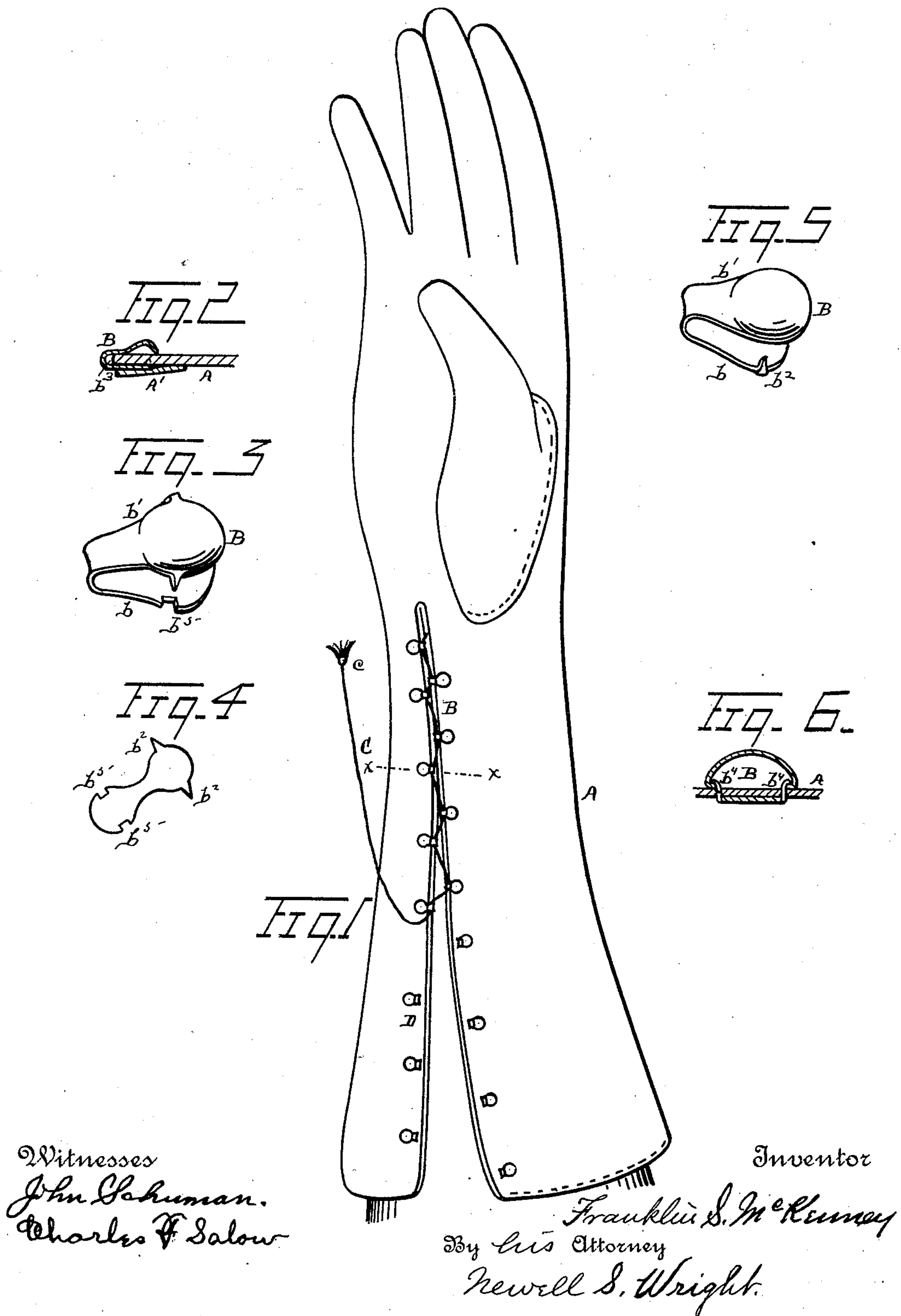


(No Model.)

F. S. McKENNEY.
LACING EYE.

No. 437,228.

Patented Sept. 30, 1890.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN S. MCKENNEY, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

LACING-EYE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 437,228, dated September 30, 1890.

Application filed October 19, 1889. Serial No. 327,512. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN S. MCKENNEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, county of Wayne, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Lacing; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in a lacing for kid gloves, boots, or analogous articles; and it consists of the devices and appliances, together with their combinations and arrangements, as more fully hereinafter specified and claimed, and more particularly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a glove to which my invention is applied. Fig. 2 is a sectional view through one of the loop-eyelets and face of the glove on the line xx , Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a separate view of one of the completed loop-eyelets. Fig. 4 is a view of a blank from which the loop-eyelet is formed. Fig. 5 shows a modification of the loop-eyelet. Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the device shown in Fig. 5 as applied to an article of apparel.

In a satisfactory and desirable device for lacing kid gloves, &c., it is very essential that the construction and arrangement of devices be simple, economical, and efficient in their operation and such as to be readily applied and used. At the same time the lacing must give an attractive appearance and finish to articles to which it is applied. It must also be free from roughness, from a tendency to chafe the wearer, and from a liability of catching and becoming entangled in laces or other articles of wearing-apparel.

It is a well-known fact that buttons and glove-hooks are a source of much annoyance on account of such liability, and are objectionable from the fact of their often causing destruction to articles of dress and the like.

It has been the object of my invention to provide a lacing which shall effectually overcome all of these objectionable features, and to prevent the objectionable liabilities heretofore common in devices of this class.

