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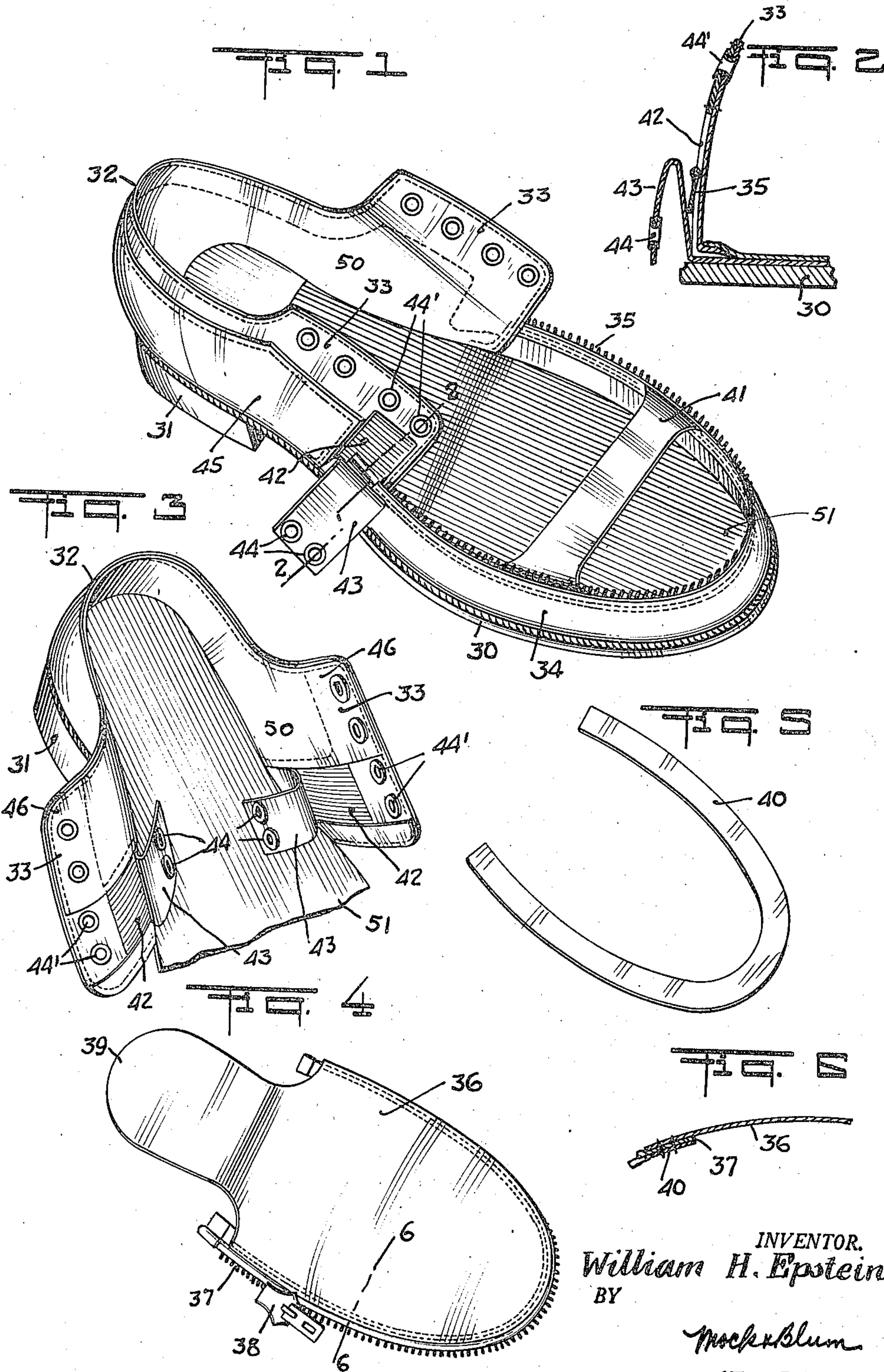
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2,444,640

