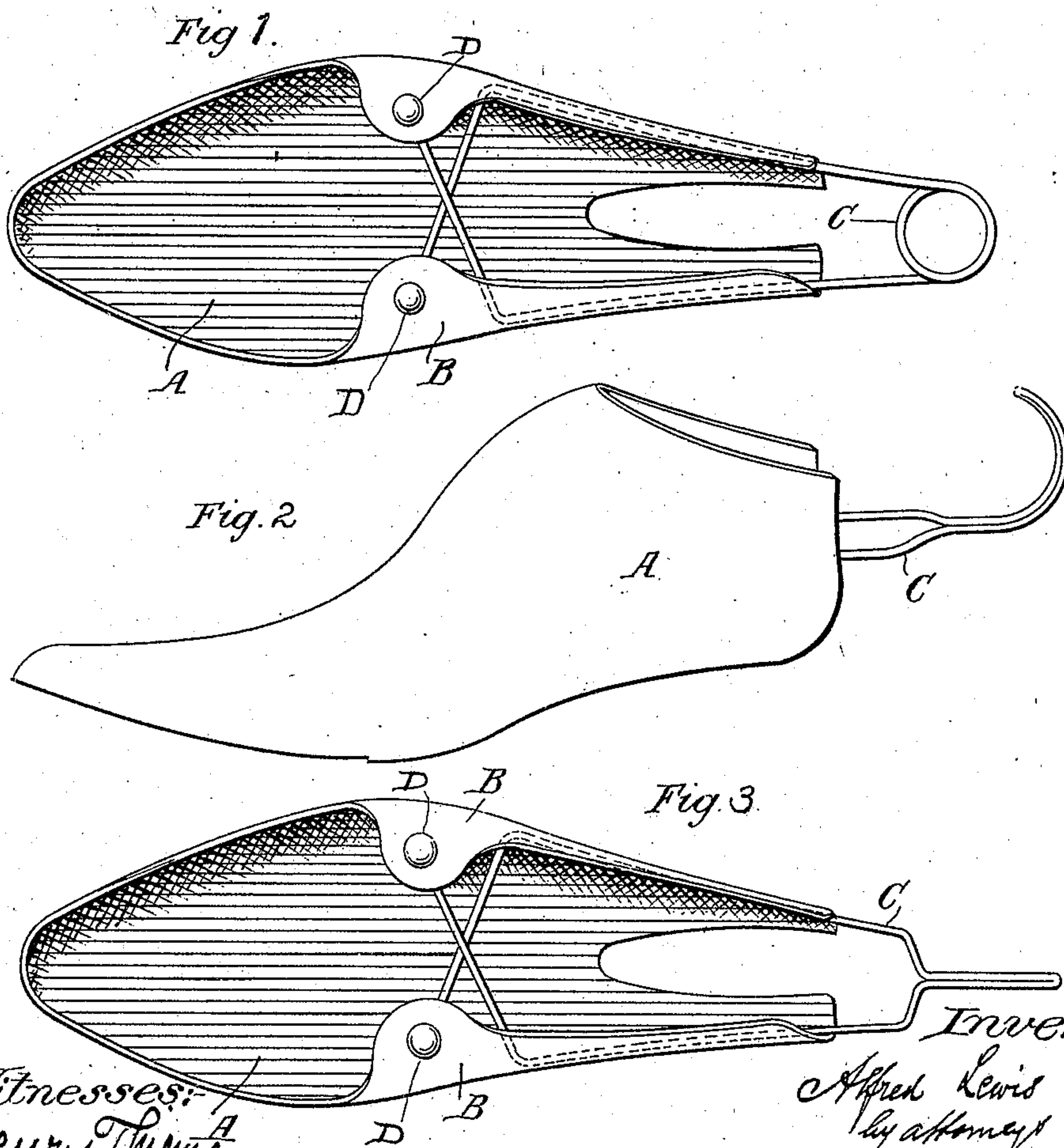


No. 815,599.

PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

A. LEWIS.
FILLER FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 6, 1904.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
Henry Thome
J. George Barry.

Inventor:
Alfred Lewis
by attorney
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED LEWIS, OF KETTERING, ENGLAND, ASSIGNOR TO MOBBS AND LEWIS, LIMITED, OF CARRINGTON FOUNDRY, KETTERING, ENGLAND, A CORPORATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

FILLER FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 815,599.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed April 6, 1904. Serial No. 201,859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED LEWIS, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of Carrington Foundry, Kettering, in the county of Northampton, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fillers for Boots or Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an under side view of a filler constructed according to this invention. Fig. 2 is a side view, and Fig. 3 an under side view, showing a modification in the form of spring.

Fillers for boots and shoes are chiefly used by retail dealers for the purpose of displaying their wares, and it is usual to provide a filler for each size and "fitting" of boot—a circumstance which acts prejudicially on the sale of fillers to retail tradesmen on account of the cost.

Fillers have been made from vulcanized fiber, which is blocked and shaped for the purpose; and in carrying out the present invention it is proposed to employ the same material, as it has a certain amount of elasticity which is necessary; but any other material having like characteristics may be employed.

Now the object of the present invention is to provide a filler which may be used for several sizes and fitting of boot or shoe within certain limits, so that the expense consequent on having a filler for each size and fitting will be avoided. To this end the heel portion of the shaped fiber filler is removed, say, at a point which would about correspond with the commencement of the "stiffener" of the boot or shoe, and at a point which would about correspond with the ball of the foot a spring is attached, which will yield to pressure when inserting the filler in the shoe and also act to force the sides of the filler outward and keep it in contact with the sides of the boot or shoe. By these means a collapsible and expansible filler will be provided, which will be capable of accommodating itself to the interior of the boot or shoe no matter what may be the size and fitting within certain limits—in other words, a filler of greater adaptability and utility than heretofore is produced.

Referring then to the drawings, A is the shaped hollow fiber filler. At the bottom edge this filler is made with turned-in lugs B, to which the ends of a laterally-distending spring C are attached by rivets D or in any other convenient manner, as will be seen from the under side views, Figs. 1 and 3.

The form the spring C may take is of minor importance so long as its object is borne in mind—namely, that it shall press the sides of the filler outward against the inner walls of the "upper" of the boot or shoe. In the drawings two forms of spring are illustrated. Thus in Fig. 1 the spring is extended rearwardly to fit the heel of the shoe, which may sometimes be preferred. In Figs. 2 and 3 the rear extension of the spring is turned up to form a hook, which may be readily seized by the finger to help to withdraw the filler as well as to fit the heel. Another advantage of this spring is that it will form a kind of handle by which the filler may be inserted or withdrawn and will be specially useful for the smaller sizes. The extended spring will also form a side stay or support for the waist of the shoe from the joint to the heel.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A collapsible and expansive filler for boots and shoes consisting of hollow-shaped elastic foot and waist portions and a spring attached to the sides of the foot portion in advance of the waist portion and extended rearwardly along the inner sides of the more-contracted waist portion, forming a side support for the waist portion and thence rearwardly beyond the waist portion to form a handle, the said spring being so formed that end pressure on the rear end of the spring in the longitudinal direction of the filler will be transmitted to the point where the spring connects with the opposite sides of the foot portion in a direction to force the said sides of the foot portion outwardly.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED LEWIS.

Witnesses:

RALPH W. GARANES,
H. RUSSELL SMITH.