PATENT SPECIFICATION

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Complete Specification Accepted: Jan. 19, 1937.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Boots, Shoes or like Footwear

I, ARTHUR GEORGE GRICE, of Breakers, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kent, a British Subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

The invention relates to boots, shoes and like footwear.

The object being to provide adjustments on footwear so that indifferently fitting boots or shoes having these adjustments can be made to fit snugly during the life of the footwear.

It is well known that in the majority of people the feet differ in size the right from the left so that it is impossible to fit both feet when ready made footwear is used as only one adjustment by lacing over the instep is used.

Also by having these adjustments, shoes can be put on easily without having to force the foot forward into the shoe to miss the heel curvature of the shoe.

The invention consists in an article of footwear having an opening in the rear wall so that the foot can be easily inserted and means for securing and adjusting same, also an opening or openings on the instep and means for securing and adjusting same so that the article can be perfectly adjusted to fit the feet of the wearer.

The invention also consists in articles of footwear such as shoes in using the lacing of the front and rear openings as set forth above to give adjustment to the article so that support to the ankle is obtained.

The invention consists in articles of footwear and substantially as hereinafter described.

In carrying the invention into effect according to one form as applied to walking shoes, I make a shoe of usual shape but having the opening for inserting the foot at the rear. The sides of the shoe for closing the opening being fitted with eyelets for lacing it up, I fit a tongue which pivots to the rear to allow the foot to enter and when laced up presses against the rear of the ankle. On the top of the instep I make an opening similar to that generally used in laced shoes but only of sufficient length for adjusting the shoe over the instep, the sides closing this opening being fitted with eyelets for lacing.

On the top sides of the shoe around the ankle reaching from the opening at the rear to the opening or instep on either side are two flaps of leather sewn to the shoe at the top edge but open at the bottom to allow the lace to be freely placed under them.

To adjust the shoe to the foot when a new shoe is first used, the foot is slipped into the shoe from the rear and pressed forward until the sides at the front of the shoe are snugly against the foot. The front opening is then laced up (but not the top eyelet on either side) until the top of the shoe fits snugly over the instep. This lace is then fastened and not used again when taking the shoe on or off only if a fresh adjustment is required through stretch of leather or other causes.

The back opening is then laced up until the tongue is pressed against the rear of the ankle; the ends of the lace are passed under the flaps one on either side and through the top eyelets of the front opening; these are drawn together until the correct pressure is obtained around the angle and the lace then fastened.

I may so form the shoes in front that the adjustment of the front opening as well as the rear and pressure around the ankle can be obtained by using one lace only.

I may use any mechanical device for adjusting and closing either or both openings.

It is obvious I may use hooks instead of eyelets where necessary.

I may make two openings on one either side of the instep instead of the one on top.

Dated this 9th day of August, 1935.

A. G. GRICE.

[*Price* 1/-]

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Boots, Shoes or like Footwear

I, ARTHUR GEORGE GRICE, of Breakers, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, in the County of Kent, a British subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to boots, shoes and like footwear of the kind having lacing associated with an opening in the rear wall thereof in addition to adjustable securing means at the instep.

It is an advantage of this kind of footwear that shoes, for example, can be put on easily without having to force the foot forward into the shoe to clear the heel curvature of the shoe.

The main object of the invention is to improve the appearance of footwear of the kind in question and to facilitate the operation of obtaining the required adjustments of pressure at the respective securing devices.

The invention consists in an article of footwear of the kind referred to adjustable both at the rear and in the neighbourhood of the instep by means of a single lace carried round from securing means at the rear to securing means at the instep under guiding means such as side flaps, hooks or the like.

The invention also consists in improved articles of footwear substantially as hereinafter described.

