Jan. 8, 1924. 1,479,884

A. L. ZERN

SHOE

Filed July 22, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

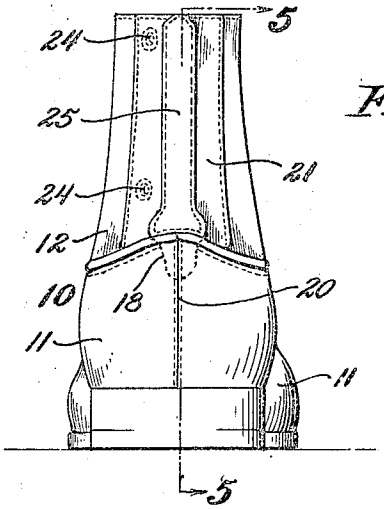
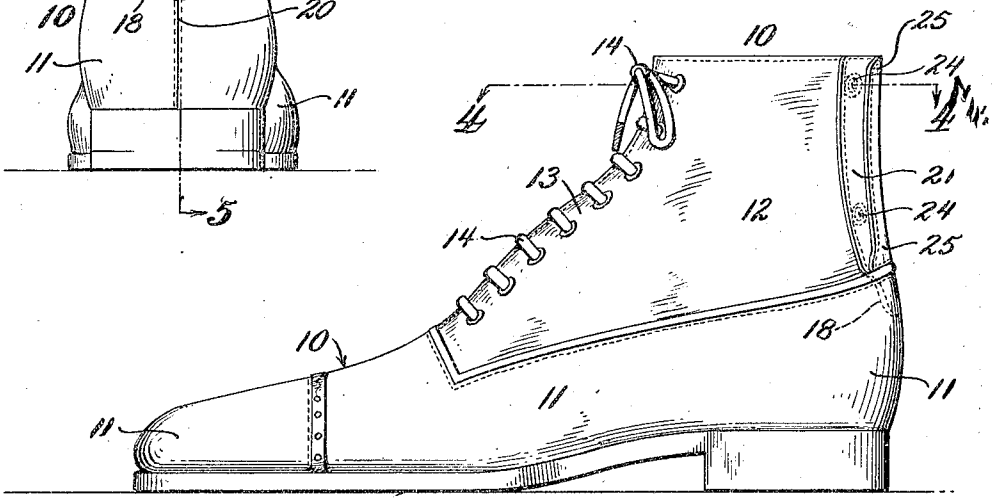


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



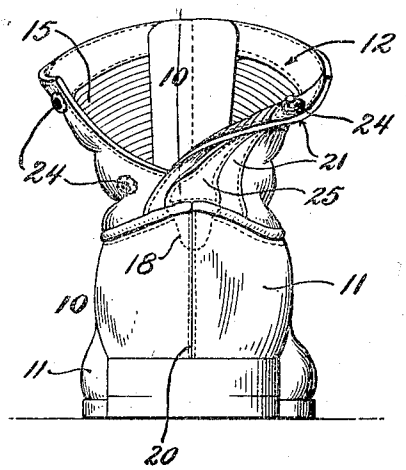


Fig. 3.

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Filed July 22, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

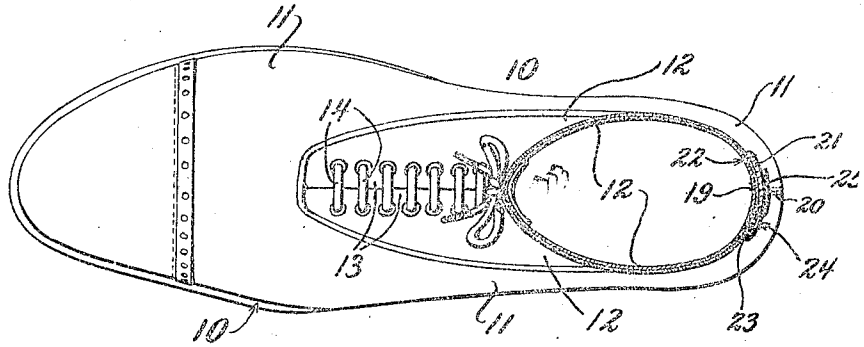


Fig. 5.

