

L. L. BEAN.
SPLIT-BACK STAY.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 11, 1920.

1,365,080.

Patented Jan. 11, 1921.

Fig. 1.

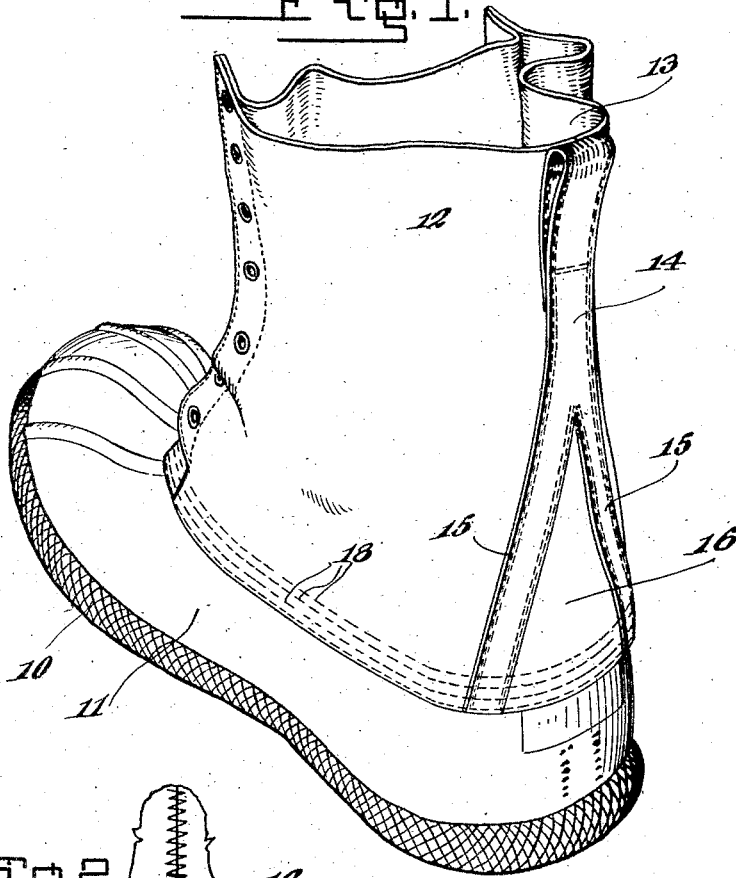


Fig. 2.

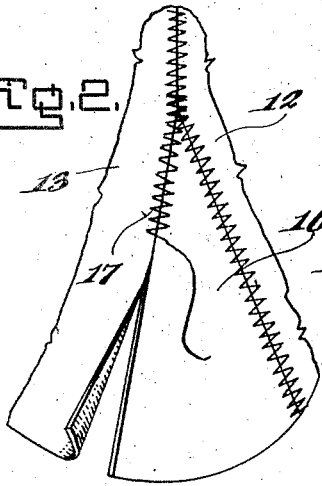
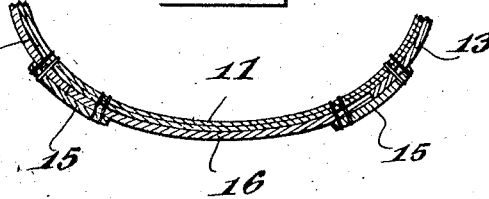


Fig. 3.



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SPLIT BACKSTAY.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEON L. BEAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Freeport, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Split Backstays, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to boot and shoe constructions, and has more particular reference to an improved back stay and top construction.

An object of the present invention is to provide a construction of back stay which will prevent what is known as heel cord chafing, usually produced by the set wrinkles which form directly over the heel cords and which break and chafe the stitches, and not only make the shoe uncomfortable but also weak at this particular point.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shoe construction wherein the shoe is relatively strong and protected at the point of application of the back stay; wherein the improved construction admits of use of waste or small pieces of stock; wherein the top may be stitched onto the shoe or vamp quicker and in a more satisfactory manner; and wherein there is avoided the bringing together of double thicknesses of leather or rubber at the same point as is required with the present day shoe construction; and wherein a single thickness of leather is provided at the back of the shoe and the usual thick lip is done away with which catches in hard snow or crust and gradually tears the top away from the lower part of the shoe.

The above, and various other objects and advantages of this invention will be in part described in, and in part understood from, the following detail description of the present preferred embodiment, the same being illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe constructed according to the present invention, the view being from the back of the shoe.

Fig. 2 is a detail enlarged fragmentary view of the top part of the shoe at the heel thereof, shown in a partly stitched condition.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section through the heel part of the shoe taken through the back stay.