Referring to the acompanying drawings which are of a diagrammatic nature:—

Figure 1 shows a sketch of a shoe according to one form of the invention,

Figure 2 being a sketch of a modified form in which the front lacing is covered by a flap;

Figure 3 shows a sketch of another form of the invention in which the rear and instep adjustments are secured by the use of only one lace,

Figure 4 being a sketch of another form in which only one lace is used; while

Figure 5 is a rear view corresponding to any of the above forms showing rear lacing.

In carrying the invention into effect according to one form as applied to a walking shoe (see Figure 1) the shoe is of usual shape but has an opening, 2, in the rear to assist in inserting the foot, the sides of the opening being fitted with eyelets, 3, and hooks, 3*a*, for lacing purposes.

An internal tongue, 4, secured along its lower edge, covers the opening, 2, and when laced up presses against the back of the heel.

On the instep an opening, 5, is provided similar to that generally used in laced shoes but this need only be of sufficient length for adjusting the shoe over the instep, the sides closing this opening being fitted with eyelets, 6, and hooks, 6*a*, for lacing.

On the top sides of the shoe round the ankle reaching from the opening, 2, at the rear to the opening, 5, on the instep, a flap of leather, 7, is sewn at each side to the shoe at the top edge only but is open along its bottom edge to allow the lace, 12, to be readily passed below it.

To adjust the shoe to the foot, when a new shoe is first used, the foot is slipped into the shoe from the rear and pressed forward until the sides at the front of the shoe are snugly against the foot. The front opening, 5, is then laced up (but not the top eyelet or hook, 6*a*, on either side) until the top of the shoe fits snugly over the instep. The lace, 13, is then fastened and not used again when taking the shoe on or off unless a fresh adjustment is required on account of stretch of leather or other causes.

The back opening, 2, is then laced up until the tongue, 4, is pressed against the back of the heel, the ends of the lace, 12, are passed under the two flaps, 7, 7, one on either side, and through the top eyelets or hooks, 6*a*, of the front opening, these eyelets or hooks being then drawn together until the correct pressure is obtained around the ankle and the lace then fastened.

In Figure 2, a form of the invention is shown in which only the upper part of the instep opening is retained and the short length of lacing, 8, is covered by a flap, 9, which may be held down by the lace, 12, from the back opening passing over it before being secured.

In Figure 3, only one lace, 12, is used, the front opening, 5, being omitted and the instep part of the shoe being made to fit initially. The lace sections brought round from the rear opening, 2, are then secured as before by help of the hooks, 6*a*, by means of which a fine adjustment by puckering the leather lying between the hooks 6*a* is obtained to compensate for stretch of the leather in use.

In Figure 4, another example is shown in which only one lace, 12, is used but with a greater capacity for adjustment than in the last example in view of the fact that two side flaps, 10, 10, are provided carrying hooks, 6*a*, eyelets or the like, with which the single rear lace engages.

The invention is applicable likewise to boots or other footwear.

It will be obvious that many variations may be made in detail without exceeding the scope of the claims appendant hereto.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. An article of footwear of the kind referred to adjustable both at the rear and in the neighbourhood of the instep by means of a single lace carried round from securing means at the rear to securing means at the instep under guiding means such as side flaps, hooks or the like.

2. An article of footwear as claimed in Claim 1, in which an instep opening in addition to the rear opening is provided, the instep opening being provided with an auxiliary lace and co-operating eyelets or the like.

3. An article of footwear as claimed in Claim 2, in which the auxiliary front lacing is covered by a tongue held in place by the lace brought round from the rear.

4. An article of footwear as claimed in Claim 1, in which the instep is shaped initially to the foot without opening, a fine adjustment to compensate for stretch of the leather in use being provided by means operable by the lace brought round from the rear opening to effect a puckering of the leather between said means.

5. An article of footwear as claimed in Claim 1, in which the instep is shaped to the foot without opening and the instep adjustment is made by the lace brought round from the rear opening co-operating with eyeleted side flaps or the like.

6. Improved footwear substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 6th day of August, 1936.

MARKS & CLERK.

