

No. 677,539.

Patented July 2, 1901.

E. E. DONOVAN.  
TEMPORARY FASTENER FOR SHOES.

(Application filed July 5, 1900.)

(No Model.)

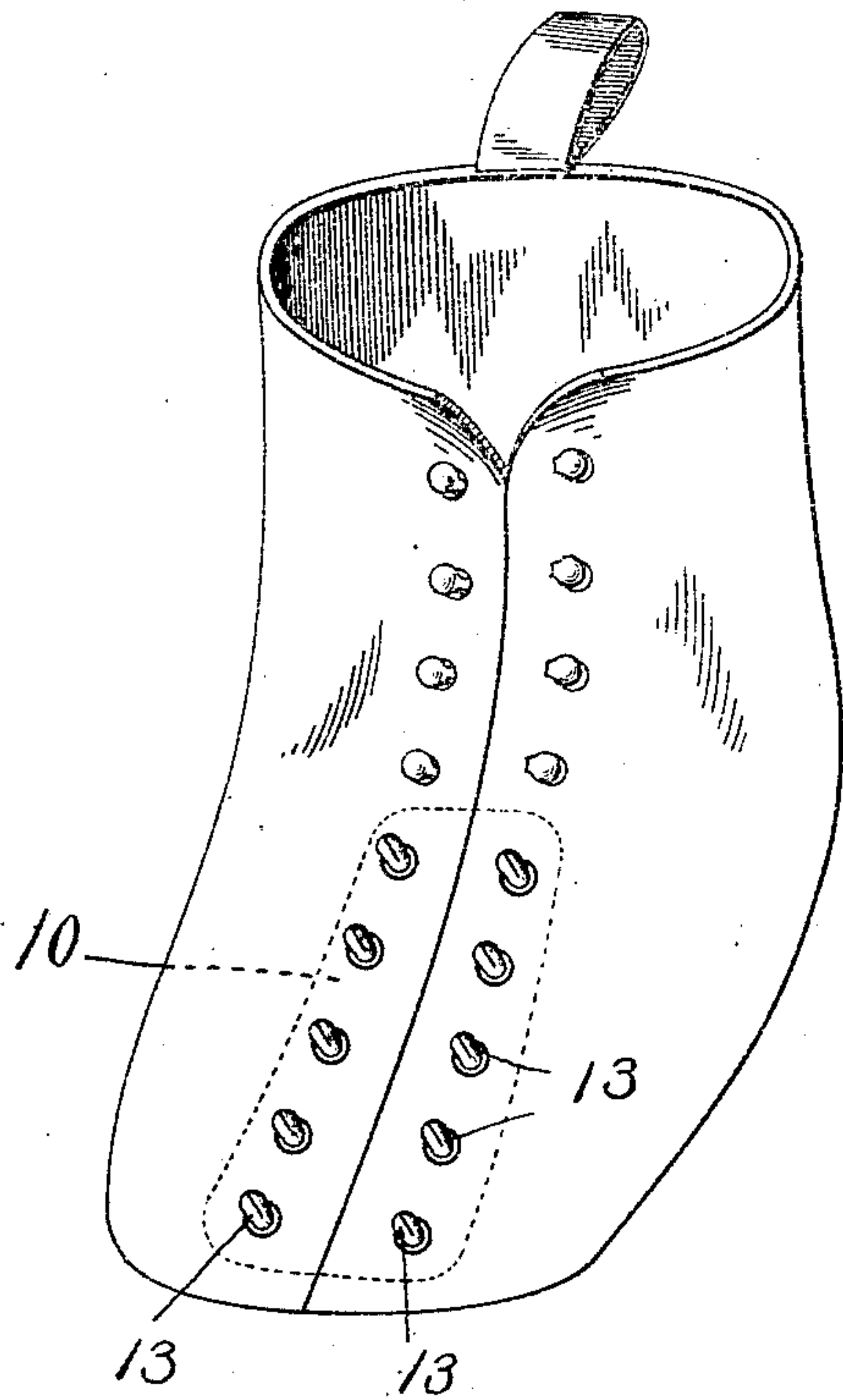


Fig. 1.

