May 18, 1948. A. R. SCHOENKY 2,441,646

COUNTER STIFFENER AND METHOD OF INSERTING IT IN SHOES

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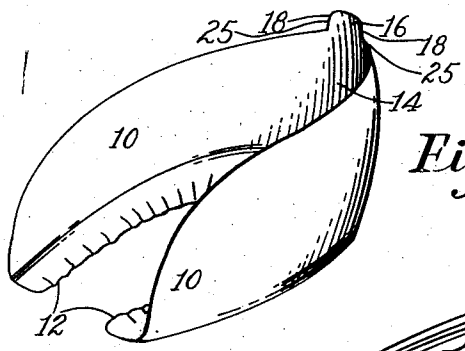


Fig1

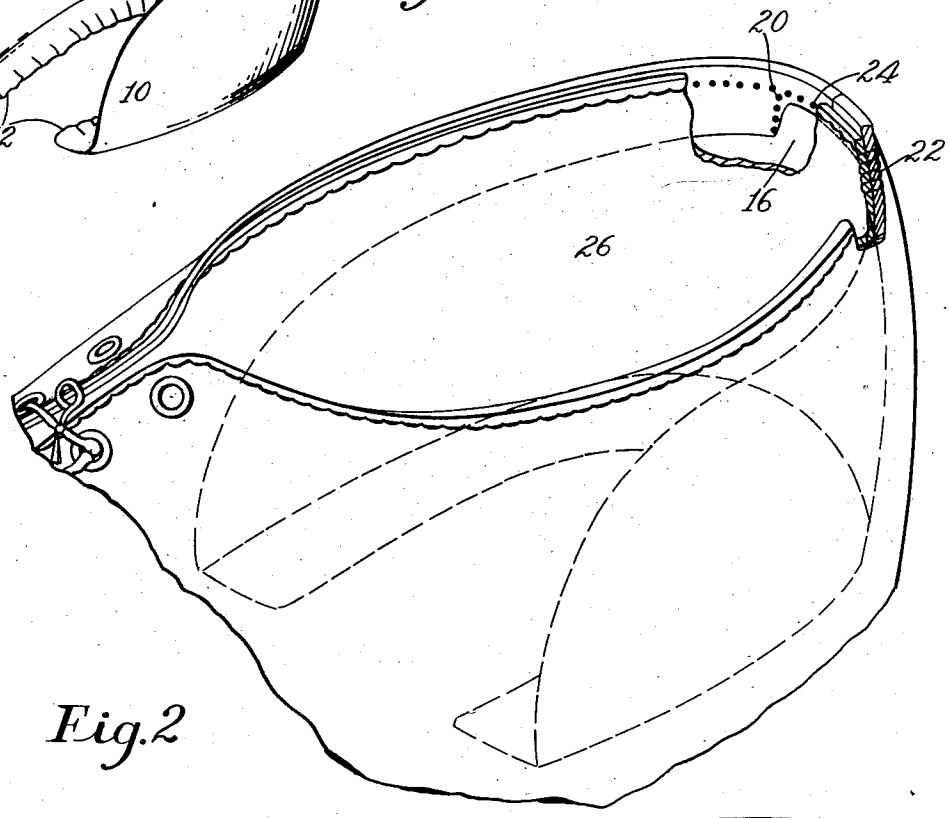


Fig.2

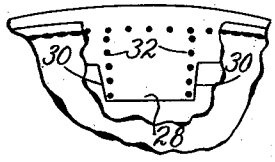


Fig.4

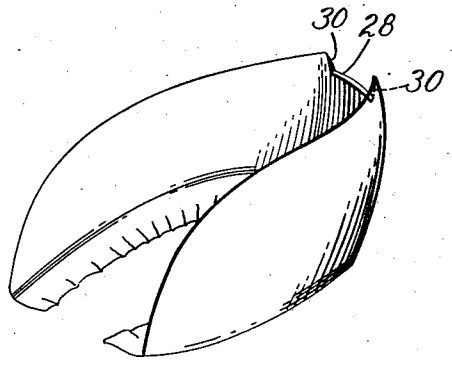


Fig. 3

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COUNTER STIFFENER AND METHOD OF INSERTING IT IN A SHOE

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12 Claims. (Cl. 36—68)

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This invention relates to a counter stiffener and the method of inserting it in a shoe and is herein illustrated in its application to the construction of the rear or quarter portion of a lined shoe.

In the commercial manufacture of lined shoes provided with heel stiffeners, or counters, the counter is manually inserted into the upper, and the accuracy of the location of the counter relatively to the upper is dependent entirely upon the skill and care exercised by the workmen performing the assembling operation, hereinafter referred to as the assembler. It is important that the assembler position the counter accurately in the rear part of the upper since there is no opportunity after the assembling operation has been performed for adjusting the position of the counter. Numerous difficulties in the manufacture of the shoe invariably arise from the misplacement of counters, involving, for example, the side lasting, heel end lasting, and heel attaching operations; and the completed shoe is likely to have numerous minor defects as a result of the misplacement of the counter even if the operations subsequent to assembling are performed with a high degree of care and skill.