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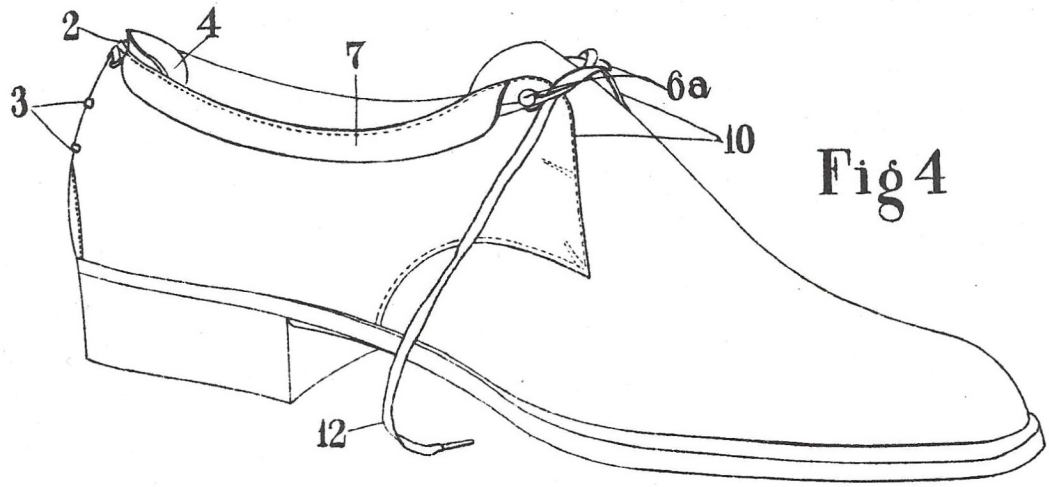