BLUCHER TYPE SHOE WITH REMOVABLE PLUG

Filed Oct. 19, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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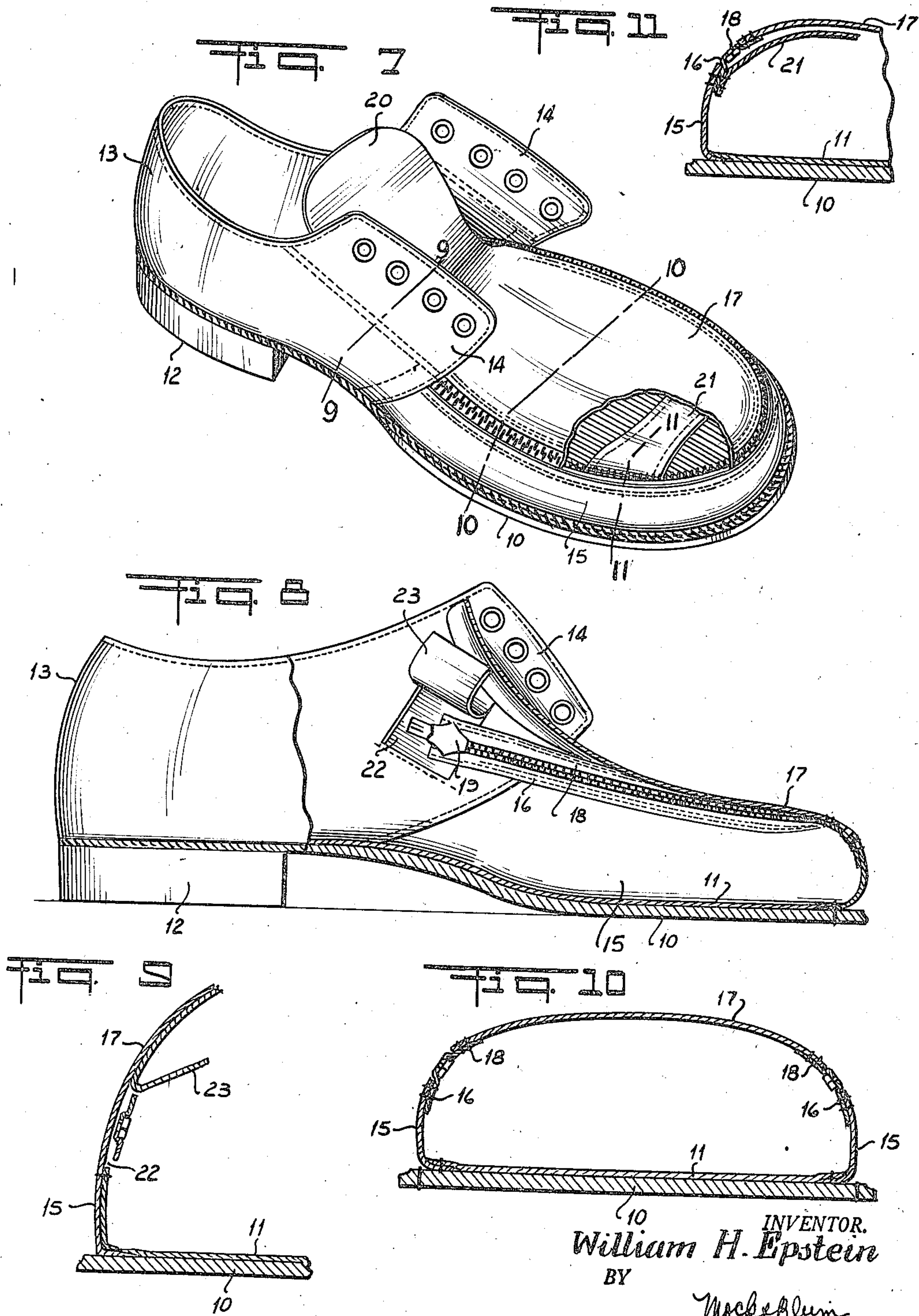
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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BLUCHER TYPE SHOE WITH  
REMOVABLE PLUG

