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SHOES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36—58.5)

My invention relates to improvements in shoes and has particular reference to women's shoes, although not limited thereto.

Briefly and generally stated, the invention has for its primary objects: (1) to provide means whereby a plurality of novel ornamental effects may be produced at the vamp areas of a pair of shoes so that the latter can be effectively worn with a considerable number of different costumes; and (2) to avail of novel means for reinforcing the forward open topped vamp area of such as women's pumps so as to contribute to preservation of the original shape or form of the shoe at its forward portion.

More specifically stated, it is an object of the invention to provide, in a shoe such as a woman's pump, which has an open topped vamp area portion extending to the toe region, a reinforcing liner for the walls of said area, and which liner aside from carrying connecting means for opposed top wall portions, also provides a combined backing and retaining means for novel vamp area ornament-securing fasteners.

Additionally, the invention contemplates a shoe having readily removable, ornamental and selectively useable vamp area flaps or the like, each of which has different appearance effects on opposite sides thereof, there being novel ornamental securing means for said flaps.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood and appreciated by critical shoe purchasers, and particularly those desiring to have a pair of shoes which will effectively serve for a variety of costumes and occasions.

Referring to the drawing wherein the same reference characters have been used to designate the same parts wherever they appear throughout the several views—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a woman's pump illustrating the application of my invention thereto;

Fig. 2 is a partly broken, fragmentary top plan view of the vamp area of the shoe shown in Fig. 1;

Figs. 3 and 4 are plan views of the ornamental and detachable vamp area flap and showing, respectively, opposite faces of the latter;

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional detail showing the left hand end of the Fig. 5 disclosure.

Referring to the drawing by reference characters, numeral 10 indicates generally a woman's pump type shoe having the heel 11, outer sole 12 and upper 13. As is characteristic of the type of shoe illustrated, the top vamp area provides the opening 14 which extends forwardly to a point adjacent the toe 15 of the shoe, the said opening being bounded by vamp area wall portions 13a as indicated. As indicated, the upper 13 has its free edges provided with a continuous beading 16 which also extends about the edges of the vamp area provided opening 14.

In a shoe of the type illustrated there is a tendency for the vamp area portion of the upper to get out of shape.

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Therefore, in carrying out the invention, I provide the upper 13 with an underlying reinforcing liner 18 at the site of the forward vamp area portion 13a; and further, I provide the ornamental strip means 17 which extend across the opening 14 and are connected to the opposite vamp area wall portions 13a as shown. The vamp area liner 18 underlies the usual inner sole 19 as indicated, and in the region of the inner sole 19 the liner may be adhesively or otherwise secured to the portion of the upper 13 which overlies the outer sole 12. The upper will be adhesively or otherwise secured to the outer sole 12 as usual.

Referring back to the opening-bridging cross-strips 17 it will be noted from Figs. 5 and 6 that the outer terminal portions of said strips 17 underlie the toe area overlying portions 13a of the upper 13 and are stitched as at 20 to the liner 18 at points which are substantially spaced from the free opening (14) bordering edge of the latter and also from the opposed portions of the beaded edge 16 of said portion 13a. However, in further carrying out the invention, it will be noted that the strip members 17 are additionally secured to the portions 13a of upper 13 and to the liner 18 by the stitching 21. This stitching 21 is located immediately adjacent the vamp area opening 14 and not only secures the outer portion of the liner 18 to the upper but also secures the beading 16 about the raw edge of the upper 13, 13a.

From the foregoing it will be understood that the liner 18 in conjunction with the cross strip or cross strips 17 will very effectively reinforce the forward vamp portion of the upper 13 to prevent same from getting out of shape as the result of extended use. Also the cross strips 17 give the pump an ornamental appearance without detracting from the tailored shell-like appearance that it presents without said cross strips.

The appearance of the vamp area of the pump is further ornamented by the headed studs 23 which are projected through the apertures 22 in the forward vamp area wall portions 13a at opposite sides of the opening 14 as illustrated. These studs 23 have base portions 24 from which project the shanks 25 carrying the ornamental exterior heads 26. The stud bases 24 are backed by the liner 18 and preferably also by end portions of the strips 17 as indicated. Thus, the stud bases 24 will not be compressed against the foot of the wearer.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that I have provided a shoe with novel vamp area reinforcement and which will present a highly attractive appearance. However, to further ornament the vamp area of the pump, I provide selectively useable vamp area cross flaps or the like 27 which are apertured as at 28 to receive the shank portions 25 of the studs 23 which secure said flap portions in place. The flap portions may and preferably will have opposite faces providing different ornamental appearances and a plurality of selectively useable vamp flaps 27 may be provided in different colors to match different costumes so that one pair of shoes can be effectively worn with a wide variety of different costumes. The openings 28 in the ornamental vamp flaps 27 will have yielding walls so that when the flaps are in place the ornamental heads 26 of the studs 23 will effectively retain the flaps 27 in place. It is important to note that when the user's foot is inserted in the shoe, opposite side edges of vamp opening 14 are caused to rise slightly away from sole 12 and with an accompanying tendency to spread laterally in opposite directions. This lateral edge movement applies a load on the cross strips 17 and the stitching 21 which secures the liner 18 to the portions 13a of the upper 13.

Furthermore, the aforementioned rising and opposite lateral movement of the side edges of opening 14 forces

the lateral margins of the flap 27 outwardly away from portions 13a of the upper so that they lie adjacent the headed ends 26 of the stud shanks 25, as indicated in Figs. 5 and 6, so as to produce an attractive free ended appearance.

Aside from being in different colors or being formed from differently appearing materials, the removable vamp flaps 27 may have, for instance, one side provided with a polished surface while the other side may be provided with a suede surface.

From the foregoing it is believed that the invention will be readily understood and appreciated, it being apparent that I provide a single pair of shoes which will serve the purpose of a plurality of pairs and will particularly accommodate the traveler who does not have luggage space for a number of pairs of shoes.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

In a shoe having a sole and an upper secured thereto, the upper providing a top opening in its vamp area extending to the toe region, opposite sides of the upper adjacent the forward end of said opening having portions curving inwardly to define opening-bordering top wall portions, a contiguous reinforcing liner for the forward vamp area of said upper and cooperating in the formation of said top opening, a first opening-spanning and forward vamp area shape-preserving means located rearwardly of the forward end of said opening, means securing opposite ends of said opening-spanning means to the upper face of said liner in remotely spaced relationship outwardly of the opening-adjacent edges thereof and in underlying relationship to parts of the top wall portions

of said upper, a row of stitching adjacent the edge of said opening and securing said liner and first opening-spanning means to said top wall portions, opposite inwardly curved side wall portions of the upper adjacent the ends of said first opening-spanning means having apertures extending therethrough, studs providing elongated and outer end headed shanks extending through said respective apertures, each stud being provided with a wide flat base which is backed and sustained by subjacent portions of said first opening-spanning means and liner, whereby the stud shanks are outwardly inclined away from said opening, a second and detachable ornamental opening-spanning vamp area shape-preserving means positionable over the first opening-spanning means and having apertures inwardly of opposite ends through which the headed stud shanks extend, and underlying parts of said opening-bordering top wall portions engaging the second opening-spanning means inwardly of its stud-receiving apertures whereby to cause the stud-adjacent portions of said second opening-spanning means to ride outwardly on the stud shanks.

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