M. NIÉLL.

LACE CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1917.

1,249,461. Patented Dec. 11, 1917.

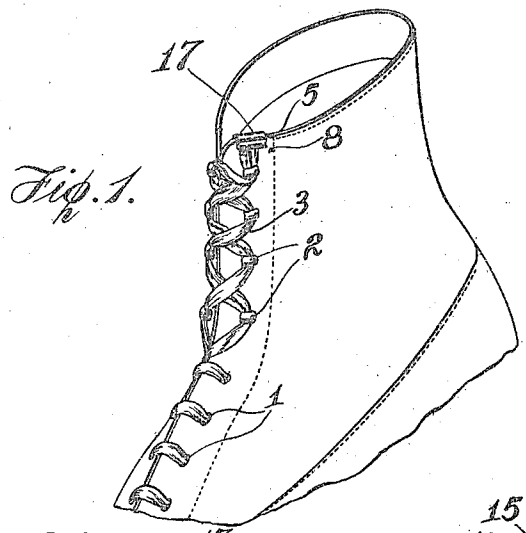


Fig. 1.

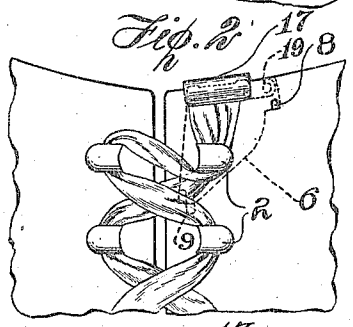


Fig. 2.

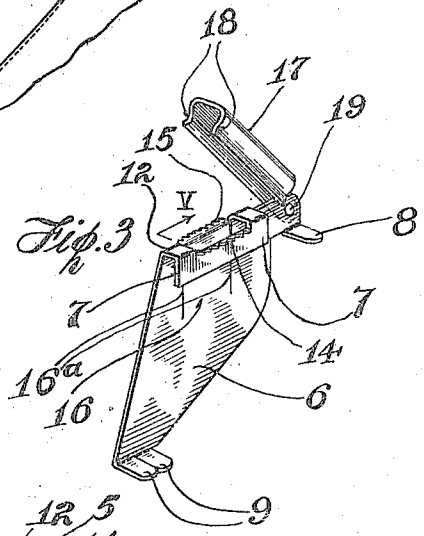


Fig. 3.

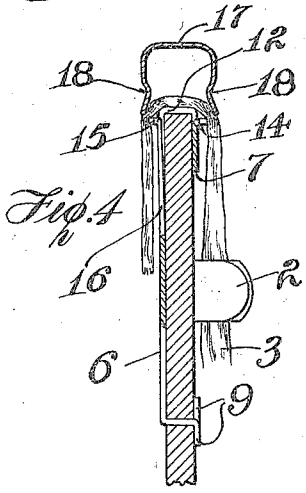


Fig. 4.

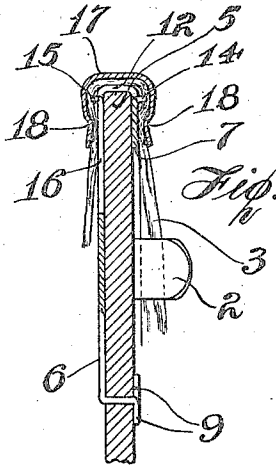


Fig. 5.

Inventor

Magnus Niell

By

Attorney

Thurston Jenner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAGNUS NIÉLL, OF STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

LACE-CLASP.

1,249,461. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 11, 1917.

Application filed May 31, 1917. Serial No. 171,837.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAGNUS NIÉLL, a subject of the King of Sweden, and resident of 54 Kungsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden, have invented the following described Improvements in Lace-Clasps.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, efficient and inconspicuous device on a shoe for securely holding and neatly disposing of the ends of the laces so as to prevent their coming loose and to avoid the need for tying them. The device is a clasp embracing the edge of the shoe-top at one side of the lacing opening and operating to pinch or clip the laces thereover, and also capable of use for holding laces for other purposes.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the form of the invention at present preferred.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper part of a high lace shoe with the device applied;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation on larger scale;

Fig. 3 is a large scale perspective view of the open clasp before atachment to the shoe-top;

Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section through the clasp and shoe-upper as on line V of Fig. 3, the lace ends being shown in position and the clamp member in the act of closing thereon; and

Fig. 5 is a similar view with the clamp closed.