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4 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

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This invention relates to shoes and, more particularly, to moccasin-type shoes having side flaps, bluchers, or ties, or any other type of side flaps that may resemble a blucher, and it is a general object of my invention to provide a shoe of the type indicated wherein the upper portion can be removably secured to the bottom portion by means of a slide fastener of the completely separable type, whereby replacement of the upper portion may be effected as it becomes damaged or worn through use and whereby a novelty of color combinations may be introduced to conform to the varying tastes of the wearer.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a shoe wherein the upper portion is removably secured to the bottom portion by a slide fastener of the completely separable type and wherein the slide of the fastener may be unobtrusively concealed within the interior of the shoe.

For the attainment of the above objects and such other objects as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, I have illustrated several embodiments of the invention in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe embodying the features of the invention with the upper portion detached and showing one form of pocket for the reception of the end of the slide fastener tape and slider;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Fig. 1 which illustrates the construction of the pocket and its disposition with respect to the blucher;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of the rear portion of the shoe and illustrates an alternate location of a pair of blucher pockets on the inside of the bluchers;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one form of detachable upper with slide fastener tape and slider mounted thereon for attachment to the bottom portion;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a cover strip which may be attached to the underside of the upper shown in Fig. 4 to cover the slide fastener tape and prevent any possible irritation of the foot;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 6—6 of Fig. 4 with the strip stitched to the upper and showing the relative disposition of the upper, the slide fastener tape and the cover strip;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a slightly different shoe embodying the features of the invention, and with the upper in position;

Fig. 8 is a side view of the shoe shown in Fig. 7 with parts broken away to show the internal structure and relation of parts and showing one of the pair of blucher pockets;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 9—9 of Fig. 7;

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Fig. 10 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 10—10 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 11—11 of Fig. 7.

Referring now to Figs. 1-6, the shoe comprises an outer sole 30, a heel 31, a counter 32, side flaps or bluchers 33, an inner lining 46, and an inner sole 11.

A bottom portion 34 is mounted on the outer sole 30 and securely fixed thereto by stitching, nailing, pegging or in any other suitable manner. Bottom portion 34 extends around the front of the outer sole 30 and rearwardly along either side thereof to a point beyond the forward edges of bluchers 33. A slide fastener tape 35 is secured to the inside of the bottom portion 34 and extends completely around the marginal portion thereof.

A plug 36 is shaped to conform to the marginal edge of bottom portion 34 and is provided with its cooperating slide fastener tape 37 secured around the inside of its terminal edge and carrying the slider 38. The slide fastener unit comprising fastener tape 35 attached to bottom portion 34, fastener tape 37 attached to plug 36 and slider 38 may be of any conventional, completely separable type, such as the needle tip type. Plug 36 is preferably shaped rearwardly to form an integral tongue portion 39 adapted to extend between the bluchers 33. Slide fastener tape 37, as an alternate, can be attached to the top of plug 36.

A cover strip 40 may be attached to the underside of plug 36. This strip 40 should be of sufficient width to underlie both the teeth of fastener tape 37 of plug 36 and the teeth of fastener tape 35 attached to bottom portion 34, in order to prevent any possible contact between the fastener teeth and the feet of the wearer and eliminate any possible irritation or chafing. In addition, the cover strip 40 serves to give support and shape to plug 36. After having been cut to proper shape, cover strip 40 may be conveniently attached to the underside of plug 36 by rows of stitching extending around the marginal edge of the plug at a slight distance from the teeth of fastener tape 37.

If desired, a supporting toe strip 41 may be provided extending transversely of the outer sole 30 and firmly secured at its opposite ends to the inside marginal edge of bottom portion 34.

