This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in counter constructions for stitch-down shoes.

In stitch-down shoes, it has heretofore been the practice to insert a counter between the lining and leather of the heel portion of a shoe upper, and in the lastying of the shoe the lower edges of the upper, lining and counter are turned outwardly and lasted to the insole by wire, thread or the like. Thereafter, the welt is laid upon the outturned lower margins of the upper lining, counter, and leather and these overlying parts are then stitched to the outsole, heel lifts of the desired character being then secured to the heel portion of the outsole.

In stitch-down shoes of the foregoing character the welt, outturned flanges, outsole and heel all project outwardly of the upper heel portion of the shoe with the stitching exposed and this process is indicative of inexpensive shoe manufactures.

It is a primary object of this invention to provide an improved counter construction for stitch-down shoes so that the completed heel portion of the shoe has the appearance of an insetted heel characteristic of expensive shoes.

A further and important object of the invention is to provide an improved counter construction for stitch-down shoes wherein the counter is provided with an inwardly directed groove adjacent the outturned bottom flange to provide a recess to accommodate the lower edges of the lining and leather of the heel portion of the shoe upper, with the welt also extending into said groove for stitching down through the insole and outsole with the welt thereafter pounded ed or forced into the groove to give the appearance of an insetted heel.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved counter construction of the foregoing character wherein the counter is formed of two plies of material, with the inner ply of greater depth than the outer ply and turned outwardly at a point slightly below the lower edge of the outer ply to form a groove in which the leather of the heel portion of the shoe upper and welt are received for a stitch-down operation.

With the above and other objects in view that will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in general of certain novel details of construction and combination of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the heel portion of the shoe equipped with the improved counter construction of the present invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1, showing the groove at the lower portion of the counter for the reception of the leather of the heel portion of the shoe and the welt strip,

Figure 3 is a fragmentary vertical longitudinal sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the improved counter ready for placement in the heel portion of a shoe,

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the finished counter

Figure 6 is a detailed sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Figure 4, showing the groove afforded by the two plies of the counter adjacent the lower edge thereof, and

Figure 7 is a detailed sectional view, similar to Figure 6, showing the counter construction before the lower edge of the inner ply thereof is bent or flanged outwardly.

The improved counter may be formed of any appropriate material desired and is preferably of two-ply construction, the inner ply being indicated by the reference character 10 while the outer ply is shown at 11. The two plies 10 and 11 are cut from flat sheets and are suitably bound together by cementitious material or the like and are of configurations in plan view to produce a counter construction design of ordinary character when bent to shape. As shown in Figure 7, the inner ply 10 of the counter carries a lower edge extension 12 that projects below the lower edge 13 of the inner ply 11. The plies 10 and 11 with the lower extension 12 are wetted or dampened to facilitate bending thereof into the counter design indicated in general by the reference character 14 in Figures 4 and 5, and during such bending of the counter blank shown in Figure 7, the lower extension 12 on the inner ply 10 is bent or flanged outwardly as at 12a at a point below the lower edge 13 of the outer ply 11 to provide an inset groove 15, the lower extension 12 as shown in the plan elevation 12 in Figure 5 having a notch 16 intermediate opposite ends thereof to provide a center guide for the bending of the counter blank into the counter design 14. As shown in Figure 6, the lower edge 13 of the outer ply 11 forms a shoulder to provide the top wall of the groove 15. It will be observed from an inspection of Figures 4 and 6 that the...
improved counter construction has the outwardly directed flange 12a to facilitate a stitch-down operation and the groove 15 to accommodate inserting of the welt strip of the shoe.

The sole upper comprises the usual fabric lining 18 and the outer leather 19 with the counter 14 positioned between the lining 18 and leather 19. The lower edge 18a of the lining 18 is turned outwardly below the counter flange 12a. The insole 20 is then secured at its marginal edges by wire, thread, or other stitching to the lower edge 18b of the lining 18, the flange 12a of the counter 14 and the lower edge 19b of the upper leather 19.

The welt strip 21 is then placed over the out-turned edge 19b of the upper leather 19 and is pressed into the groove 15 of the counter and by the stitch-down method the thread 22 secures the welt strip 21, the out-turned lower edges of the shoe upper and counter to the insole 20 and the outsole 23. The welt strip 21 is then pounded, hammered, or forced into the groove 15 in the counter as shown in Figures 1 to 3 to create the appearance of an inseted heel characteristic of expensive shoe manufacture. Thereafter, leather and rubber heel lifts 24 and 25, respectively, are secured to the outsole 23 in the customary manner as by nailing or the like, although other forms of heel lifts or methods of attaching the same may be employed.

A shoe constructed in accordance with the present invention provided with the improved counter construction can be inexpensively manufactured but will have the appearance of a more expensive shoe such as found in shoes equipped with an inseted heel. The two plies 10 and 11 of the counter while providing the groove 15 also provide a counter of reenforced construction, resulting in the shoe holding its shape for a longer period.

The basic feature of the invention is to provide the groove 15 at the upper inner end of the outwardly directed flange 12a and the formation of this groove may be formed directly in a single ply counter to extend the entire length thereof.

From the above detailed description of the invention, it is believed that the construction and operation thereof will at once become apparent, while there is herein shown and described the preferred embodiment thereof, it is to be understood that minor changes may be made in the details of construction, such as will fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

1. In a counter construction for stitch-down shoes, a counter of two-ply formation and an outwardly directed flange on the lower margin of the inner ply spaced below the lower edge of the outer ply to form a groove at the inner upper side of the flange for the reception of the lower margin of the leather of the shoe upper and the welt strip.

2. In a stitch-down shoe of the character described, a heel portion including an upper having a lining and an outer leather turned outwardly at their lower margins, an insole and an outsole and a heel counter between the upper lining and outer leather and having an outturned flange at its lower margin interposed between the outturned lower margins of the lining and outer leather of the upper, a welt strip overlying the outturned margin of the outer leather and stitched down through the outturned members, the insole and the outsole, and said counter being of two-ply formation with the outturned flange thereof carried by the inner ply and spaced below the outer ply to provide a groove to have the lower margin of the outer leather and a part of the welt strip located inwardly of the outer side of the upper portion of the outer leather in simulation of an inseted heel.

3. In a counter construction for stitch-down shoes, a counter comprising a body portion and an outwardly directed flange on the lower margin of the body portion of substantially half the thickness of the body portion with the lower face of the flange being continuous with the inner face of the body portion to form a groove, the top wall of which is formed by a shoulder on the body portion, said groove being at the inner upper side of the flange for the reception of the lower margin of the leather of the shoe upper and the welt strip.

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