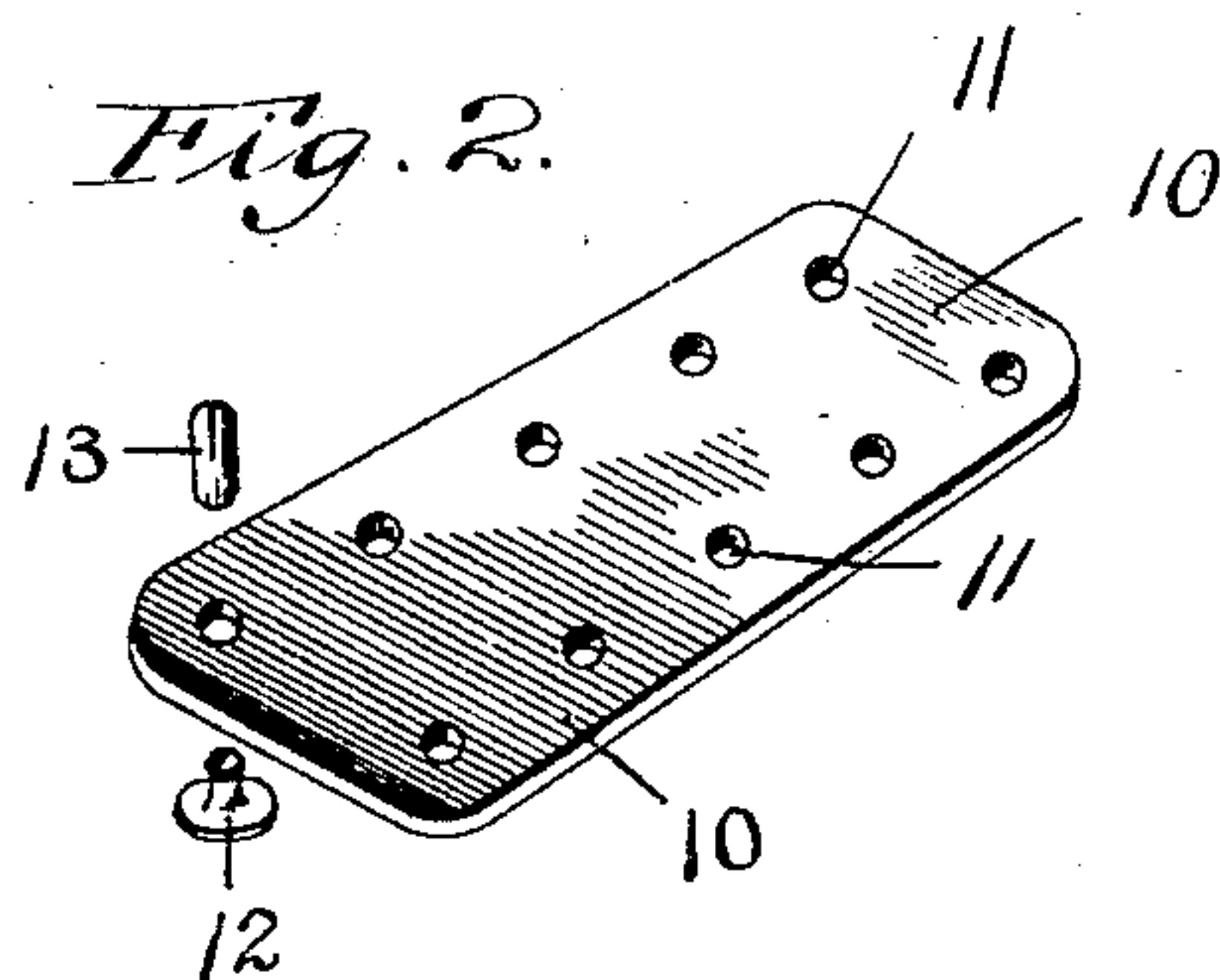


Fig. 2.

