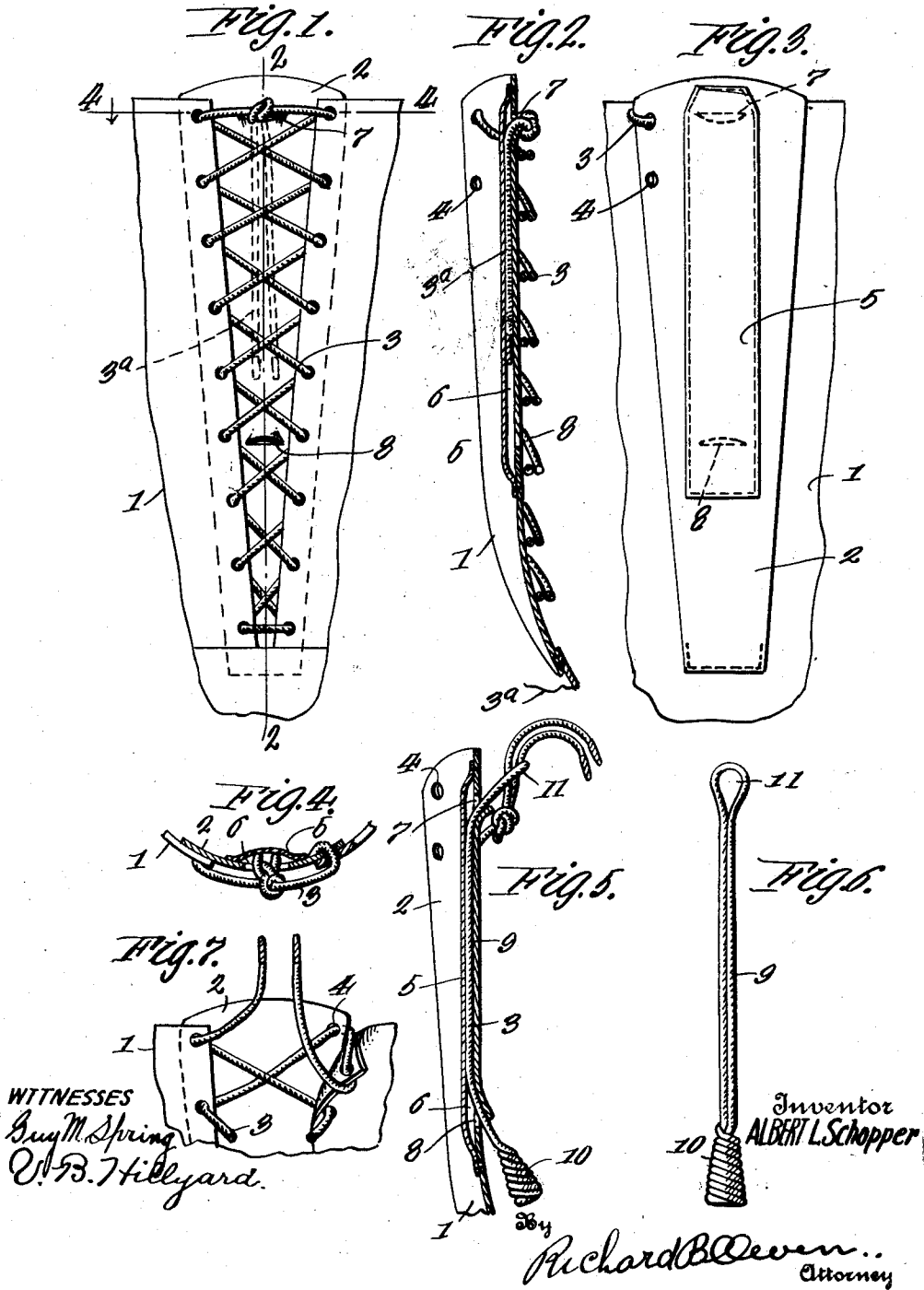


A. L. SCHOPPER.
 LACED SHOE.
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 16, 1919.

1,340,503.

Patented May 18, 1920.



WITNESSES
 Guy M. Spring
 O. B. Hillyard.

Inventor
 ALBERT L. Schopper

Richard B. Owen...
 Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT L. SCHOPPER, OF EUDORA, KANSAS.

LACED SHOE.

1,340,503.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 18, 1920.

Application filed April 16, 1919. Serial No. 290,397.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT L. SCHOPPER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Eudora, in the county of Douglas and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Laced Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to means, whereby the loose ends of a shoe lace are concealed and so positioned as to obviate annoyance and discomfort to the wearer as well as to obviate an untidy appearance and undue wear on fine hosiery.

