

W. S. LOUGEE.
SHOE FORM.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 10, 1912.

1,043,852.

Patented Nov. 12, 1912.

Fig. 1.

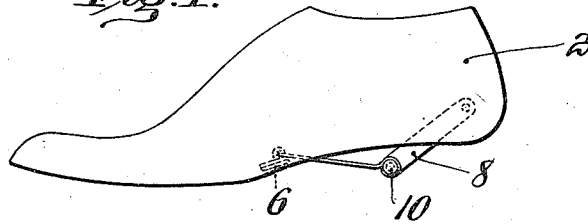


Fig. 2.

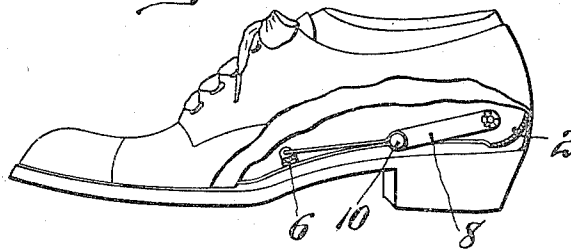


Fig. 3.

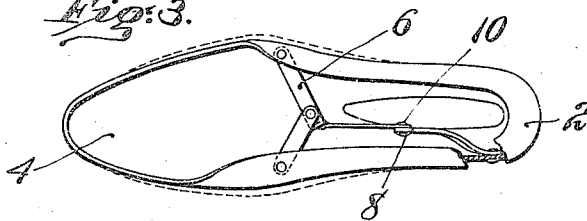
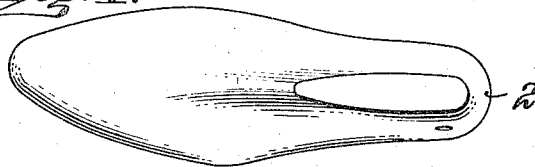


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHOE-FORM.

1,043,852.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. LOUGEE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rochester, in the county of Strafford and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Forms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to shoe forms, and more particularly to shoe forms to be placed in shoes displayed as samples.

The object of the present invention is to produce a form having a neat appearance and having improved mechanism for expanding the form to fill out the shoe.

With the above object in view, the present invention consists in the improvements in shoe forms hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings which illustrate the preferred embodiment of the present invention; Figure 1 is a side elevation of the shoe form; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a shoe with the form inserted, parts of the shoe and form broken away to show the expanding device; Fig. 3 a bottom view with a part of the form broken away; and Fig. 4 is a top view of the form.

Referring to the drawings, the body of the shoe form consists of a shell 2 molded from a single piece of sheet material, such as leatherboard, which, although stiff enough to retain its molded shape, is sufficiently flexible so that the shell can be expanded to fill out the shoe as hereinafter described. The top of the form is closed so that viewed from the top (Fig. 4) it presents the same general appearance as a solid wooden last. The closed unbroken top of the form contributes greatly to its pleasing appearance when placed in a shoe for display. The bottom of the shell 2 has a longitudinal opening 4 extending from the toe to the heel. Since the material is somewhat flexible, the shell can be expanded laterally to fill out the shoe by pushing the two edges of the opening 4 apart. For this purpose, a toggle 6 is connected across the opening in the bottom of the shell just back of the ball portion of the shell. A second toggle 8 is connected between the middle joint of the toggle 6 and the heel portion of the shell. When the toggle 8 is broken and projects

downwardly through the opening 4 as illustrated in Fig. 1 the toggle 6 is also broken and the edges of the opening 4 are drawn together, thus reducing the size of the shoe form. In Fig. 3 the toggles are illustrated as broken and the form reduced in size is shown in full lines, while the outline of the form when expanded is indicated by dotted lines. The form thus reduced in size is ready to be inserted in the shoe. When the shoe form is inserted in the shoe, the forepart of the form is fitted into the forepart of the shoe and then the heel part of the form is pressed down, thereby pressing the middle joint 10 of the toggle 8 against the insole, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The toggle is straightened by engagement with the insole and operates to straighten the toggle 3, thus pressing the edges of the opening 4 apart and expanding the shell laterally so that it fills out the shoe and draws the forepart of the shoe upper smooth and free from wrinkles.

Since the expanding mechanism is operated by engagement with the shoe when the form is inserted in the shoe, it is possible to make a form having an unbroken top and to entirely conceal the mechanism for expanding the form from view when the form is in the shoe.

While the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been specifically illustrated and described, it is to be understood, however, that the present invention is not limited to the illustrated details of construction, but may be embodied in other constructions of shoe forms within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

I claim—

1. A shoe form having, in combination, a shell of flexible material, and means projecting below the shell to engage the insole of the shoe and be forced upwardly by the insole and expand the shell when the form is pressed down into the shoe, substantially as described.

2. A shoe form having, in combination, a shell of flexible material forming both the fore part and heel part of the form, and means for expanding the shell comprising a toggle connected between the fore part and heel part and having its middle joint projecting below the shoe form when the toggle is broken so as to engage the insole of the shoe and be forced upwardly by the insole to straighten the toggle when the form is

pressed down into the shoe, substantially as described.

3. A shoe form having, in combination, a shell of flexible material forming both the fore part and heel part of the form, and having a longitudinal opening in the bottom, and means for expanding the shell laterally when the form is inserted in the shoe comprising a toggle extending laterally across the opening, a second toggle connected between the first toggle and the heel part of the form and having its middle joint projecting below the form when the toggle is broken so as to engage the insole of the shoe and be forced upwardly by the insole to straighten

the toggle when the form is pressed down into the shoe, substantially as described.

4. A shoe form having, in combination, a body having an expansible fore part and a heel part formed integrally therewith, and means for expanding the fore part connected between the fore part and heel part and projecting below the form to engage the insole of the shoe and be forced upwardly by the insole when the form is pressed down into the shoe, substantially as described.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."