

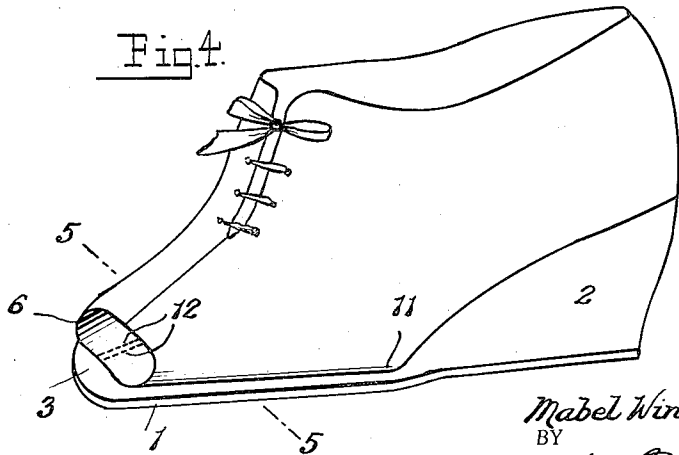
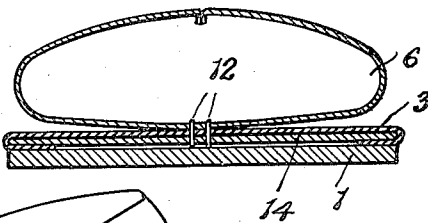
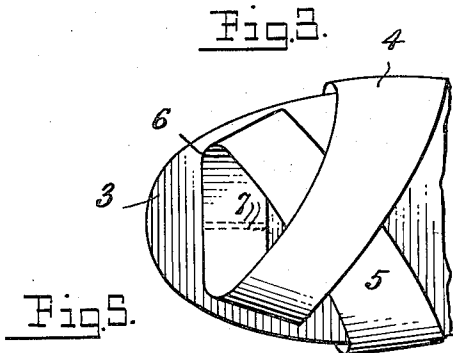
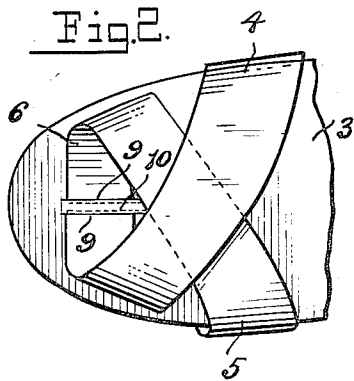
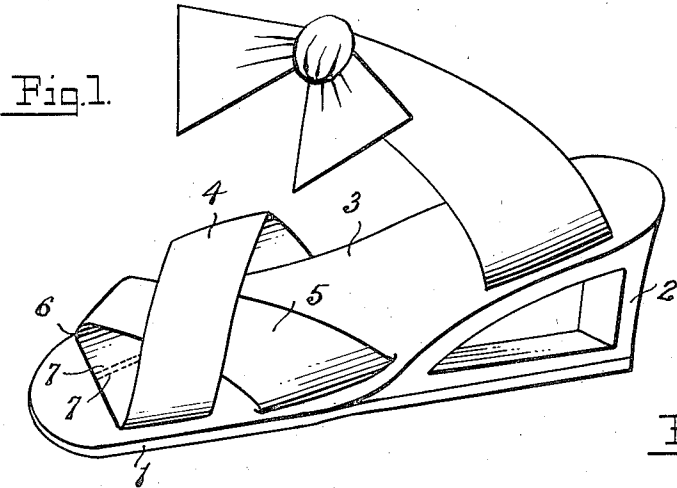
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SHOE

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2,234,066

SHOE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

This invention relates to shoes and has for its primary object the provision of a shoe providing extraordinary wearing comfort.

In all shoes of the conventional construction, the vamp portion is attached to the sole by stitching or other fastening means extending around the edges of the vamp and securing the same to the sole adjacent to the edges of the sole. Such an attachment of the vamp portion of the shoe upper to the sole provides a housing for the toes which while possessing a certain degree of flexibility within the confines of the stitching or fastening means extending about its edges, nevertheless fails to provide free lateral flexibility to the toe-enclosing or vamp part of the shoe.

It is to enhance this flexibility that this construction is intended, and also to provide conformability of the shoe to the toe portion of the foot, resulting in greater comfort in wear.

