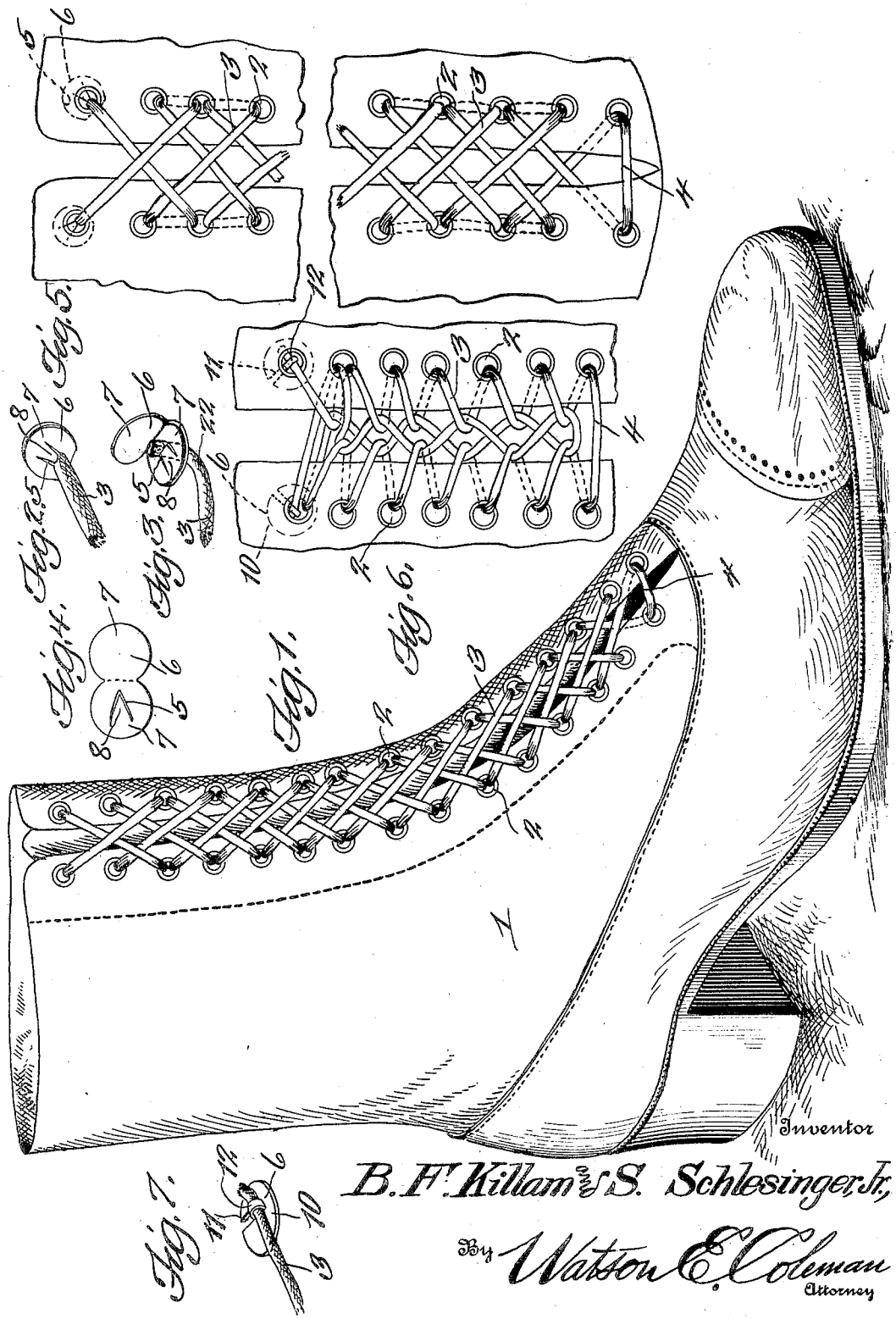
B. F. KILLAM AND S. SCHLESINGER, JR.

ELASTIC SHOE LACE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1920.

1,358,753. **Patented Nov. 16, 1920.**



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. KILLAM AND SAMUEL SCHLESINGER, JR., OF DENVER, COLORADO.

ELASTIC SHOE-LACE.

1,358,753. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 16, 1920.

Application filed May 24, 1920. Serial No. 383,856.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BENJAMIN F. KILLAM and SAMUEL SCHLESINGER, Jr., citizens of the United States, residing at Denver, in the county of Denver and State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Elastic Shoe-Laces and Fastening-Clips Therefor, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an improved elastic shoe lace, a fastening clip therefor and method of lacing and method for using the lace, and an object is to provide an article and method of this character to obviate the lacing of a shoe every time it is worn avoiding tying knots and eliminating loose, straggling ends, and the possibility of the knots becoming untied and avoiding unlacing of the shoe at night.

Another object is to provide means for holding the opposite parts of an upper of a shoe yieldably laced, thereby avoiding the elastic inserts which have been used in the opposite sides of the upper and yet at the same time to provide a lace which has the appearance of a hand laced shoe and yet permit the shoe to be pulled on and off without unlacing or lacing the shoe.

Still another object is to provide a shoe lacing device of this character which will permit the shoe to be taken off or put on in a relatively short time and to hold the upper of the shoe so that it will accommodate itself to the foot and the ankle, particularly the latter in all positions thereof.

A further object is to provide a shoe lacing device of this character which can be applied to all styles of shoes, including oxfords or low cut shoes as well as ladies' high top boots and the like, and furthermore to provide a lacing device which will be a very great help to mothers saving them the trouble of lacing shoes on the children, especially those that are not familiar with the process of lacing shoes.

A still further object is the provision of a novel form of clamp or clip to be attached to the terminals or extremity of the elastic lace to hold the lace in position and prevent it from unlacing.

