Dec. 16, 1941. B. RZEPA 2,266,083

SECURING MEANS FOR SHOES OR THE LIKE

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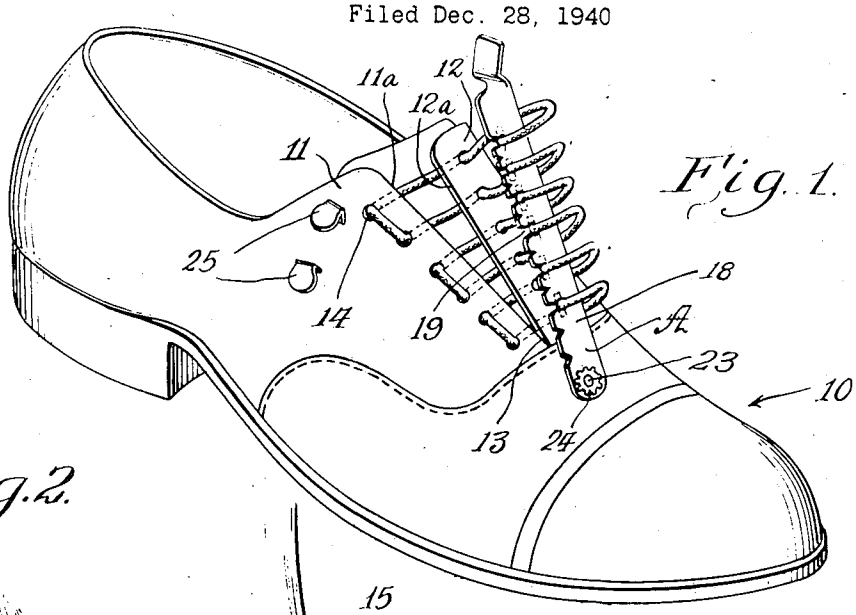
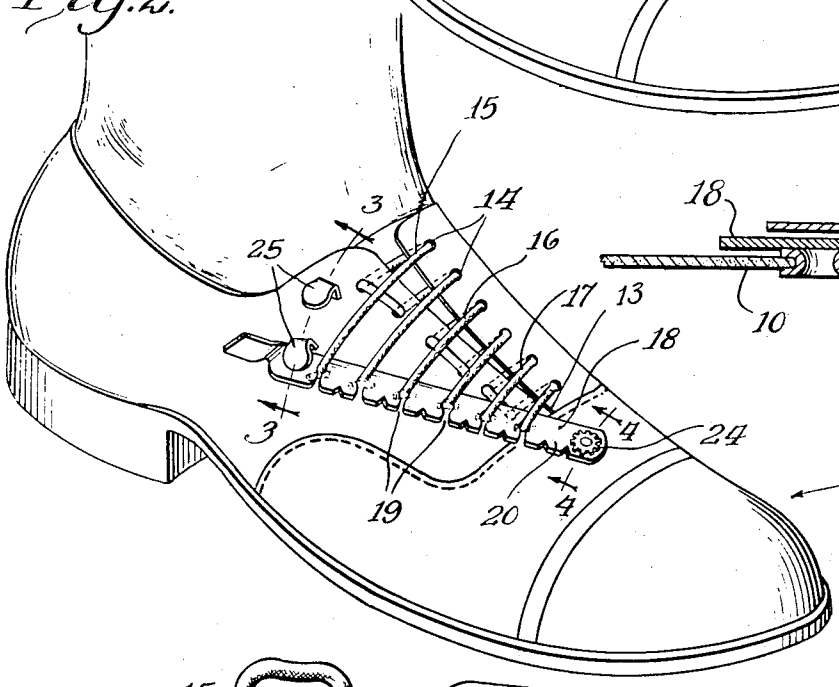


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



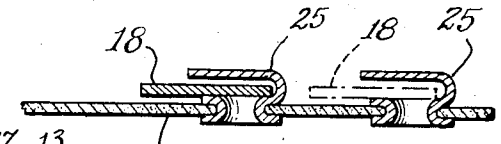


Fig. 3.