Fig 4

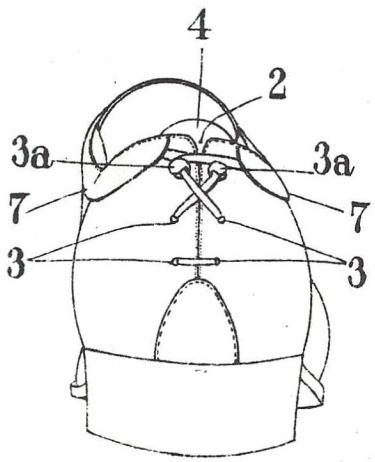


Fig 5

Malby & Sons, Photo-Litho.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

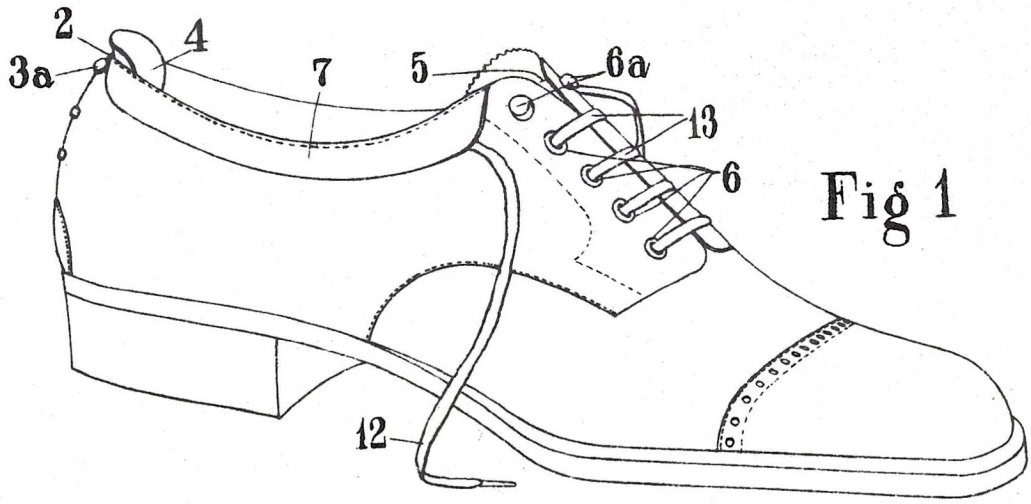


Fig 1

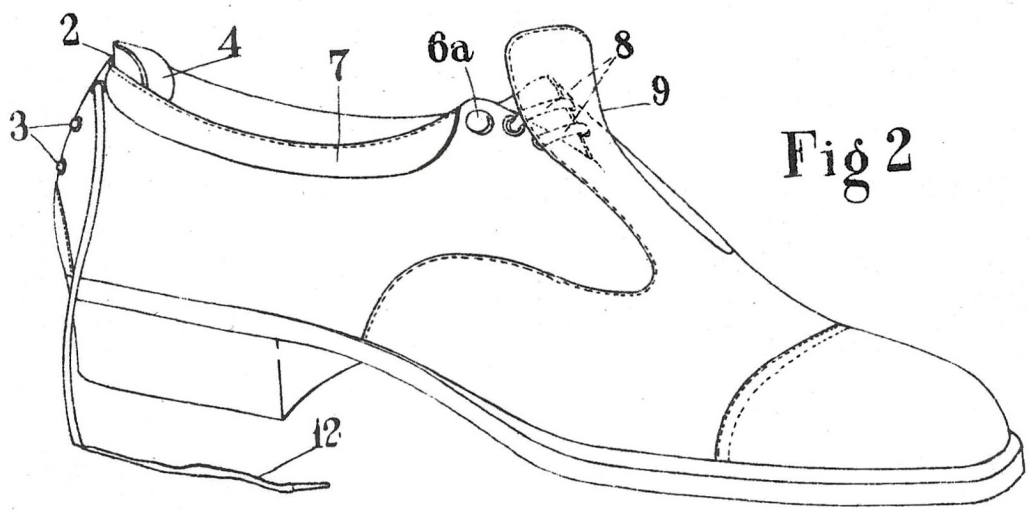


Fig 2

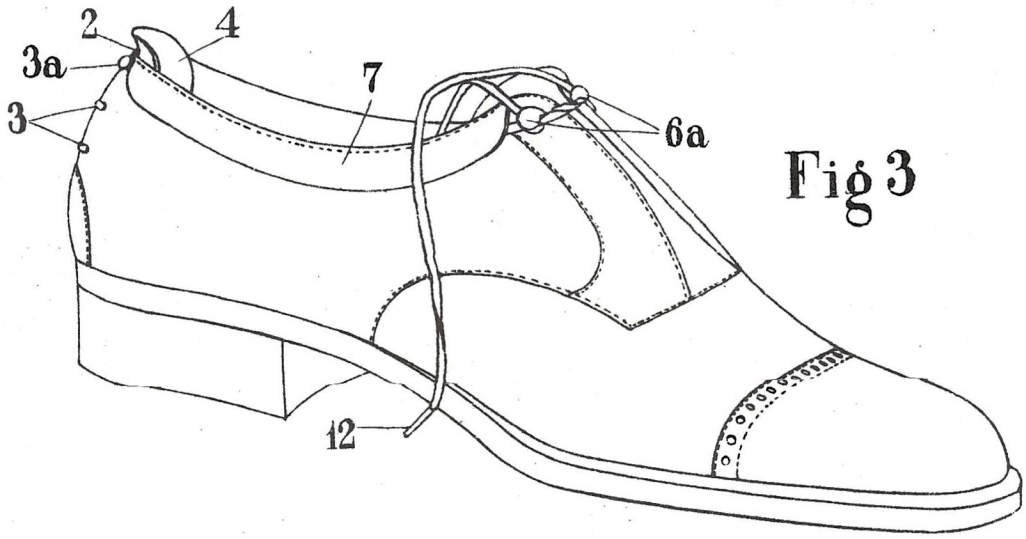


Fig 3