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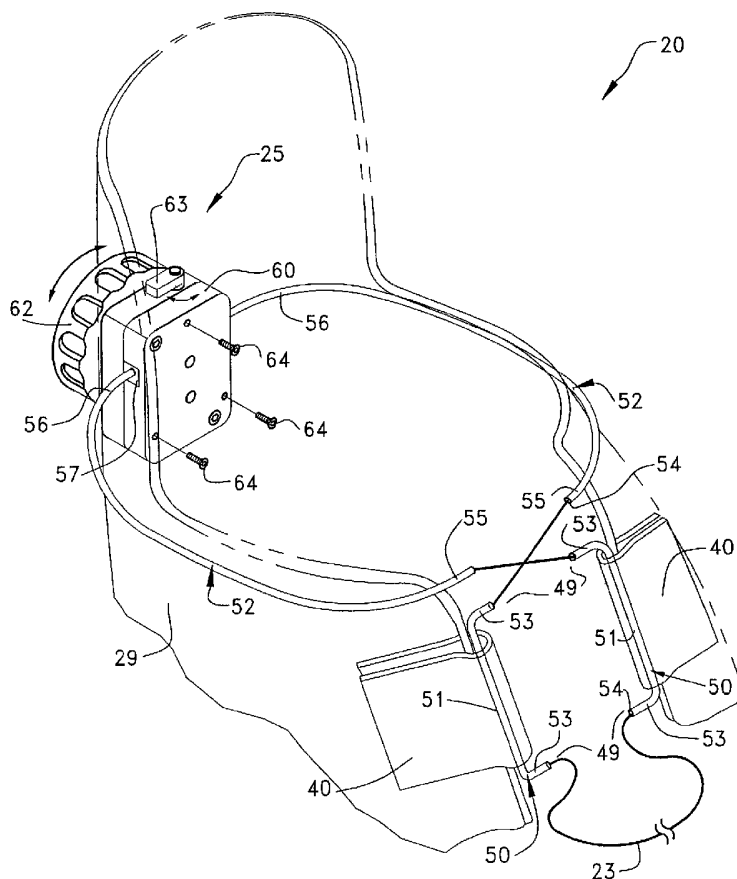
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** FOOTWEAR LACING SYSTEM



(57) **Abstract:** Disclosed is a footwear lacing system comprising a lace (23) attached to a tightening mechanism (25). The lace extends through a series of guide members (50, 52) positioned along two opposing footwear closure portions. The lace and guides preferably have low friction surfaces to facilitate sliding of the lace along the guide members (53) so that the lace evenly distributes tension across the footwear member. The tightening mechanism allows incremental adjustment of the tension of the lace. A release mechanism (63) allows a user to quickly loosen the lace. A safety mechanism inhibits unintentional and/or accidental loosening of the lace.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 24/68SK, 71.1, 909; 36/50.1, 50.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,289,558 B1 (HAMMERSLAG) 18 September 2001 (18.09.2001), see figures 1-32.	1-17
A	US 6,202,953 B1 (HAMMERSLAG) 20 March 2001 (20.03.2001), see figures 1-6.	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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