A. E. BLOCK.

SHOE SHANK SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 28, 1908.

917,841. **Patented Apr. 13, 1909.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

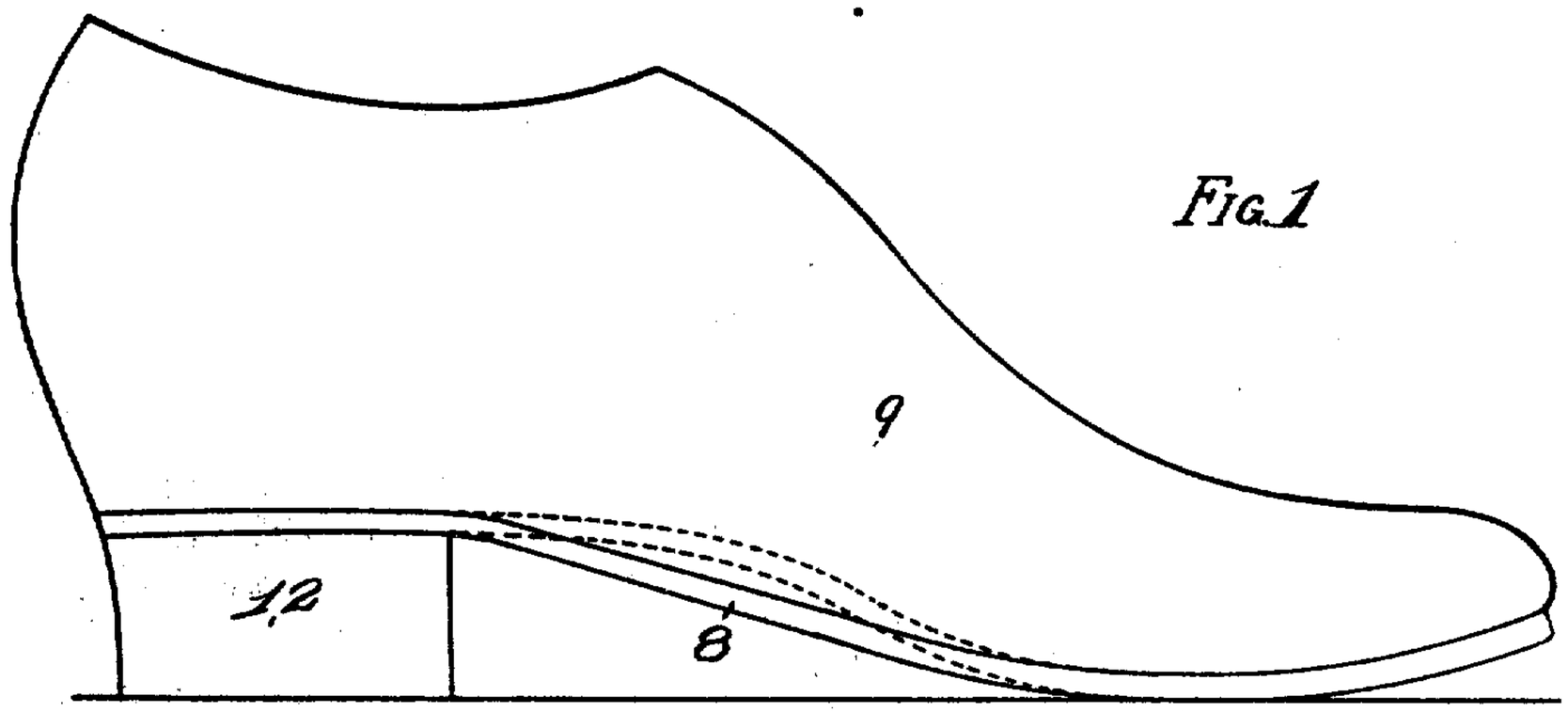

FIG. 1

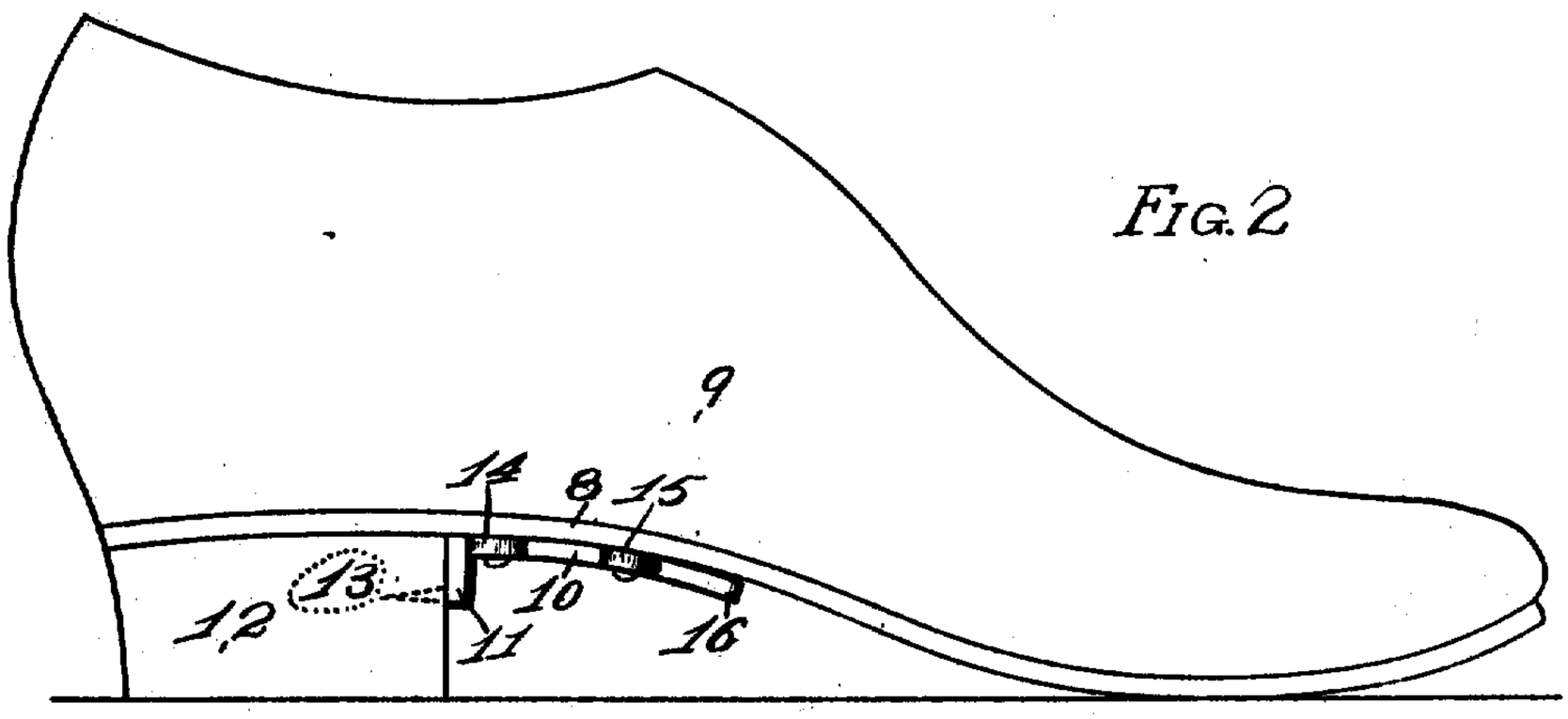

FIG. 2

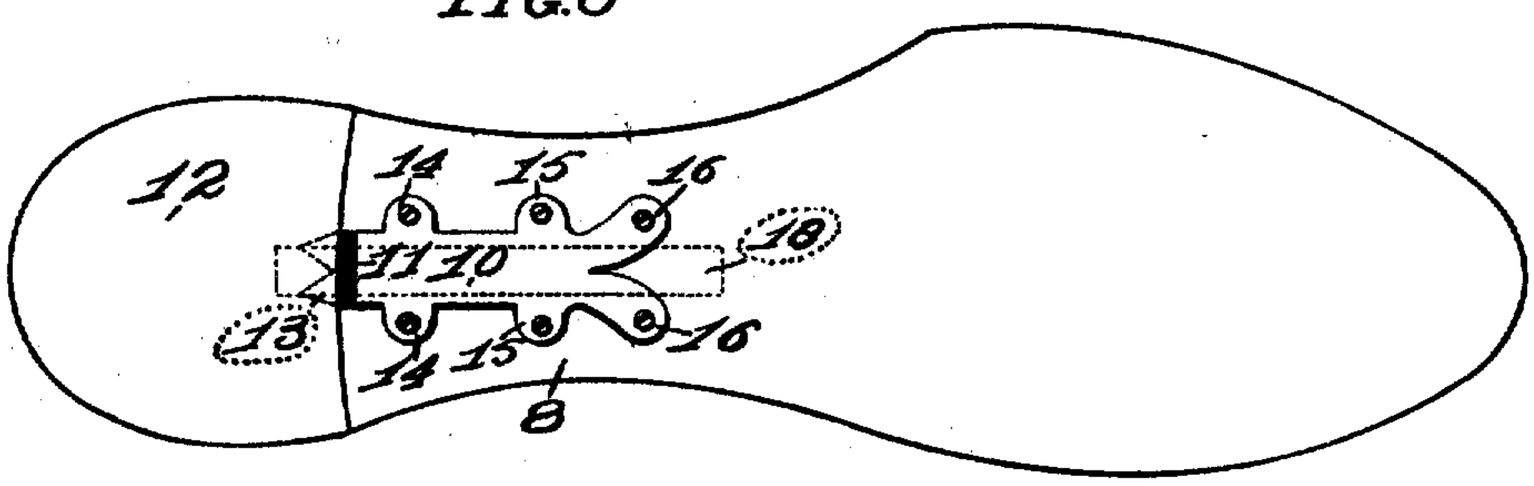

FIG. 3