In order to prevent any discomfort to the wearer caused by the ends of the fastener tapes 35 and 37 and slider 38, bluchers 33 are provided with pockets 42 located either exteriorly or interiorly of the blucher, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 respectively. The pockets 42 may be formed conveniently using a double walled blucher or any similar suitable construction. The particular embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs.



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1-3 shows pockets 42 provided with flaps 43 opening upwardly. Flaps 43 are provided at their free ends with a pair of eyelets 44 suitably disposed for registration with a pair of eyelets 44' on the lace stay of bluchers 33 when said flaps are closed. As has been previously pointed out, the pockets 42 may be disposed either on the inside or the outside of bluchers 33, but in either case the pocket must be of sufficient depth and width to retain the ends of fastener tapes 35 and 37 and slider 38. To provide sufficient depth for pockets 42 an additional layer of material 45 may be incorporated in the design of the shoe on the outside of the shoe, as indicated in Fig. 1 when said pockets are located exteriorly of bluchers 33. When pockets 42 are located interiorly of bluchers 33, as shown in Fig. 3, an additional layer of material may be employed between inner lining 46 and the inner wall of blucher 33.

In use, a desired plug 36 is selected and placed in conformed alignment with bottom portion 34, fastener tapes 35 and 37 being also properly aligned. The slider 38 is then pulled completely around the shoe from the inner side to the outer side to unite plug 36 with bottom portion 34. Flap 43 is lifted for the reception of slider 38 and the terminal ends of fastener tapes 35 and 37. The shoe is then laced with eyelets 44 of flaps 43 in registration with the corresponding eyelets 44' on bluchers 33. This operation securely retains the ends of fastener tapes 35 and 37 and slider 38 within the pockets 42 and simultaneously prevents lipping or wrinkling of flaps 43.

Referring now to Figs. 7-11, the shoe comprises an outer sole 10, an inner sole 11, a heel 12, a counter 13, side-flaps or bluchers 14 which may be of conventional type.

A bottom portion 15 is mounted on the outer sole 10, and securely fixed by stitching or in any other suitable manner between the inner sole 11 and the outer sole 10. Bottom portion 15 extends around the front of outer sole 10 and rearwardly along either side thereof to a point beyond the forward edges of bluchers 14. A slide fastener tape 16 is attached to the inside of the bottom portion 15 and extends completely around the marginal edge thereof.

The plug 17 is shaped to conform to the marginal edge of bottom portion 15 and accordingly is provided with its cooperating slide fastener tape 18 firmly secured around the inside of its terminal edge and carrying the slider 19. It is apparent that the slide fastener unit comprising fastener tape 16 attached to bottom portion 15, fastener tape 18 attached to plug 17 and slider 19 may be of any conventional, completely separable type, such as the needle-tip type. The needle-tip or similar structure (not shown) is preferably located at the inner side of the shoe at the extremity of fastener tape 16 attached to bottom portion 15. Plug 17 is preferably shaped rearwardly to form a tongue 20 extending between the bluchers 14.

If desired, a supporting toe strap 21 may be provided extending transversely of the outer sole 10 and securely fixed at its opposite ends to the inside marginal edges of bottom portion 15. Toe strap 21 has the combined advantage of lending rigidity to the shoe and protecting the inner surface of plug 17 from perspiration.

The inner lining of the shoe which may be of leather, fabric or any other suitable material is preferably shaped to define pockets 22, on the inner side of bluchers 14, having depending flaps

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23. These pockets 22 serve the function of retaining the ends of the fastener tapes 16 and 18 secured to bottom portion 15 and plug 17, respectively, to prevent any possible irritation of the foot. In addition, the pockets 22 may be made of sufficient depth to retain the slider 19 after plug 17 has been united with bottom portion 15, as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

In actual use, the desired plug 17 is selected and placed in position in conformation with bottom portion 15 and with fastener tapes 16 and 18 in proper alignment. The slider 19 is then pulled completely around the shoe from the inner side to the outer side thereby uniting plug 17 with bottom portion 15. Flap 23 is then lifted for the reception within the pockets 22 of slider 19 and the terminal ends of fastener tapes 16 and 18 to complete the operation. In order to detach plug 17 the operation is reversed.

