Sept. 8, 1970 C. PARTAGAS 3,526,977

SAFETY SHOELACES

Filed Dec. 17, 1968

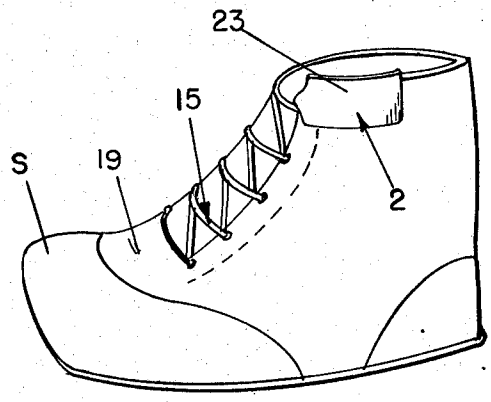


FIG. 1

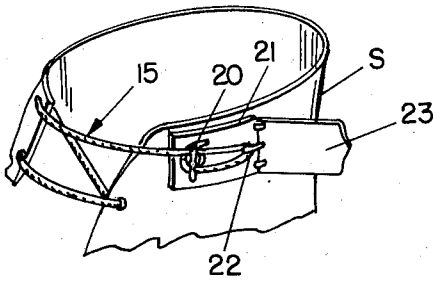


FIG. 2

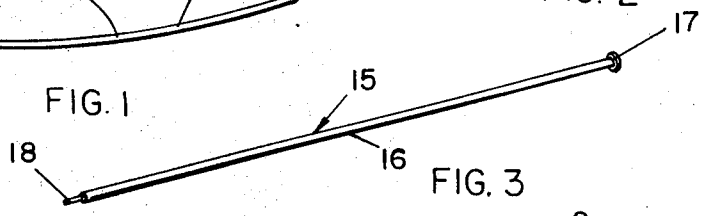


FIG. 3

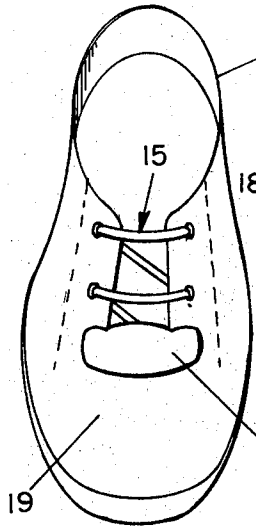


FIG. 4

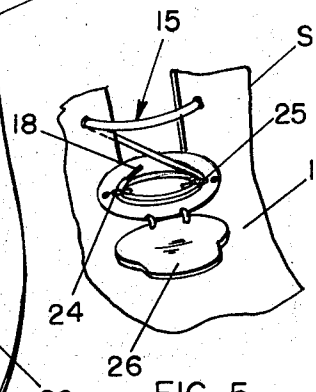


FIG. 5

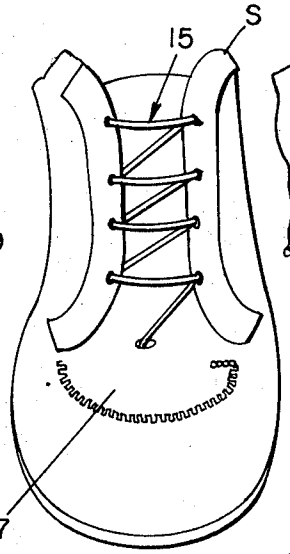


FIG. 6

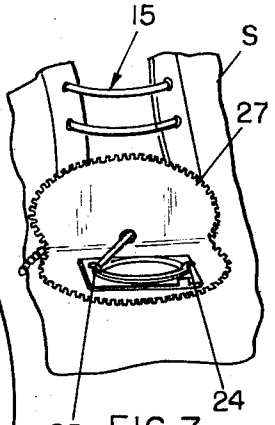


FIG. 7

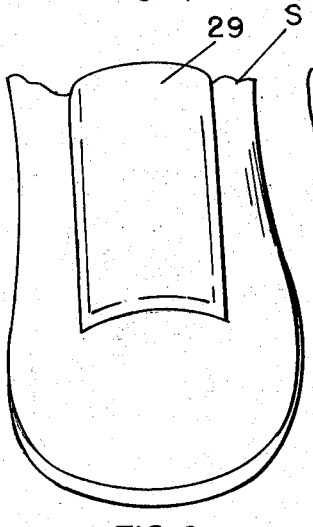


FIG. 8

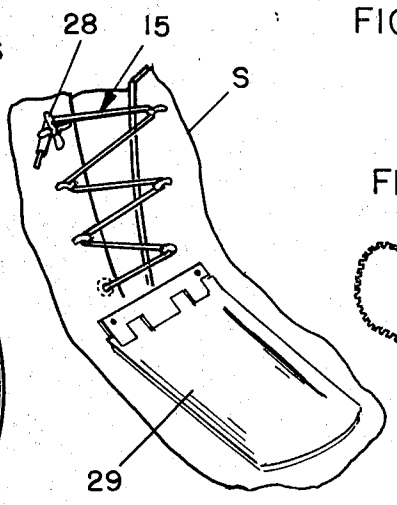


FIG. 9

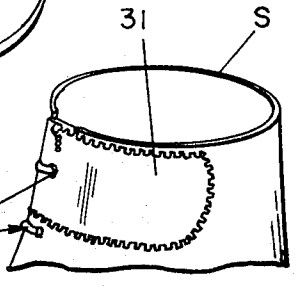


FIG. 10

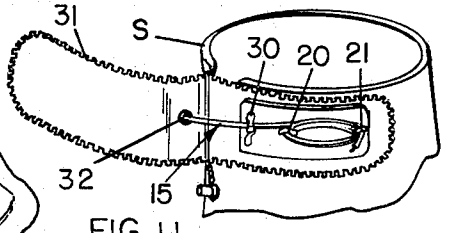


FIG. 11

INVENTOR

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United States Patent Office 3,526,977 Patented Sept. 8, 1970

3,526,977

SAFETY SHOELACES

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Filed Dec. 17, 1968, Ser. No. 784,404
Int. Cl. A43b 23/00
U.S. Cl. 36—50 2 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention consists of a shoelace having one end enlarged and the other end reduced in diameter for a predetermined length in order to be threaded through an opening in the instep of the shoe to which it is secured. The aforesaid instep of the shoe is provided with an overlapping member that is suitably secured on top of the lower end of the shoelace after the lace has secured the shoe on the foot. This is accomplished by the shoelace being wrapped around two laterally spaced hooks on the instep of the shoe. The aforesaid overlapping member of the shoe may be secured at one end to the shoe by a metal hinge, a zipper fastener, or any other desired means. The flap may be secured over the lower end of the shoelace by a zipper fastener or by any other desired means. The same form of securement of the lower end of the shoelace may be applied to the upper end of the same lace, the only difference being that the flap is located on the side and near the top of the shoe.

It is the principal object of this invention to provide a safety shoelace that will prevent one from tripping over the lace should the lace become untied.

