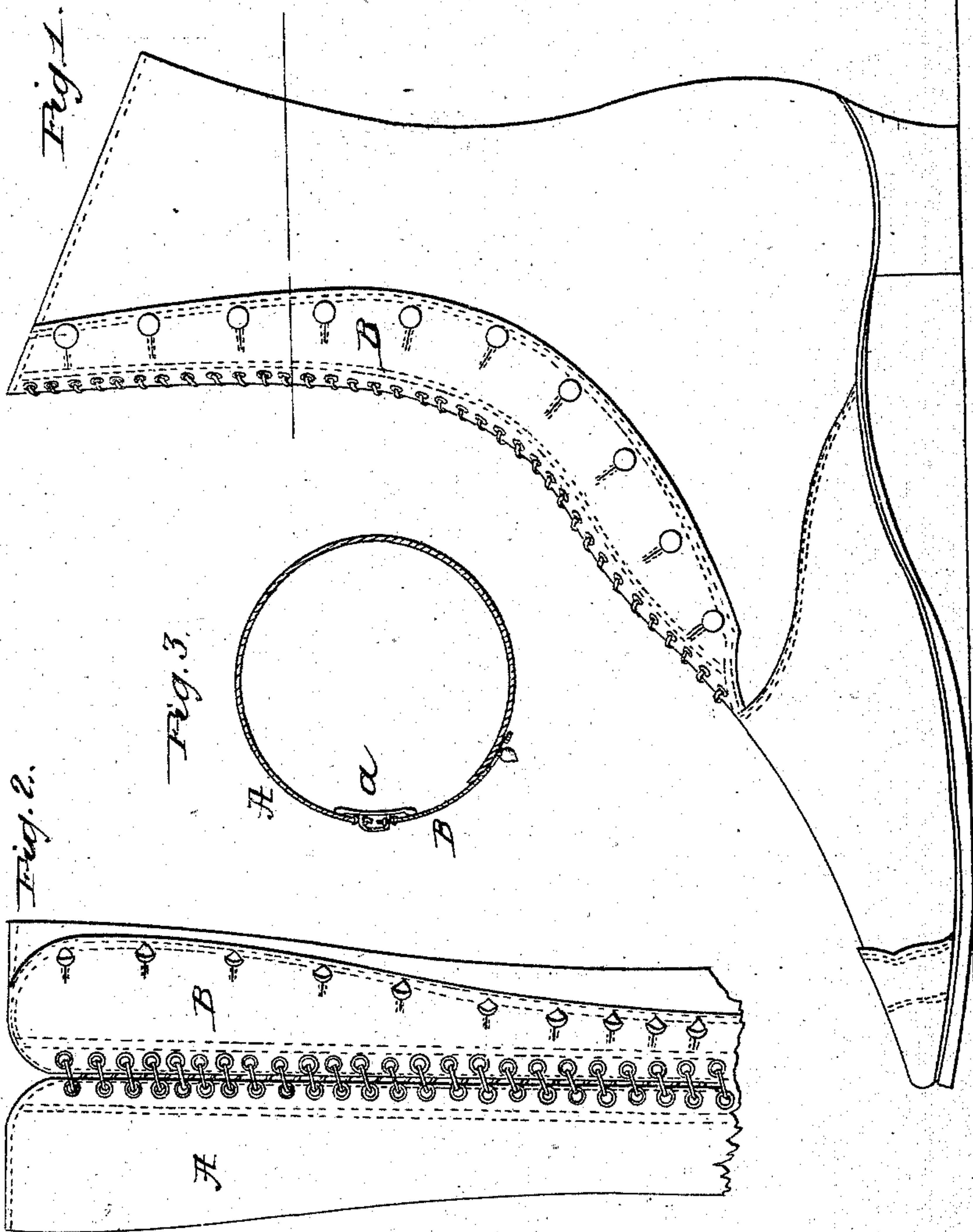


*J. L. Joyce,*  
*Shoe Makers,*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 49,415.* *Patented Aug. 15, 1865.*



*Witnesses*  
*Mary A. Hine*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH L. JOYCE, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 49,415, dated August 15, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH L. JOYCE, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Buttoned Shoes; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a side view; Fig. 2, a partial front view, and in Fig. 3 a section through *x y*.

In the manufacture of button-shoes it is necessary that the shoes should be made with reference to the foot upon which they are to be worn, as no adjustment beyond the limit of the buttons can be obtained whereby the shoe would fit equally well feet of various forms. To overcome this difficulty a of gore shirred rubber has been inserted opposite the buttons, which would yield to allow the shoe to conform to the shape of the foot and ankle. This gore, although it overcomes to a certain extent this difficulty, creates a greater objection for yielding only upon one side. The seam in the front of the shoe is drawn out of line, more or less, according to the shape of the foot and ankle.

My invention is designed to overcome these difficulties and objections; and it consists in placing a gore in the front of the shoe, which said gore is covered by flies laced with elastic cord, which gives to the shoe the appearance of lacing and at the same time all the advantages of a button-shoe.

To enable others skilled in the art to manufacture my improved shoes, I will proceed to fully describe the same as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

The several parts of the shoe are cut in the usual manner for a button-shoe. The two parts of the front A and B, which are usually joined by a stitched seam, I unite in the following manner: Upon the inside of the shoe and to each of the parts A and B, I secure a gore of shirred rubber, *a*, at a little distance from the edge of the two parts A and B, as seen in Fig. 3, the edges of each of the two parts A and B lying over and forming flies, into which I fix eyelets in the usual manner for lacing shoes. Through these eyelets I run an elastic cord, as denoted in red, Fig. 2.

By this arrangement the front of the shoe will open and yield to conform to the shape of the foot and ankle, yielding alike to each side, so that the seam or opening in front of the shoe will be uniform and central upon the foot, thus enabling me to manufacture button-shoes for the market which will fit equally well feet and ankles of different forms, which heretofore could only be done by measure.

I do not claim inserting in the shoe or gaiter at the points where it is to be fastened a piece or pieces of elastic rubber cloth for the purpose of fastening the shoe or gaiter with hooks and eyes or buttons or buckles. Therefore,

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

The combination of the elastic gore and lacing in the front with the side opening, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

J. L. JOYCE.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,  
MARY A. HINE.