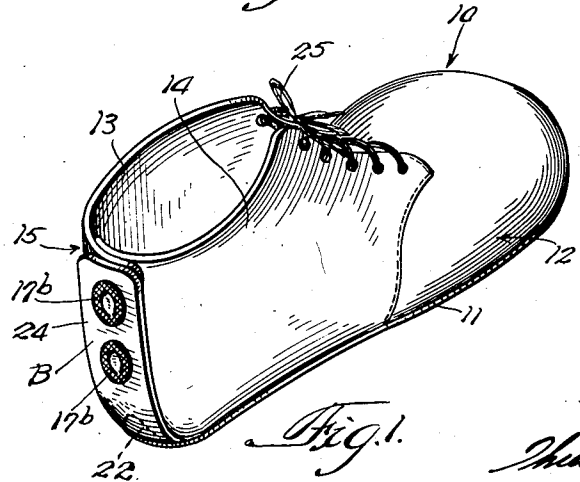
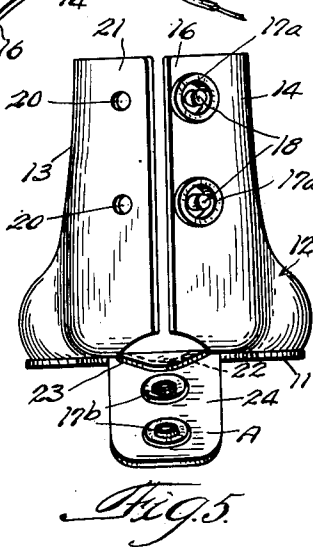
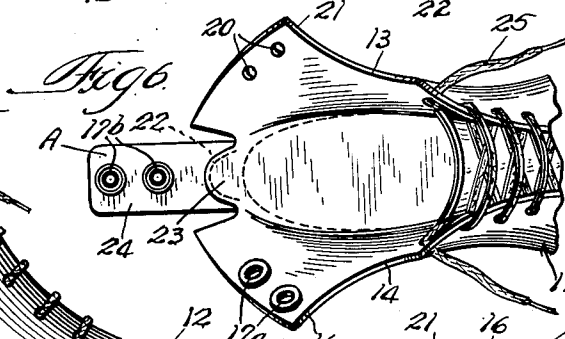
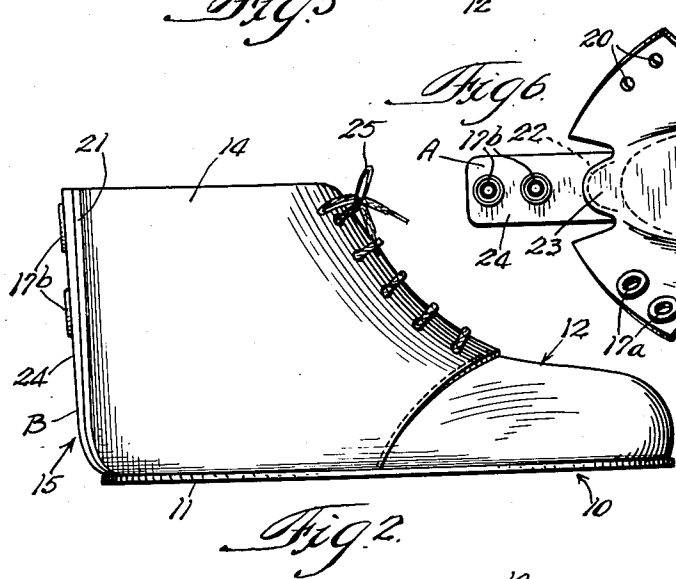
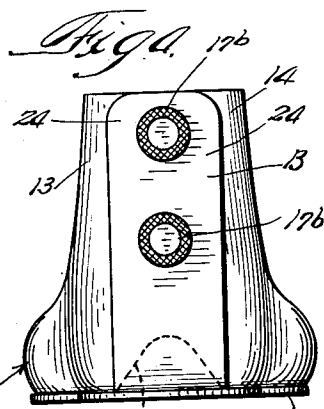
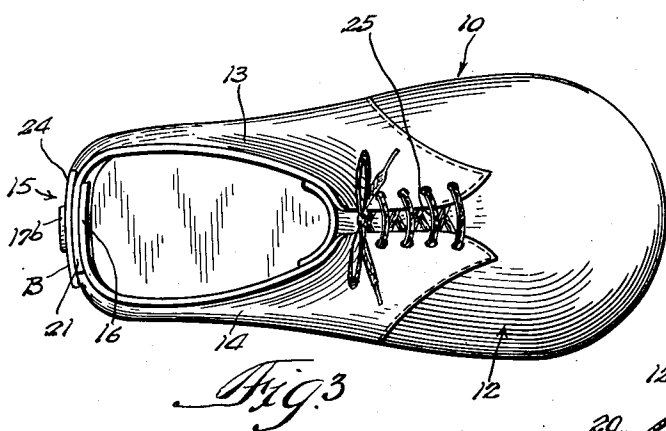