It is an object of the present invention to improve the construction of the upper and the counter so as to aid the assembler in accurately positioning the counter in the upper. It is a further object of the invention to facilitate and expedite the assembling operation with a view to increasing the production of the assembler.

With the above objects in view the invention in one aspect thereof consists in improvements in shoe construction wherein the quarter lining and the upper are provided with fastening means arranged to engage a portion of a heel stiffener inserted between the upper and lining and accurately to locate the stiffener both widthwise and heightwise thereof relatively to the upper and wherein the heel stiffener is characterized by a structure whereby it is registrable with said fastening means. The back line of the upper is employed as a reference line to determine the position of the counter in the upper, the back line being the line of the back seam securing the quarters together. For purposes of description it is assumed that the counter has a similar back line, said back line in the case of the counter being a line which would register exactly with the back line of the upper when the counter is accurately located in assembled position in the upper.

The counter locating fastenings provided in

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the quarter portion of the upper preferably extend heightwise of the upper for locating engagement with portions of a counter characterized by edges arranged to engage said fastenings, said edges being offset relatively to the top edge of the counter. Two forms of counter construction are herein illustrated in one of which the positioning edges of the counter are the opposite side edges of a tab projecting upwardly from the top margin of the counter, while in the other construction the positioning edges are the opposite side edges of a recess in the top margin of the counter. Preferably the tab or the recess is centrally located with relation to the back line of the counter.

In another aspect thereof the invention consists in an improvement in shoe construction comprising a lined upper, a counter characterized by a locating tab projecting upwardly from its top edge, and means incorporated in the rear portion of the upper for determining the position of the tab therein. In the illustrated construction the stitches in the upper providing the means for locating the tab of the counter provide a pocket between the upper and the lining into which the assembler may readily insert the tab of the counter in the course of the assembling operation.

In another aspect thereof the invention provides a method of making shoes which consists in the provision in the marginal portion of an upper and a quarter lining of fastenings providing means for registering a counter in the upper, and so inserting a counter between the upper and lining that it is located circumferentially thereof relatively to the upper by said fastenings. If desired, the fastenings may also serve to determine the heightwise position of the counter.

These and other features of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a molded counter incorporating features of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a lined upper provided with a molded counter such as that illustrated in Fig. 1, the top margin of the quarter lining at the back line portion of the upper being broken away to show a portion of the counter;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating an alternative counter construction; and

Fig. 4 illustrates part of the top margin of a lined upper at the back line portion thereof, the top margin of the lining being broken away to illustrate a portion of a counter of the type illustrated in Fig. 3.

In Fig. 1 there is illustrated a molded counter of the type commonly provided for shoes having lasted-in heel seats, said counter having molded wings 10 and a molded inturned flange 12 which are of usual construction. The rear or back line portion 14 is extended upwardly to provide a novel tab 16 which, as herein illustrated, is substantially wider than it is high and is provided with rounded corners 18 to facilitate its insertion into the rear or quarter portion of the upper.

In inserting the counter illustrated in Fig. 1 into the lined upper illustrated in Fig. 2, the tab 16 is inserted into a pocket formed by two short rows of stitches 20 and 22 extending through the upper and lining and arranged generally heightwise of the rear part of the upper at opposite sides of, and spaced equally distant from, the back line of the upper. The rows of stitches 20 and 22 extend upwardly to the seam 24 securing the top margin of the lining to the upper. That portion of the seam 24 lying between the two rows of stitches 20 and 22 forms the base of the pocket within which the tab 16 is inserted. In inserting the counter into the upper the opposite side edges 25 of the tab engage the stitches 20 and 22 to center the tab relatively to the back line of the upper, and the top edges of the body portion of the counter adjacent to the tab engage the end stitches of the short seams 20 and 22 to locate the counter heightwise relatively to the upper.

In assembling the upper shown in Fig. 2 and the counter shown in Fig. 1, the quarter lining 26 is first drawn through the ankle opening of the upper to facilitate the insertion of the counter into the rear portion of the upper. The counter, which preferably has been coated with a suitable adhesive, is then advanced into the interior of the rear portion of the shoe, the back line of the counter being maintained as near as possible to a position of registration with the back line of the upper. During the latter part of the movement of the counter into the upper the tab 16 will readily enter the pocket in the rear portion of the upper. As the tab is seated in the pocket it will be located heightwise and also centrally with relation to the back line of the upper. After so seating the tab 16 in the pocket in the upper, all that is required to bring the counter into correct relation to the upper is to swing the counter slightly widthwise of the upper, as may be required, to cause the back line of the counter to register with the back line of the upper throughout its entire length. While this calls for the exercise of skill on the part of the assembler the degree of skill required is substantially lessened by the provision of the illustrated means for insuring an accurate registration of the top margin of the counter in the top margin of the upper. Furthermore, the provision of the illustrated registering means greatly facilitates the assembling operation and appreciably increases the production obtainable by the assembler.

