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C. MILLER ET AL

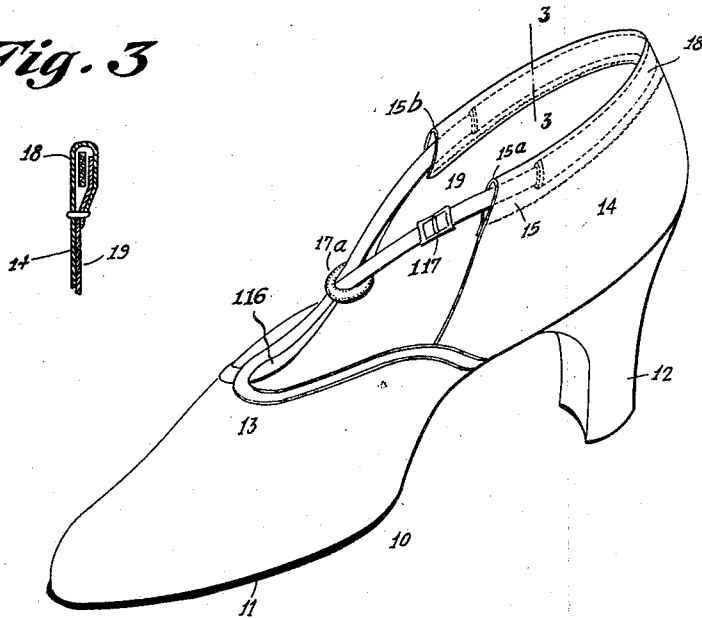
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SHOE

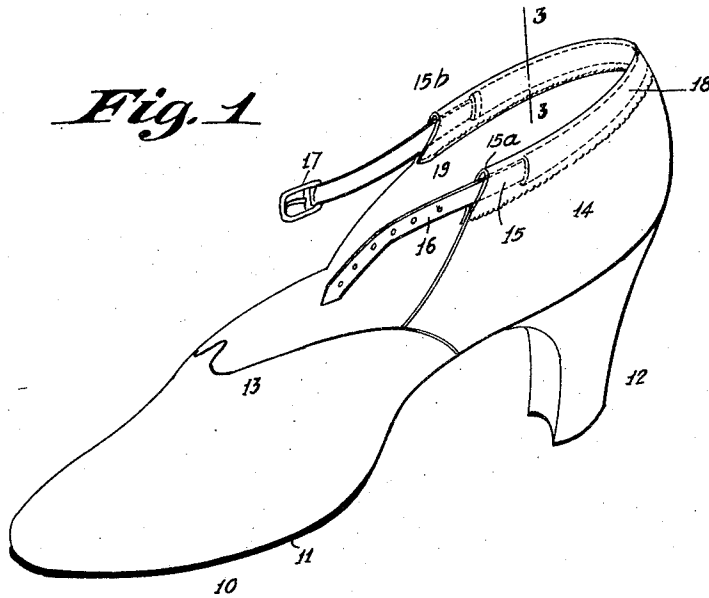
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*Fig. 2*

*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 1*



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## SHOE

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This invention relates to the shoe art and deals more specifically with a lady's shoe, or slipper having a new and improved upper structure.

5 In the manufacture of high grade ladies' shoes and slippers, hereinafter referred to generically as shoes, one of the outstanding marks which distinguish a well constructed shoe, is the character of its fit on the wearer's  
10 foot at the instep and also at the rear and sides of the ankle. It is a requisite that the shoe conform snugly to the contour of the wearer's foot, especially at these said portions without being so tight as to cut the  
15 wearer's foot.

It is, of course, old in the art to provide a shoe of the type to which this invention relates, with a strap and buckle which permits the side and rear portions of the upper  
20 to be pulled tight against the foot. This structure has been found to be unsatisfactory for the reason that the tension of the strap, when it is pulled taut, is exerted only upon two points, to wit, those at which the strap  
25 is attached to the upper.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a shoe having a strap in which the tension is distributed circumferentially about the foot at that portion where the strap  
30 embraces it.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a shoe having a strap which yieldably tensions the upper to cause the same to conform to the wearer's foot.

