

No. 883,281.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

L. L. BLOOMINGTON,
SHOE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1906.

Fig.2.

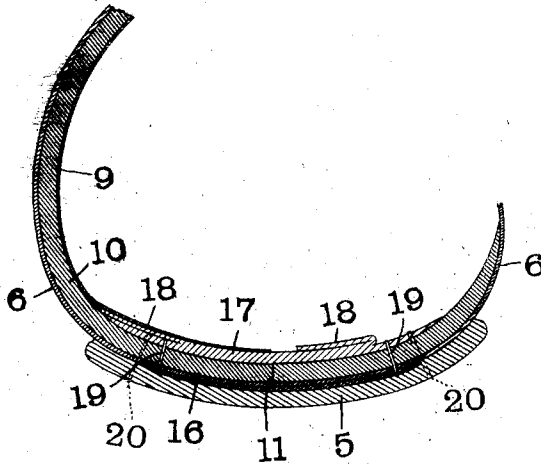


Fig.1.

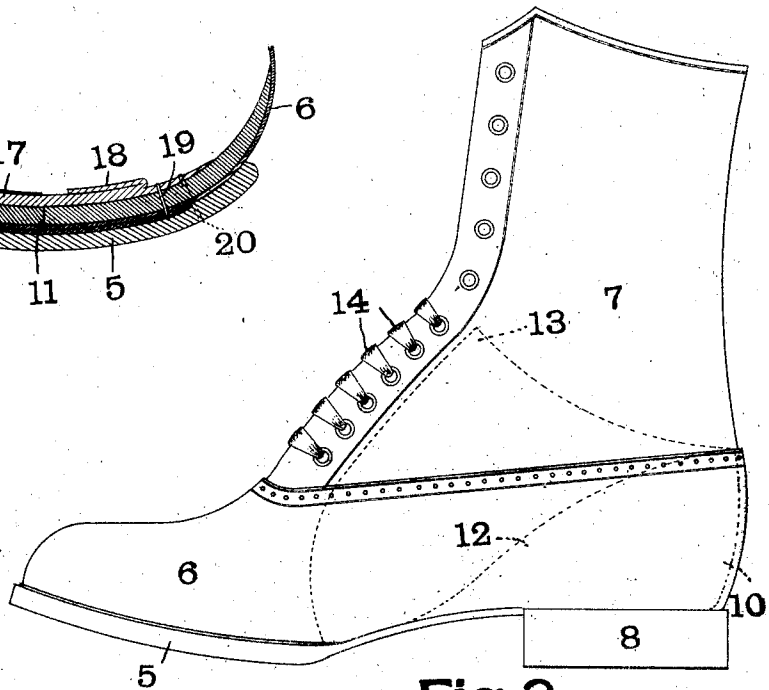
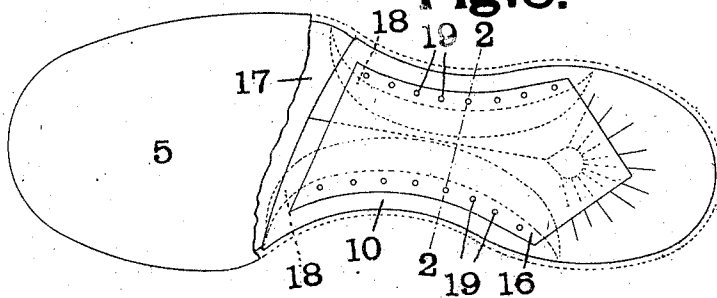


Fig.3.



WITNESSES:

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SHOE.

No. 883,281.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed March 28, 1906. Serial No. 308,514.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD L. BLOOMINGTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Shoe, of which the following is such a full, clear, and exact description as will enable any one skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to a shoe, and more particularly to the form of counter, by means of which the metatarsal bones below and in front of the ankle are supported on the inner side and bottom, so as to prevent the arch or instep of the foot from sinking downwardly and inwardly either on account of natural weakness of the foot, or from excessive walking or standing upon the feet.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate one form of shoe made in accordance with my invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the complete shoe; Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3, and Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view, a part of the outer sole being broken away.

