

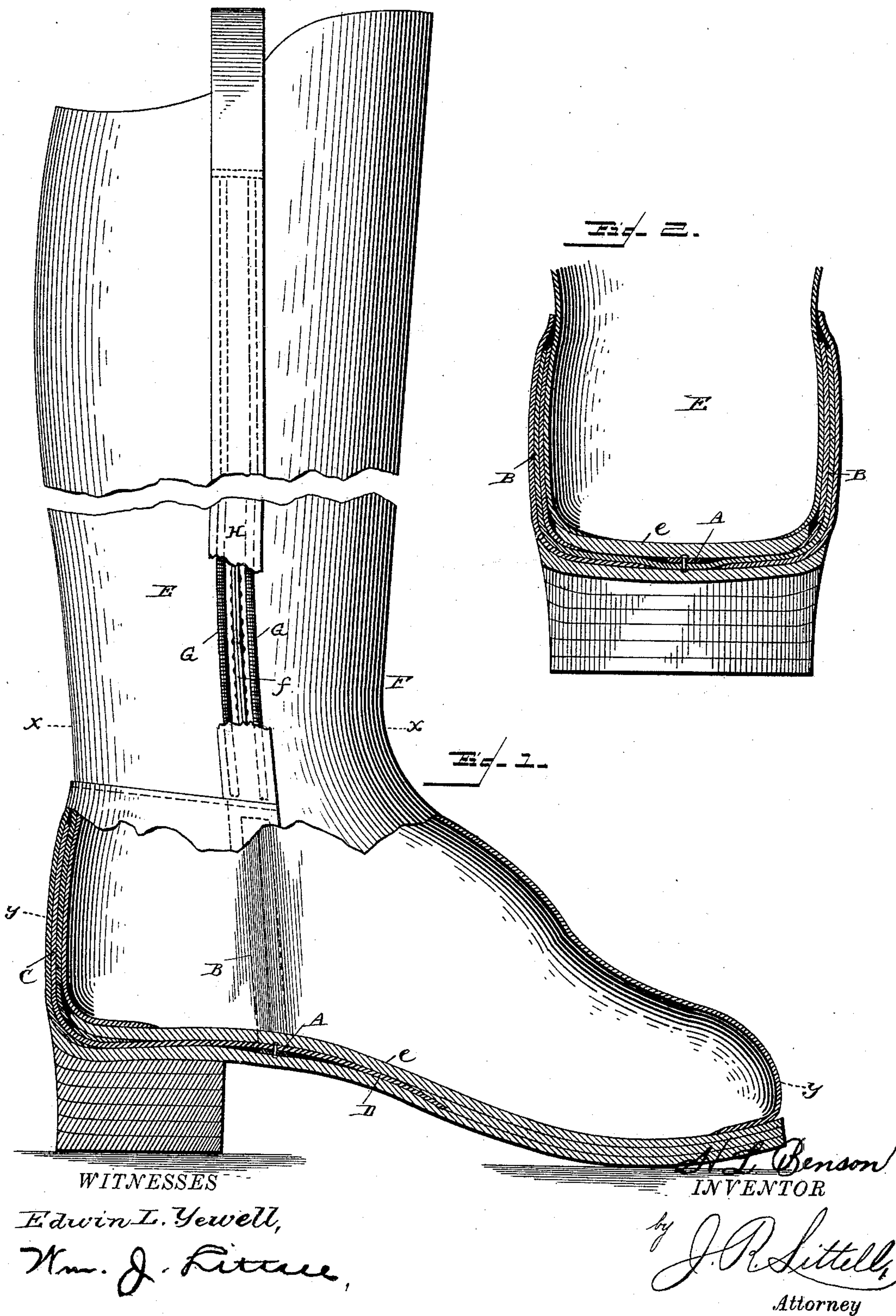
(No Model.)

H. L. BENSON.
BOOT.

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

No. 390,552.

Patented Oct. 2, 1888.



