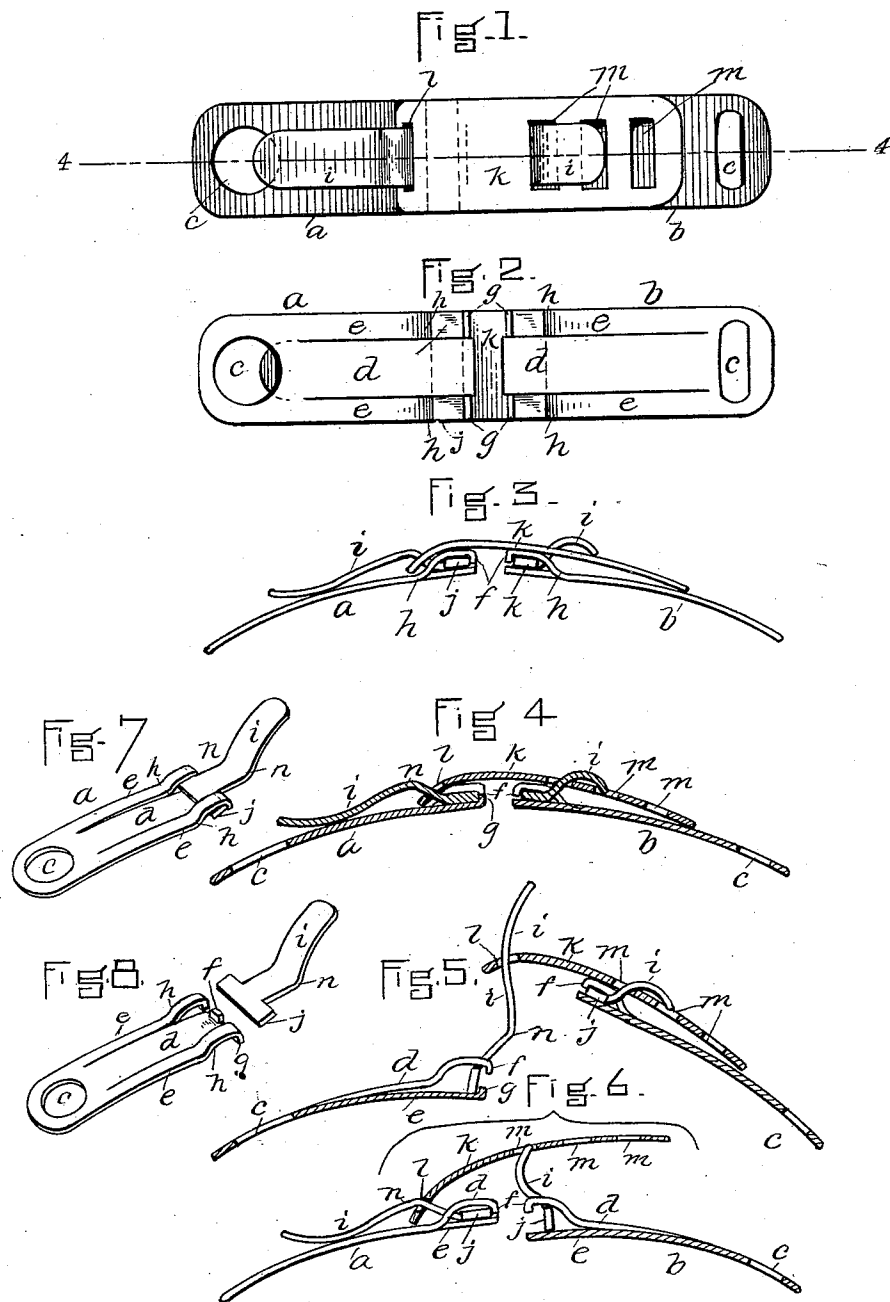


(No Model.)

P. CLIFFORD.
SHOE CLASP.

No. 469,935.

Patented Mar. 1, 1892.



WITNESSES:

A. D. Harrison

George W. Standen

INVENTOR:

Patrick Clifford

Wm. Brown & Co. Solicitors.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PATRICK CLIFFORD, OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS.

SHOE-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 469,935, dated March 1, 1892.

Application filed June 8, 1891. Serial No. 395,515. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PATRICK CLIFFORD, of Quincy, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

The invention has relation to clasps or fasteners generally, and particularly to fasteners designed for use upon shoes of fine grade or quality.

It is the object of the invention to provide a clasp which may be used upon thin fine leather shoes over the arch of the instep without discomfort to the wearer.

It is also the object of the invention to provide such improvements in clasps or fasteners as will make them unobjectionable in appearance, efficient and convenient in use, and readily adjustable to suit the desires of the user.