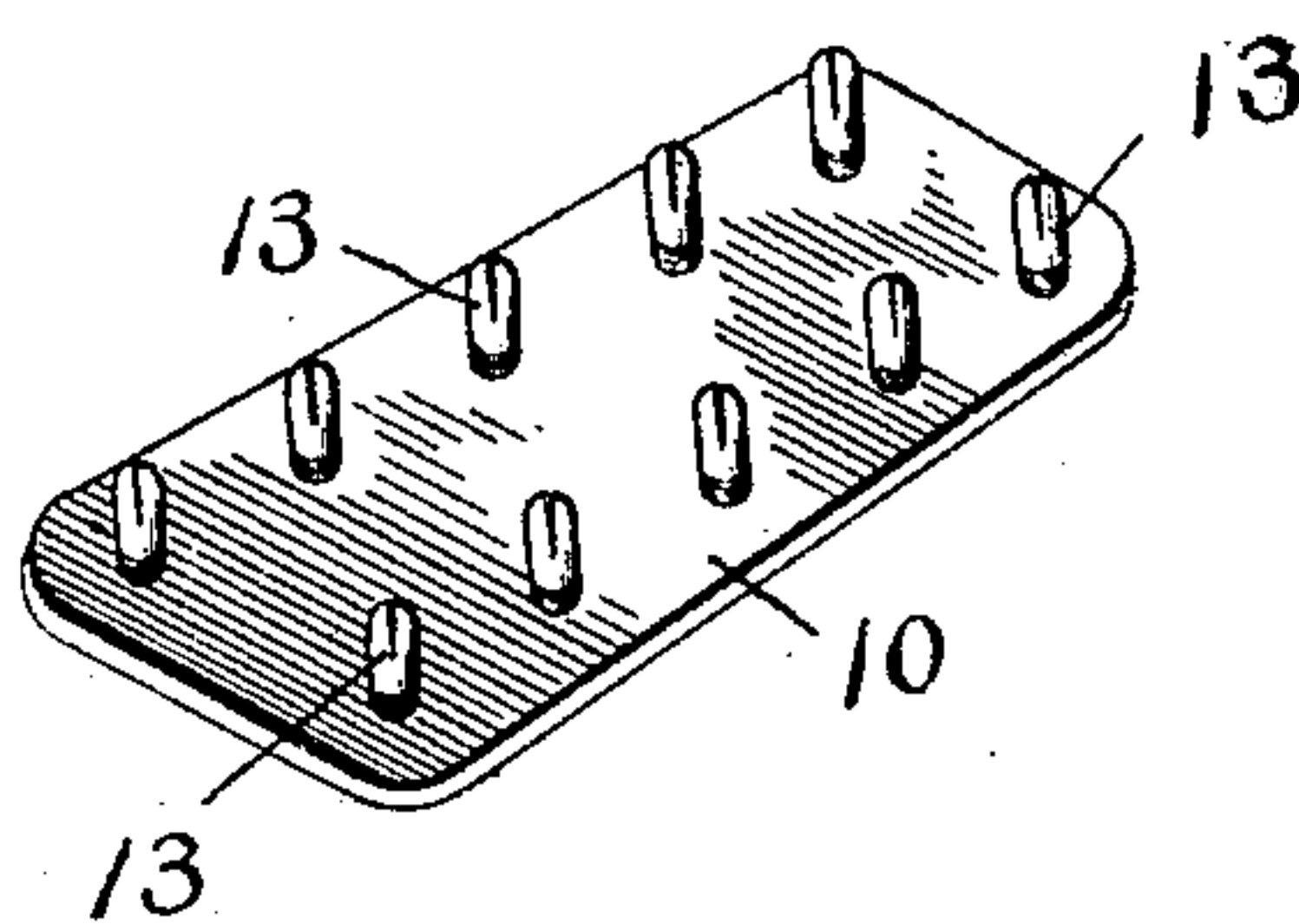


Fig. 3.