While the design and construction at present illustrated and set forth is deemed preferable, it is obvious that as a result of a reduction of the invention to a more practical form for commercial purposes, the invention may be susceptible to changes, and the right to these changes is claimed, provided they are comprehended within the scope of what is claimed.

The invention comprises further features and combination of parts, as will be hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawings and claimed.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a shoe showing the method of lacing the same starting from the bottom of the shoe and passing the elastic lace in and out the various eyelets until the terminals of the lace reach the upper part of the shoe where they are provided with fasteners,

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of one end of an elastic shoe lace showing a clip or clamp as applied thereto,

Fig. 3 is a detail view of the fastener shown in Fig. 2 showing one part of the fastener open, showing how the lace is connected to the other part of the fastener,

Fig. 4 is a detail view of the blank forming the clip or fastener,

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail view of the lace shown in Fig. 1 but illustrating in dotted lines where the lace returns and engages through the skipped eyelets,

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail view in elevation of portions of the opposite sides of an upper showing a modified arrangement of lacing the shoe and in this form a different form of clip or clamp is employed; and

Fig. 7 is a detail view of the form of clip or clamp shown in Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings 1 designates a conventional form of shoe, the opposite faces of the upper of which are provided with the usual eyelets 2; and 3 denotes an elastic shoe lace to engage through the eyelets. In order to lace the shoe, the lace is started at the bottom of the shoe in the usual manner, the loop 4 being on the exterior of the shoe. The ends of the lace beyond the loop 4 are then passed from the under portions of the sides of the upper upon the exterior of the upper through certain of the eyelets, skipping others as shown and then returning to those eyelets that are skipped from the underneath of the upper, thereby bringing the opposite ends of the lace upon the exterior of the upper, and so on to the top of the shoe. The terminals of the opposite end portions of the lace are then

passed through the uppermost eyelets of the upper, and are provided with clips or clamps to hold the lace in place.

Each clip or clamp 6 consists of a sheet metal plate having substantially circular end parts 7, one end part of each clip having a V-shaped slit 5. The V-shaped prong 8 caused to be formed by the V-shaped slit 5 may be deflected outwardly to permit the extremity of the end portion of the lace to be inserted into the slit. The prong 8 is then forced back into position so that the extremity of the prong will pierce the shoe lace, thereby securely attaching the end of the lace to the clip. The other circular part of the clip is then bent upon the part having the V-shaped slit, holding a portion of the lace between the two parts flat. After lacing the shoe as previously set forth, each end of the lace is supplied with a clip or clamp, which remains permanently attached to the lace until the lace is completely worn out. A shoe laced in this manner will permit the shoe to be taken on and off without unlacing, and will take the place of the shoes having the elastic inserts in the side of the upper, and still give the appearance of a hand laced shoe.

Also in the drawings there is shown a modified method of lacing the shoe which consists in fastening or attaching the clip to one end of the lace. The other end of the lace is then passed through the topmost eyelet of the right hand side of the upper, and then passes consecutively through the eyelet below, arranging the lace in the loops on the right hand side of the upper, then the remaining part of the lace is passed across to the left hand side of the upper as indicated at 4 and upwardly through the eyelets of the left hand side of the upper, thereby forming the lace into additional loops as shown in Fig. 6. The remaining part of the lace is then brought across toward the right hand side of the upper and passed downwardly through the loops of both sides of the upper alternately from one to the other, skipping every other loop and then upwardly through the loops from one to the other, after which a fastener is attached to the extremity of the remaining portion of the lace. However, before attaching the last mentioned fastener or clip, the slack in the lace is drawn up and the surplus of the lace is cut off after which the clip is attached to the extremity.

These downwardly and upwardly extending parts of the said other end of the lace alternate back and forth through the loops, and the extremity of said other end at the other side of the upper is then equipped with a clip. In this modified arrangement of lace, a different form of clip or clamp is applied. This form of clamp comprises a sheet metal plate 10 which may be any suitable shape or configuration and is provided with a pair of parallel slits 11, and the tongue 12 caused to be formed by the slits is bent laterally and upon itself and upon the extremity of the lace, thereby clamping the lace to the plate, hence preventing the end of the lace from being pulled through the eyelet.

The invention having been set forth, what is claimed as new and useful is:—

1. In a device as set forth, an elastic shoe lace being folded to form a loop at the lower part of the upper of a shoe, portions of the lace beyond the loop passing from under the upper upon the exterior of the upper, skipping certain of the eyelets, being returned to the eyelets which are skipped and so on, thereby lacing the opposite sides of the upper, the terminals of the end portions of the lace having means to prevent the extremities of the end portions of the lace from pulling through the eyelets at the upper part of the upper.

2. A method for lacing the upper of a shoe which first consists in folding the lace engaging the opposite parts of the folded lace through the lowermost eyelets of the shoe, then passing from the under portion of the sides of the upper upon the exterior of the upper through certain of the eyelets, skipping others thereof, then returning and passing through the skipped eyelets, and so on throughout the full length of the opposite sides of the upper, and finally relatively fixing the extremities of the opposite end portions of the lace and to prevent the extremities from pulling through the upper part of the upper.

3. In a device as set forth, an elastic shoe lace being folded to form a loop at the lower portion of the upper of the shoe, each portion of the lace beyond the loop passing from under the interior face of one side of the upper to and upon the exterior surface of the opposite side of the upper, said portion of the lace skipping certain of the eyelets when extending from one side of the upper to the other and being returned to and through the eyelets which are skipped, thereby lacing the opposite sides of the upper, and means clamped on the extremities of the lace to prevent the opposite portions of the lace from pulling through the eyelets at the upper part of the upper.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures.

BENJAMIN F. KILLAM.
SAMUEL SCHLESINGER, Jr.