WITNESSES

Edwin L. Yewell,
Wm. J. Pittman,

H. L. Benson
INVENTOR

by J. R. Littell,
Attorney

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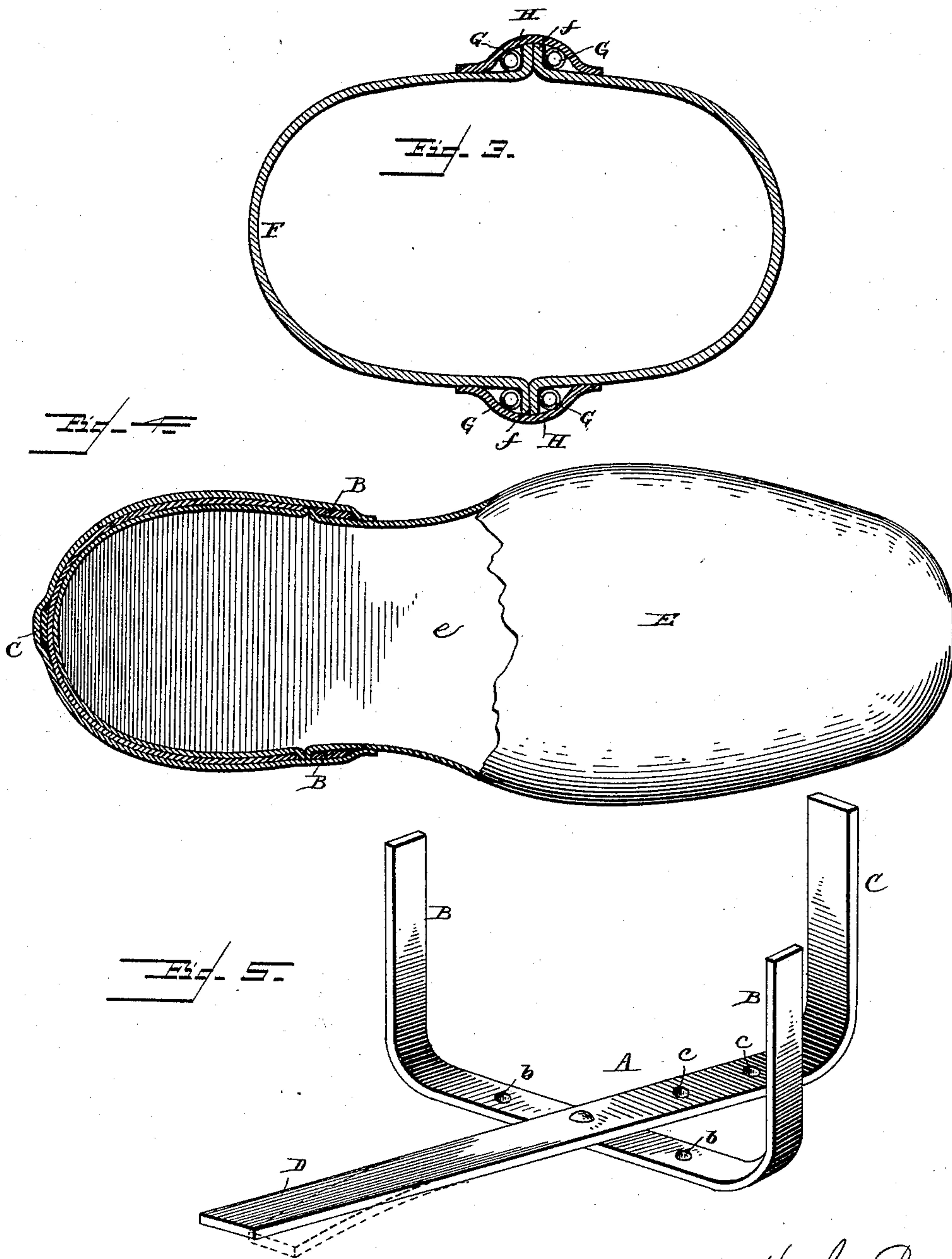
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY L. BENSON, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, AND
SIGMUND LINDAUR AND CHARLES H. DANE, OF DEMING, TERRITORY
OF NEW MEXICO.

BOOT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 390,552, dated October 2, 1888.

Application filed April 26, 1888. Serial No. 271,908. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY L. BENSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boots or Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to boots or shoes; and its object is to provide, in combination with a counter-support, a coil spring or springs secured, substantially as described, along the upper, to support the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which will possess advantages in point of inexpensiveness, durability, and general efficiency.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view on the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the counter-support and shank.

Corresponding parts in the figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a combined counter-support and shank, preferably constructed of two sections of steel and riveted at or near their centers. This counter-support and shank is cross-shaped, thus comprising four arms, the side ones of which, B B, and the rear one, C, are turned up, conforming to the sides of the boot, and form the counter-support, while the front arm, D, is straight and serves as a steel shank for the boot. The horizontal portions of the arms forming the counter-support are preferably provided with perforations *b* and *c*, for securing the whole device in position upon the under side of the inner sole, *e*, of the boot E.

F designates the upper, which extends at its lower rear end within the counter, constructed with its seams *f f* turned outwardly, and at one or both sides of each seam are disposed coil-springs G G, preferably extending from near the top of the upper to a point near the top ends of the side arms of the counter-sup-

port. A strip of leather, H H, is secured over the spring or springs and the seam at each side by stitching, thereby retaining the springs in place and also giving a neat and attractive appearance to the boot.

It will be obvious that by disposing the coil-spring upon the outside in the manner described a smooth and comfortable interior is afforded.

I claim as my invention—

1. The herein-described combined counter-stiffener and shank for boots or shoes, comprising two strips pivoted together and having the side and rear arms bent up to form the stiffener and the straight front arm extended to form the shank, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with a boot or shoe, a combined counter-stiffener and shank composed of two strips pivoted together, forming a cross-shaped plate, the side and rear arms of which are bent up to form the stiffener, and having their horizontal portion perforated, and a straight front arm extended to form the shank, substantially as set forth.

3. In combination, a boot or shoe having outturned side seams, coil-springs provided at the outside of the upper and adjacent said seams, strips for inclosing said seams and springs, and a combined counter-stiffener and shank comprising two strips pivoted together, forming a cross-shaped plate, the side and rear arms of which are bent up to form the stiffener and the straight arms extended to form the shank, substantially as set forth.

4. The herein-described improvements in boots or shoes, consisting of the combined counter-stiffener and shank having four arms extending from a common center, the side arms being upturned, the upper having outwardly-turned seams, coil-springs provided at the outside of the upper and adjacent said seams, and strips for inclosing said seams and springs, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

HENRY L. BENSON.

Witnesses:

T. F. PATTON,
OTTER JOHNSON.