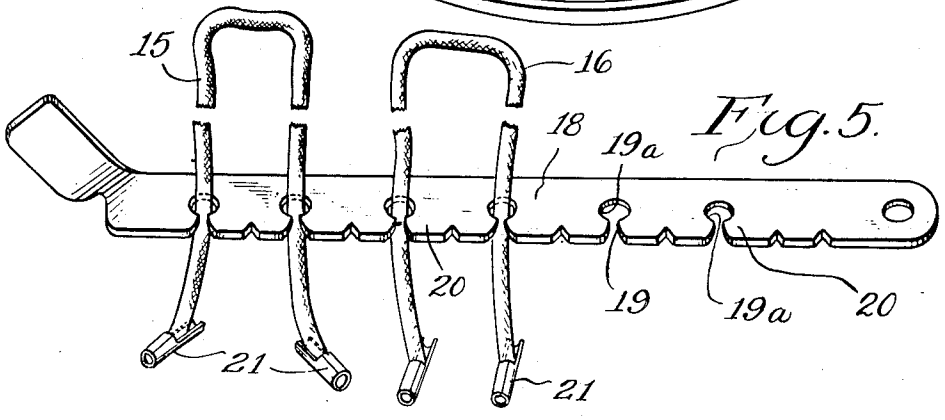


Fig. 5.

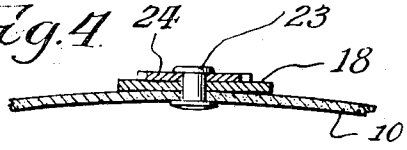


Fig. 4

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SECURING MEANS FOR SHOES OR THE LIKE

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Application December 28, 1940, Serial No. 372,201

6 Claims. (Cl. 24—267)

My present invention consists of a novel construction of shoe, oxford, boot, moccasin, slipper, or other apparel and protection unit normally worn on the human foot. This invention is directed to a novel means of securing together the separable upper portions of the shoe, oxford, or other foot protection unit in order to facilitate the securance and mounting thereof upon the foot.

An important object of my invention is the provision of a shoe, oxford or other foot protection unit having separable sections or portions which are normally provided to permit and facilitate insertion of the foot, with novel means for securing together such separable shoe unit portions, which means include a manually grippable and manually movable strap-like member to which one or more of the string ends are anchored and whereby the string securing means are relatively quickly tightened and then held in the desired tightened position.

A further object of my invention is the provision of novel fastening means for separable portions of a shoe, oxford or other foot protection unit comprising the combination of a manually grippable and movable strap-like member which member may assume the form of a lever or other attachable member, the lever or member being preferably tho not necessarily pivotally connected at one end to the shoe, and one or more string elements laced or threaded through apertures of the separable portions of the shoe and either permanently or removably connected to said lever or member and one or more fastening elements on the shoe whereby a movable portion of the lever or member is releasably anchorable in one of several desired positions to hold the string or strings in tightened position.

Other and further objects of my invention will be apparent from the following specification and claims.

This invention in a preferred form is illustrated and described in the following, it being understood that my invention may assume a variety of forms varying from the preferred forms herein described.

On the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a typical oxford embodying my invention and showing the fastening means in opened released position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the oxford showing the fastening means and method of my invention in tightened position to hold the oxford on the foot.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross section view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross sectional fragmentary view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the manually grippable and movable member which in the preferred form is an arm or lever and showing one of a number of ways in which the ends of a string or strings may be attached thereto.

Referring to the drawing, reference numeral 10 designates the conventional oxford having its "uppers" consisting of separable upper portions 11 and 12 respectively which are partially defined by the normally opposed inwardly facing lateral edges 11*a* and 12*a* respectively. The opposed edges 11*a* and 12*a* usually merge at a common point or vortex 13 and form an acute angle at a point over the forward portion of the foot.

