Sept. 28, 1937. A. F. BANCROFT 2,094,091

FOOTWEAR

Filed June 10, 1936

Fig. 1

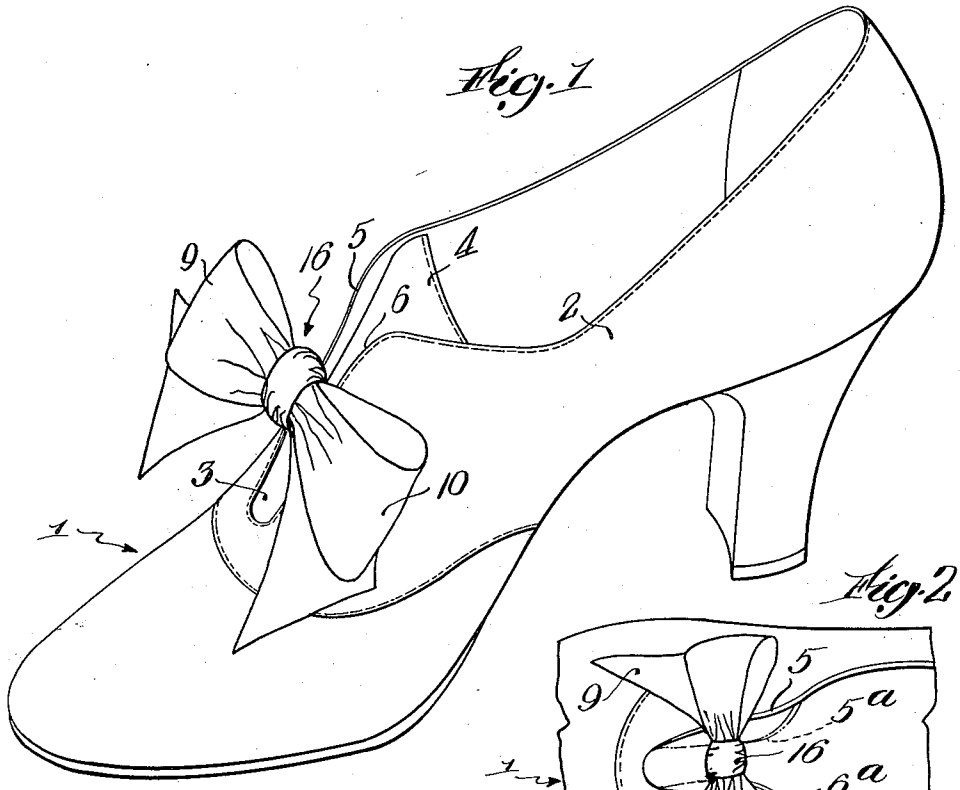


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

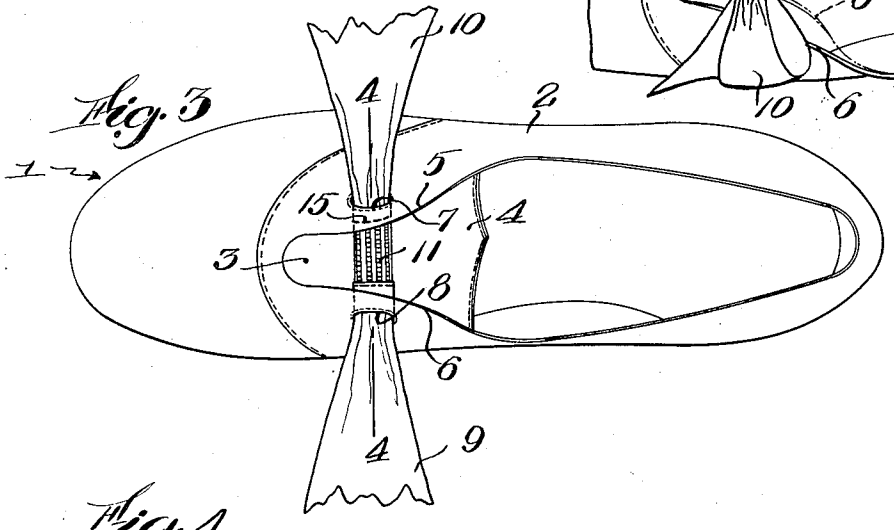
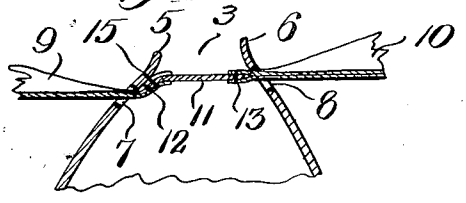