For purposes of illustration I have shown my invention in the drawings submitted herewith as applied to a glove, although I would have it understood that I do not confine the application of my invention to a glove alone, as I contemplate its application wherever it is found adapted.

I carry out my invention as follows:

A represents a glove, which may be made and finished in any ordinary manner, as with the usual inner facing-strip A' at the edge. The material of the glove may be turned over and stitched along the edge to form a neat marginal edge. The edge of the glove I provide with a series of simple loop-eyelets B, which I construct and apply to the glove in the following manner:

As more particularly shown in Figs. 3 and 5, the loop-eyelet consists, when completed ready for application to the glove or other article, of two arms b b' , one of said arms being provided with points for fastening the eyelet upon the article. Attention is specifically called to the fact that the entire eyelet is stamped or formed in a single blank or piece, as shown in Fig. 4. Intermediate the extremities of the arms I prefer to narrow the blank, and at which point the eye or loop b^3 of the eyelet is formed, by suitably bending or folding the blank, as shown. At the point of the loop b^3 by suitable means the marginal edges of the device are turned to throw the edges of the loop b^3 outward and thereby prevent unnecessary wear and friction on the cord, allowing it to run easily through the same.

I do not limit myself to any exact shape of the extremities of the eyelet, as one or both may be shaped to form a simulated button-head or otherwise shaped to form a neat and attractive appearance. Any shape may be given thereto which may be desired.

In Fig. 6 I have shown one extremity constructed with an inwardly-turned flange b^4 , under which the points b^2 on the opposite extremity may be clinched. When this construction is employed, the points are entirely concealed when clinched in the glove, and being under the outer arm lie perfectly smooth. As shown, however, in Fig. 3, one extremity may be constructed with marginal recesses or notches b^5 , in which the points of the opposite extremity may be engaged and clinched.

The loop-eyelet, when completed ready for application to the article to be laced, is passed over the marginal edge of the article, as shown, surrounding the marginal edge of the article, the two arms of the eyelet embracing the edge of the article between them, leaving the loop to project slightly beyond the marginal edge of the article, used upon articles that are pliable and compressible, as ordinary kid. However, the loop may set in very near the marginal edge.

C represents a lacing-cord, which is passed through the loop of the several eyelets.

The eyelets may be arranged alternately upon the opposite edges of the glove, in which case one end only of the cord need be passed through the loops, and it will be evident that by pulling on the one end the cord may be readily drawn up so as to bring the marginal edges of the glove close together, the lacing-cord lying in between and along said edges when they are snug together. The cord is provided with a tab *c* at the end, so that it will not pull out through the loops. It will be seen, therefore, that the glove may readily be unlaced by loosening the cord and pulling the edges of the glove apart. The eyelets being located alternately, as described, the edges of the article may be brought very snugly together. There are no projecting points anywhere to catch, and the lacing is every way neat and tasty in appearance, as well as convenient and secure.

The loop-eyelets may be applied throughout upon the article to be laced, or as shown in Fig. 1. The upper part of the article may be provided with hooks *D* of ordinary construction, upon which the end of the cord may be laced in the usual manner, thereby taking up the cord after it has been pulled up to bring the edges of the article together.

The lacing-cord used may be small and of the same color as the article to which it is applied, and so when drawn up is practically concealed from observation.

A loop-eyelet so constructed is made and applied in a single piece without the necessity of any additional plate or washer or anything of a similar nature hitherto employed. There are no openings or points above the surface. The cord will never be disengaged from the eyelets, but is always in position to be grasped and pulled up to bring the edges of the article together, while at the same time it is readily loosened and the edges of the article drawn back for disengagement. It is especially evident, moreover, that the cord being thus engaged with the eyelets upon

both edges of the article, upon drawing up the cord the strain is evenly distributed to all the eyelets upon both edges, tending to easily bring the edges together to a proper fit without the liability of stretching or tearing at any particular point, as in the case of a button or hook. As the strain is so evenly distributed, the lacing may be carried to the lowest point of opening at the palm, thereby nicely closing that part which is usually left to gape open by the devices hitherto in use. The construction and arrangement is such that the orifices of the eyelets all lie in the same direction as the marginal edge of the article to which they are applied, and all in line with the lacing-cord when the article is laced up. This construction and arrangement lessens friction and allows the marginal edges of the article to be brought snugly together, the lacing lying in between said edges. These loop-eyelets when applied to a glove present a smooth surface on the interior and exterior—a matter of great advantage and superiority. It will be evident that when clinched upon the article the two arms are clinched and held firmly together. Where the eyelets are provided with points, no orifices are required to be cut in the article to which the eyelet is attached, dispensing with the process of punching the material to receive the fastening, leaving the material intact and in its full strength.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. As an article of manufacture, a loop-eyelet constructed with arms adapted to embrace the material, one of said arms provided with piercing-prongs on opposite marginal edges and the other arm provided with seats at its sides to be engaged by said piercing-prongs, the edges of the end portion of the loop being curved outwardly, substantially as set forth.

2. As an article of manufacture, a loop-eyelet constructed with arms adapted to embrace the material, one of said arms provided with piercing-prongs on its opposite marginal edges and the other arm provided with marginal recesses on its opposite sides to be engaged by said piercing-prongs, the edges of the end portion of the loop being curved outward, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

FRANKLIN S. MCKENNEY.

Witnesses:

N. S. WRIGHT,
CHAS. F. SALOW.