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FOOT ENCLOSING DEVICE  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## FOOT ENCLOSING DEVICE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 36-8.5)

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This invention relates to a foot-enclosing device and more particularly to an infant's shoe construction.

The fitting of shoes on the feet of an infant generally is an awkward and difficult operation. This is due to the natural tendency of an infant to stiffen and arch his foot when a shoe or bootie is being placed thereon. Even though the shoe lace or ribbon is loosened, the opening in the upper of the shoe or bootie is normally not of sufficient size to allow the foot, when in such a stiffened condition, to readily slip therethrough into the shoe.

To overcome this difficulty various shoes have been proposed which have a split heel. Such shoes, however, are either wanting in means for properly holding the split heel together when the shoe is on the foot of the infant, uncomfortable to wear, of complicated and costly construction, or unattractive in appearance.

Thus it is one of the objects of this invention to provide a shoe which may be readily fitted on the foot of the infant, even though the infant holds his foot in a stiffened and arched position.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a split heel type shoe having means provided for securely holding the split heel portions together even though the shoe is subjected to repeated knocks and scuffs by the wearer.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a split heel type shoe which is of simple and inexpensive construction, comfortable to wear, and attractive in appearance.

Further and additional objects will appear from the description, accompanying drawings, and appended claims.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, a shoe is provided comprising an upper having a split heel which may be adjusted to assume an open or closed position. Operatively connected to the upper is an anchoring element which may be adjusted to an upright position so as to overlay and be secured to the split heel of the upper when in a closed position.

For a more complete understanding of this invention reference should be made to the drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the shoe with the heel of the upper thereof in a closed position;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the shoe shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the shoe shown in Fig. 1;

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Fig. 4 is a back view of the shoe shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is like Fig. 4 but showing the heel of the upper in a partially opened position, and

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary top plan view of the shoe showing the heel of the upper in a fully opened position for receiving the foot of the wearer.

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to Fig. 1, an infant's shoe 10 is shown comprising a sole 11 and an upper 12 mounted on said sole and disposed thereabove. The upper 12 in this instance is of a conventional ankle-embracing style having the sides 13 and 14 tied together at the front by a shoe lace or ribbon 25. The back portions 21 and 16, of side sections 13 and 14, respectively, are adjustable and cooperate with one another to form an open or closed heel 15. When the side sections 13 and 14 are in an opened heel position, as seen in Fig. 6, the infant's foot, even though arched and stiffened, may be readily positioned within the shoe. When the side sections cooperate to form a closed heel, back portion 16 of side section 14 is overlapped by back portion 21 of side section 13, as seen in Figs. 1 through 4. Back portion 16 is provided with the male portions 17a of conventional type snap fasteners. The center stud 18 of each male portion 17a is adapted to register with and extend through a corresponding aperture 20 formed in the back portion 21 of side section 13, when the side sections are in an overlapping closed heel relation.

Secured by stitching 22 to a rearwardly extending tab 23 formed on the edge of sole 11 is an elongated anchoring element or flap 24. The flap 24 is adjustable and may assume a down position A when the heel is opened, as seen in Figs. 5 and 6; or may assume an upright reinforcing position B, when the heel is closed, as seen in Figs. 1 through 4. Mounted in spaced relation on flap 24 are the female portions 17b of the snap fasteners which are adapted, when the flap is in position B, to snap onto the center studs 18 of the male portions 17a as they project through the apertures 20 formed in back portion 21 of side section 13.

The shoe 10 in this instance is shown to be of a stiff sole-type, however, it is to be understood, of course, that the invention may be applied as well to shoes or booties having soft soles.

