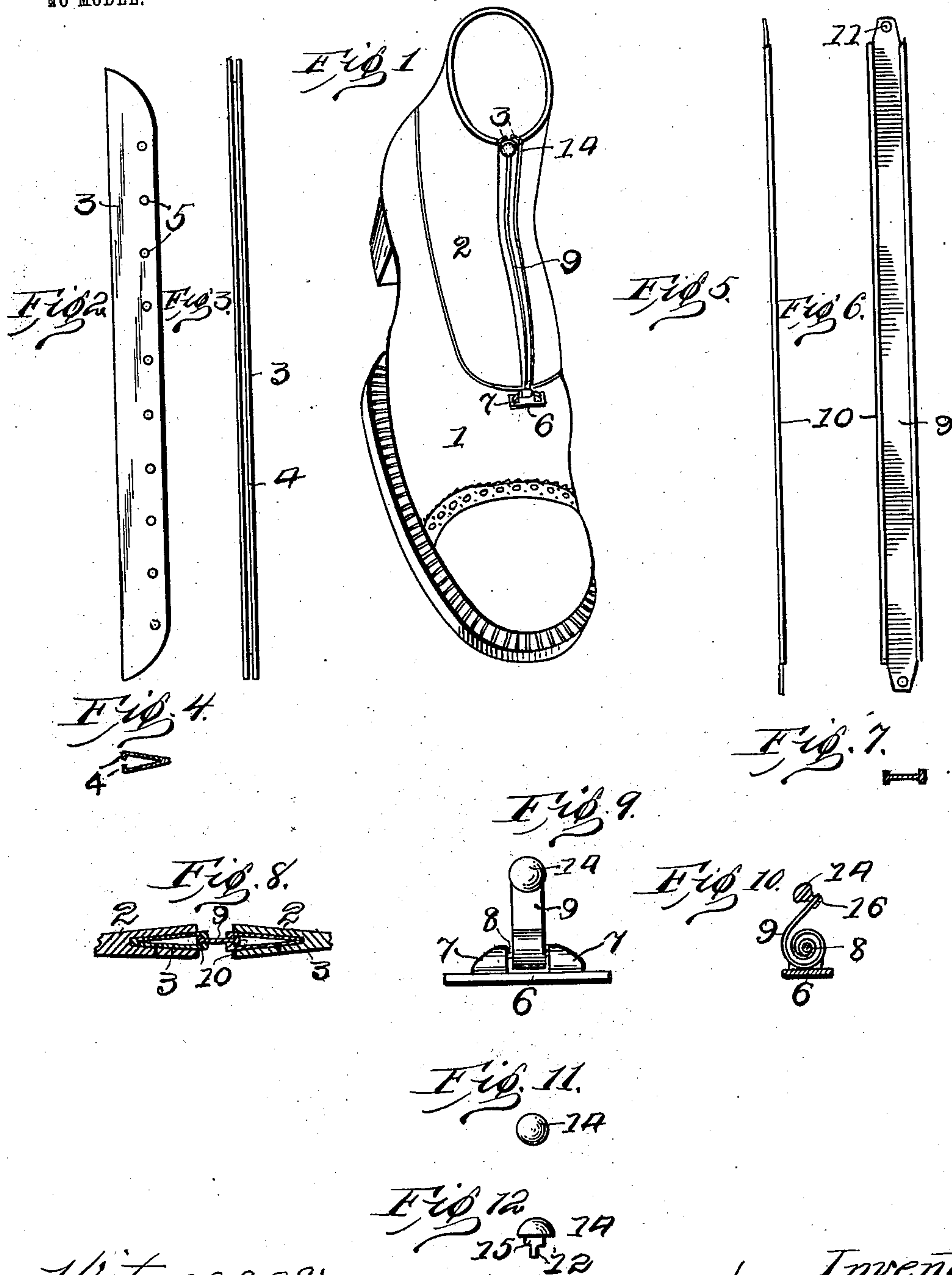


No. 724,391.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1903.

G. HIRSHELL.
SHOE FASTENER.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE HIRSHELL, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

SHOE-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 724,391, dated March 31, 1903.