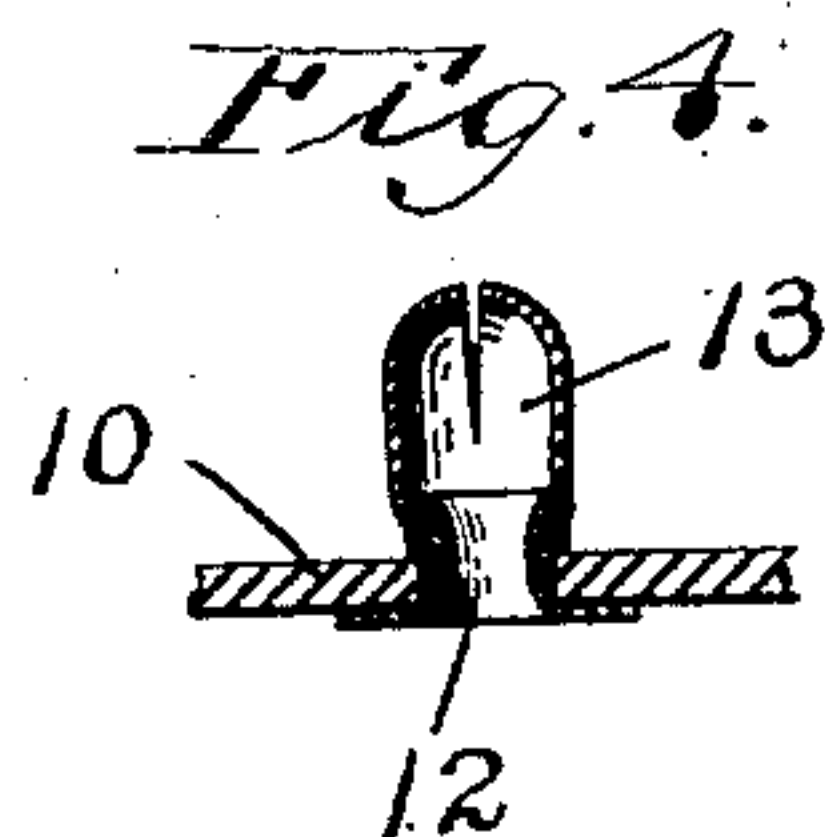


Fig. 4.

Witnesses.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST E. DONOVAN, OF NORTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO  
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## TEMPORARY FASTENER FOR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,539, dated July 2, 1901.

Application filed July 5, 1900. Serial No. 22,513. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ERNEST E. DONOVAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at North Grafton, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Temporary Fastener for Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a device for holding together the front edges or instep portion of a shoe-upper during the manufacture of a laced shoe; and the object of this invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient fastener which not only may be used to fasten together the instep portion of a shoe-upper during the manufacture of the shoe, but which will also bring the eyelets of the shoe into such accurate register with each other as to dispense with barring or temporary stitching together the ends of a shoe-upper, as is now ordinarily the practice as a preliminary step to vamping the shoe.

To this end the invention consists of the temporary fastening device as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a shoe-upper, illustrating the application of my temporary fastener thereto. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the parts employed to make up a temporary fastener according to my invention. Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the temporary fastener, and Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view illustrating the manner of securing the parts together.

In the manufacture of shoes as a preliminary step to the lasting process it is now customary to lace the front of the shoe with string or twine. This practice is objectionable, as the shoe will be shaped over the instep portion of the last accordingly as the upper is laced more or less tightly, and as twine will necessarily stretch to different degrees or the knots for holding the twine will slip more or less during the lasting operation the shoes made on the same last will vary to considerable extent among themselves.

