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R. N. RIGSBY
ADJUSTABLE BABY SHOE

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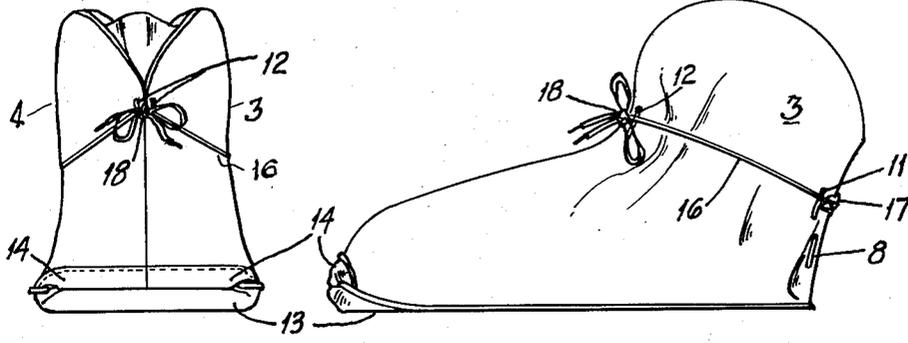


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

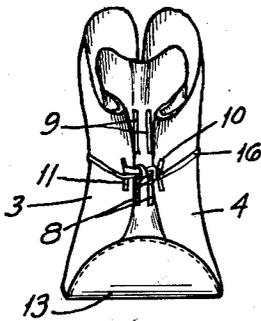


Fig. 3

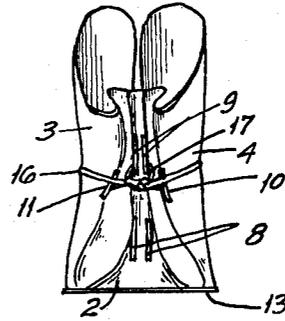


Fig. 4

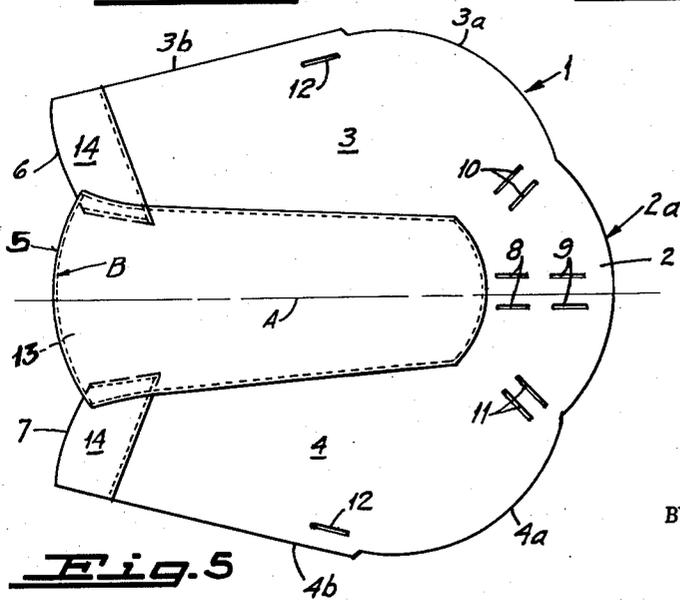


Fig. 5

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ADJUSTABLE BABY SHOE

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This invention relates to improvements in baby shoes. The present invention provides a novel baby shoe which may be enlarged to compensate for the growth of an infant's feet. It frequently happens that baby shoes which fit an infant's feet when first worn become too small before they are worn out, with the result that, although still in good wearing condition they are no longer suitable.

With a view of providing a baby's shoe capable of being worn considerably longer by the same infant than is possible with other similar shoes now in common use, I have invented an adjustable shoe which may be easily increased in length when such enlargement is required to compensate for the growth of an infant's feet. The baby shoe embodying this invention is provided with upper and lower pairs of eyelets at its rear side which may be selectively used in combination with a lace and a third pair of eyelets to shorten or lengthen the shoe. When the lace is threaded through the lower pair of eyelets and knotted, the rear end portion of the flexible sole is adjusted upwardly to shorten the sole and the shoe, and when the lace is selectively threaded through the upper pair of eyelets and knotted, the rear end portion of the sole is lowered to increase its effective length and at the same time enlarge the shoe lengthwise.

The primary object of my invention is to provide an adjustable baby shoe which may be lengthened or shortened without altering the construction thereof.

Another object of my invention is to provide an adjustable baby shoe which may be easily enlarged, by merely removing a lacing from one set of eyelets and threading it through another set.