Referring to the drawing, there is shown, for the purpose of setting forth the present invention, a shoe of the type which is known as a hunting shoe, and wherein the sole 10 and vamp 11 are made substantially integral and of rubber, and wherein the top portion of the shoe is made of leather.

In the present instance the top is made from the side pieces 12 and 13 of leather or the like and which are stitched together at the back of the shoe against the inner side of a back stay 14. According to the present invention the back stay 14 is split or divided at its lower end into downwardly diverging branches 15 having an angle of divergence sufficient to carry the lower ends of the branches 15 toward the sides of the heel part so as to leave a relatively broad V-shaped space within the lower end of the back stay 14.

As best shown in Fig. 3, the side pieces 12 and 13 of the top are cut away at their meeting edges on the lines of divergence of the back stay 14 and a third piece 16 of leather or the like is inserted in the opening or space between the lower end portions of the parts 12 and 13 to act as a filler and a continuation of the parts which combine to make the top of the shoe. The part 16 constitutes the back of the heel top and is preferably of the same material as are the sides 12 and 13 and is flexible and capable of bending and conforming to the heel of the wearer and to the creases imposed upon the heel part incident to the use of the shoe. The lateral edge portions of the part 16 are stitched along the inner marginal edge portions of the branches 15 of the back stay and abut against the adjacent edges of the side pieces 12 and 13 and are preferably secured thereto by lines of stitching 17.

The top of the shoe is secured by lines of stitching 18 to the upper edge of the shoe vamp 11. In the present instance the shoe vamp is of rubber and consequently the lines of stitching 18 may, in ordinary shoe construction, be easily broken away at the heel of the shoe.

As may be best understood from Fig. 3, the vamp 11 of the shoe provides a thickness at the heel and the rear part 16 of the top merely adds an additional thickness to the heel of the shoe so that there is the least possible multiplicity of layers of material at the heel of the shoe where the wrinkles

are so easily and permanently formed, and which consequently is the least durable part of the shoe structure.

By providing but a single additional thickness at the heel of the shoe, the structure of the shoe at this point is materially increased in strength and is capable of flexing freely without permanent or set wrinkles. The lines of stitching 18 are, therefore, protected against the chafing and breaking which results from the usual construction.

The back stay branches 15 provide reinforcements for the stitching 17 which holds the lateral and back sections 12, 13, and 16 together. The heel of the shoe 16 is thus of the same thickness and flexibility as are the sides 12 and 13, and hence the shoe as a whole is capable of fitting the foot more closely and of a greater freedom in movement without strain on the stitching than is found on the construction now generally used.

It is, of course, understood that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe having a vamp, a top including side pieces and a rear piece secured together with a bifurcated seam, and a back stay, said back stay being split and branched at its lower end and secured to the side pieces and to said vamp at points at opposite sides of the heel of the shoe and over the bifurcated back seam.

2. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe including a vamp, a top for the shoe having side portions and a rear piece secured together with a bifurcated seam, and a back stay, said back stay having a branched lower end with the branches extending downwardly at opposite sides of the

heel of the shoe and over the bifurcated back seam.

3. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe including a vamp, a top stitched to the upper edge of the vamp and a rear piece secured together with a bifurcated seam and a back stay, said back stay having a branched lower end with branches diverging toward opposite sides of the heel and being secured thereat with the top to the vamp and over the bifurcated back seam.

4. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe including a vamp, of a top comprising a pair of side sections having their rear edge portions cut away and diverging downwardly, a back stay joining said rear edge portions and having a branched lower end, and a back piece secured between the diverging edges of the side pieces and between the branches of the back stay.

5. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe including a vamp, of a top stitched to the vamp and including a pair of side pieces with their rear edges diverging downwardly to form a space at the heel part of the shoe, a filler piece secured in said space and to the diverging edges of the side pieces, and a back stay stitched to the marginal edge portions of said side pieces and having a branched lower end stitched at its inner edge to said filler piece.

6. In shoe construction, the combination of a shoe having a vamp, of a top stitched about the vamp edge of the upper and including a pair of side pieces secured in edge to edge relation at the back of the shoe and having their rear edges diverging toward the heel part of the shoe, a filler piece secured between the diverging edges of the side piece and in edge to edge engagement therewith for providing a flexible heel portion to the shoe top, and a back stay stitched to the side pieces and having a branched lower end adapted to follow the lines of abutment of the meeting edges of the side pieces and the filler piece.

LEON L. BEAN.