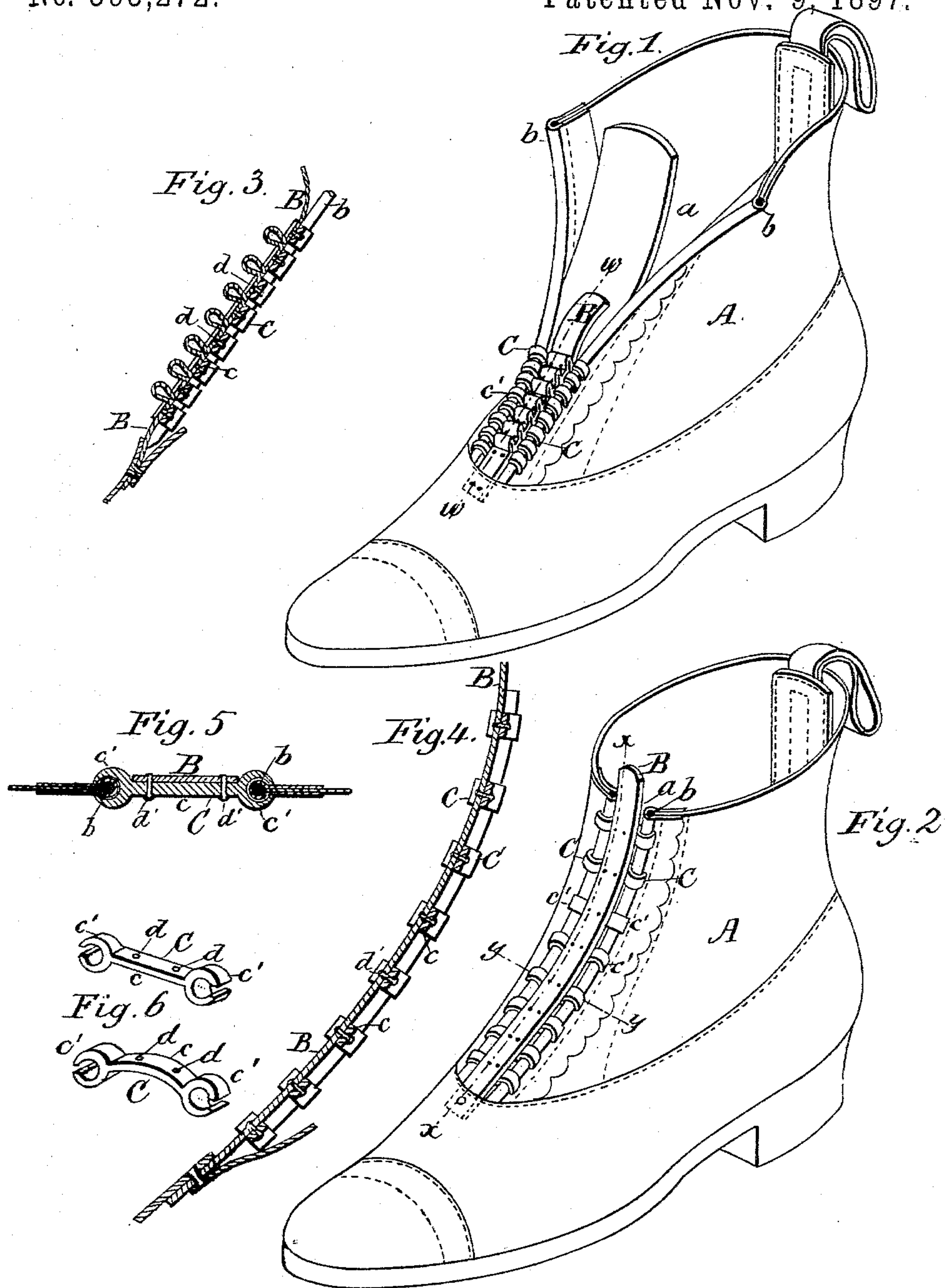


(No Model.)

J. W. DENNO.
FASTENING FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

No. 593,272.

Patented Nov. 9, 1897.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FASTENING FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. DENNO, of Boston, Suffolk county, Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Fastenings for Boots, Shoes, Gaiters, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

10 Figure 1 represents a shoe having applied to its instep-opening a fastening constructed in accordance with my present invention, said instep being shown open. Fig. 2 represents the shoe with its instep closed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal section on the line *ww* of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, an enlarged longitudinal section on the line *xx* of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on line *yy*, enlarged. Fig. 6 is an enlarged representation of the transverse clips which serve to clasp and embrace the round cords or guides at the sides of the opening in the instep of the shoe, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

