Feb. 16, 1954 J. J. MARX 2,669,035

LIGHTWEIGHT BOOT HAVING CONSTRICTING TIE

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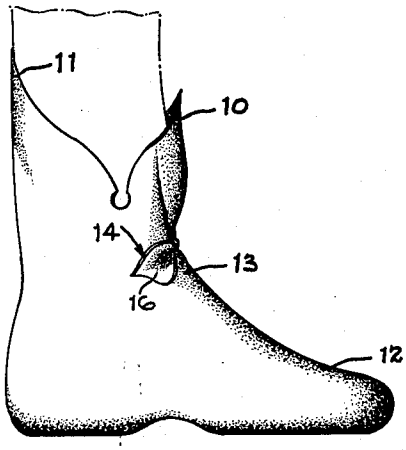

Fig. 1

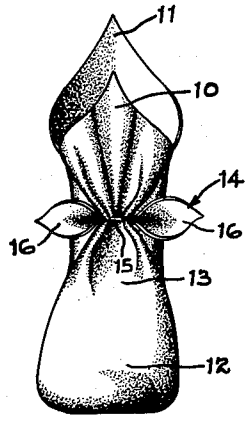

Fig. 2

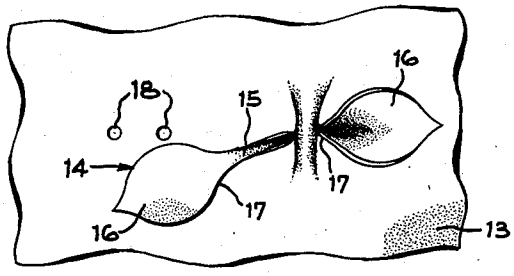

Fig. 3

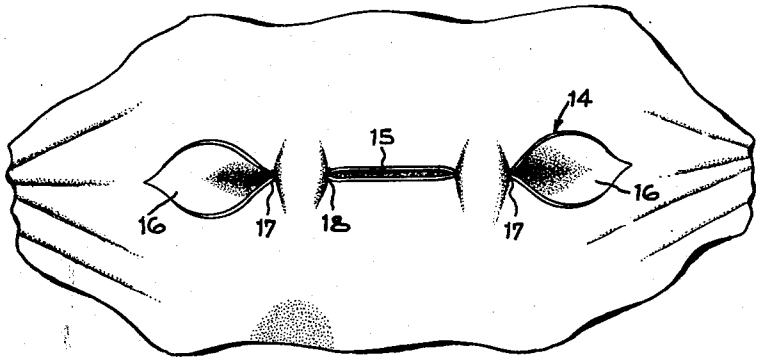

Fig. 4

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LIGHTWEIGHT BOOT HAVING CONSTRICTING TIE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36—7.3)

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This invention relates to light latex boots of approximately ankle height which are particularly suitable for the attire of ladies. These boots are so light in nature that they may be folded up and carried in a lady's purse, yet they afford protection not only for the lady's shoes, but also for the ankle portions of her stockings, particularly directly in back where splashing is most apt to take place. These ladies' boots are fabricated according to the process disclosed in application Serial No. 84,952, filed April 1, 1949, for "Rubber Footwear," now Patent Number 2,617,208, granted November 11, 1952, and application Serial No. 130,504, filed December 1, 1949, for "Rubber Boot," since abandoned.

One of the problems which is solved by the lady's boot of this invention is that of the difficulty of drawing the boot over the foot and shoe. If the ankle portion of an ordinary boot is sufficiently loose so that the boot is easily drawn over the foot and shoe, then the fit about the ankle is not only sloppy but the ankle enveloping sleeve tends to wrinkle and fall down like a loose sock. If on the other hand, the fit over the ankle portion is snug, then it is difficult for the lady to pull the boot on.

Due to the light nature of the latex film from which the boot is fabricated, it is not practical or convenient to use lacings, buckles, zippers or other heavy fastenings such as are conventionally employed for high shoes, boots and galoshes, and further, the necessity of manipulating any type of tightening or fastening device adds perceptibly to the inconvenience to the wearer of the article, particularly if manual operations in the vicinity of the feet are difficult or arduous for the wearer, as often happens in cases of arthritis and obesity.

The present invention solves this difficulty by providing a simple rubber tie which may be disposed in any location about the ankle section of the boot. The rubber tie, itself, comprises a linear rubber band which has two flared ends. This tie is passed through spaced apertures in the ankle portion, the length of the rubber band and the spacing of the apertures being such as to provide a gathering action. The flared ends take the place of knots to prevent the band from sliding through the apertures. Therefore, the unrestricted circumference of the ankle portion of the boot may be sufficient to permit the boot to be put on very easily, yet the gathering provides a snug fit about the ankle and otherwise improves the appearance of the boot. The boot stretches more easily because of the gathering due to the

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fact that only the rubber band of the tie need be stretched in pulling on the boot. The flared ends of the rubber band, in addition to their utilitarian function, provide a desirable decorative bow effect which adds appreciably to the styling of the boot.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view disclosing a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the boot shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary front elevational view illustrating the preferred method of threading the rubber tie piece in place.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary front elevational view showing the tie in stretched condition.