Another object of this invention is to provide a safety shoelace that is especially adaptable to baby shoes so as to prevent the baby from removing the shoes by untieing the shoelaces.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a safety shoelace that will have a longer life than is normally possible with present day shoelaces by reason of the fact that it is not necessary to tie a knot in the lace as is now normally required in order to hold the shoe on the foot.

Other and further objects of this invention will no doubt become apparent as the reading of this specification and its appended claims proceeds and the accompanying drawing is examined.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a pictorial view of a baby's shoe having this invention of a safety shoelace thereon.

FIG. 2 is a pictorial view of that detail of this invention as indicated by the arrowed line and number 2 on FIG. 1, but with the overlapping member in an open position.

FIG. 3 is a pictorial view of the safety shoelace.

FIG. 4 is a front pictorial view of this invention with its securement at the instep of the shoe rather than at the top, as in FIGS. 1 and 2.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged front view of the lower portion of this invention, illustrated in FIG. 4, and with the flap open.

FIG. 6 is a front pictorial view of a portion of a shoe having this invention secured thereto with a zipper secured flap in a closed position.

FIG. 7 is a portion of FIG. 6 but with the zippered flap open.

FIG. 8 is a pictorial view of a portion of a shoe with another form of flap in a closed position.

FIG. 9 is a pictorial view of a portion of FIG. 8 showing the flap in an open position.

FIG. 10 is a pictorial side view of the top of a shoe having this invention secured thereto with a zippered top flap in a closed position.

FIG. 11 is a pictorial view, similar to that of FIG. 10, but with the zippered top flap in an open position.

In the different views of the accompanying drawing, the shoe is indicated by the letter S while the like parts of this invention are indicated by like reference numbers.