A still further object of my invention is to provide an inexpensive baby shoe which may be easily enlarged to compensate for the growth of an infant's feet.

Other and further objects and advantages of my invention will be pointed out hereinafter, or will be indicated in the appended claims, or will be obvious to one skilled in the art upon an understanding of the present disclosure. For the purpose of this application, I have elected to show herein certain forms and details of a baby shoe which is representative of my invention; it is to be understood, however, that the embodiment of my invention shown and described herein is for purposes of illustration only and that therefore it is not to be regarded as exhaustive of the variations of the invention in the art.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a baby shoe embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the baby shoe;

Fig. 3 is a rear view of the shoe, on a reduced scale, showing the position of the lace with respect to one of the pairs of eyelets when the shoe is contracted as to length;

Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the position of the lace with respect to another of the pairs of eyelets when the shoe is adjusted to its increased length; and

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Fig. 5 is a plan view on a reduced scale of the blank from which the shoe is made.

Referring first to Fig. 5, the blank 1 which may be made from soft leather, fabric, or a pliable plastic material, is of suitable size and shape to form the entire shoe with the exception of parts of the sole and toe which are superimposed thereon and secured thereto. The blank has a rear portion 2 having a curved rear edge 2a, and side portions 3 and 4 which have, respectively, similarly curved rearwardly disposed edges 3a and 4a, and also forwardly converging lateral edges 3b and 4b. The forward end of the blank has a centrally disposed curved edge 5 which joins laterally extending similarly curved edges 6 and 7.

Arranged centrally in the rear portion of the blank are two pairs of eyelets or slots 8, 8 and 9, 9, the latter being arranged in alignment with but rearwardly of and in spaced relation to the former. The blank is also formed with pairs of side slots or eyelets 10, 10 and 11, 11, which are arranged at points adjacent the juncture of the curved rear edge 2a with the laterally disposed curved edges 3a and 4a, respectively. The blank is also formed with laterally disposed slots or eyelets 12, 12, which are arranged near but forwardly of the forward end of the curved edges 3a and 4a. The eyelets 8, 9, 10, and 11 are preferably positioned somewhat radially while the eyelets 12, 12 are in substantially parallel relation to the converging lateral edges 3a and 4a, respectively. Secured as by stitching B to the blank and overlying the latter is an elongated wear sole member 13 made of soft leather or other suitable material. The sole member is centrally arranged with respect to the lateral edges of the blank, and the rear end thereof is positioned near but forwardly of the inner pair of eyelets 8. The forward edge of the sole member 13 is in substantial registry with the curved forward edge 5 of the blank. Secured to the forward end of the blank are identical tabs 14, 14 made preferably of soft leather, which extend from the sole member to the lateral edges 3b and 4b of the blank. The forward edges of the tabs 14, 14 are in substantial registry with the curved front edges 6 and 7 respectively of the blank.

The blank is so shaped and proportioned that the rear portion 2 thereof will form the rear side of the shoe, the side portions 3 and 4 of the blank will form the shoe's lateral sides and that part extending over the instep and toes, and the central part of the blank which is covered by the sole member will form the bottom side of the shoe.

When the blank, the sole member 13 and the tabs 14, 14 are arranged in the manner shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing and sewed together, the tabs 14, 14 together with that part of the sole which overlies the tabs are folded inwardly to positions overlying the forward end of the sole with the front edges 6 and 7 registering with the front edge 5 of the blank. When so positioned, the outer edges of the tabs will substantially abut one another and lie along or near the longitudinal axis A of the blank. When so positioned, stitching is applied substantially along the curved line of the stitching B at the forward end of the sole member to secure the tabs and forward ends of the side portions 3 and 4 to the sole member and that part of the blank position under the latter. The straight edges 3b and 4b of the side portions 3 and 4 of the blank are sewed together to form an enclosing structure which is adapted to extend around the instep and toes of the wearer. The shoe thus formed is then turned inside out so the sole member and the tabs are positioned externally rather than inside the shoe. The tabs and the turned in end portion of the sole member then form a fairly rigid toe structure for the shoe, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

A lace 16 is threaded through the eyelets 10, 10 and 11, 11 and through either of the pairs of eyelets 8, 8 or 9, 9 depending upon whether the shoe is to have a maximum or minimum size. The lacing is then drawn fairly tight and knotted as at 17, after which its ends are extended in opposite directions through the front eyelets 12, 12 and tied together in a bow knot as at 18. When rear portion 2 is gathered and creased, before tightening the lacing and knotting it, the eyelets 9, 9 will be positioned in horizontal alignment with or slightly above the side eyelets 10, 10 and 11, 11.