Witnesses
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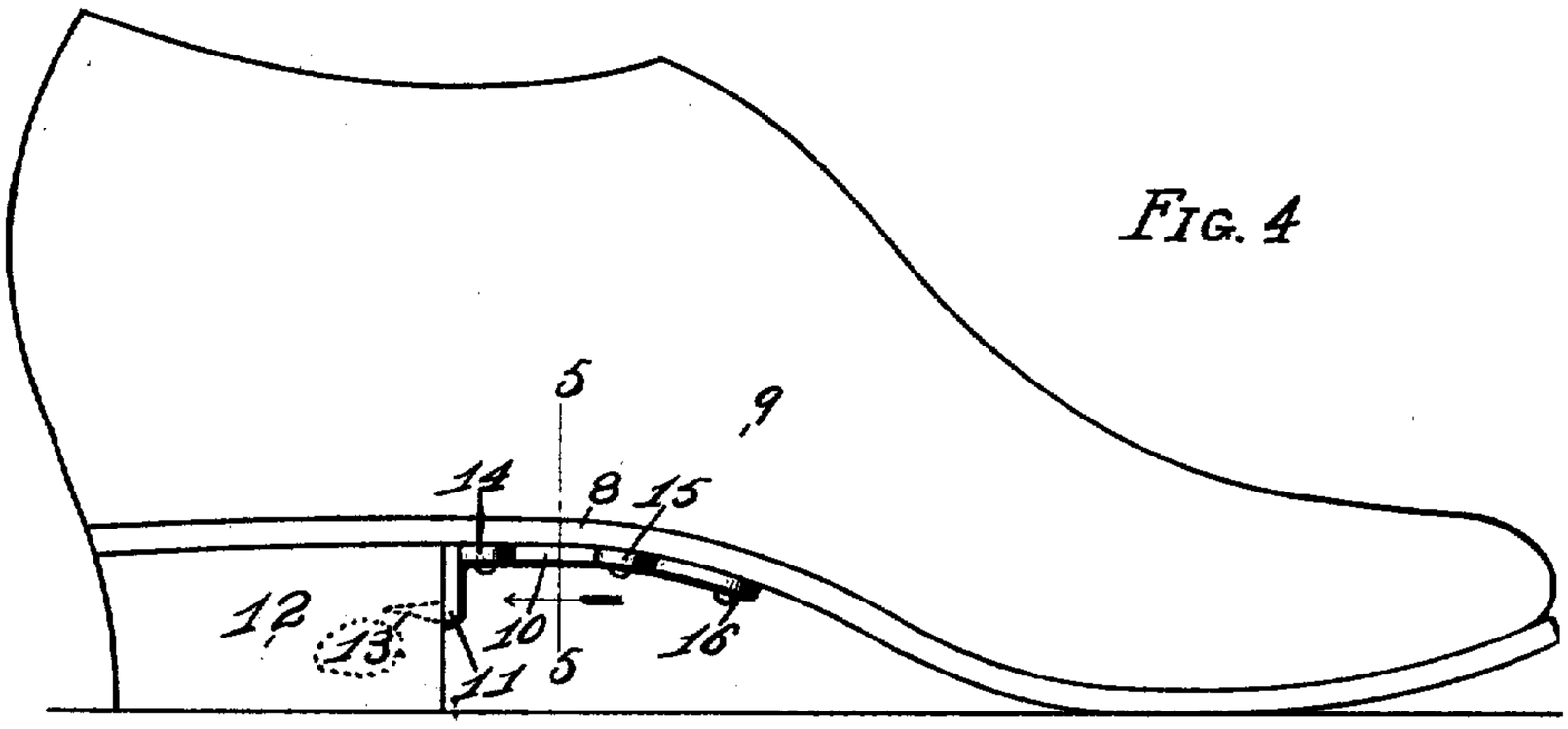
2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

