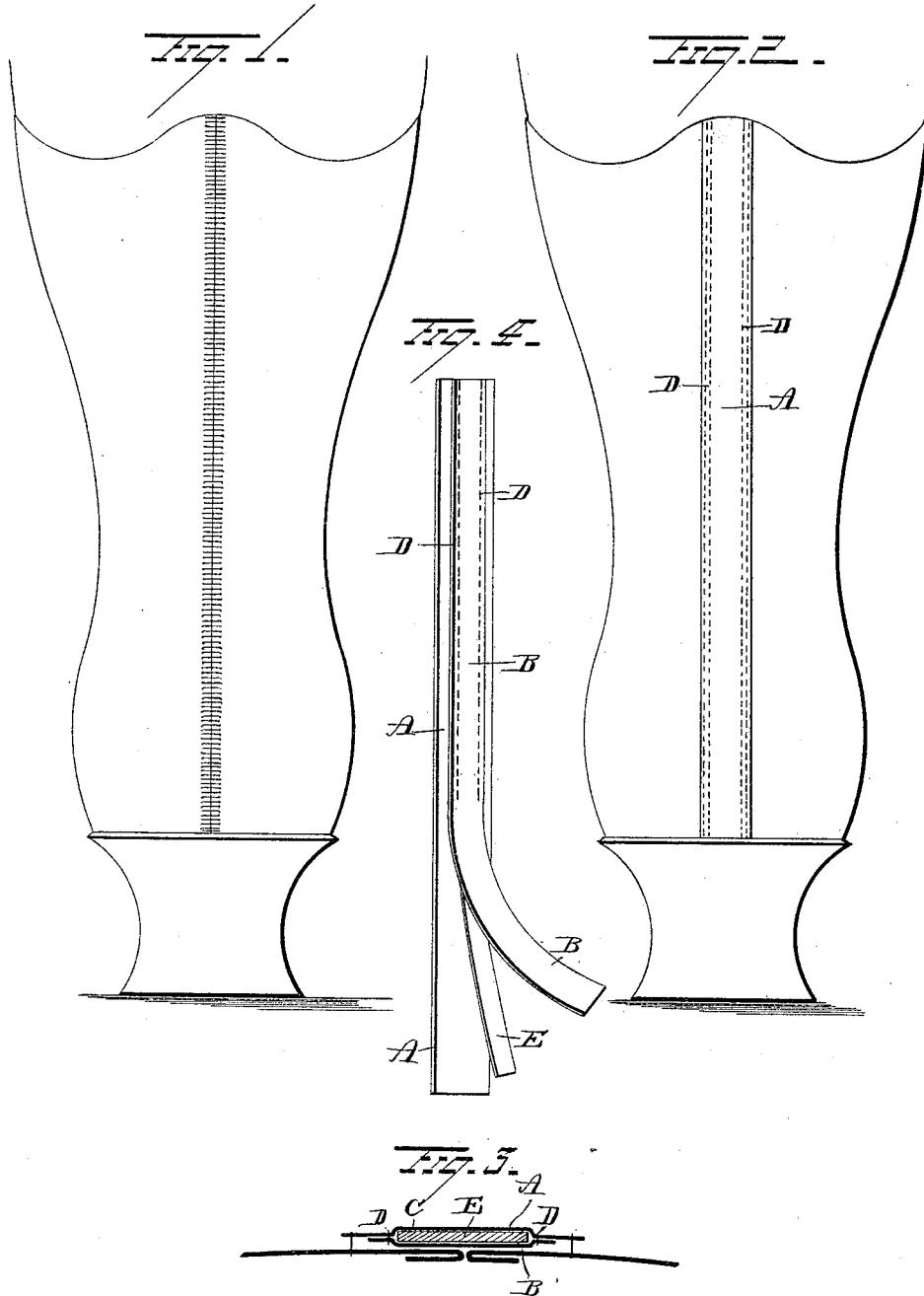


(No Model.)

S. C. BELKNAP.
SHOE STAY.

No. 346,458.

Patented Aug. 3, 1886.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL C. BELKNAP, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

SHOE-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,458, dated August 3, 1886.

Application filed February 20, 1886. Serial No. 192,702. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL C. BELKNAP, of Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Stays; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in shoe-stays.

In shoes provided with uppers extending above the counters, and having seams up the back, there has hitherto been a tendency to form a sharp wrinkle at a point a short distance above the counter, and produce a crack in the leather on each side of the seam before the other parts of the shoe are seriously worn.

The object of my invention is to provide a neat, cheap, and elastic stay for shoe-uppers, which shall admit of pliability to the shape and motion of the foot, and which shall at the same time prevent sharp wrinkles from forming in the leather uppers.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a rear view of a shoe, showing an ordinary back seam. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a shoe with the stay attached in position over the seam. Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-section showing the relative position of the various parts of the stay. Fig. 4 is a view of the stay, showing how the parts are fastened together.

A represents a narrow strip of thin leather or other flexible material, with a narrower and similar strip, B, sewed thereon in such a manner as to leave a sleeve or sheath, C, between the two rows of stitches D, throughout the entire length, for the reception of a metallic spring, E, preferably a thin and narrow strip of tempered steel. When the spring is placed in position within this sleeve, the stay is complete and ready for adjustment on the shoe.

In Fig. 2 the stay is in proper adjustment over the back seam of a shoe, with the narrower leather strip against the seam, and with the broader strip outside, thus covering and hiding the metallic strip, the narrower leather strip, and the back seam. The stay as thus constructed is secured to the shoe in the position shown in Fig. 3 by stitching through the

wider strip, A, at or near the edges of the latter, and through the shoe on opposite sides of the seam. The lower end of the stay is lasted under the heel. When placed in the position described, the stay makes a very neat finish for the shoe-back. The stay need not, however, necessarily be confined to the back part of the shoe, but may be placed inside the shoe on the other side of the seam, or between the leather shoe-top and the lining; but I have generally preferred to sew it over the seam, as described.

By constructing the stay of three parts secured together, as above described, it can be made of considerable length and cut up into sections of proper size, as needed.

This improvement not only keeps the back from making sharp bends and causing the leather to crack, but it also adds greatly to the comfort of the wearer by keeping the shoe in a shape corresponding to that of the foot, and thus preventing any liability of chafing the foot.

It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the form and arrangement of the several parts described without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention; hence I do not wish to limit myself strictly to the construction herein set forth; but,

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A stay for shoes, consisting of a thin metallic spring covered on one side with a broader strip of flexible material, and on the opposite side with a narrower strip of flexible material, the two strips of flexible material being secured together along the edges of the thin metallic spring, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a shoe having a back seam uniting the two hind quarters, of a stay consisting of two elongated strips of leather secured together at their side edges, forming an envelope, and a thin spring-metal strip located within said envelope, the said stay being secured to the shoe over the seam by stitches along the edges of the stay, substantially as set forth.

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

SAMUEL C. BELKNAP.

Witnesses:

WILLIS E. CARPENTER,
CHAS. G. THOMPSON.