The reference number **15** indicates the safety shoelace that is the major part of the invention which also embodies the structure of that part of the shoe that secures the ends of the shoelace.

Looking first at FIG. 3 of the accompanying drawing, it will be seen that the aforesaid safety shoelace **15** consists of the lacing member **16** having one enlarged end **17** and the other end **18** of a slightly smaller diameter than the already mentioned lacing member **16**.

There are two ways in which this novel invention can be adapted to lace a shoe. The shoelace **15** can either be threaded in the openings in the shoe S in such a manner as to have the enlarged end **17** of the shoelace at the instep of the shoe, as in FIGS. 1 and 2, 8 and 9, and 10 and 11, or it can also be threaded in the openings in such a way that the aforesaid enlarged end **17** of the shoelace is at the top of the shoe S, as in FIGS. 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the accompanying drawing.

Directing one's attention to FIGS. 1 and 2 of the drawing, it will be seen that in the first mentioned form of adaptation of this invention, the shoe S has its shoelace **15** threaded in the openings of the shoe with the enlarged end **17** of the shoelace in one of the openings nearest the instep **19**. The other end **18** of the shoelace **15** terminates at the hook **20** that is located on the outside surface of the rectangular reinforcement **21** which is on one side and near the top of shoe S, as one can see by looking at FIG. 2 of the drawing. Here it is seen that the aforesaid shoelace is also wrapped around hook **22**. A hinged flap **23** is located at the upper edge of the shoe quarter adjacent the tongue opening and suitably covers the hook **20** and the upper end of the shoelace **15** to protect the lace from its accidentally becoming untied and tripped over or entangled with an object, thereby causing the wearer of the shoes to fall and perhaps suffer an injury.

Looking now at FIGS. 4 and 5, it will be seen that herein is illustrated a shoe S that is secured on the foot of the wearer by the shoelace **15** which has its enlarged end **17** at the top of the shoe although it is not visible in either of the two aforesaid figures of the drawing. The end **18** of the shoelace **15** is seen in FIG. 5 to be secured to hook **24** after the shoelace has been wrapped around the hook **25**. The hinged flap **26** and the two aforesaid hooks **24** and **25** are seen in FIG. 5 to be located at the aforesaid instep **19** of the shoe. FIGS. 6 and 7 of the accompanying drawing illustrate this invention embodying a zippered flap **27** that is located on the aforesaid instep **19** of the shoe S.

In the optional form of this invention, illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9 of the drawing, the shoelace **15** is seen in FIG. 9 to have its end member **18** wrapped around the hook **28**, located at the top of the shoe S. The shoe is provided with a rectangular hinged flap **29** that covers all of the shoelace **15** after the shoe has been laced up on ones foot, as can be seen in FIG. 8 of the drawing.

Directing ones attention to FIGS. 10 and 11 of the drawing, it will be seen that the only difference between this form of the invention and that illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 is that a third hook **30** has been added, as one can see by looking at FIG. 11, and that a zippered flap **31** is used instead of the aforesaid hinged flap **23**. When the zippered flap **31** is used, the flap is provided with an opening **32** through which the upper end of the shoe-

lace **15** is threaded before it is wrapped around the aforesaid hooks **30**, **20**, and **21**.

This invention is subject to any and all changes in detail construction and/or modifications that one may care to make in the same in so long as the changes and/or modifications fall within the scope and intent of the appended claims. This invention can be adapted to shoes for either sex of any style of shoe requiring a shoelace. The shoe and shoelace can be made of any desired material and in any size and/or color. The shoelace can be of any desired cross-sectional configuration.

What I now claim as new is:

1. In combination a safety shoelace and a shoe, said shoe having a vamp, a quarter, a tongue and tongue opening, one or more hooks secured to said quarter adjacent the tongue opening, at least one of said hooks being located adjacent the top edge of the quarter, the said shoelace embodying structure at one end adapted to prevent the said shoelace from becoming disconnected from the shoe to which the said shoelace is secured; and the other end of the said shoelace having structure adapted to secure the said shoelace to said one or more hooks; and a flap hinged to the upper edge of the quarter adjacent the tongue opening to cover the said hooks and

said other end of the said shoelace after the shoe has been laced on the foot.

2. The invention of claim **1**, wherein the said hinged flap and the upper of the shoe are provided with cooperating zipper elements for securing the said flap in closed position.

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ALFRED R. GUEST, Primary Examiner