FIG. 4



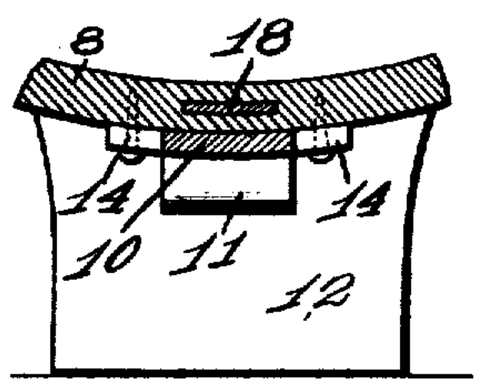


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

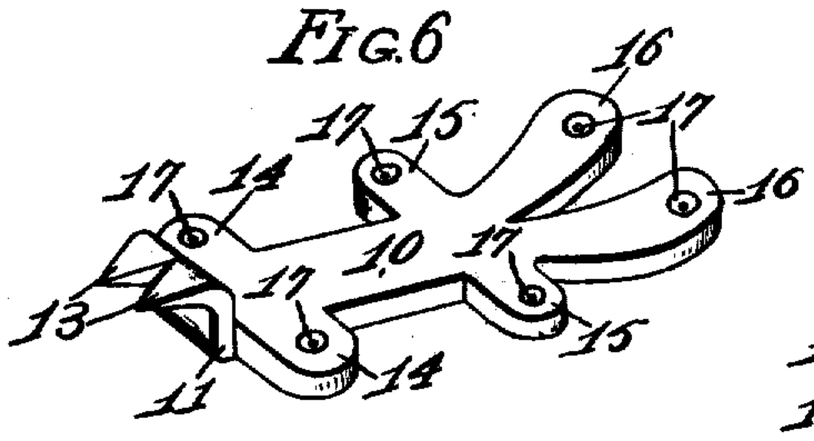
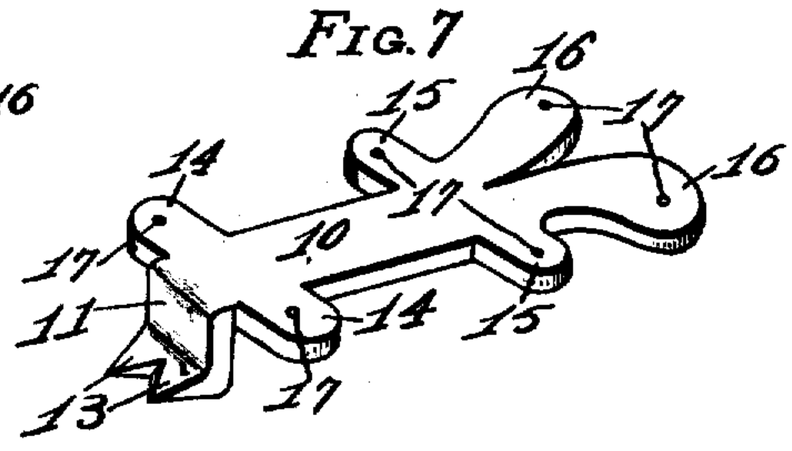