To these ends the invention consists of a clasp or fastener having the construction or combination of parts as hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claim.

Reference is to be had to the annexed drawings and the letters marked thereon, forming a part of this specification, the same letters designating the same parts or features, as the case may be, wherever they occur.

In the said drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of the invention drawn to an enlarged scale. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a side view. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 4 4 of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a similar sectional view showing the tongue of the fastening member open and as just engaged with the bowed link-plate. Fig. 6 is a view somewhat similar to Fig. 5, showing the tongue of the adjusting member in open position and as just engaged with the link-plate. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the fastening member drawn to a smaller scale. Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7, showing the tongue and base-plate disconnected.

In the drawings, *a* designates what I have for the purposes of this specification chosen to call the "fastening" member, and *b* the "adjusting" member of the improved clasp. Each member is constructed of sheet metal and is provided at one end with a slot or hole (or it may be a plurality of such features) *c*, whereby

it may be attached to the material of which the shoe is constructed, and at the other end with a central spring-arm *d* and side spring-arms *e*. The spring-arms may, as is shown, form an integral part of the base-plate of each member and be formed by slitting such base-plate from the end toward the heel, as is best seen in Figs. 2, 7, and 3. The central arm *d* has its end *f* bent upward or outward at substantially a right angle to the main or body portion, the ends *g* of the side arms *e* being bent at an angle to the body portion in a direction opposite that of the end *f*. The inner portions of the side arms *e* are offset from the plane of the base-plate and central spring-arm *d*, as at *h*.

i designates a tongue, T-shaped in form, adapted to rest upon the arm *d* adjacent to the angular end *f* and to have the laterally-projecting arms *j* extend under the offset ends of the spring-arms *e*, so that it may be in a sense pivotally held between the ends of the spring-arms, the latter arms acting upon the cross-arms *j* of the tongue to hold it in open or closed position when moved to either of said positions, as will be readily understood by an inspection of the drawings.

k designates a link-plate constructed of sheet metal or other suitable material, and which may be curved or bowed, as shown. The said link-plate is provided in one part near the end with a hole or slot *l*, with which the fastening-tongue of the member *a* is adapted to engage to buckle or latch the shoe, and in the other part the said link-plate is provided with a plurality of slots or holes *m* at different distances from the end with which the adjusting-tongue of the member *b* is adapted to engage to clasp or fasten the shoe tighter or looser, as may be desired, over the instep of the foot of the wearer. The shank of each tongue *i* is slightly bent, as at *n*, so that when the tongue is in closed position it may pass through the slots of the link-plate and not project to an objectionable extent above the outer surfaces of the base-plate. The adjusting-tongue of the member *b* may be reduced in length, as shown, to lighten and simplify the construction and enhance the appearance of the clasp.

To attach the tongues to the link-plate, the said tongues may be opened or raised, as

shown at the left in Fig. 5 and right in Fig. 6, passed through the slots in the link-plate, and then closed, as shown in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive.

- 5 In use the tongue of the member *b* will be connected with the link-plate at the proper point, and the tongue of the member *a* will be employed to clasp or fasten and unclasp or unloose the shoe.
- 10 By the invention a highly-serviceable and readily-operated clasp or buckle is obtained and one which may be used without discomfort upon shoes of light-weight stock over the arch of the instep, and as the clasp can be
- 15 made quite small and as its parts may be made symmetrical in form it can be applied to shoes of fine or high grade. The bowed or curved form of the under surface of the clasp as a whole enables it to conform to the arch
- 20 of the instep, and so obviates discomfort in use, which would otherwise result.

Having thus described the nature of the invention, I declare that what I claim is—

- 25 In a shoe-clasp, the combination, with a link-plate provided in one portion with a plurality of holes or slots and in the other portion with a single hole or slot, of two mem-

bers *a b*, each comprising a base-plate provided at one end with a means whereby it may be attached to the material of which the shoe is made and at the other end with a straight central spring-arm having an upwardly-turned end *f* and side spring-arms bent upwardly, then parallel with the said central arm, and then downwardly to form bearings, the tongue *i* having lateral arms entering said bearings, whereby the tongue is pivoted and held in place upon the said spring-arms, the said tongue of one member being adapted to engage any one of the plurality of holes or slots in the link-plate for the purpose of adjustment, and the said tongue of the other member being adapted to engage the single hole or slot in the link-plate for the purpose of buckling or fastening the shoe, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 28th day of May, A. D. 1891.

PATRICK CLIFFORD.

Witnesses:

C. F. BROWN,
ARTHUR W. CROSSLEY.