the strands of which are inturned and adapted for engagement with a shoe tree, a friction slip adapted to maintain engagement of said ends with shoe tree, and manually adjustable for disengaging the same, the strands of said loop being swayed inwardly, said slip being provided with tapered slots whereby to follow the contour of said swayed strands as said slip is manually adjusted to and from operative position, an equalizing member swivelly mounted to said strand, and boot strap engaging members carried by said equalizing member.

9. In a boot tree, an attachment comprising a standard consisting of a strand of looped wire, the ends of the strand of said wire loop being inturned and adapted to engage apertures of a shoe tree, a friction slip keeper manually adjustable for attaching and detaching said attachment to said shoe tree, said loop being elongated and having inwardly swayed sides, said loop having formed as a part thereof a handle portion, an equalizer bar swivelly mounted to said loop subjacent to said handle portion, a pair of pivotal pendant hooks connected to said bar and adapted to engage the boot straps of a boot, said handle and said bar being adapted to be manually gripped and equal tension thus applied to said boot straps, and clamping means for maintaining the tension thus applied.

10. The combination with a shoe tree having oppositely disposed seats therein; of a frame comprising two uprights having each at its lower end means to detachably engage said seats, a clip movable along said uprights to and from a position wherein it locks the lower extremities of said uprights in engagement with said seats, and boot strap engaging means frictionally mounted upon said uprights.

11. The combination with a shoe tree proper, of an upright frame, the lower end of which is adapted to be detachably connected with said shoe tree; of a boot strap engaging device mounted upon an upper portion of said frame, said device comprising clamping means frictionally slidable along said frame, and a transversely extending arm tiltingly supported between its ends by said clamping means, the clamping means of said device being adapted both to secure said arm in an equalized position and to clamp said device to said frame in an adjusted position.

12. In a device of the character described, the combination with a boot tree frame; of a boot strap tensioning device comprising an equalizing arm the ends of which are connectable detachably with the straps of the boot, an eye bolt, said arm extending loosely through the eye of said eye bolt, a friction slip adjustable upon said frame upon which said eye bolt is mounted, said eye bolt being provided with a nut to retract the same to bind said arm against said slip in an equalized position with the boot straps.

13. The combination with a shoe tree, of an attachment whereby said shoe tree may be converted into a boot tree, said attachment comprising an elongated wire loop having bowed ends adapted to be detachably applied to a shoe tree, the upper portion of said loop being formed into a T handle grip, the elongated portion of said loop uniting said handle grip with said bowed ends being inwardly swayed, a friction clip mounted upon the bowed ends of said loop whereby the attachment is made disconnectable from said shoe tree, a friction slip keeper juxtaposed to said handle portion, a differential equalizing member swingably mounted to said keeper, and pull strap engaging members carried by said equalizing member, whereby manual pressure applied to said equalizing member equalizes the tension exerted on said pull straps.

14. A boot tree consisting of a bent spring wire metal frame formed from a single strand of wire, comprising slightly swayed upright members, the free ends of which are inturned and adapted to engage apertures of a shoe tree, a clip having tapered sides adapted to slidably clasp said uprights near their inturned ends whereby to sustain engagement of said boot tree and shoe tree, said clip being held in adjusted position by its frictional engagement with said uprights, said uprights being formed into a handle grip, a friction slip mounted on said uprights in grasping position and subjacent to said handle, an eye bolt pivoted to said slip, an equalizer lever loosely mounted in the eye of said eye bolt slightly oscillative and laterally adjustable in said eye, boot strap engaging members carried at the extremities of said lever and adapted to be manually engaged with the boot straps of a boot, said lever and said handle being adapted to be manually grasped and equalized tension placed on said boot straps by

manual traction applied to said lever, and means for gripping said lever in a position to maintain the eqalized tension thus applied.

15. A boot tree attachment comprising a double wire standard, and means carried by said standard to releasably hold the ends thereof in engagement with a shoe tree.

16. A boot tree attachment comprising a double wire standard, means for detachably fastening said standard to a shoe tree, a frictionally applied tiltable equalizer arm carried by said standard, and boot strap hooks engageable within a boot strap carried by said arm.

17. A boot tree attachment comprising a wire looped standard having means for detachably fastening it to a shoe tree, said wire looped standard having a portion thereof bent so as to form a handle and hanging means for said standard, means frictionally movable and clampingly mounted on said standard subjacent to said handle, and equalizing means including boot straps engaging hooks adapted to be clamped in manually equalized position carried by first said means.

18. A boot tree attachment comprising a wire looped to form a standard, there being a portion formed into a handle whereby to provide a grip and hanging means for said standard, a slidable clip mounted at one end of said standard, a slidable slip mounted at the other end, an equalizer arm carried by said slip, boot strap hooks carried by said equalizer arm, and means to adjust said equalizer arm longitudinally and transversely of said standard.

19. A boot tree attachment comprising a wire looped to form a standard, there being a portion formed into a handle whereby to provide a grip and hanging means for said standard, a slidable clip mounted at one end of said standard, a slidable slip mounted at the other end, an equalizer arm carried by said slip, boot strap hooks carried by said equalizer arm, means to adjust said equalizer arm longitudinally and transversely of said standard, said equalizer arm in conjunction with said handle being adapted to be manually grasped whereby to place equal or unequal tension in the boot straps of a boot, and means for maintaining such tension thus applied.

20. A boot tree attachment comprising a standard, a friction slip carried by and movable along said standard, clamping means carried by said slip to adjustably secure the same to said standard, and a tiltable equalizing device mounted upon said slip and having parts at its extremities engageable with the pull straps of the upper of a boot.

21. A boot tree attachment comprising a standard, a friction slip carried by and movable along said standard, clamping means carried by said slip to adjustably secure the same to said standard, a tiltable equalizing device mounted upon said slip and having parts at its extremities engageable with the pull straps of the upper of a boot, a connection uniting said equalizing device with said standard, said connection permitting rotation of one link part with reference to the other about a common axis as well as longitudinal adjustment, and means to firmly apply said connection with said standard in tilting position.

22. The combination with a shoe tree, of a boot tree attachment therefor, detachable means for uniting said attachment to said shoe tree whereby it may be converted into a boot tree, and a tiltable equalizing device which when connected with the boot straps in a tilted position and then placed under tension applies equal pressure to each of said straps.

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