

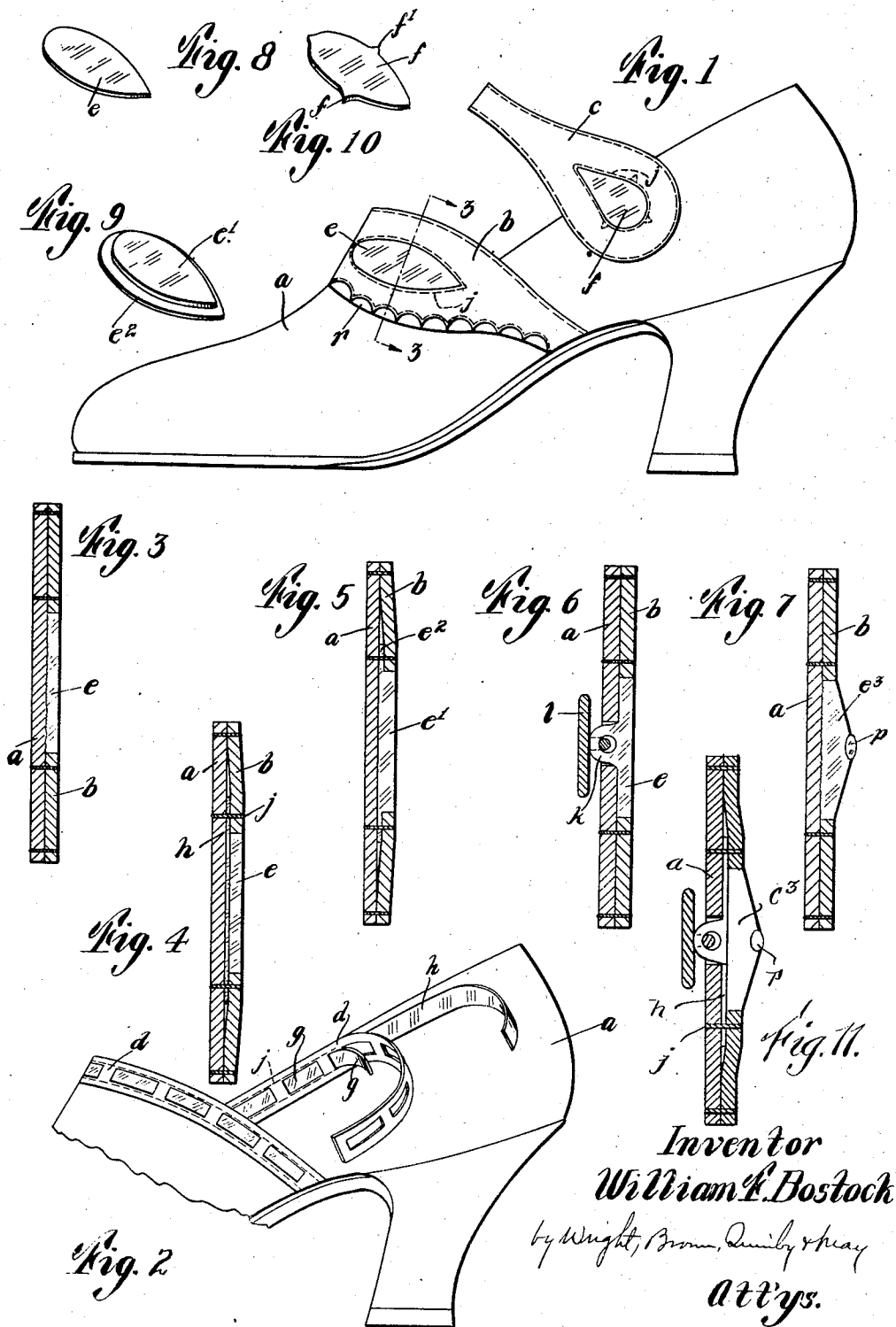
May 4, 1926.

W. F. BOSTOCK

1,583,274

SHOE UPPER WITH ORNAMENTAL INLAYS

Filed Dec. 23, 1924



Patented May 4, 1926.

1,583,274

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. BOSTOCK, OF SOUTH BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS.

SHOE UPPER WITH ORNAMENTAL INLAYS.

Application filed December 23, 1924. Serial No. 757,829.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. BOSTOCK, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Braintree, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shoe Up-
pers with Ornamental Inlays, of which the following is a specification:

The object of the present invention is to ornament shoe uppers over more or less extensive areas of their surface by means of inlays having a contrasting color effect to that of the upper leather. A further part of my object is to secure such inlays beyond any reasonable possibility of their falling out of place, and at the same time to cause their outer surfaces to be substantially flush with the outer surface of the upper.