It is contemplated to produce plugs 17 or 36 in graduated sizes and to have sets of a given size in various colors in order to introduce a variety of color combinations in response to the varying tastes of the wearer.

Further, it would be quite practicable to have a pair of plugs with different colors on top and bottom surfaces and thereby to effect a new color combination by interchanging and reversing the positions of a pair of plugs on a given pair of shoes.

The invention is not limited to shoes or parts thereof made of leather but it is also applicable to fabric shoes, and shoes made of other materials, such as plastic, etc.

Since certain modifications may be made in the shoes embodying my invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawing be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having described my invention and illustrated its use, I claim:

1. In a moccasin-type shoe having a quarter provided with lacing flaps or bluchers, a sole portion, a vamp portion secured around said sole portion, a slide fastener tape secured to and co-extensive with the marginal edge of said vamp portion, a removable plug adapted to conform to the marginal edge of said vamp portion and carrying a slide fastener tape about its marginal edge, a slide fastener co-operatively engaging said tapes for detachably securing said plug to said vamp portion, each of said bluchers having a pocket with a flap opening upwardly for the reception of said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes, each of said flaps having a pair of eyelets disposed at the free end thereof for registration with a corresponding pair of eyelets on the lace stays of said bluchers, whereby said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes will be securely retained within said pockets.

2. In a moccasin-type shoe having a quarter provided with lacing flaps or bluchers, a sole portion, a vamp portion secured around said sole portion and extending rearwardly to a point beyond the forward edge of said bluchers, a slide fastener tape secured to and co-extensive with the marginal edge of said vamp portion, a removable plug adapted to conform to the marginal edge of said vamp portion and carrying a slide fastener tape about its marginal edge, a slide fastener cooperatively engaging said tapes for detachably securing said plug to said vamp



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portion, said plug having a strip secured thereto about the marginal edge thereof, said strip being of sufficient width to cover said slide fastener tapes with said upper in attached position, each of said bluchers having a pocket with a flap opening upwardly for the reception of said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes, each of said flaps having a pair of eyelets disposed at the free end thereof for registration with a corresponding pair of eyelets on the lace stays of said bluchers, whereby said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes will be securely retained within said pockets.

3. In the moccasin-type shoe having a quarter provided with lacing flaps or bluchers, a sole portion, a vamp portion secured around said sole portion, a slide fastener tape secured to and co-extensive with the marginal edge of said vamp portion, a removable plug adapted to conform to the marginal edge of said vamp portion and carrying a slide fastener tape about its marginal edge, a slide fastener co-operatively engaging said tapes for detachably securing said plug to said vamp portion, said plug having a strip secured thereto about the marginal edge thereof, said strip being of sufficient width to cover said slide fastener tapes with said upper in attached position, each of said bluchers having a pocket with a flap opening upwardly for the reception of said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes, each of said flaps having a pair of eyelets disposed at the free end thereof for registration with a corresponding pair of eyelets on the lace stays of said bluchers, whereby said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes will be securely retained within said pockets.

4. In a moccasin-type shoe having a quarter

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provided with lacing flaps or bluchers, a sole portion, a vamp portion secured around said sole portion and extending rearwardly to a point beyond the forward edge of said bluchers, a slide fastener tape secured to and co-extensive with the marginal edge of said vamp portion, a removable plug adapted to conform to the marginal edge of said vamp portion and carrying a slide fastener tape about its marginal edge, a slide fastener cooperatively engaging said plug to said vamp portion, each of said bluchers having a pocket with a flap opening upwardly for the reception of said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes, each of said flaps having a pair of eyelets disposed at the free end thereof for registration with a corresponding pair of eyelets on the lace stays of said bluchers, whereby said slide fastener and the ends of said slide fastener tapes will be securely retained within said pockets.

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