

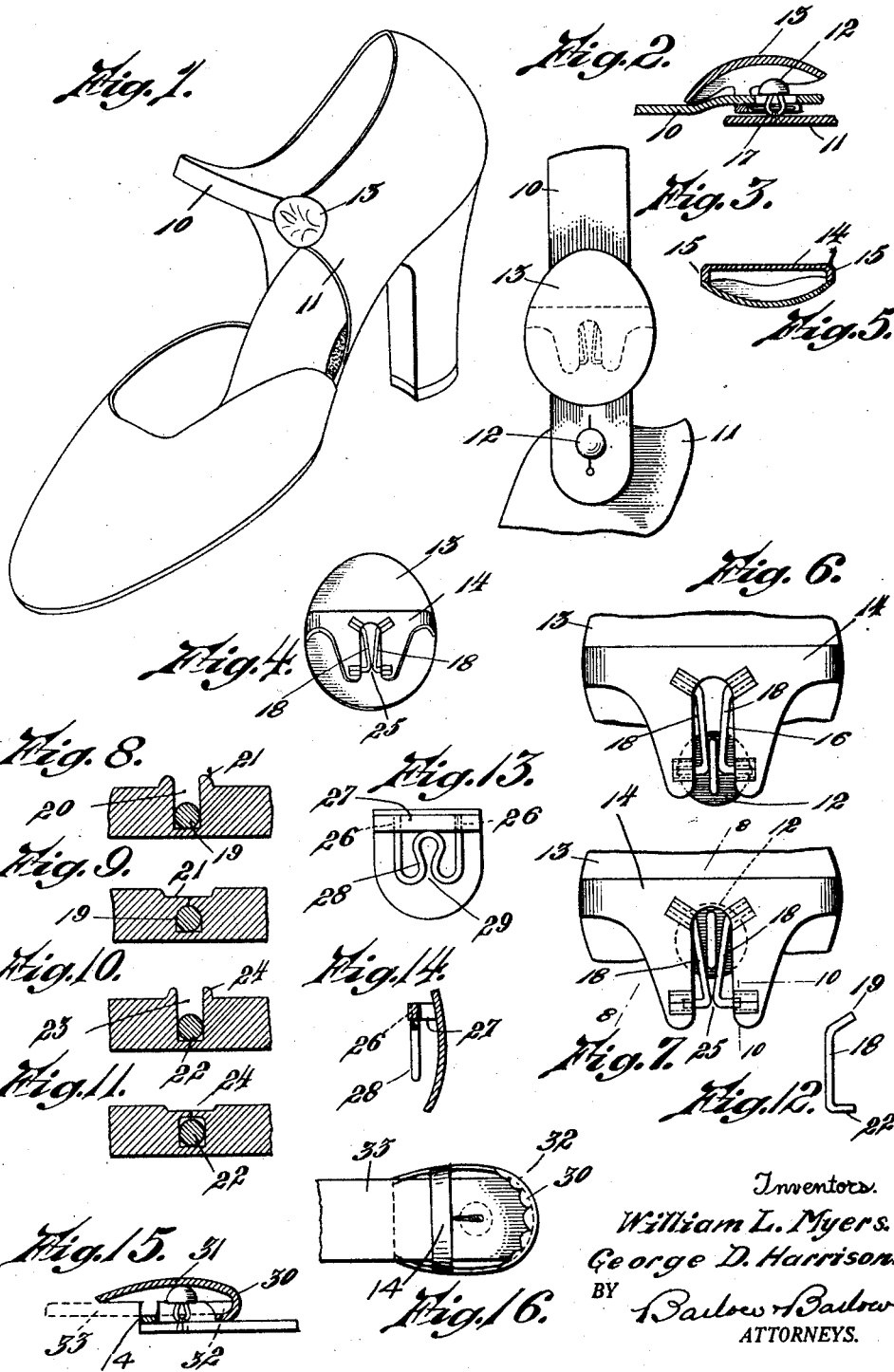
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BUTTON COVER

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BUTTON COVER.

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This invention relates to an improved construction of shield to cover the button on a shoe strap; and has for its object to provide such a device which preferably comprises an ornamental body member having a cross-bar on its back between which and the body the strap is threaded, the device also having means for releasably engaging parts to hold the cover member in working position to cover the button.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a resilient member or members mounted on the cross-bar of the button cover for gripping the button when the cover is slid along the shoe strap over the button to prevent the cover from accidentally working back along the strap to expose the button by the action of the foot in the shoe.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a lady's shoe showing our improved button guard or cover, in position on a shoe strap.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation showing the yieldable means as engaging the shank portion of the button to hold the cover member in adjusted position over the button.

Fig. 3 shows the cover device as slid back along the shoe strap to release the button permitting the strap end to be unbuttoned and released.

Fig. 4 is a view of the cover member showing the cross-bar with the slot guarded by spring fingers.

Fig. 5 is a section on line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a greatly enlarged view showing the shank of the button as entering the mouth of the slot and spreading the spring gripping fingers as it passes between them.

Fig. 7 shows the shank of the button as having passed through the mouth of the slot and the spring fingers as having closed the mouth to guard the entrance.

Fig. 8 is a greatly enlarged sectional view on line 8-8 of Fig. 7, showing the slot in the cross bar before being closed for receiving and retaining the inner ends of the spring fingers.

Fig. 9 shows the slot as having been closed

upon the spring fingers to rigidly retain the same therein.

Fig. 10 is a section on line 10-10 of Fig. 7 showing the slot before being closed and in which the free end of the spring finger is slidably retained.

Fig. 11 shows the bosses as having been turned inwardly to close the slot and permit a free movement of the free end of its spring finger therein.

Fig. 12 is a view of one of the spring fingers removed.