The following specification describes, and the drawing shows, various embodiments of means coming within the scope of my present invention for accomplishing the above named objects and others related thereto. The invention consists in these means and in all equivalents thereof.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of a shoe having an upper with ornamental inlays embodying this invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of a part of a shoe having a specifically different form of ornamentation containing the same invention;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross section on an enlarged scale of a shoe upper having an ornamental inlay made according to this invention, the particular section being taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are views similar to Figure 3 showing various means for securing the ornamental inlay in the upper;

Figs. 8, 9, and 10 are perspective views of pieces of ornamental material adapted to be set into cutout openings in the upper leather to furnish the desired ornamentation.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view showing the several securing means, illustrated in Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 applied to an inlay carrying a jewel as shown in Figure 7.

Like reference characters designate the same parts wherever they occur in all the figures.

In Figure 1 the character *a* designates the shoe upper as a whole. *b* is a strap or bind-

ing which is stitched to the outside of the vamp, *c* is another strap which is secured at its ends to the counter portion of the upper and crosses the instep of the wearer's foot, being divided if desired and provided with a button or other fastening means. For the purposes of this invention the binding *b* and strap *c* are considered as part of the upper. The upper as a whole, including the special parts above mentioned, is made with an outer ply and a lining. The outer ply being in the art, almost universally made of leather, is called the "upper leather," and will be so called in this specification, although in using the term "leather" in this connection I have not intended to exclude from the scope of my protection unusual shoes in which the outer ply of the upper may be of some other material than leather. That is, in this description I use the term "upper leather" as a generic term meaning the outer ply of the upper, or of any part of the upper in which the ornamentation of this invention is located. The lining of the upper is commonly of either leather or fabric, and sometimes partly of leather and partly of fabric in the same shoe.

When outer straps, bindings, caps, etc., such as the bindings or straps *b* and *c* shown in Figure 1, and the edge binding *d* shown in Figure 2, are applied to the upper, said straps, etc. form the outer ply and the upper leather itself forms the underply; or the strap may have a lining of its own. The point I now make is that in all of the constructions of shoe upper to which my present invention is applied, the structure of the upper comprises an outer and an inner ply or breadth, of which the outer ply may be the upper leather itself or a piece placed over the upper leather in some part, and the inner ply may be the lining of some part of the upper or the upper leather itself under an overlying piece.

The ornamentation of the upper made according to this invention consists of ornamental pieces *e*, *f*, *g*, and the like set into openings cut out from the outer ply and backed up by the inner ply; such outer and inner plies being the parts identified in the foregoing definitions. I preferably use for the inserted or inlaid ornamentations, pieces of celluloid having outlines conforming as closely as is conveniently practicable to the outlines of the cutout areas in which they

are placed, and having approximately the same thickness as the outer ply in which they are set; whereby they substantially fill the cutout places. Celluloid is preferred as the material for these inlays because it can be made in all colors, and with many pleasing ornamental effects besides those of plain color alone, can be furnished in sheets of any thickness, and can be easily worked. However, I do not limit the scope of my protection to celluloid alone as the ornamental material. Other materials capable of giving equivalent ornamental effects, and of being secured in any of the modes herein after described, may be employed in place of celluloid.

My reason for preferring to make the inlays of such form and dimensions that they will substantially fill the cutout places prepared for their reception, is to avoid leaving cracks and hollows in which shoe dressing, dust, and other foreign matter may collect, and to cover the raw edge of the leather. This also gives a more finished and ornamental appearance.

The inlay is supported in its position by the underply of the upper and is there retained by a variety of means. That shown at *e* in Figs. 1, 3, and 8, is secured at its back directly to the under ply by adhesive. If the inlay is of celluloid, the adhesive used may be of celluloid cement or liquid celluloid; which is essentially a solution of nitro cellulose in a volatile solvent. Such cement will coalesce with the solid celluloid inlay and will adhere to the backing composed of the upper leather or lining.

In case a more secure attachment is desired than that obtained by cementing the inlay directly to the backing ply, such additional security may be obtained by placing a thin sheet or strip *h* of the same material between the two plies, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. This sheet or strip is wider than the cutout spaces in the outer ply, so that it is confined throughout, and it may be additionally held by the stitches *j* which pass through the plies close to the borders of the cutout portion to prevent these borders separating from the underply. The inlay becomes welded to the underlying strip and virtually integral therewith, through the medium of the solvent cement. The strip may also be cemented to the under ply.