These views show an ordinary boot or high lace shoe with lacing eyelets 1, lacing hooks 2, and laces 3. The preferred position of the improved lace clamp is at the edge 5 of the shoe upper or other laced body, at one side of the lacing opening and preferably directly above, or slightly inward of, one of the rows of lacing hooks. In this position it is least conspicuous.

The stationary part of the clasp as shown comprises a flat and generally triangular plate 6 with its upper margin bent over into a hooked-shaped form constituting what may be termed a saddle portion 7 (Fig. 3) and attached to the rear face of the shoe-upper with said saddle portion fitted over the edge thereof. The attachment is made by means of tanks on the plate marked 8 and 9 of which the latter is desirably double-pronged and located at the inner lower corner of the plate 6 and its prongs which project to the outside of the upper are bent in opposite directions, as indicated. In this position and although on the outside of the shoe the said prongs are substantially covered and concealed by the laces. The other tang 8, at the opposite corner of the plate similarly projects to the outside of the shoe but being small and close to the edge of the upper is unnoticeable. By reason of the triangular shape of the plate and the hooked engagement of the saddle part with the shoe, two tangs such as just described provide adequate security of attachment.

The top 12 of the saddle 7 is cut away and the longitudinal margins of the opening are bent respectively outward and inward of the shoe, forming detent means or grips 14 and 15 which are preferably, though not necessarily, serrated. The plate 6 is slitted to a suitable depth at the ends of the inner grip 15 forming a spring tongue 16, to carry the grip 15, and which is given a slight set inward from the plane of the plate, for the sake of resilience as presently explained. The slits are marked 16^a.

The movable member of the clasp is a channel type of clamp 17, relatively rigid in structure and hinged to the plate 6 or an extension thereof, by a small rivet 19, and so as to swing in the plane of the plate, and it is adapted to be pressed down and over the grips 14 and 15 so as to cover them as indicated in Figs. 1, 2 and 5. The sides of the clamp member are longitudinally contracted or ribbed as indicated at 18, and these ribs are designed to engage and ride over the grips or detents 14 and 15 with somewhat of a snap action. When the clamp member is raised or open the laces are drawn from the last lacing hook over the grips and tucked down inside the shoe, and the clamp is then closed upon them. The ribs 18 thereby press the laces with a rubbing action upon the grips 14 and 15 and into the teeth thereof, and the grips, yield toward each other, more or less, depending upon the thickness of the laces. Such yielding occurs in part by the metallic resilience of the plate and the spring tongue 16 and also from the compression of the material of the shoe-upper which intervenes between the grips, and some of the yield may be accommodated by the channel clamp 17. The resulting effect is to pinch the laces at two points and retain them securely as will now be apparent. Such effect is entirely independent, within limits, of the thickness of the laces since permanent distortion of the grips is prevented by the

backing or support provided by the shoe upper.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A lace clasp comprising a fixed part formed for attachment to a shoe top or like body at one side of the lacing opening, and a clamp member constructed to embrace the edge of the said top or body, the fixed member and a lace placed thereover.

2. A lace clasp comprising a plate member having means whereby it is attached flat to a shoe upper or like laced body, and a movable clamp member moving in the general plane of the plate and formed to clamp the lace over the marginal portion thereof.

3. A lace clasp comprising a fixed member adapted to be applied to the inner face of a shoe top or like body so as to be concealed from the exterior, and a movable channel-type clamp member movable in the plane of the shoe top into and out of embracing relation to the fixed member and adapted to clamp a lace placed over the same.

4. In a lace end clasp, the combination of a fixed member consisting of a plate applicable flatwise to a laced body and bent at the top to form a hook-shaped saddle portion fitting over the edge of said body, and a clamp pivoted to the fixed member and constructed to clamp a lace end against the saddle portion.

5. The combination in a lace end clasp of a fixed member adapted to be secured to a laced body and formed with a spring portion backed by the material of said body and provided with detent means, and a channel clamp pivoted to swing in the general plane of the laced body and embrace the edge thereof and the spring portion in the presence of the lace, and formed to lock with said detent means to hold the clamp in locking position.

6. A lace end clasp for laced bodies comprising a compressible member fixed to and embracing the edge of the body, and a relatively rigid channel type clamp constructed to embrace the compressible member and a lace placed thereover.

7. A lace end clasp for shoes comprising a substantially triangular plate member having attachment tangs at its corners and a saddle portion to fit over the edge of the shoe upper, in combination with means for clamping the shoe lace upon said plate member.

In testimony wherof, I have signed this specification.

MAGNUS NIÉLL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."