

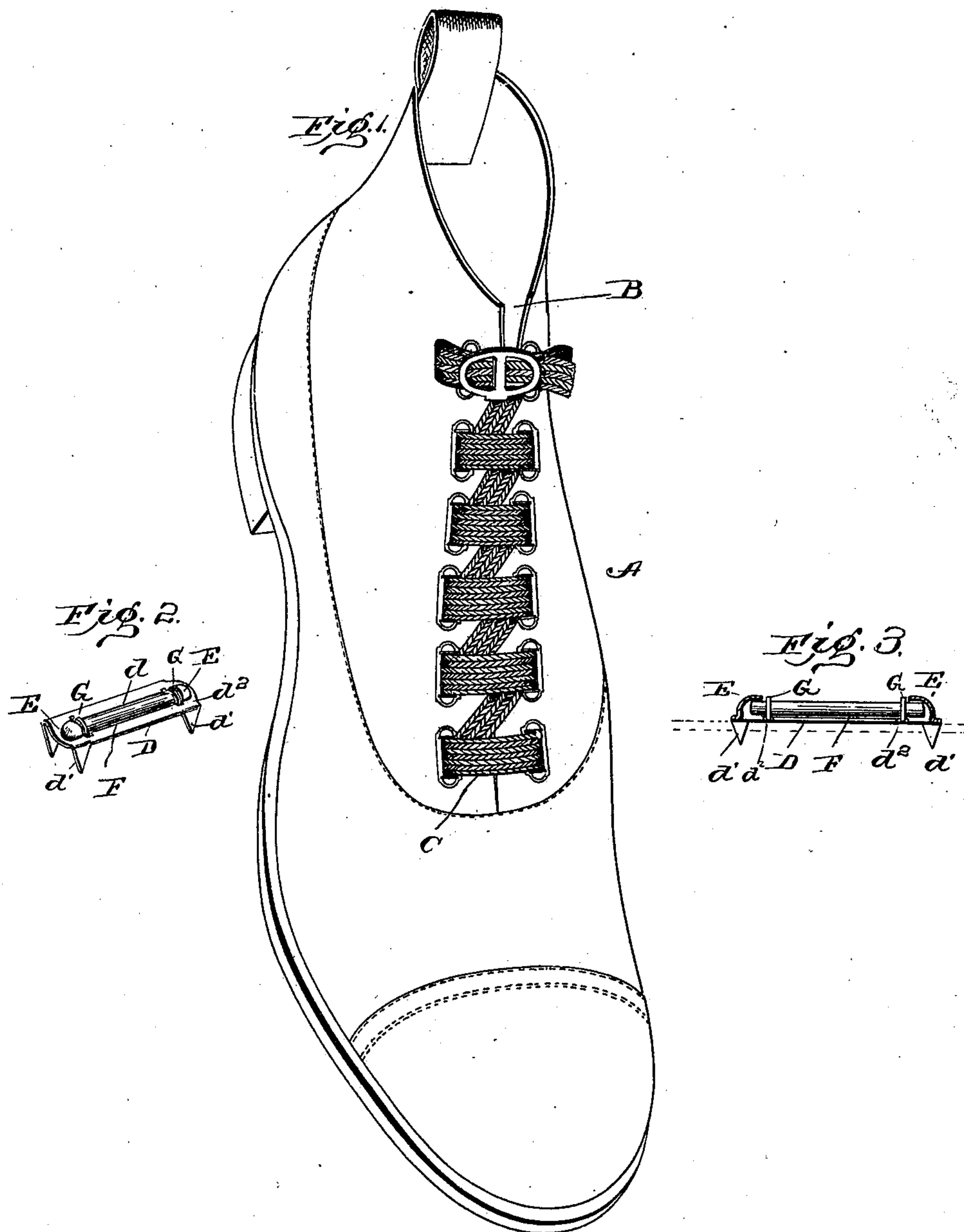
No. 664,005.

Patented Dec. 18, 1900.

L. A. ROBERTS.  
LACING GUIDE.

(Application filed May 15, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## LACING-GUIDE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 664,005, dated December 18, 1900.