25 This invention has for its object to provide a desirable, practical, and successful fastening as a substitute for buttons, hooks, elastic webbing, lacing, and other devices usually employed for securing boots, shoes, gaiters, corsets, gloves, and other articles in place; and my invention relates particularly to that class of fastenings in which a movable tongue or band is provided with a series of transverse devices which engage with guides formed at the opposite sides of the opening in the article to be closed or fastened; and this invention consists in a flexible tongue or band and a series of transverse clips permanently secured thereto at intervals, each clip being formed of a pair of bifurcated clasps united by an interposed shank, either straight, curved, or otherwise, to which the band is sewed or riveted, in combination with and embracing raised fillets, beads, or "piping" guides located at the opposite edges of the opening in the article to which my fastening is applied, the act of closing the opening being conveniently performed by simply drawing the band, with the clips attached thereto, through the opening, while the act of unfastening the article or disclosing the opening therein is ef-

fectured by pressing the transverse clips down (or other direction, as the case may be) close together until they are collected at the opposite end of the opening, with the folds of the connecting band or tongue neatly gathered between them, whereby the necessity of drawing it down below, away from, out of, or beyond the opening incident to other fasteners of this class, and the objections thereto are avoided.

60 In Figs. 1 and 2 of the said drawings, A represents a shoe having a central opening *a* at its instep, each of the opposite sides or edges of said opening being formed of a piping cord, fillet, or bead, or, in other words, of a round cord covered with a fold of the "upper" or with a separate strip of leather stitched to the edge of the upper, the two edges or sides of said instep-opening when properly finished serving as raised guides *b b*. (Seen in cross-section, Fig. 5.) Within this instep-opening is fitted a band or tongue B, of leather or other suitable flexible material, preferably sewed to the upper at the lower end of said opening. The width of this flexible band should be about the width of the opening *a*, and sewed or riveted to the under side of said band at intervals—for instance, at equal distances apart—are a series of transverse clips C of the form seen in Fig. 6, each clip being formed of a straight or curved middle portion or shank *c*, having each of its opposite ends terminating in a bifurcation *c'*, said clips serving as clasps for embracing the two guides *b b* at the opposite edges of the opening in the instep. The interposed shank *c* is provided with two or more perforations *d d*, Fig. 6, through which passes the thread or rivets *d' d'*, used in securing the clip to the band, Fig. 5, or this shank or middle portion *c* may be solid and the stitches *d' d'* or other fastening be carried around instead of through it. The length of this band B may be a trifle greater than that of the instep-opening, so that when it is closed, as seen in Fig. 2, the upper end of the band may extend a short distance above the opening, and when the band is down serves as a convenient means by which the fingers may be applied to draw the band up from the position

seen in Fig. 1 to close the opening, as seen in Fig. 2, similar to that were the shoe upon the foot, the act of slightly pulling or drawing up on the said band causing the several
5 clasps to successively slide smoothly up on the raised guides *b b* at the opposite sides of the opening *a*, thus instantly closing it and securing the shoe in an easy position upon the foot, the arrangement and location of the
10 clips and band being more clearly seen in the enlarged section, Fig. 4.

When the shoe is on the foot and is to be unfastened ready for removal, it is only necessary to press gently with the thumb down
15 on the upper clasp, which thereby slides down and causes the other clasps in succession to slide down on the guides *b b*, with the band *B* gathered in neat folds between them, till the instep-opening is revealed or disclosed,
20 as seen in Fig. 1, the position of the clasps and interposed folds being more clearly seen in the enlarged section, Fig. 3.

Instead of the band being longer than the opening *a* and extending above it when closed
25 it may be only of the same length therewith, and an ornamental loop or other device of metal or other material may be secured to the band for the fingers to grasp in drawing it up to close the opening, and I find that this
30 operation of closing said opening in order to be accomplished successfully in a prompt and reliable manner depends on the careful attachment of the band to each clip, as herein shown and described—viz., securing the band
35 at two points, for instance, at *d d* at or near the opposite ends of the shank *c*, in order that every shank may maintain a position at right angles to the opposite guides to insure

the free, smooth, and uniform movement of the clasps thereon, the liability of said shanks
40 being diverted out of their proper parallelism and their clasps catching unevenly on the guides and obstructing the operation of closing, incident to the connection of the clips by a cord secured only at their centers, being
45 wholly avoided.

My herein-described fastening may be conveniently applied to various objects or articles of wear for general business or domestic
50 purposes—for instance, to gaiter-shoes or overgaiters, corsets, gloves, hand-bags, whip-bags, mail-pouches, leggings for bicycle-suits, covers for trunks, seats, cushions, carriage-tops, gun-carriages, and other articles having
55 openings which are required to be controlled to obtain access to their interiors.

I claim—

An improvement in the fastenings for boots, shoes, gaiters, &c., the same consisting of the
60 combination of an article having fillets, beads or piping-cord guides on opposite sides of the opening, a series of transverse clips each of which is composed of a simple bar having two perforations and provided with bifurcated
65 ends said ends forming clasps for grasping the fillets and a strap or tongue to which each clip is sewed or riveted at two points near the edges of the tongue, the series being fastened at definite intervals along the tongue.

Witness my hand this 24th day of November, 1896.

JOHN W. DENNO.

In presence of—

ALBERT W. LYON,
S. M. WOOD.