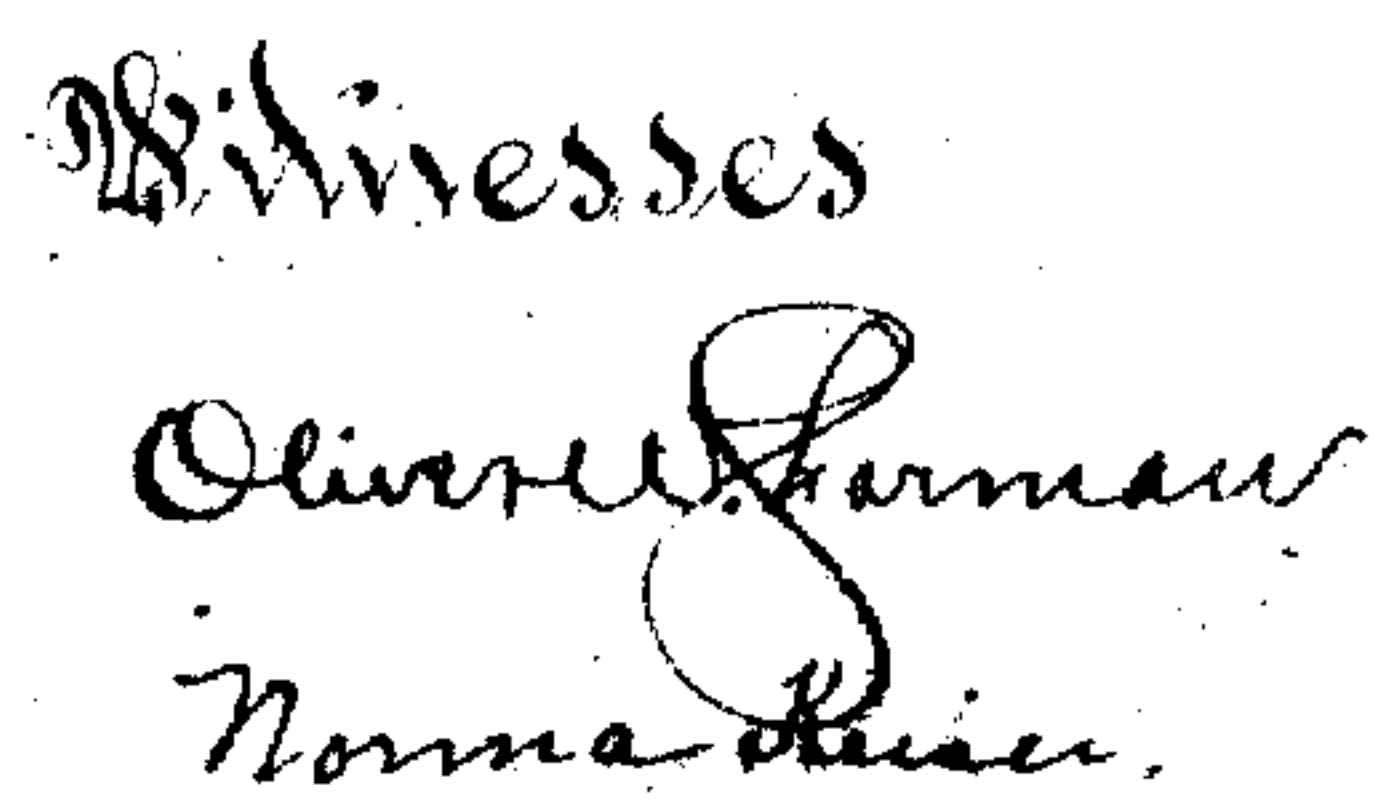


APPLICATION FILED DEC. 28, 1908.

**Patented June 8, 1909.**



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## LACED SHOE.

No. 923,860.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 8, 1909.

Application filed December 28, 1908. Serial No. 489,636.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARZELL KROELL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Hartwell, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Laced Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoe lacings and tongues used in the uppers of open-front shoes and the object thereof is to provide the tongue of an open-front shoe with a means of support whereby it will not have a tendency to work downward on the ankle of the wearer nor wrinkle during the wearing of the shoe and, also, to provide means whereby the opposite ends of the lace or string can be duly held or fastened in the upper part of the shoe-upper without resorting to the ordinary practice of unsightly knotting that becomes loose and untied much to the annoyance and discomfort of the said wearer.

The invention consists in the provision of an open shoe-upper having the customary double course of eyelets, a tongue arranged within the open front and having suitable openings made therein from bottom to top thereof, a lace or string held or anchored midlength in a number of said openings at the lower end of the tongue and with one end passed upwardly through the other openings successively to the top of the tongue and leading outwardly from the upper edge of the shoe and with the other end of such string duly threaded through said eyelets and leading through a loop at the top of the tongue and both said ends being passed through loops along the upper edge of the shoe with the metal-tipped ends passed inwardly for pocketing and anchoring out of sight and releasing-contact with any objects.

The invention further consists in providing the tongue with transverse double stitches arranged in a vertical series from top to bottom thereof and adapted to suitably stiffen such tongue and thereby prevent crosswise wrinkling thereof, and, also, to aid in the support of the tongue in a smooth condition back of the open front of the shoe-upper.