Application filed May 15, 1900. Serial No. 16,827. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LEWIS A. ROBERTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Carbon-  
dale, county of Lackawanna, and State of  
5 Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and  
useful Improvements in Lacing-Guides; and  
I do hereby declare the following to be a full,  
clear, and exact description of the same, ref-  
erence being had to the accompanying draw-  
10 ings, forming a part of this specification, and  
to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to improvements in  
lacing-guides for shoes, adapted especially for  
use with a single flat lacing, the object being to  
15 provide a guide through which the lacing can  
run freely, whereby the tension is distributed  
evenly, wear prevented, and tightening and  
loosening of the upper greatly facilitated by  
obviating the necessity of catching hold of  
20 the lacing between the guides.

To these ends the invention consists in cer-  
tain novel details of construction and com-  
binations and arrangements of parts, all as  
will be now described, and the particular fea-  
25 tures of novelty pointed out in the appended  
claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective  
view of a shoe provided with my improved  
lacing-guide. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective  
30 view of one of the lacing-guides. Fig. 3 is a  
longitudinal sectional view of the same.

Similar letters of reference in the several  
figures indicate the same parts.

The letter A indicates the shoe, B the la-  
35 cing-opening, and C the lacing for drawing to-  
gether the edges of the upper.

D indicates a base-plate, preferably of sheet  
metal, of substantially rectangular or other  
desired shape, having a central open or cut-  
40 out portion  $d$  and provided on opposite sides  
with downwardly-extending holding lugs or  
points  $d'$ , by which the plate may be fastened  
to the face of the shoe-upper, as will be read-  
ily understood. At each end of the opening  
45  $d$  the plate is bent upwardly to form hous-  
ings E, open at the bottom and on the side  
toward the opening  $d$ , such housings consti-  
tuting bearings for the journals of rollers F.  
With this construction said rollers may be  
50 slipped into place from the under side of the  
plate and will be held by the leather of the  
upper when the plate is secured thereon.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, a single flat lacing  
is employed, one end being secured at the  
lower end to the upper or one of the guides. 55  
Said lacing is passed around each of the other  
rollers and the free end held at the top of the  
shoe by any preferred fastening.

To prevent the edges of the lacing from be-  
coming worn by contact with the edges of 60  
the housings or bearings E, each of the roll-  
ers is provided near its ends with a collar or  
ring G, against which the edge of the lacing  
runs. In order to keep the collars G in place  
and prevent them slipping along the rollers 65  
when they are loose, as in the preferred con-  
struction, small incisions or cuts  $d^2$  are made  
in the plate D at or near the ends of the cen-  
tral opening and on opposite sides thereof,  
and the collars or rings G extend transversely 70  
into these recesses, as will be readily under-  
stood from an inspection of Fig. 2.

With a shoe embodying the present inven-  
tion the wearer has only to grasp the upper  
end of the lacing to draw it tight throughout 75  
its whole length, and in removing the shoe  
if the upper end of the lacing be released the  
pressure occasioned by drawing the shoe off  
is all that is necessary to loosen the lacing  
80 throughout its length.

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

1. In a device such as described, the com-  
bination with the base secured to the shoe, 85  
the roller journaled in said base, and over  
which the lacing travels, and the rings on said  
rollers near its opposite ends, as and for the  
purpose set forth.

2. In a device such as described, the com- 90  
bination with the base provided with the pene-  
trating points for securing it to the shoe, and  
formed with a central opening having the cap  
or housing at each end, of the rollers jour-  
naled in said caps or housings; substantially 95  
as described.

3. In a device such as described, the com-  
bination with the base having the central  
opening, the downwardly-extending holding-  
points carried thereby, the cap or housing 100  
formed at each end of said opening, the roller  
journaled in said caps or housings, the loose  
rings or washers carried by said journals, and  
means for preventing the washers from mov-



ing longitudinally of the rollers; substantially as described.

4. In a device such as described, the combination with the base having the central cut-out portion, and the oppositely-arranged incisions or cuts near the ends of said cut-out portion, the penetrating points carried by said plate, the caps or housings on the upper side of the plate, the roller journaled in said caps or housings, and the loose rings or collars carried by the roller, and fitting in the cuts or incisions in the plate; substantially as described.

5. The combination with a shoe-upper of a base-plate secured to the face thereof and having a central opening with housings open on the bottom and inner sides at each end of the opening and constituting bearings, and a roller journaled in said bearings and held in place by the upper on which the base is secured; substantially as described.

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