When positioning the shoe 10 on the foot of an infant, the heel 15 of the upper 12 is opened and the shoe lace 25 untied, as shown in Fig. 6, thereby providing an ample entrance for the in-

fant's foot, even though it be in a stiff or arched position. Subsequent to the foot being positioned within the shoe, the back portions 16 and 21 of the side sections are brought into overlapping heel-closing relation. The flap 24 is then adjusted to position B whereupon the male and female portions 17a and 17b, respectively, of the snap fasteners are caused to interlock with each other thereby securely holding the heel in its closed position. The shoe lace 25 may then be pulled up tight and tied.

The flap 24, when in position B, overlies and conceals the overlapping back portions of the side sections 13 and 14, and thus prevents the side sections from accidentally becoming disengaged, when the shoe is jarred or struck by the infant's kicking or scuffing against a solid surface, even though only one of the snap fasteners securing the flap to the side section is interlocked. Furthermore the flap 24 serves to give added support or reinforcement to the heel of the shoe thereby adding to the comfort of the wearer. By having the free end of flap 24 adapted to be positively secured by means of the snap fasteners to the back side portion 16 of the shoe so that the other back side portion 21 is sandwiched therebetween, the flap and back side portions may be caused to assume a substantially fixed relation with respect to one another so long as the snap fasteners remain closed. Thus, regardless of the activity of the wearer, there is no possibility of the back side portion 16 working its way down inside the shoe and cause discomfort to the wearer.

Thus it will be seen that an infant's shoe has been provided which greatly facilitates the fitting of the shoe on the foot of an infant. Furthermore, an infant's shoe has also been provided which is simple and inexpensive in construction, comfortable to wear, will remain on the foot of the wearer even under the most rugged conditions, and is attractive in appearance.

While a particular embodiment of this invention is shown above, it will be understood, of course, that the invention is not to be limited thereto; since many modifications may be made, and it is contemplated, therefore, by the appended claims, to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. A foot-enclosing device comprising an upper having rear portions movable into and out of overlapping relation with respect to one another, an elongated element operatively connected to said upper for movement into and out of an upper-reinforcing position overlying the exposed sides of said rear portions when the latter are in overlapping relation, and fastening means cooperating with said upper rear portions and said elongated element for securing said element, when in said upright-reinforcing position, in a substantially fixed relation with respect to said rear portions, when the latter are in overlapping relation.

2. A foot-enclosing device comprising an upper having rear portions movable into and out of overlapping relation with respect to one another, an elongated element operatively connected at one end to said upper adjacent the rear portions thereof for movement into and out of an upright reinforcing position overlying and concealing the exposed sides of said rear portions when the latter are in overlapping relation, and fastening

means cooperating with said overlapping rear portions and the free end portion of said elongated element for securing said rear portions in overlapping relation and said element in a substantially fixed upright reinforcing position with respect to said overlapping rear portions.

3. A foot-enclosing device comprising a sole, an upper secured to said sole and having rear portions movable into and out of overlapping relation with respect to one another, and an elongated flap mounted on and extending rearwardly from said sole for movement into and out of an upright reinforcing position overlying the exposed sides of said rear portions, when the latter are in overlapping relation, and fastening means having a portion thereof mounted on said flap and a complementary portion mounted on one of said rear portions for retaining said rear portions and said flap in substantially fixed relation with respect to one another when the portions of said means are in cooperative relation.

4. A foot-enclosing device comprising a sole, an upper secured to said sole and having rear side portions movable into and out of overlapping relation with respect to one another, an elongated flap mounted at one end on and extending rearwardly from said sole for movement into and out of an upright reinforcing position overlying and concealing the exposed sides of said rear side portions, when the latter are in overlapping relation, and fastening means having a portion thereof mounted on the free end of said flap and a complementary portion mounted on one of said rear side portions for securing together in substantially fixed relation, said overlapping rear side portions and said flap in said upright reinforcing position, when the portions of said means are in cooperative relation.

5. A foot-enclosing device comprising an upper having rear side portions movable into and out of overlapping relation with respect to one another, the overlapping rear side portion being provided with an aperture, an elongated flap operatively connected to said upper adjacent said rear side portions for movement into and out of an upright reinforcing position overlying and concealing the exposed sides of said rear side portions, when the latter are in overlapping relation, and fastening means having one part thereof mounted on the overlapped rear side portion and in registration with said overlapping rear side portion aperture, when said rear side portions are in overlapping relation, and having a complementary part mounted on said flap and cooperating with said first mentioned part, when said flap is in said upright reinforcing position, to effect retention of said rear side portions in overlapping relation.

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