Other features of the invention will be fully hereinafter described in detail and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view showing an open-front shoe-upper with my improved lacing and tongue applied thereto in closed position, or as they appear in use, but omitting the limb and foot of the wearer; Fig. 2, a perspective view of the improved tongue and lacing, the latter being shown in the manner of use contemplated by my invention herein; Fig. 3, a perspective view showing the blank or strip of leather comprising the tongue, such strip being in the bent-over state it takes in the stitching of the transverse stiffening-seams; and Fig. 4, a fragmentary perspective view of a part of the said leather-strip comprising the tongue and showing one of the transverse stiffening-seams with a few coarse hairs or other bristle-like material extending from the seam and used in the seam for augmenting its stiffness.

In the several views mentioned, 1 and 2 indicate the several members or flaps of an open-front shoe-upper having the usual parting or opening 3 and the double course of eyelets 4.

5 indicates the tongue and 6 the lacing or string having the customary metal-tipped ends 7.

8 represents a cluster of circular perforations or openings made in the lower end of the tongue and adapted to accommodate the shoe-string about midlength, as best shown in Fig. 2, such string being duly looped through two openings of said cluster and then both ends passed through the other opening of the three of said cluster, one end, 6<sup>a</sup>, being duly threaded through the double course of eyelets 4 and the other end 6<sup>b</sup> being passed upward through a vertical series of transverse slits 9, thence through a pair of transverse slits 10 made near the top of the tongue. The upper end 6<sup>b</sup> of the lacing passes outwardly from the upper one of the slits 10 and then inwardly through the lower one of said slits 10, and then again through said upper slit 10 outwardly for engagement with the last one 4<sup>a</sup> of the course of eyelets in the member or flap 2 of the shoe-upper. Said end 6<sup>b</sup> of the lacing then passes through a vertical loop or eye 11 at the upper end of the tongue, thence through a series of vertical loops 12 in the upper edge of flap or member 1 and thence forward again to and through an eye 13 into the inside of the shoe for pocketing or lodging snugly in place between the member 1 and the ankle of the



wearer, free to be duly withdrawn from pocketing-place when it is desired to remove the shoe but safely held in place without danger of dislodgment in the ordinary wear of the shoe. The other end 6<sup>a</sup> of the lacing, after passing through the double course of eyelets departs from the upper eyelet 4<sup>b</sup> into and through the vertical loop 11 and thence through a series of vertical loops 12 at the upper edge of the shoe-upper member 2, and thence forward again to and through the vertical eye 13 into pocketing-position within the shoe, like unto the other end 6<sup>b</sup> of the lacing.

I prefer to use a lacing or string in which the part 6<sup>a</sup>, beginning midlength of the lacing, shall be rendered elastic by the insertion of one or more strands of rubber and the other portion 6<sup>b</sup> remaining inelastic or about in the same semi-stretchable state of the ordinary shoe-lace. Midlength the shoe-lace composed of the elastic and inelastic portions, I tightly wrap a thread 14 around the web so as to hold the end or ends of the internal rubber strands, such rubber strands being firmly held at the outer end of portion 6<sup>a</sup> of the lacing by means of the metal tip 7. The elastic portion 6<sup>a</sup> of the lacing imparts a yielding condition to the shoe-opening, which is much desired in the wearing of the shoe and the inelastic portion 6<sup>b</sup> of the lacing is best adapted to support the tongue within the shoe in an upright state along the inner face of the shoe-opening free from wrinkling along the ankle of the wearer. The looping of the portion 6<sup>b</sup> of the lacing through the loop 10 is done in a taut manner so that the tongue cannot slip downward when in place, and the lower portion 8<sup>a</sup> of the lacing is the part thereof that is first passed through the lowermost eyelets 8<sup>b</sup>, 8<sup>b</sup> of the double course, for anchoring the tongue in place without the necessity of sewing said lower end of the tongue, as heretofore customary in the manufacture of shoes. The upper end of the tongue is preferably extended in position beyond the upper edge of the shoe-opening, as best seen in Fig. 1, so that the vertical loop 11 can be readily reached in threading the lacing in opposite directions therethrough.

In stiffening the tongue so as to retain it in a snug and smooth condition along the ankle of the wear and to prevent its wrinkling, I provide a series of transverse double

stitches 15 at suitable intervals apart, such stitches being made in the leather or material of the tongue during process of manufacture, by doubling or folding over the leather, as best seen in Fig. 3, and then passing the needle through the fold or bent portion of the leather, preferably terminating a short distance away from the longitudinal edges of the tongue. It is to be understood that it is not necessary for the stitches to extend clear across the tongue, and I secure the best results by inserting in the fold one or more stiff horse hairs or bristles 16, which are held therein by the stitching, as best seen in Fig. 4 and thereby impart the desired stiffness and elasticity to retain the tongue in a snug and smooth condition to conform to the shape of the shoe-upper and to prevent wrinkles therein and, also, to preserve the shape of the tongue when the shoe is not in use on the foot.

I claim:—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a shoe-tongue having a central, vertical series of horizontal, parallel double stitches made therein at suitable intervals apart and each set of double stitches being sewed into pocket form and provided with an internal core of a number of horse-hairs for flexibly stiffening the tongue material.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a shoe-tongue having a number of openings made therein and a shoe-lace threaded through said openings with one end adapted to traverse a course of eyelets in a shoe-upper to which the tongue is attached and the other end adapted to be anchored in the upper end of the tongue and thence passed along the upper edge of the shoe-upper for insertion within the shoe and said first-named portion of the lacing adapted to extend from the upper portion of the shoe-upper into and within the shoe.

3. The combination of a shoe-tongue having a number of openings or loops made therein and a vertical series of transverse double stitches also made therein and a shoe-lace inserted and anchored in said openings and having one end thereof made elastic and the other end inelastic.

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Witnesses:

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