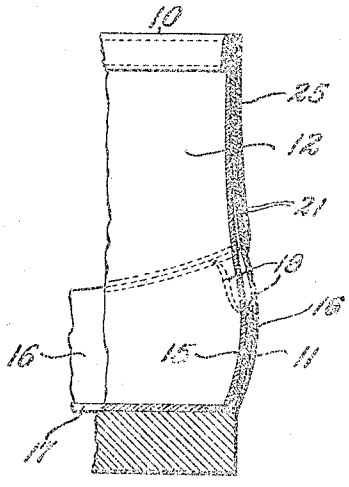
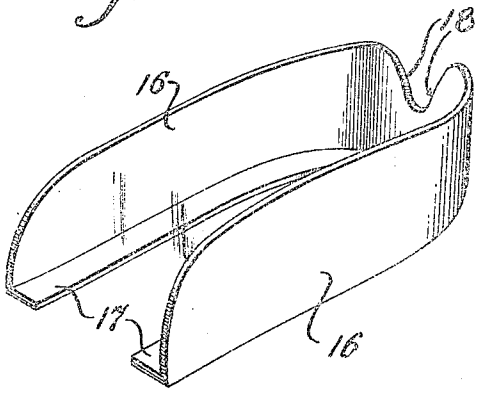


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW L. ZERN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

SHOE.

Application filed July 22, 1922. Serial No. 576,739.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW L. ZERN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to shoes, and the object is to provide an improved construction which will permit easy and quick removal of the shoe without unfastening it at the front.

These objects, and other advantageous ends which will be described hereinafter, I attain in the following manner, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of a shoe constructed in accordance with the invention,

Figure 2 is a side elevation,

Figure 3 is a rear elevation with the shoe open,

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1, and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a counter-stiffener.

In the drawings, 10 designates a shoe having a lower 11 and upper quarters 12. The quarters 12 are provided with flaps 13 secured by suitable fastening 14, preferably lacing. The shoe is provided with a lining 15 and a counter-stiffener 16 at the heel between the leather of the lower and lining 15. This counter-stiffener has a bottom flange 17 by which it is fastened. The back of the counter-stiffener is cut out in substantially V-shaped formation to provide a notch 18 which preferably has a concave crotch portion and oppositely flaring sides.

The quarters 12 of the upper are separated at the rear as well as at the front, the rear separation or opening 19 being on a vertical line with the back seam 20 of the lower, and the opposed ends of the upper quarters may abut as shown more particularly in Figure 4 of the drawings. A flap 21 is secured outside the rear end of one of the quarters 12, as by stitching 22, and overlaps the inside quarter as indicated at 23. The part 23 is loose or free but adapted to be connected to the inside quarter 12 by means of quick detachable fasteners such as ball and socket or snap fastenings 24 having co-acting parts carried by the flap and inner quarter. A strip 25 is provided centrally at the back of the upper for reinforcement and ornamentation.

In practice, a shoe constructed in accordance with the invention may be put on the foot by opening fastening 14 at the front or by unfastening the quarters at the back. If for any reason, it is necessary or desirable to quickly remove the shoe, it may be done without unfastening the shoe at the front, by opening the snap or ball and socket fasteners 24. This will permit the upper quarters to spread open at the back as shown in Figure 3 of the drawing. This is facilitated by notch 18 in the counter-stiffener, as the counter-stiffener would otherwise tend to bind at the heel, but when so constructed permits spreading and leaves the heel of the lower soft and pliable at this point.

While the shoe is especially designed to be worn by track walkers and workmen around railroad yards, so that if the heel gets caught in the track or a frog, the foot may be pulled loose and out of the shoe to avoid injury or accidents, it is to be understood that the shoe is adapted for general use.

While I have described my invention as taking a particular form, it will be understood that the various parts of my invention may be changed without departing from the spirit thereof, and hence I do not limit myself to the precise construction set forth, but consider that I am at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A shoe having its quarters separated in the rear, and having a counter-stiffener which has a notch in its upper rear edge beneath said separation; a flap fastened to the rear of one quarter and overlying the other quarter; and quickly detachable fastening means between the second quarter and the overlying part of the flap, said notch with the pliable shoe material covering it rendering the heel pliable at this point and facilitating spreading of the upper and removal of the foot.

2. A shoe having a lower with a counter-stiffener which has a substantially V-shaped notch in its upper rear edge, said notch and

the material of said lower permitting spreading of the upper side of said stiffener and rendering the rear of the upper pliable at this point; upper quarters open at the front and the back; lacing connecting the front of the quarters; a flap connected to the rear face of one of the quarters to overlie the other quarter; snap fasteners for connecting the flap to the last-named quarter; and a reinforcing strip at the back of the flap connected to the lower.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANDREW L. ZERN.

Witnesses:
ELIZABETH GARBE,
CHAS. E. POTTS.