More particularly, the invention contemplates the provision of a shoe having a vamp portion attached to the sole or to the insole and sock-lining by one or more lines of stitching extending along or adjacent to the longitudinal center line of the shoe. Such a "single-point" attachment of the vamp portion of the shoe provides ready conformability of the vamp portion of the shoe to the part of the foot which it encloses. It permits lateral distortion of such portions of the vamp as may be necessary to enable that portion of the shoe to conform to irregularities in toe formation, and affords comfort in the toe portion of the shoe heretofore unknown.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the vamp portion of the shoe, showing one means of attaching the vamp portion to the sole; Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the method of attaching the vamp as is disclosed in Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a different style of shoe, showing the invention incorporated therein; and Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

With reference to the construction shown in Fig. 1, 1 indicates the sole of the shoe and 2 the heel, the same being of conventional construction and having its upper face covered by the usual insole 14 (Fig. 5) enclosed and covered by the sock-lining 3. While the shoes shown in the accompanying drawing are of novel design, it will be understood that the general design of the shoes disclosed forms no part of the present invention, the same relating to the affixment of the vamp portion of the shoe to the sole.

In the type of shoe shown in Fig. 1, the upper consists primarily of the crossed strap portions 4, 5 which co-operate in the formation of a toe-embracing portion 6, which is in the form of a loop and extends completely around the front or toe portion of the foot. This toe embracing portion of the shoe is secured solely to the insole and sock-lining at a single central longitudinal line of the shoe by one or more lines of stitching or other fastening means as indicated at 7. The location of the securing stitches 7 is such that the same are disposed at or adjacent the center line of the shoe, so that the entire toe embracing portion of the shoe is, except for this "single-point" attachment, free of securement to the sole of the shoe and may thus, without restraint, shape itself readily to the irregularities in the forward portion of the foot.

In the structure shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the toe-embracing portion 6 of the shoe is attached to the sole portion by being stitched through the sock-lining 3 and insole 14. In the modified construction shown in Fig. 2 spaced slits 9 are provided in the sock-lining and insole, and the ends of the strap portions 4 and 5 are inserted in said slits and secured therein by the lines of stitching 10. Any other method of attaching the toe-embracing portion of the shoe to the sole may be employed, providing that the location of the point or points of attachment of the toe-embracing portion to the sole be well inwardly toward the center line of the shoe so that the major portion of the under surface of the foot in the toe-embracing portion of the shoe is free from attachment to the sole of the shoe.

In Fig. 4 another type of shoe is disclosed in which the invention is employed. Therein the entire upper of the shoe, from the rear end of the same to the point indicated at 11 is attached to the sole and heel of the shoe in the conventional way, namely, by attachment of its edges to the sole and heel of the shoe. However, from the point 11 forwardly through the toe-embracing portion of the shoe, the shoe upper is attached solely along its longitudinal center line, as by the lines of stitching 12, thereby providing in a shoe of this type, the conformability of the toe-embracing portion readily attained in the sandal type of Fig. 1.

As heretofore stated, the invention may be readily incorporated in shoes of almost any design, those herein shown being merely illustrative of several designs in which the invention may be utilized and are not to be taken as limiting the use of the invention to such types of shoes.

Moreover, in herein stating that the toe-embracing portion of the shoe is solely attached to the sole by "single-point" attachment, we do not mean to limit the said attachment to the use of a single line of stitching extending down the center or medium line of the shoe, but wish this term to include any attachment of the toe-embracing portion to the shoe which is remote from the edges of the sole so that an appreciable portion of the under surface of the foot in the toe portion thereof is not confined flatwise against the sole by the restraint of the toe-embracing portion of the shoe.

What we claim is:

1. A shoe having an upper including a toe-embracing portion, a sole to which a portion of the upper is attached, the toe-embracing portion having the part which extends on the under side of the foot attached to the sole solely along the central longitudinal line of the sole.

2. A shoe having an upper including a toe-embracing portion, a sole to which a portion of the

upper is conventionally attached, the toe-embracing portion having the part which extends on the under side of the foot attached to the sole only by one or more adjacent lines of stitching extending adjacent to the central longitudinal line of the sole.

3. In a shoe a sole, an upper attached thereto, said upper including a toe-embracing portion having the part which extends on the under side of the foot attached to the sole solely at the center of the toe-embracing portion.

4. A shoe having an upper, a sole to which the upper is secured, said upper having a toe-embracing portion, stitching extending through the lower part of the toe-embracing portion, and attaching it to the sole, said stitching being located adjacent to the central longitudinal line of the sole and constituting the sole means of attaching the toe-embracing portion of the upper to the sole.

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