FIG. 7



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER E. BLOCK, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

SHOE-SHANK SUPPORT.

No. 917,841. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 13, 1909.

Application filed April 28, 1908. Serial No. 429,782.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER E. BLOCK, a citizen of the United States, and resident of St. Louis, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Shank Supports, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in shoe-shank supports, and has for its object to provide a metallic support for the strengthening or repairing of shoe-shanks and adapted to be applied upon the exterior of the shank.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a shoe in which the shank is broken down, the original and proper position of the shank being indicated in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a shoe showing the method of applying the shank support of my invention. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of a shoe showing the support of my invention in place. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of a shoe showing the shank restored to its original position by means of my support. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical view in section of a shoe shank, showing my supporter in place, taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the device of my invention, showing the lower face thereof uppermost. Fig. 7 is a similar view showing the upper face thereof.

As shown in the drawings, the shank 8 of the shoe 9 when broken down assumes the position indicated in Fig. 1, the original and proper position of the shank being as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. To restore the shank to its original and proper position, I have devised a supporter comprising a main body section 10 curved to register with the outer face of the shoe-shank, having a shoulder 11 adapted to abut against the front surface of the heel 12 and the terminal projecting tongue 13 adapted to be driven into or seated in the front of the heel, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4. For convenience in securing the support in position, I have provided the lugs 14—14 and 15—15 at the sides of the main body portion 10, and the forwardly projecting lugs 16—16.

The shoe-shank being broken down as illustrated in Fig. 1, my supporter is first placed in position for adjustment by having the projecting tongue 13 driven into the front face of the heel 12 so that the angle formed by the shoulder 11 and the body section 10 will fit closely into the angle formed by the front face of the heel and the lower face of the shank; the lugs 14—14, 15—15 and 16—16 are of a sufficient width to permit the nail or screw openings 17 with which they are provided to fall outside of the outer edges of the ordinary metallic stiffening strip 18 which is built in and along the median line of the shank of the shoe, so that the nails, rivets or screws whereby the supporter is secured will not be obstructed by said stiffener 18 in being driven into the shank, but will be driven to either side of said strip 18 as illustrated in Fig. 5. The supporter is then attached to the shank by means of pins, rivets, or other fastening devices passing through the lugs 14—14 and 15—15; which will leave the forward lugs 16—16 slightly depressed and out of contact with the lower face of the shank, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The fastening of the lugs 16—16 to the shank will then draw the lower portion of the shank downwardly as illustrated in Fig. 4, thus restoring the shank to its original and proper position.

The shank supporter which I have thus described may be applied to new shoes, for the purpose of preventing the breaking down of the shank, or may be applied, as hereinbefore described, to restore a shank which has once become broken down, to its original position, where it serves to support the instep of the wearer.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to have secured to me by the grant of Letters Patent, is:

In a shoe-shank support, the combination of a shoe having a metallic stiffening strip embedded in the shank thereof, of an outer support comprising a main body section curving to register with the outer face of the shoe-shank, a shoulder adapted to abut against the heel, a terminal projecting tongue on said shoulder adapted to be seated in the front of the heel, perforated laterally projecting lugs integral with the body section, per-

forated forwardly projecting lugs, and fastening means adapted to pass through said perforations and into the shank of the shoe at the points outside of the edges of the metallic stiffening strip, substantially as described.

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

ALEXANDER E. BLOCK.

Witnesses:
JAMES L. HOPKINS,
ALFRED A. EICKS.