Application filed December 19, 1902. Serial No. 135,872. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE HIRSHELL, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in shoe-fasteners; and the main object of the invention is to provide novel means for the fastening of the shoe throughout the length of the front opening or
15 slit for effectually closing the shoe in an extremely-rapid manner.

Briefly described, the invention comprises a spring metal strip or tongue engaging in slides or guideways provided therefor in the
20 adjacent edges of the slit made in the shoe-top. Suitable means is provided for securing the spring-tongue in the fastened position, and this tongue when released is adapted to wind upon a small shaft located at the lower
25 end of the slit in the shoe-top.

To describe the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and wherein like numerals of reference will be
30 employed for indicating like parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a detail perspective view of a shoe equipped with my improved fastening means. Fig. 2 is a detached enlarged side
35 elevation of one of the slides or guideways or strips in which the spring-metal tongue is adapted to operate. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the same. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical sectional view thereof. Fig. 5 is an edge
40 view of the spring-metal strip or tongue. Fig. 6 is a detached front elevation of the same. Fig. 7 is a transverse vertical sectional view thereof. Fig. 8 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a part of the shoe and of the fastening, showing the tongue in locked engage-
45 ment with the slides or guideways. Fig. 9 is a detached detail enlarged view of the tongue-carrying member and tongue, showing the tongue wound on its shaft. Fig. 10 is a trans-
50 verse vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 11 is a detached detail top plan view of

the locking-button, and Fig. 12 is a detached detail side elevation of the same.

In the accompanying drawings, 1 indicates the upper of the shoe; 2, the top part of the
55 shoe, which top part is slit down the front from the upper edge thereof to the upper of the shoe in the usual manner in order to permit the opening of the shoe to permit the ingress and egress of the foot. Firmly em-
60 bedded in the material of which the top of the shoe is formed along the edges of the slit are slides or ways 3, somewhat V-shaped in cross-section and provided with inturned
65 flanges 4, (see Fig. 4,) either one or both sides of the ways or slides being provided with apertures 5 to permit of the ways or slides being fastened securely in the shoe-top by stitching or other approved means.

Mounted on the upper 2, directly at the
70 lower termination of the slit in the shoe-top, is a plate 6, carrying small lugs or keepers 7, in which is mounted a shaft 8, to which is connected the lower end of a spring-tongue
9. This spring-tongue is provided with slide-
75 flanges 10, making the same substantially I-shaped in cross-section, (see Fig. 7,) these slide-flanges sliding in the ways 3 and holding the tongue in position. The upper end of the tongue is provided with an eye 11, in
80 which is mounted for rotation the shank 12 of a button 14, the shank having a flattened portion 15, which when the button is turned so as to engage the flattened portion with the
85 upper ends of the ways 3 rests thereon and holds the spring-tongue in engagement with the ways. The shank of the button is riveted in a small washer 16, which prevents the same pulling out of the eye in the tongue.

When the shank of the securing-button is
90 turned so that the flattened portion thereof is in line with the passage between the two ways 3, the tongue 9 is free, and when released by reason of the coil-spring winds upon the shaft at the bottom of the slit, thereby opening
95 the shoe-top to permit the shoe to be placed on the foot. When the foot has been inserted in the shoe, the tongue is drawn upwardly by pulling on the button 14 and the button turned so as to bring the flattened portion
100 thereof transverse to the way between the slides or ways 3 and engaged with the upper

ends of said ways to hold the tongue in the elevated position.

While I have herein shown and described the invention in detail, yet it will be observed
5 that in the practice of the same various changes may be made without departing from the general spirit of the invention.

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

1. In combination with the shoe, and the ways fitted in the shoe-top, of a spring-tongue adapted to slide in said ways, and means carried by the shoe-upper upon which the tongue
15 is wound when released, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the shoe-top, the ways fitted therein and the tongue arranged

therein, of means for locking said tongue, and means for winding said tongue when re- 20 leased.

3. In combination with a shoe-top, ways substantially V-shaped in cross-section arranged at each side of the slit in said shoe-top, a tongue substantially I-shaped in cross- 25 section and adapted to slide in said ways, and means carried by the shoe-upper upon which the tongue is wound when released, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 30 in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE HIRSHELL.

Witnesses:

H. C. EVERT,

A. M. WILSON.