The inlaid piece *g* of Figure 2 is of specifically different outline than the piece *e* shown in Figure 1, but the invention in both is the same. The differences between these two embodiments further show that the inventive idea may be adapted to a multitude of different designs and arrangements of ornamentation at different parts of the shoe upper.

Another means of securing the inlay is illustrated in Figures 5 and 9, and consists

in providing the inlay *e'* with a flange *e''* adapted to underlie the edges of the opening in the cutout upper ply, and if desired to be penetrated and secured by the stitches through the two plies around such opening. This form of inlay may also be cemented to the under ply, or to another intermediate sheet of the same material like that shown at *h* in Figs. 2 and 4.

Still another means for securing the inlay is shown in connection with the inlay *f* represented in Figures 1 and 10; such inlay having projections or lugs *f'* at suitable points on its periphery that occupy indentations on the border of the cutout space in the outer ply and are bridged across by the stitches *j* which hold down the edges of the cutout space. This inlay may also be cemented to the under ply.

An additional securing means is shown in Fig. 6, consisting of an eye *k* projecting from the back of the inlay through the inner ply and engaged with a fastener *l*, which may be of the same sort as the fasteners frequently used to hold shoe buttons. This mechanical fastener may be used in connection with any or all of the previously described securing means; and all of said means may be used with the same inlay.

Fig. 7 illustrates the utilizing of the inlay as a jewel setting, the inlay *e³* there shown having an embedded stone *p*, typifying any sort of stone or other ornamental object which may be secured in the inlay as in a jewel setting. The means for thus mounting a stone or similar ornament is an added feature capable of use with any of the forms and designs of inlay herein described, however the inlay may be itself secured to the shoe upper. Figure 11 illustrates such a jeweled inlay provided with a flange such as those shown in Figures 4 and 5, and secured by means of adhesive, stitches, and a mechanical fastener.

The ornamental inlays according to this invention are not limited to situations where they are entirely surrounded by the outer ply, but may be used where they are only partly surrounded. Thus, in Fig. 1, I have shown the lower edge of the strap *b* as pinked or scalloped, and a strip like the strip *h* of Fig. 4 is placed under this pinked edge and secured by the stitching, while inlay pieces *r* corresponding to *e* and *g* are fitted to the recesses of the edge and secured to such strip; in any of the ways hereinbefore described or indicated in this specification.

In naming specifically one sort of adhesive which I may use to hold the inlays in place, this being the type of adhesive especially adapted to celluloid inlays, I have not intended to limit my protection to that particular class of adhesives in cases where the inlays are made of other material than

celluloid. In such cases I may use any adhesive suitable to the material employed for the inlay, or I may use mechanical fasteners alone.

5 What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A shoe upper having an opening formed therein, and an ornamental inlay secured to the upper with a portion within and conforming closely to the outline of said opening, said inlay being of moldable material of sufficient rigidity to retain its shape independently of the upper.

15 2. A shoe upper comprising inner and outer layers or plies, the outer layer having an opening formed therein, and an ornamental inlay secured to the inner ply with a portion protruding into and closely conforming to the outline of the opening in the outer ply, said inlay being of moldable material of sufficient rigidity to retain its shape independently of the upper.

20 3. A shoe upper constructed with inner and outer plies, the outer ply having an opening, an inlay contained in said opening, stitches uniting the plies together along the borders of said opening, and a flange of less thickness than said inlay projecting outward from the edges adjacent to the under-
30 face of the inlay between the plies and across said stitches.

4. A shoe upper comprising inner and outer plies, the outer ply having an opening, a piece of a contrasting color effect
35 to the upper seated in said opening, and a

sheet of the same material as said inlay, of wider dimensions than said opening, confined between the plies back of the opening and inlay, the inlay being united to said sheet.

40 5. The combination with a shoe upper of an ornamental inlay applied to the exposed side of said upper, and having an inwardly projecting member on its inner face, and a mechanical fastener inside the upper secured to said projecting member of the inlay.

6. The combination with a shoe upper of an ornamental inlay applied to the outer side of the upper, said inlay having an eye
50 passing through the upper, and a mechanical fastener at the inner side of the upper connected to said eye.

7. A shoe upper having superposed plies, the outer one of which is cut out, an ornamental inlay substantially filling the cut-
55 out area of said outer ply, said inlay being adherently secured to the outer face of the inner ply and having an eye passing through the inner ply, and a mechanical fastener in-
60 side the upper connected to said eye.

8. An ornamented shoe upper having an outer ply with a cut out space and a celluloid inlay having an ornamental color effect fitting in said cutout space and secured
65 to the underlying ply of the upper.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WILLIAM F. BOSTOCK.