When it is desired that the shoe have the small length and size, the lace 16 is threaded through the lower pair of eyelets 8, 8 and the side eyelets 10, 10 and 11, 11, and when the lace is crossed, drawn tightly and knotted as at 17, the lower ends of such side eyelets will serve as supporting means for the lace in pulling the rear end of the sole member to its upwardly adjusted position. When the lace is crossed and drawn tightly and the knot 17 is made, the lower part of the rear portion 2 of the shoe and the rear end portion of the sole 13 are pulled upwardly as shown in Fig. 3, thereby shortening the shoe. By firmly tying the knot 17 when the shoe is shortened, the smaller length is normally maintained until a lengthening adjustment is made. When the infant's feet grow in length and a larger size shoe is needed, the lace 16 is transferred to the upper pair of eyelets 9, 9, crossed, tightly drawn and knotted in the manner described. When the lace is tightly drawn and knotted, the upper eyelets 9, 9 will be positioned in substantially horizontal alignment with the side eyelets 10, 10 and 11, 11 while the lower eyelets 8, 8 will be lowered along with the rear end portion of the sole member. In such an adjusted position, the entire sole is substantially flat and the shoe is lengthened appreciably. The rear portion 2 and the side portions 3 and 4 of the blank form the shoe upper, and the shoe sole is supported therefrom as in shoes of the ordinary kind now in common use.

What I claim is:

1. A foot covering comprising a flexible upper, said upper being formed with a forward portion adapted to extend over the instep and around the ankle of a wearer's foot and being formed with a rear portion adapted to extend around the rear part and the heel of a wearer's foot, a flexible wear sole joined to said upper and adapted to underlie the wearer's foot, a first set of laterally spaced eyelets disposed in the rear portion of said upper and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said first eyelets being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when in substantially coplanar relation with said sole, a second set of laterally spaced eyelets disposed in the rear portion of said upper below said first set of eyelets and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said second eyelets being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when in substantially coplanar relation with said sole, a third set of eyelets disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second eyelets, a fourth set of eyelets disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second eyelets at a side opposite from which said third eyelets are disposed, and means received by said third and fourth eyelets and arranged to be received at times by said first eyelets and at other times by said second eyelets, said means being arranged to draw said third and fourth eyelets adjacent one another whereby said third and fourth eyelets are adapted for positioning rearwardly of the wearer's heel and to draw at times said first eyelets adjacent said third and fourth eyelets and at other times to draw said second eyelets adjacent said third and fourth eyelets to control the height of the rear end of said wear sole for adjusting the effective length of said wear sole.

2. A foot covering comprising a flexible upper, said upper being formed with a forward portion adapted to extend over the instep and around the ankle of a wearer's

foot and being formed with a rear portion adapted to extend around the rear part and the heel of a wearer's foot, a flexible wear sole joined to said upper and adapted to underlie the wearer's foot, first securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said first securing means being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when said upper is substantially coplanar with said sole, second securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper below said first securing means and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said second securing means being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when said upper is substantially coplanar with said sole, third securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second securing means, fourth securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second securing means at a side opposite from which said third securing means are disposed, and fastening means cooperating with said third and fourth securing means and arranged to engage at times said first securing means and at other times said second securing means, said fastening means being arranged to position said third and fourth securing means adjacent one another whereby said third and fourth securing means are adapted for positioning rearwardly of the wearer's heel and to position at times said first securing means adjacent said third and fourth securing means and at other times to position said second securing means adjacent said third and fourth securing means to control the height of the rear end of said wear sole for adjusting the effective length of said wear sole.

3. A foot covering comprising a flexible upper, said upper being formed with a forward portion adapted to extend over the instep and around the ankle of a wearer's foot and being formed with a rear portion adapted to extend around the rear part and heel of a wearer's foot, a flexible wear sole joined to said upper and adapted to underlie the wearer's foot, first securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said first securing means being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when said upper is substantially coplanar with said sole, second securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper below said first securing means and arranged to be positioned rearwardly of the heel of the wearer's foot, said second securing means being disposed intermediate the sides of said sole when said upper is substantially coplanar with said sole, third securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second securing means, fourth securing means disposed in the rear portion of said upper and spaced laterally from said first and second securing means at a side opposite from which said third securing means are disposed, and fastening means cooperating with said third and fourth securing means and arranged to engage at times said first securing means and at other times said second securing means, said fastening means being arranged to position said third and fourth securing means adjacent one another whereby said third and fourth securing means are adapted for positioning rearwardly of the wearer's heel and to position at times said first securing means adjacent said third and fourth securing means and at other times to position said second securing means adjacent said third and fourth securing means for adjusting the effective length of said wear sole.

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