Fig. 4



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FOOTWEAR

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4 Claims. (Cl. 36—51)

This invention pertains to footwear and relates more particularly to an improved closure tie for the vent of a shoe and to a shoe embodying such tie.

From the aesthetic and ornamental standpoint a ribbon, tied in a carefully formed bow, is generally conceded to constitute one of the most desirable means for closing the front opening or vent of a shoe, especially a woman's dress shoe. However, a ribbon shoe string, particularly when wide enough to obtain the maximum ornamental effect, has been found undesirable in practice by reason of its inherent tendency to become permanently crushed and wrinkled after being tied and untied a very few times. Furthermore, objection has been made to ties of this type by reason of the difficulty experienced by the ordinary wearer in tying the ribbon bow after the shoe has been donned so as to obtain a symmetrical and pleasing effect.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide an improved shoe closure tie adapted to impart the desired aesthetic ornamental appearance inherent in a properly formed ribbon bow but which does not suffer substantially in appearance through repeated doffing and donning of the shoe. A further object is to provide an improved closure tie which may be adjusted to the foot of the individual wearer by the shoe salesman and which may retain this initial adjustment throughout the life of the shoe.

A further object is to provide an improved closure tie of pleasing and ornamental appearance comprising a bow-knotted portion, and which is capable of holding the vent portion of the shoe upper snugly but yieldingly over the instep arch of the foot, although permitting the shoe to be doffed and donned without disturbing the bow-knotted portion of the tie.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be made manifest in the following more detailed description and by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe provided with an improved closure tie of the present invention substantially as it appears when the shoe is on the foot;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan view showing the capability of the closure device to allow the vent of the shoe to stretch so as to permit the shoe to be donned or doffed without disturbing the bow-knotted portion of the tie;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view, to smaller scale, showing the closure tie applied to a shoe but before it has been tied; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary section substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a woman's shoe of usual construction comprising the upper 2 having the throat or vent opening 3 at the instep arch,—the upper comprising the tongue 4 which underlies the throat or vent opening. The edges 5 and 6 of the vent opening, as here shown, are spaced apart, it being understood that in accordance with the style of the shoe this throat or vent opening may be normally wider or narrower than that here illustrated.

In accordance with the embodiment of the invention as here disclosed, the upper is provided with openings or "eyelets" 7 and 8 at opposite sides of the throat or vent opening 3. These eyelet openings may merely be holes through the material of the upper, although in most cases the edges of these holes will be finished in one way or another either, for example, by ornamental stitching or by the use of a metallic or other eyelet member. These eyelet openings 7 and 8 may be of any desired size and at any desired point below the extreme upper end of the vent opening. As here illustrated these eyelet openings are more or less elliptical in shape, although it is obvious that they may be of any other contour desired.

In accordance with the present invention the improved closure tie comprises lengths 9 and 10 (Fig. 4) of ribbon, preferably a textile ribbon and of a fairly stiff shape-retaining character, for example taffeta silk, and of any suitable width, although it is desirable that the ribbon be of such width as to provide a bow of maximum ornamental effect. Each ribbon 9 and 10 is permanently secured at one end to an elastically stretchable member 11, for example, a piece of elastic webbing, the ribbons being permanently secured to this webbing, for example, by sewed seams 12 and 13, respectively. The tie member thus constructed is threaded through the eyelet openings 7 and 8 which are so positioned that the elastic member 11 overlies or is disposed in front of the tongue 4 (Fig. 3). Preferably the inner end of one of the ribbon members, for example the member 9, is permanently secured to the material of the upper closely adjacent to the vent opening as, for example, by means of the stitched seam 15 (Fig. 4). On the other hand, the ribbon 10 is permitted to reeve freely through the eyelet opening 8.