Like marks of reference refer to similar parts in the several views of the drawings.

5 represents the outer sole; 6 the vamp; 7 the quarter or upper, and 8 the heel, and 9 the lining, all of which may be of any usual form, as these parts in themselves form no part of my invention.

10 is the counter, which is preferably formed of a single piece of sole leather embracing the heel and bottom of the foot. The lower edges of the counter 10 meet at the line 11 in the bottom, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. The outer side of the counter 10 curves downwardly from the heel toward the ball of the foot, as indicated by dotted line at 12 in Fig. 1. The inner side of the counter 10, however, extends upwardly, below and in front of the ankle, its highest point 13 terminating substantially in front of the ankle, as indicated in Fig. 1. This upward extension thus embraces the metatarsal bones so as to support the same on the inner side. Owing to its shape, however, it does not encounter the ankle. It is held in place around the foot by the lacing 14, and can thus be regulated as desired.

16 is a support or stiffener formed of spring metal and preferably of steel. This stiffener

16 supports the bottom of the foot and also serves to bind the meeting edges of the counter 10 to the inner sole 17. The inner sole 17 is cut inwardly from the edges so as to form integral flaps 18, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, and in full lines in Fig. 2.

19 represents nails or tacks, by means of which the stiffener 16, counter 10 and inner sole 17 are secured together.

In making the form of shoe illustrated in the drawing, the counter is inserted between the upper leather and lining of the shoe. The inner sole is placed on the last in the usual manner, the edges of the counter are drawn close together, *i. e.* the counter is lasted in shape, and the stiffener 15 placed in position on the bottom of the counter. The stiffener, counter and inner sole are now secured together by any suitable means, such, for instance, as the nails or tacks 19. It will be understood, of course, that both of the flaps 18 have been turned back as illustrated on the right hand side of Fig. 2. After the shoe is completed, however, these flaps are turned back into their original position and glued or otherwise secured down so as to cover the fastening means 19 and thus present a smooth surface on the inside of the shoe. After the parts have been secured together, as above described, the outer sole 5 and heel 8 are placed in position and secured in any suitable manner, as, for instance, by stitching or tacking 20 passing through and through, as shown in Fig. 2.

The bottom of the counter 10 and the stiffener 16 form an efficient support for the bottom of the instep or arch of the foot, while the upwardly extending portion 13 of the counter effectively supports the inner side of the arch or instep and may be perfectly adjusted to the foot by means of the lacing 14.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a shoe, the combination with the vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter extending around the heel below the ankle, and thence increasing in height toward the instep whereby a support for the arch of the foot is formed.

2. In a shoe, the combination with the vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter extending around the heel and thence upwardly and forwardly on the inner side to a

point in front of the ankle and the outer side of which inclines forwardly and downwardly from the heel.

3. In a shoe, the combination with the
5 vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter
the inner side of which inclines upwardly
and forwardly from the heel to a point in
front of the ankle and thence downwardly
and forwardly adjacent to the lace of the
10 quarter.

4. In a shoe, the combination with the
vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter
the inner side of which inclines upwardly
and forwardly from the heel to a point in
15 front of the ankle and thence downwardly
and forwardly adjacent to the lace of the
quarter, and the outer side of which inclines
forwardly and downwardly from the heel.

5. In a shoe, the combination with the

vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter 20
the edges of which meet at the bottom, the
inner side of said counter being inclined up-
wardly and forwardly to a point in front of
the ankle, and a spring metal stiffener se-
cured to the bottom of said counter.

6. In a shoe, the combination with the 25
vamp, quarter and outer sole, of a counter
the edges of which meet at the bottom, the
inner side of said counter being inclined up-
wardly and forwardly to a point in front of 30
the ankle, and the outer side of which is in-
clined forwardly and downwardly from the
heel, and a spring metal stiffener secured to
the bottom of said counter.

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Witnesses:

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