As a preliminary step to vamping or sewing on the lower portion of an upper of a shoe it is also necessary to provide some means for

holding the eyelets in position so that they will register accurately with each other. This has heretofore ordinarily been accomplished by "barring" or sewing together the front lower corners of the upper portion of a shoe-upper by means of a few stitches or short seam. The objections which exist to lacing up the front of the upper with string or twine and the unnecessary cost in barring or stitching together the corners of a shoe-upper have long been recognized, and a number of temporary fasteners have been devised the use of which is intended to supersede these operations. Several of such temporary fastening devices have been patented, and my invention relates especially to this class of fastening devices, the especial object of my present invention being to provide a fastening device which is not only reliable and efficient in operation, but which can be manufactured and placed on the market at a price which will insure a far more extensive use and adoption of the same than of other temporary fastening devices with which I am familiar.

Referring to the accompanying drawings and in detail, a temporary fastener constructed according to my invention, as herein illustrated, comprises a body portion or plate 10, of flexible sheet metal. The plate 10 is provided along opposite edges with perforations 11, and set into the perforations 11 are spring-ended studs which engage the eyelets of the shoe. To secure the studs in place, I preferably insert an eyelet 12 into each of the perforations 11. The eyelets 12 are provided with flaring upper ends which project through the sheet-metal plate 10. Fitting over each of the eyelets 12 are round-ended sheet-metal caps 13, which are secured in place by being crimped in around the flaring ends of the eyelets 12, as most clearly illustrated in Fig. 4. The round-topped sheet-metal caps are then split or slotted and their upper ends slightly expanded, as shown, in order to make spring-fastening devices which when pushed through the eyelets of the shoe will hold the fastener securely in place.

In a previous application for patent I have described and claimed a temporary fastener for shoes which is made out of a single piece



sheet metal having integral split-ended  
ends punched out therefrom along opposite  
edges thereof.

The temporary fastener forming the sub-  
ject-matter of this application for patent I  
have designed as an improvement over the  
single-piece fastener of my previous applica-  
tion for patent, as I have found in practice  
that the manufacture of temporary fasteners  
in a single piece of metal requires the use  
of high-grade brass or similar stock, and the  
cost of the dies and tools for stamping and  
forming the fastener into shape is necessarily  
considerable, whereas in the form of fastener  
disclosed in this application for patent the  
body portion 10 may be made from compara-  
tively inexpensive material, such as sheet-  
metal, and only the round-topped cap portions  
need be formed of spring-brass or more ex-  
pensive material, and my present inven-  
tion resides especially in the novel arrange-  
ment and combinations of parts for securing  
the spring-studs to the sheet-metal body por-  
tion.

I am aware that changes may be made in  
the shapes and proportions of temporary fas-  
teners constructed according to my invention  
without departing from the scope of the in-  
vention as expressed in the claims. I do not  
wish, therefore, to be limited to the form which  
I have herein shown and described; but

What I do claim, and desire to secure by  
Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. As an article of manufacture, a tempo-

rary fastener for shoes comprising a sheet- 35  
metal plate having perforations along oppo-  
site edges thereof, eyelets each having a flar-  
ing end of less diameter than said perfora-  
tions inserted through said plate from the  
rear side thereof, and each having a flange 40  
of greater diameter than said perforations,  
and a sheet-metal cap fitting over the flaring  
end of each eyelet and crimped in place there-  
on after the end of said eyelet has been in-  
serted through said plate to form studs, sub- 45  
stantially as described.

2. As an article of manufacture, a tempo-  
rary fastener for shoes comprising a sheet-  
metal plate 10 having perforations 11 along  
opposite edges thereof, eyelets 12, each hav- 50  
ing a flaring end of less diameter than said  
perforations inserted through said plate from  
the rear side of the plate, and having a flange  
of greater diameter than said perforations,  
and a round-topped sheet-metal cap 13 fit- 55  
ting over the flaring end of each eyelet and  
crimped in place thereon after said eyelet has  
been inserted from the rear side of the plate,  
the tops of said caps being split and expanded  
to form spring-catches for engaging the eye- 60  
lets of a shoe, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set  
my hand in the presence of two subscribing  
witnesses.

ERNEST E. DONOVAN.

Witnesses:

PHILIP W. SOUTHGATE,  
JOHN F. CROWELL.