Nov. 3, 1931. E. GRUNDLEHNER 1,830,646

SHOE LACE FASTENER

Filed May 6, 1931

Fig. 1.

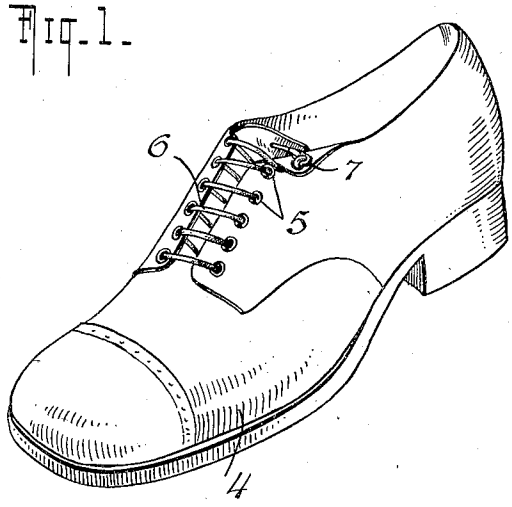


Fig. 2.

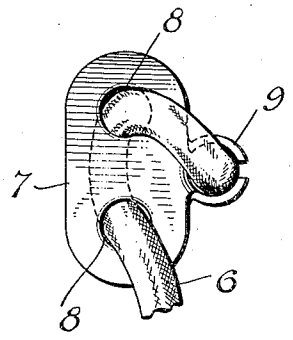
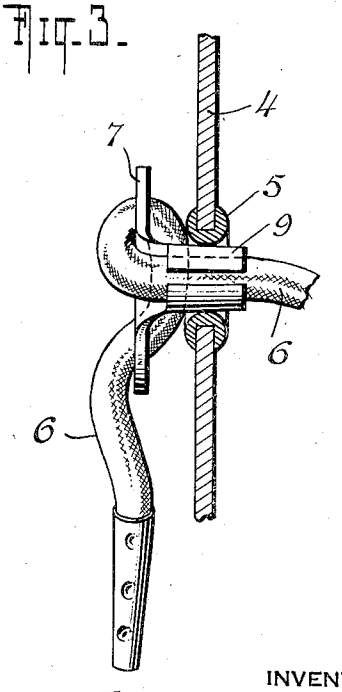


Fig. 3.



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SHOE LACE FASTENER

Application filed May 6, 1931. Serial No. 535,428.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for fastening shoe laces to shoes and has for one of its objects to provide a fastener of simple and practical construction by means of which a free end of a shoe lace may be secured to a shoe in such a manner as to be prevented from becoming accidentally detached therefrom.

Another object is to provide a fastener which can be attached to a shoe by engaging a portion of the fastener in one of the lacing eyelets with the lace-securing means of the fastener interposed between the upper and tongue of the shoe so as to be invisible when in use.

The above and other objects will appear more clearly from the following detailed description, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the inventive idea.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe showing the improved fastener applied thereto;

Figure 2 is an enlarged plan view of the fastener; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view illustrating the manner of attachment of the fastener to the upper of the shoe and engagement of the shoe lace with the fastener.

The fastener of the present invention is especially designed for use with elastic shoe laces which, after being secured in laced position, need not be unfastened in order to put the shoe on the foot or remove it therefrom. However, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to such use since, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims, the fastener can be employed with non-elastic shoe laces.

The fastener is shown as applied to a shoe 4 having an upper provided with the usual eyelets 5 for receiving the shoe lace 6 which may be elastic so as to permit spreading of the sections of the upper when putting on or removing the shoe.

Said fastener is preferably formed from a single piece of resilient metal and is of such size that the same will not be felt by the wearer of the shoe when the device is in position between the upper and tongue thereof. The device comprises a flat, slightly elongated fastening plate 7 rounded at its ends and provided adjacent each end with an opening 8 through which the lace 6 is passed in different directions when securing the same in position. Intermediate the ends and along one edge of said plate the same has extending laterally therefrom a split sleeve 9 adapted to receive the shoe lace. Said sleeve is of an exterior diameter slightly greater than that of the eyelet 5 into which the sleeve is inserted when securing the device in position, thereby causing a binding action between the eyelet and sleeve which will frictionally maintain the latter in position, and also producing a grip upon the lace which will prevent it from slipping through said sleeve.

In practice, the lace, after having been threaded into all the eyelets 5 except one at the top of the upper, is passed inwardly through said eyelet and then receives the fastener thereon. The sleeve of the latter is moved along the lace and finally forced into said top eyelet until a binding action is effected, this being accomplished while one corner of the upper is turned down as indicated in Figure 1. The end of the lace is now threaded in opposite directions through the two openings 8 of the plate 7 and when drawn taut will bind against the edges of said openings, thereby further securing the lace against slipping. The corner of the upper is thereupon allowed to assume its normal position at which time the fastener will be interposed between said upper and the tongue of the shoe. As the lace loses some of its elasticity, the slack therein may be taken up by simply loosening the lace in the openings 8 and then pulling the same through the sleeve.

What is claimed is:

1. A shoe lace fastener comprising a resilient lace-receiving sleeve insertable into an eyelet of a shoe and being of a diameter slightly greater than that of said eyelet, and an apertured plate extending laterally from one end of said sleeve.

2. A shoe lace fastener comprising an apertured plate, and a sleeve extending therefrom and insertable into an eyelet of a shoe, said sleeve receiving a shoe lace which is also extensible through the apertures in said plate.

3. A shoe lace fastener comprising an apertured plate, and a split resilient sleeve extending laterally from said plate, said sleeve being adapted for insertion into an eyelet of a shoe and capable of receiving a lace which is also insertable through the apertures in said plate.

In testimony whereof, I have affixed my signature.

ERNEST GRUNDLEHNER.