In accordance with the present invention the tongue of a laced shoe is provided with a pocket for receiving the loose ends of the lace, said pocket having openings at its top and bottom for the introduction of a pull, whereby the loose ends of the lace may be drawn into the pocket so as to be out of the way and concealed from view.

The invention also aims to utilize the lace as means for holding the upper portion of the tongue in position, thereby preventing its downward creeping or displacement which is undesirable and is the source of considerable discomfort and annoyance.

The drawing illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention. However, it is to be understood that in adapting the same to meet different conditions, various changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the nature of the invention as claimed hereinafter.

Referring to the drawing which illustrates an embodiment of the invention:—

Figure 1 is a front view of the vamp and upper portion of a laced shoe illustrating the invention applied.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view of the parts illustrated in Fig. 1 as seen from the inner side.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a detail view similar to Fig. 2 showing the pull in position and just prior to drawing the loose ends of the lace into the pocket of the tongue.

Fig. 6 is a detail view of the lace pull.

Fig. 7 is a detail view showing more clearly the securing of the upper portion of the tongue by means of the lace.

Corresponding and like parts are referred

to in the following description and indicated in the several views of the drawing by like reference characters.

The invention is adapted for boots, shoes and foot wear, or covering generally of the type adapted to be fastened by means of a lace and provided with a tongue for covering the opening or space between the portions connected by the lace.

The numeral 1 designates the upper of a laced shoe or like part and 2 the tongue for closing the opening, as spaced between the parts which are connected by means of the lace 3. The tongue 2 is provided at its upper end with one or more openings through which the lace 3 is adapted to pass, thereby securing the upper portion of the tongue to the top portion of the shoe-upper. A strip 5 is secured to the rear side of the tongue 2 and may consist of any material, the same being stitched along its edges to the tongue, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 3. The space 6 formed between the tongue 2 and the strip 5 constitutes a pocket for receiving the loose ends of the lace, as indicated most clearly by the dotted lines in Fig. 1 and the full lines in Fig. 2. An opening 7 is formed in the upper portion of the pocket and a corresponding opening 8 opens into the lower portion of the pocket, both openings being formed in the tongue 2. The shoe is laced in the usual way and when passing an end of the lace through the top-most opening of the shoe it is also passed through one or both of the openings 4 of the tongue so that when the lace is drawn, the upper portion of the tongue is secured to the upper of the shoe and thereby prevented from creeping downward which is the source of considerable annoyance and inconvenience. The ends of the lace are tied in any preferred way and are subsequently drawn into the pocket 6 to be out of the way and prevent any wear on the hose such as is usually occasioned by the ends of a lace when free and permitted to move at every step.

For the purpose of drawing the loose ends of the lace into the pocket 6, a pull 9 is provided such as shown most clearly in Fig. 6, the same consisting of a length of wire which is doubled upon itself, the ends being twisted together, as indicated at 10, thereby forming a grip to enable the finger of the hand to obtain a firm purchase upon when

operating the pull to draw the loose ends of the lace into the pocket. The fold of the wire constitutes an eye 11 through which the loose ends 3^a of the lace 3 are passed, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 5 and upon withdrawing the pull 9 from the pocket 6 the loose ends 3^a of the lace are drawn into the pocket and assume the position indicated in Fig. 2. The reinforced ends of the lace are preferably made much shorter than usual to admit of their being drawn into the pocket 6.

After the shoe has been laced and the ends of the lace tied in any desired way, the pull 9 is introduced through the lower opening 8 and is moved upward through the pocket 6 until the eye 11 of the pull passes out through the upper opening 7 after which the loose ends 3^a of the lace are passed through the eye 11 and the pull withdrawn from the pocket by a downward movement, thereby drawing the loose ends 3^a of the lace into the pocket. By having the pull 9 made of wire it is sufficiently stout and flexible to be passed through the pocket 6 and by having the end formed with the eye 11 curved laterally, said eye will pass through the opening 7 when reaching said opening and the pull is continued in its upward movement. By proper manipulation of the pull assisted by the hand of the operator the pull may be easily and conveniently passed through the pocket 6

and the upper opening 7, and after the loose ends of the lace are passed through the eye 11 downward movement of the pull withdraws it from the pocket 6 and at the same time draws the loose ends of the lace into the pocket.

The foregoing description and the drawing have reference to what may be considered the preferred, or approved form of my invention. It is to be understood that I may make such changes in construction and arrangement and combination of parts, materials, dimensions, et cetera, as may prove expedient and fall within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A lace shoe, provided with a tongue having upper and lower openings and a strip secured to the rear side of the tongue and forming a pocket for receiving the loose ends of the lace which are adapted to be drawn into the pocket by means of a pull adapted to be passed through the pocket and the openings thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT L. SCHOPPER.

Witnesses:

ADOLPH LOTZ, Jr.
FAY L. LEPPER.