The boot shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings preferably is made by the methods disclosed in the patent applications referred to above; and, the boot is made initially of greater height than is shown in these figures, the upper end being shaped by cutting the latex material. The scrap material is not wasted, however, since the ties, to be described later, are cut out of these scrap parts.

Specifically, the present boot includes a front and a back peaked flap which are indicated respectively at 10 and 11. At the two sides of the boot where these two flaps meet, the rubber material is cut out circularly to relieve it of stresses caused by stretching. The two peaked flaps 10 and 11 comprise splash guards which are designed to protect ladies' stockings, the back one being higher than the front one. The back flap, in addition, serves as a convenient handle to assist in slipping the boot on.

The lower portions of the boot, that is, the shoe envelope, indicated at 12, may be made in different styles to conform to different shoe shapes, as desired. The sleeve portion of the boot, indicated at 13, which rises from the shoe envelope is made sufficiently large circumferentially so that the boot can be pulled over a shoe easily. This extra material is gathered, in the instance shown, at the front of the boot by a tie, indicated generally at 14. It will be understood, however, that the tie may be placed in any position around the sleeve; the position being dependent upon the styling desired. For example, ties may be placed on the two outer sides of a pair of boots, or even at the backs if desired. In the preferred embodiment, the tie comprises a rubber lineal band portion 15 and a pair of flared ends 16. The ends may be configurated as desired for different styling effects, as long as a shoulder portion such as the one shown at 17 is provided between the

relatively narrow lineal band portion **15** and the flared ends.

The rubber tie is threaded into place as shown in Figure 3. Two pairs of apertures **18** are cut through the latex material, in this instance at the front, with the pairs being spaced apart a sufficient distance so that when the tie **14** is in place as shown in Figure 2, the excess material of the sleeve is gathered in a pleat between them. The amount of material so gathered is dependent upon the spacing of the shoulder portions **17** of the ties, this distance being substantially less than the distance between the outer apertures of each pair **18** to provide a snug fit. When the material is gathered, the lineal band portion **15** of the tie is relaxed, however, when the boot is pulled over a shoe, it is only this portion of the boot that is stretched. The sleeve material between the pairs of apertures being gathered, simply unfolds. This condition is shown in Figure 4.

It will be appreciated that the resistance to stretching offered by the relatively thin band **15** is very slight when compared by the resistance offered by the boot material. Thus, by making the sleeve portion of the boot large enough to slip over a shoe without binding, and utilizing the tie disclosed, the boots of this invention are quite easy to put on and take off; but, at the same time, when on, fit the ankle of the wearer snugly. Besides these utilitarian features, the boots of this invention are susceptible to many modifications in styling. The boots are quite attractive with the gathered pleat located at the front as shown; but in addition to this, by utilizing the principles of the invention, pleats of other types may be formed at other places, and thus, this, in combination with different configurations for the upper end of the sleeve, makes possible an endless variety of styling changes. Also, as has been suggested above, the flaps at the two ends of the tie may be cut in different shapes as desired.

Having described my invention, I claim:

In a light-weight boot made of stretchable material, said boot having an ankle protecting sleeve which is sufficiently large circumferentially to slip over a shoe without binding, a tie for said sleeve adapted to gather said sleeve to provide a snug fit about the ankle of the wearer, said tie

being made of readily stretchable elastic sheet material configurated to provide a band portion terminating in flared end portions, said flared end portions providing shoulders at the respective ends of said band portion, said sleeve having two pairs of apertures spaced apart circumferentially, the two most distantly spaced apertures of the respective pairs of apertures being spaced apart a distance substantially greater than the length of the band portion of the tie when said tie is unstretched, the respective apertures being no greater in diameter than the width of said band portion when the sleeve portion of the boot is unrestricted but of sufficient diameter to permit a flared end portion of the tie to be forcibly threaded therethrough upon stretching of the sleeve material to enlarge the apertures and upon stretching a flared end portion of the tie lengthwise to decrease its width, said tie being threaded through both pairs of apertures and disposed with the flared end portions thereof exposed outside of the sleeve and with the shoulders at the respective ends of the band portion adjacent the two most distantly spaced of the apertures of the respective pairs to prevent the flared end portions from being withdrawn through the apertures upon stretching of the band portion incident to the slipping of the boot over a shoe.

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