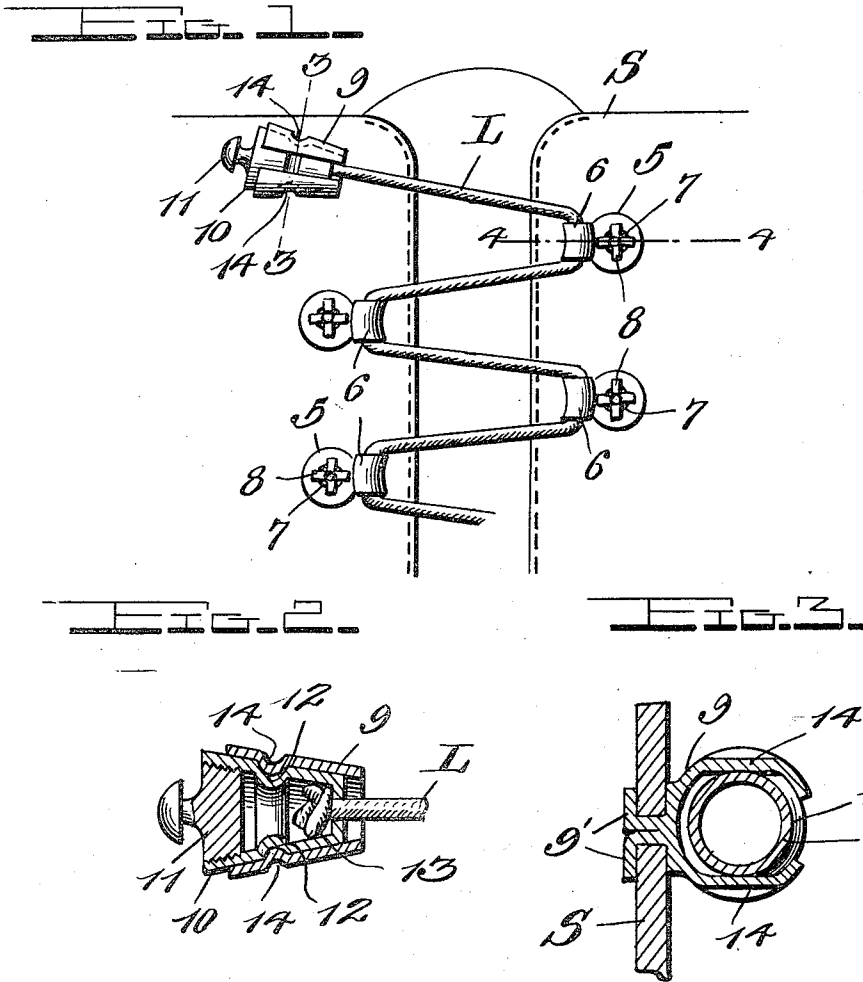


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SHOE LACE FASTENER.
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1,052,551.

Patented Feb. 11, 1913.



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Witnesses

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FRITZ ZELLER, OF RENTON, WASHINGTON.

SHOE-LACE FASTENER.

1,052,551.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRITZ ZELLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Renton, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Lace Fasteners, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in shoe lace fasteners and has for its primary object to provide a simple and efficient device for this purpose whereby the shoe may be easily and quickly laced and the ends of the laces securely attached to the shoe upper.

A further object of the invention is to provide a lace fastener which is of extremely simple form, will be neat in appearance when applied to the shoe and may be manufactured at comparatively small cost.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel features of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter more fully described, pointed out in the claim and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is an elevation of the meeting edges of a shoe upper showing my improved lace fastener applied thereto; Fig. 2 is an enlarged section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawing S designates the shoe upper adjacent to the meeting edge of which a plurality of spaced guide loops 5 are attached, the loops on one portion of the upper being located in planes intermediate of the loops on the opposed portion of the shoe upper.

To the upper of the shoe adjacent one of the edges thereof and at opposite ends of the row or loops thereon, the members 9 are secured. These members are of hollow tapering form and are provided with spurs or projections indicated at 9' which are adapted to be forced through the leather of the shoe upper and clenched upon the inner surface thereof. The member 9 which is arranged at the lower end of the row of lacing loops and adjacent to the vamp of the shoe has its longitudinal axis disposed parallel to the edge of the shoe upper, while the axis of the other of said plates is disposed at right angles to the longitudinal edge of

the shoe upper. These members are longitudinally split to provide open casings to receive the hollow tapering sheet metal members 10 which are arranged on the ends of the lace L. The larger ends of these tapering members are closed by means of the removable plugs 11, which are threaded therein. The body wall of the member 10 is provided with a peripheral groove centrally between the ends of said member as shown at 12. The lace L is knotted at its end as shown at 13 and this knotted end of the lace is disposed in the narrower or smaller end of the member 10, said knot being of such size as to effectually eliminate all liability of the detachment of the lace from said members. The split member 9 is provided at diametrically opposite points with indentations 14 which are adapted to engage in the groove 12 of the member 10, said indentations extending in parallel relation transversely of the member 9 and in the plane of the attaching spurs 9'.

From the above description the use of the device will be apparent. When the lace is loose in order to remove the shoe from the foot the opposed edge portions of the upper are separated, and the members 10 engage with the upper and lower guide loops on the shoe to limit the movement of the lace through said loops. When it is desired to draw the edges of the shoe upper closely together, the wearer pulls upon the upper end of the lace thereby drawing the same over the stud loops and disposing the member 10 on the upper end of the lace in position to be inserted into the casing 9 adjacent the upper edge of the shoe upper. It will be understood of course that the member 10 on the other end of the lace is permanently engaged in the casing 9 at the lower end of the upper. As the smaller end of the member 10 is forced inwardly between the opposed side walls of the casing 9, said walls are sprung apart until the indentations 14 thereon engage in the groove 12 in the wall of the member 10. The resiliency of the casing walls retains the projections therein in close engagement with said groove and prevents accidental or unintentional movement of the member 10 out of the casing 9.

From the foregoing it is believed that the construction and manner of use of my improved lace fastener will be clearly under-

stood. The device is extremely simple in its construction and may consequently be manufactured at very small cost.

By means of the fastener constructed in the manner above set forth, the shoe may be quickly and securely laced.

It will of course be obvious that other forms of lacing studs may be used in connection with my improved fastener. The fastener itself is also susceptible of a great many minor modifications in form and proportions without departing from the essential features or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention as claimed.

What I claim is:—

The herein described fastener comprising in combination the following elements, to wit; a tapering hollow member formed of spring metal and longitudinally split to provide spaced resilient portions, said member having attaching spurs centrally formed thereon and provided in its opposed walls with transversely extending parallel indentations to produce inwardly projecting ribs

thereon, which terminate at one of their ends adjacent the edges of said member, and a longitudinally tapering hollow member closed at one end and provided with an opening in its closed end for the connection of a shoe lace thereto, said latter member being provided intermediate of its ends with a peripheral groove, the smaller end of said member being adapted for insertion into the larger end of said first named member to engage the inwardly projecting ribs thereof and force the opposed portions of said member apart to cause the ribs thereon to engage in said peripheral groove, the resiliency of the spaced portions of said first named member retaining said members in interlocked relationship and preventing their relative longitudinal movement.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

FRITZ ZELLER.

Witnesses:

H. EVANS,

A. MORRISON.