When the shoe is being fitted to a customer's foot, the shoe salesman pulls upon the ribbon

members 9 and 10 to draw the forward part of the shoe upper snugly about the instep arch of the wearer, and when the proper fit has thus been obtained, the salesman ties the ribbons 9 and 10 to form a bow-knot 16 extending transversely across the vent opening. It is contemplated that the salesman will be trained to determine the proper degree of stress to be imparted to the ribbons in thus drawing the upper about the foot and also in the tying of a bow tie of pleasing and symmetrical shape. If desired, fastening means may be applied permanently to maintain the bow as tied by the salesman. For example, its overlapping parts may be stitched together by concealed stitches or a suitable metallic fastener may be provided for the purpose.

When the shoe has thus been fitted to the foot and the ribbon bow tied, the shoe may be doffed from the foot without untying the bow, by reason of the capability of the elastic member 11 to stretch and to reeve through the eyelet opening 8. Thus, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the edges 5 and 6 of the throat opening may be stretched apart from their normal relative positions illustrated by the dotted lines at 5^a and 6^a to the expanded full line positions, thus increasing the throat opening and permitting the shoe to be pulled off of the foot. In the same way in donning the shoe, the member 11 will stretch so as to permit the foot to be inserted in the shoe, but as soon as the shoe is in place, the member 11 will contract and thus restore the throat opening substantially to its normal width as determined in the original fitting of the shoe to the foot.

It will be evident that when the closure tie has been applied and the bow 16 has once been formed, the tie forms in effect a continuous band comprising a loop or bight portion threaded through the eyelet openings 7 and 8 with its ends anchored to the bow-knot, the loop or bight portion being elastically extensible so as to permit the width of the throat opening to be temporarily increased to allow donning and doffing of the shoe.

In its broader aspects, it is understood that some equivalent ornamental device other than a bow tie may be employed either as forming a constituent element of this continuous tie band or attached to that part of the tie band which extends across the front of the throat opening.

While I have herein illustrated a desirable embodiment of the invention by way of example and suggested certain modifications thereof, I wish it to be understood that the invention is not necessarily limited to this precise construction either as shown or suggested, but is broadly inclusive of any arrangements such as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A shoe comprising an upper having a vent opening and a tie uniting the portions of the upper at opposite sides of the vent, said tie comprising end portions of inelastic material adapted to be tied together to form a knot, and an intermediate portion of elastic material, the tie being permanently attached to the upper adjacent to one side of the vent opening and being free to reeve through an opening in the upper at the opposite sides of said vent.

2. A shoe comprising an upper having a vent opening and a tie uniting the portions of the upper at opposite sides of the vent opening, said tie comprising end portions of ribbon of ornamental character, and an intermediate portion of elastic material, the tie being permanently secured to the shoe upper at one side of the vent opening and being arranged to reeve through an eyelet at the opposite side of the vent opening, the ribbon material being permanently knotted together to form a bow which extends transversely across the vent.

3. A shoe including an upper having a vent and a closure tie comprising two lengths of textile ribbon of substantial width and an intermediate portion of elastic webbing, said tie being threaded through openings in the upper at opposite sides of the vent opening and having its ends tied to form a bow-knot of ornamental appearance disposed at the outside of the upper and extending transversely across the vent, the intermediate portion of the tie being attached to the upper at one side of the vent but being free to reeve through the opening at the other side of the vent whereby the vent is permitted to expand and contract in donning and doffing the shoe.

4. A shoe including an upper having a vent and eyelets at opposite sides of the vent, and a closure tie comprising a continuous band threaded through the eyelets and permanently attached to the upper at one side of the vent but being free to reeve through the other eyelet, said band including an elastic portion permitting the vent to expand and contract.

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