The separable upper portions of the oxford or other foot protection unit each are provided with a plurality of substantially aligned spaced apart apertures, holes, or openings 14 which are spaced a short distance outwardly from the adjacent edge of the upper shoe portions. In the preferred form illustrated, there are but six of such apertures 14 formed in each upper shoe portion but it is to be understood that the number thereof may vary as desired.

In the preferred form illustrated, three separate flexible strings 15, 16 and 17 respectively are laced or threaded from one side of the shoe through the respective apertures 14 of both the upper separable shoe portions 11 and 12 in such a manner that the free ends of each of said strings 15, 16 and 17 are threaded through one of the upper shoe portions so as to project upwardly. The length of the respective strings provided, which strings may vary in number, vary in length so that the three outwardly projecting ends likewise vary in length and so that when the movable anchorable means of the type herein described is placed in securing tightened position, the respective areas of the upper shoe portions will be tightened to a substantially equal degree. It is to be understood that where a plurality of flexible strings are employed in connection with my invention (as distinguished from utilization of a single string) the lengths of the respective free ends may be varied and adjusted by the user and then attached to the manually grippable and movable anchoring means to meet any particular desire.

Reference numeral 18 designates a metal grippable relatively stiff member which may be

24. BUCKLES, BUTTONS, CLASPS, ETC.

Cross Reference SEARCH ROOM

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formed partially or wholly of metal or a combination of metal and suitable covering (covering not being shown) or may also be formed of semi-rigid material according to desire.

In the preferred form illustrated, the rigid grippable and movable member is shown as an arm or lever which is provided with a plurality of spaced apart recesses or serrations 19 opening on the lateral edge thereof, which lateral edge is in the direction common to the direction of normal securing movement. The spaced apart recesses 19 form a plurality of aligned teeth or projections 20 which are integral with the grippable element 18. The respective recesses 19 terminate at their inner portions in relatively enlarged openings 19a in the preferred form shown. The numbers of the openings 19a, as well as of recesses 19 in forms where recesses are equally employed, preferably correspond in number to the number of the free ends or free portions of the string or strings. In the preferred form illustrated, the free ends of the respective strings 15, 16 and 17 are provided at their termini with metal tips 21 which have one or more dimensions greater than the diameter of apertures or openings 19a and greater than the narrowest breadth of recesses 19.

In the preferred form illustrated, these clips are of cylindrical form pressed about the ends of the respective strings and also each thereof have integral portions which project away from and transversably from the string itself as clearly illustrated in Fig. 5. While I illustrate and describe herein this particular form of metal tips, it is to be understood that any equivalent enlarged element secured to the string ends to prevent slipping out and withdrawal of the string from openings 19a are within the scope of my invention.

The grippable movable member 18 illustrated in the preferred form is provided at its lower end with a suitable aperture and said normally lower end is pivotly connected to the upper portion of the shoe at a point preferably forward of the juncture of the lateral edges 11a and 12a by a suitable rivet 23, which is preferably also provided with reinforcing washer 24. While I have illustrated the movable lever 18 in the preferred form as being mounted upon the exterior of the shoe or other protection unit, the same may also be mounted for movement along the inner surface of the shoe, or between an inner wall or lining and an outer wall, and if desired the grippable portion may project for convenient gripping. Attention is called to the cross sectional view of Fig. 4 which shows the upper wall, usually leather, of the forward portion of the shoe 10, the apertured portion of the lever 18, the rivet 23 and the reinforcing washer 24.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, I have provided a pair of spaced apart hook-like fastening elements 25 which are securely mounted in a conventional manner in the upper portion of the oxford, shoe or other protection unit in vertically spaced apart positions and in such positions as to permit adjustable tightening of the string or strings to the desired degree. The fastening elements 25 while being shown in the preferred form as of the projecting hook type, may assume the form of other equivalent securing means whereby a movable member to which the strings are releasably anchored, may be adjustably and releasably secured in the desired string-tightening position. For example, co-operating male and female fastening elements might equivalently be employed for securance of the lever in position.