Fig. 13 is a modification showing the under side of a button cover with an engaging member supported on the cross bar and being formed of wire bent in loop form.

Fig. 14 is a central section through the structure shown in Fig. 13.

Fig. 15 is another modification showing a sectional side elevation of the body of the cover member with its edge rolled under to engage the end of the strap on which it slides to lock it in button covering position.

Fig. 16 is a view of the under side of the body member showing the rolled lip as forming a pocket into which the end of the strap extends to prevent inadvertent working back of the body to expose the button.

It is found in practice in the construction of a guard or button-covering device, for shoe straps, of advantage to provide some means in this cover-member whereby it is held in position to cover the button and prevent it from working back along the strap by action of the foot while walking to expose the button; and one way to accomplish this is to provide a cross-bar on the cover on which is supported a button-gripping device having a relatively deep slot or recess into which the shank portion of the button is adapted to fit, this slot being provided with oppositely-disposed spring members between which the shank of the button is forced when passed into the slot to grip the shank and retain the cover-member in position over the button, while in other instances the body member may be provided with a rearwardly turned edge to engage the end of the strap and in this way prevent the cover from working back when positioned to cover the button, and the following is a detailed description of the present embodiment of our invention and showing one construction of button

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covering device by which these advantageous results may be obtained.

With reference to the drawings, 10 designates the strap of a shoe, which is designed to pass over the instep of the wearer and be secured to the side 11 of the shoe by means of a retaining button 12. On this strap, we have mounted a so-called button guard or cover-member 13 which has a domeshaped body portion to receive and cover the button, the outer face of which body is designed to carry suitable ornamentation to harmonize with the design of the shoe and on the back of this body member we have formed a cross bar 14 which has downwardly-turned ends 15 soldered to the opposite edges of the body member and by these ends is raised from the body member sufficiently to permit the passage of the shoe strap 10 between the cross bar and the body, these turned in ends of the bar being spaced to frictionally engage the side edges of the strap but permitting the body to be slid along the same.

This cross-bar member may be made in any suitable form but we have herein shown one form as being considerably wider at its middle point and this widened portion as being slotted as at 16, to receive the shank portion 17 of the button 12 and in this slot we have mounted a pair of spring fingers 18 one on either side thereof preferably formed of wire one end 19 of each of these wires extending into a recess 20, each of which is provided with raised lips 21 on its opposite edges. The lips of each slot are turned over and swaged down tightly onto the end portion of its wire, as illustrated in Fig. 9, to secure each of these ends rigidly in its respective slot and these ends may be also brazed or soldered or otherwise secured in position if desired. The outer ends 22 of these wires are each turned outwardly to extend into their respective slots 23, the edges of which slots are each also provided with lips 24 which are turned downwardly, as best illustrated in Fig. 11, over the end 22 of the wire so as not to grip the wire but to permit a free endways movement thereof, whereby the outer ends of these spring fingers which guard the mouth 25 of the slot 16 may be separated upon engagement with the button shank and permit this shank to enter the slot and so retain the guard or cover member in position over the button head.

In other instances, it is also found of advantage to form this button-gripping member 28 of a length of wire folded into substantially W-form, as best illustrated in Figs. 13 and 14, in which case the ends 26 are swaged into recesses formed in the cross bar 27 in the manner illustrated in Figs. 8 and 9, or these ends may be soldered, brazed or otherwise secured to this bar, the middle loop 29 of the W being so formed as to provide a deep slot or recess having a nar-

row mouth through which the shank 17 of the button may pass by springing the guarding arms apart after passing through the mouth into the slot is releasably held therein by the inherent spring of the wire side arms forming the slot.

In still other cases, we may roll or otherwise extend portions of the forward edge 30 of the cover body 31 over rearwardly as illustrated in Figs. 15 and 16 to extend over the end 32 of the strap 33 and so retain the cover member from inadvertently sliding back along the strap to expose the button after having been positioned to cover the same.

Our improved button guard or cover member is very simple in its construction and practical in its operation and by its construction it may be readily mounted upon and slid along the strap into position to cover the button, the shank portion of the button being preferably gripped and held by the spring members on the cover to retain the same in position over the button and to be slid back along the strap to expose the button and permit the unbuttoning of the strap when desired.

The foregoing description is directed solely towards the construction illustrated, but we desire it to be understood that we reserve the privilege of resorting to all the mechanical changes to which the device is susceptible, the invention being defined and limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A button cover for shoe straps, comprising an ornamental cover member having a cross bar on its back between which and the cover the strap is threaded, and means carried by said cover for releasably retaining the same in adjusted position over the button.

2. A button cover for shoe straps, comprising an ornamental body member having a cross-bar on its back between which and the body the strap is threaded, said bar carrying resilient parts arranged to grip the button when the cover is slid thereover.

3. A button cover for shoe straps, comprising a body member having a cross-bar on its back between which and the body the strap is threaded, said bar carrying resilient wire button gripping parts forming a recess with a contracted entering mouth, members guarding the mouth of the recess to flex and frictionally permit the passage of the button into and out of the recess.

4. A button covering slide for shoe straps, comprising a body member having a cross-bar on its back, said bar having a pair of spaced rigid fingers, yielding parts guarding said space to flex and frictionally permit the passage of portions of the button into and out of said space.

5. A button cover for shoe straps, comprising a body member having a slotted

cross-bar on its back between which and the body the strap slidably extends, a pair of spring arms guarding said slot, the inner end portion of said arms being fixed and the outer portions being yieldable to flex and grip portions of the strap button to frictionally retain the cover over the button.

6. A button cover for shoe straps, comprising a cover member through which the

strap is passed, and retaining means carried by the said cover and adapted to automatically lock the same in an operative position on the strap.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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