While the preferred form of counter registering means comprises the counter tab 16 illustrated in Fig. 1 and the tab receiving pocket illustrated in Fig. 2, it is to be understood that my invention is not limited to this type of registering means, since numerous forms of registering means would be suggested to those skilled in the art by the above disclosure. One such alternative means is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. Fig. 3 shows a molded counter having a recess 28 formed in its top margin, the opposite side edges 30 of said recess being spaced equally distant from the back line of the counter. For registering the counter centrally with relation to a lined upper, the upper is provided with two vertical rows of stitches 32 (Fig. 4) spaced equally distant from the back line of the upper. The distance between the two rows of stitches 32 is such that, upon insertion of the counter into the upper, the opposite side edges 30 of the recess in the counter come into contiguous relation to the stitches 32 which thus position the top margin of the rear portion of the counter accurately in the upper.

It will be evident that the stitches 20 and 22 in the construction illustrated in Fig. 2 or, alternatively, the stitches 32 in the construction illustrated in Fig. 4, may serve to determine the position of the counter not only widthwise thereof but also heightwise thereof in the upper, the heightwise position of the counter being determined by moving the counter upwardly into the rear portion of the upper until it is arrested by the stitches. If for any reason it should be desirable to permit the assembler some latitude in positioning the counter heightwise thereof in the upper, this may be readily achieved in the construction illustrated in Fig. 1 by cutting away small portions of the counter adjacent to the tab 16, or by shortening the two rows of stitches 20 and 22. The same result may be achieved in the construction illustrated in Fig. 4 by merely shortening the two rows of stitches 32 or, alternatively, by increasing the depth of the recess in the counter.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. In a shoe, an upper, a quarter lining, fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, a heel stiffener characterized by a structure offset relatively to the top edge of the stiffener, and fastenings other than the fastenings above mentioned arranged at opposite sides of and contiguous to said offset structure.

2. In a shoe, an upper, a quarter lining, fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and quarter lining together, a counter characterized by a structure offset relatively to the top edge of the counter, and fastenings other than the fastenings above mentioned extending heightwise of the upper and securing the upper and lining together, said last-mentioned fastenings being arranged at opposite sides of and contiguous to said offset structure.

3. In a shoe, an upper, a quarter lining, fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, a counter characterized by a structure offset relatively to the top edge of the counter, and fastenings other than the fastenings above mentioned connecting the upper and lining together and centrally located widthwise of the heel portion of the shoe, said fastenings being arranged at opposite sides of and contiguous to said offset structure.

4. In a shoe, an upper, a quarter lining, fasten-

ings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, a counter characterized by a structure offset heightwise of the shoe relatively to the top edge of the counter, and two lines of fastenings, other than the fastenings above mentioned, securing the upper and lining together and extending heightwise of the shoe, said fastenings being arranged at opposite sides of and contiguous to said offset structure.

5. In a shoe, a lined upper, fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, other fastenings constructed and arranged to locate both widthwise and heightwise of the shoe a tab projecting upwardly from a heel stiffener, and a heel stiffener having such a tab.

6. In a shoe, a lined upper, fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, other fastenings constructed and arranged to engage a heel stiffener within a recess in the top margin of the stiffener, and a heal stiffener provided with such a recess.

7. In a shoe, a lined upper, fastenings that lie parallel to the top edge of the upper and secure the top marginal portions of the upper and lining together, other fastenings constructed and arranged to engage a heel stiffener within a recess formed in the top margin of the stiffener, said recess having opposite side edges and a bottom edge, said other fastenings being arranged to engage said opposite side edges and said bottom edge of said recess thereby to locate the stiffener both widthwise and heightwise thereof relatively to the upper, and a heel stiffener provided with such a recess.

8. In a shoe, a lined upper, a heel stiffener characterized by a locating tab projecting upwardly from its top edge, and means incorporated in the rear portion of the upper and arranged to engage the tab thereby to determine the position of the tab in the upper.

9. In a shoe, a lined upper, a heel stiffener characterized by a locating tab projecting upwardly from its top edge, and means incorporated in the upper providing a pocket for receiving the tab and locating it relatively to the upper.

10. In a shoe, a lined upper, a heel stiffener having a locating tab projecting upwardly from its top edge at the back line of the stiffener, and means incorporated in the upper providing a pocket in the top margin of the upper in the region of the back line for determining the location of said tab relatively to the upper.

11. That method of making shoes which comprises securing together the top margins of an upper and a quarter lining by fastenings which lie parallel to the top edge of the upper, securing the upper and lining together by fastenings other than those above defined, inserting a heel stiffener between the upper and the quarter lining, and positioning said stiffener both widthwise and heightwise relatively to the upper by bringing an offset structure of the stiffener into engagement with the last-mentioned fastenings.

12. That method of making shoes which comprises providing a lined upper having fastenings securing the lining and upper together and arranged to provide a pocket for the reception of a tab projecting from the upper margin of a heel stiffener and inserting such a heel stiffener between the lining and upper in such a manner that the tab is seated in the pocket and thus positioned widthwise thereof relatively to the upper.

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Administratrix of the Estate of August R. Schoenky, Deceased.

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