Various changes may be made in the embodiment of the invention herein specifically described without departing from or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention or any features thereof, and nothing herein shall be construed as limitations upon the invention, its concept or structural embodiment as to the whole or any part thereof.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a shoe or the like having separable upper portions provided with substantially aligned apertures along adjacent inner edges thereof; a lever pivoted at its lower end to said shoe and normally extending rearwardly; said lever having one of its lateral edges serrated; strings laced through the lacing apertures of said upper shoe portions, said strings having their free ends normally releasably engaging the serrations of said lever; and a plurality of hook elements on one upper shoe portion and adapted to releasably mount said lever to hold said strings in tightened positions.

2. In a releasable fastening device for a shoe or the like, said shoe having separable apertured upper portions, the combination of a plurality of strings, each of which strings are adapted to have their intermediate portions laced through the substantially aligned holes of the separable upper portions of a shoe or the like; a lever having one lateral edge thereof serrated and forming teeth, the free ends of said strings being releasably engaged in said serrations; and a fastening element mounted upon the upper portion of a shoe whereby said lever may be releasably anchored in positions to hold said string ends drawn out and to hold the separable aperture upper shoe portions together.

3. In a releasable fastening device for a shoe or the like, said shoe having separable apertured upper portions, the combination of a plurality of strings, each of which strings are adapted to have their intermediate portions laced through the substantially aligned holes of the separable upper shoe portions, a lever having one lateral edge thereof serrated; metal tips on the ends of said strings, a portion of each said tips projecting transversably thereof; said transversably projecting portions of said tips being releasably anchorable in said lever serrations; and a fastening element mounted on said shoe adapted to releasably engage said lever to hold the same in string-tightened position.

4. In a releasable fastening device for a shoe or the like, said shoe having separable apertured upper portions, the combination of a plurality of strings, each of which strings are adapted to have their intermediate portions laced through the substantially aligned holes of the separable upper portions of a shoe or the like; a movable metal strap-like member having one portion normally attached to the shoe and having spaced apart openings therein, said strap-like member normally extending rearwardly from the forward portion of the shoe; metal tips on the free ends of said strings respectively, said tips being adapted to releasably engage said strap member openings; whereby sidewise movement of said strap-like member will tighten said strings; fastening elements on an upper portion of said shoe for releasably fastening said strap member in desired position, the movement of said strap member into anchored position being adaptable to hold such strings in tightened positions.

5. In combination with a shoe or the like having upper portions thereof separable and con-

nectable together; said upper shoe portions each having a plurality of spaced apart holes therethrough spaced from the opposed edges of said upper shoe portions; a plurality of strings, each of said strings being normally laced through two adjacent holes of one of said upper shoe portions and also through two adjacent holes of the other upper shoe portion; a metal lever pivoted at its lower end to the shoe at a point forward of the said separable upper shoe portions and having a plurality of spaced apart recesses formed therein and opening on one edge thereof; the normally free ends of each of said strings releasably engaging said lever recesses respectively whereby pivoting movement of said lever in a transverse direction will cause the separable upper shoe portions to be drawn together; and an anchoring hook element mounted on one of said upper shoe portions and adapted to receive the free end portion of said lever to thereby hold said lever and said strings in tightened position.

6. In combination with a shoe or the like having upper portions thereof separable and connectable together; said upper shoe portions each having a plurality of spaced apart holes therethrough spaced from the opposed edges of said upper shoe portions; a plurality of strings, each of said strings being normally laced through two adjacent holes of one of said upper shoe portions and also through two adjacent holes of the other upper shoe portion; a metal lever pivoted at its lower end to the shoe at a point forward of the said separable upper shoe portions and having a plurality of spaced apart recesses formed therein and opening on one edge thereof; the normally free ends of each of said strings releasably engaging said lever recesses respectively whereby pivoting movement of said lever in a transverse direction will cause the separable upper shoe portions to be drawn together; and a plurality of spaced apart anchoring hooks on one of said upper shoe portions adapted to receive the free end portion of said lever whereby said lever and said strings may be held in tightened position.

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