35 Further, it is an object of this invention to provide a shoe having a readily removable and replaceable strap.

And finally, it is an object of this invention to make a better constructed, better  
40 fitting shoe of enhanced appearance in a more economical and practical manner.

These and other ancillary objects of this invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying the drawings in which:  
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Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe embodying the present invention;

50 Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a modification; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the shoe 10 is seen to comprise the usual outsole 11, heel 12 and vamp 13. The side portions  
55 of the counter 14 are provided with strap-receiving means such as a tunnel or loop 15 at the upper marginal edge thereof. As illustrated the upper marginal edge of the counter 14 is free of the vamp. The tunnel  
60 15 is of sufficient size to receive the strap 16 which passes therethrough and is freely slidable therein. A buckle 17 of any suitable type is joined to one end of the strap. An elastic insert or gore 18 is made in the strap  
65 16 to permit the same to yield a certain amount when the strap is under tension. The tunnel or loop 15 is formed between the upper and the shoe lining 19 in any well known  
70 manner. Alternatively, the upper may be down turned or turned over and stitched down to the inside of the shoe, thus forming the tunnel out of the upper material entirely.

It will thus be seen that when the shoe is worn and the strap is tensioned, the pull of the strap is not exerted only at the points  
75 15a and 15b, as is the case when the strap is stitched to the upper at these two points; but, on the contrary, the pull of the strap is distributed uniformly throughout the length  
80 of the tunnel. This causes the edge of the upper to conform properly to the wearer's ankle. Also, in view of the presence of the elastic insert 18 the strap yields sufficiently to give added comfort to the wearer, especially in walking, without detracting in the  
85 least from the appearance of the shoe. While the elastic insert is desirable, it is not essential to the present invention and in accordance with a modification of the same, this insert  
90 may be dispensed with.

Referring now in detail to Fig. 2 of the drawings, there is disclosed a modification, in which all parts which are similar to those of Fig. 1 have been given the same reference numerals. The description of these parts given in connection with Fig. 1 applies equally well to Fig. 2. The only essential structural differences between the modification of Fig. 1 and that of Fig. 2 reside in  
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the structure of the strap and its relation to the shoe. The strap 116 is fixedly joined to the vamp 13. The buckle 17 when once adjusted to give the proper tension on the strap may be left in that adjustment. A slidable buckle 117 is provided to give a further adjustment of the strap, for by moving the buckle upwardly the tension is increased, while moving this buckle downwardly decreases the tension. In order to put on or take off the shoe, the elastic insert or gore 18 is stretched to permit the passage of the foot into or out of the shoe. It will be understood, of course, that either the buckle 17 or the buckle 117, or both, may be omitted without departing from the spirit of this invention. Also, the gore 18 may be omitted and one or both of the buckles may be used thus permitting the desired adjustability in the length of the strap.

By virtue of this invention it is possible, since the strap 16 is removable, to provide two or more different pairs of straps for a given pair of shoes. Each pair of straps would then be ornamented either by color or by some attached adornment to match an ensemble at the choice of the wearer. This in effect makes it possible to wear a single pair of shoes with several different matched outfits.

Having thus described our invention, we claim:

1. A lady's low shoe having heel and sole portions, a vamp portion, a counter portion extending around the heel and forwardly thereof and having its upper portion free of the vamp, said counter portion having at its upper edge strap-receiving means, and an adjustable strap independent of the vamp portion and received in said strap-receiving means, whereby adjustment of said strap tensions the upper portion of said counter to cause this portion to conform to the heel of the wearer.

2. A lady's low shoe having heel and sole portions, a vamp portion, a counter portion extending around the heel and forwardly thereof and having its upper portion free of the vamp, said counter portion having at its upper edge strap-receiving means, and an adjustable strap independent of the vamp portion and received in said strap-receiving means, whereby adjustment of said strap tensions the upper portion of said counter to cause this portion to conform to the heel of the wearer, said strap-receiving means comprising a down-turned portion of the upper.

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