11) Publication number:

**0 106 410** A1

(12)

## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(21) Application number: 83201454.2

(51) Int. Cl.3: A 43 C 11/00

22 Date of filing: 11.10.83

30 Priority: 12.10.82 BE 2059872

43 Date of publication of application: 25.04.84 Bulletin 84/17

Designated Contracting States:
 AT CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

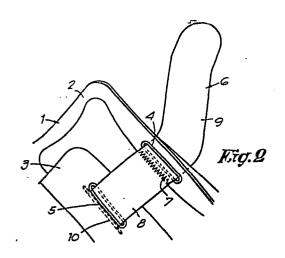
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54 Replaceable lacing means.

(5) Replaceable lacing means, comprising a ribbon made of two parts (8-9) fixed to one another such as by sewing, the first of said parts being one part of a hook and loop fastener and the second of said parts being the other part of said fastener, said ribbon being intended to be slid through two slots (4-5) provided to this end in the elements (2-3) to be tied together, one end of said ribbon being provided with an abutment means (10), at least one dimension of which being larger than the corresponding dimension of said slots (4-5).



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## "Replaceable lacing means".

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The invention pertains to a replaceable lacing means, usable to two elements together in an easy and fast manner and especially usefull in those cases where the lacing means is expected to have a shorter life than the elements to be tied together.

A typical application of the invention is the shoe industry 10 and especially in the field of leisure wear where use is often made of hook and loop fasteners, instead of shoelaces, buckles or similar.

Although known hook and loop fasteners are quite efficient,
they have generally a shorter usefull life than that of
the shoes themselves. As at least one part of said fastener is sewn to the shoes, this poses a problem.

The object of the invention is to solve said problem by pro-20 viding a hook and loop type lacing means which can easily be replaced whenever necessary.

To this end, the replaceable lacing means according to the invention comprises a ribbon made of two parts fixed to one another such as by sewing, the first of said parts being one part of a hook and loop fastener and the second of said parts being the other part of said fastener, said ribbon being intended to be slid through two slots provided to this end in the element to be tied together, one end of said ribbon being provided with an abutment means,

at least one dimension of which being larger than the corresponding dimension of said slots.

For more clarity, one embodiment of the invention is described hereinafter by way of non limitative example, with reference to the appended drawings wherein:

figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe equipped with a replaceable lacing means according to the invention; and figure 2 shows at an enlarged scale, the part of fi-

The shoe 1 shown in figure 1 has an upper having two sides

2 and 3 which have to be tied or laced together. Each side
is provided with a slot, 4 and 5 respectively.

gure 1 indicated by F2.

The lacing means according to the invention is generally indicated as 6 and has the general shape of a ribbon intended to be slid through said slots 4 and 5. The ribbon 6 is made of two parts 8 and 9 respectively, fixed together for instance by sewing, as indicated in 7. Parts 8 and 9 correspond to the two parts of a well known hook and loop fastener.

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The free extremity of part 8 is provided with an abutment 10, the length of which being greater than that of the slots 4 and 5. In another embodiment, the width of abutment 10 could be greater than that of said slots.

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It will be seen that the lacing means according to the invention is particularily easy to use and to replace when necessary. Due to abutment 10, the sides of the shoe upper can be easily drawn together with one hand.

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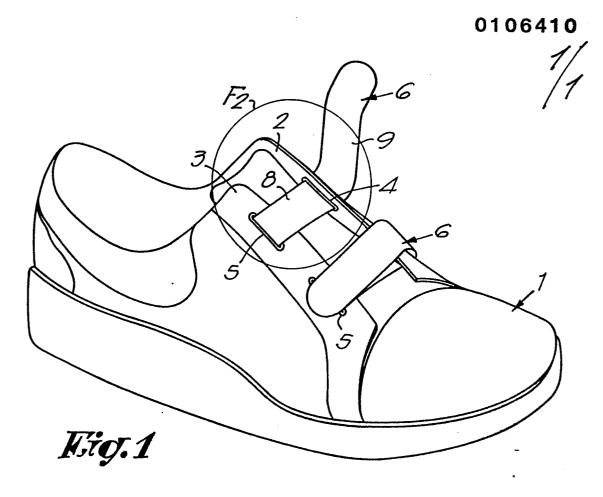
It is clear that the use of the invention is not limited to shoes, numerous other applications being possible.

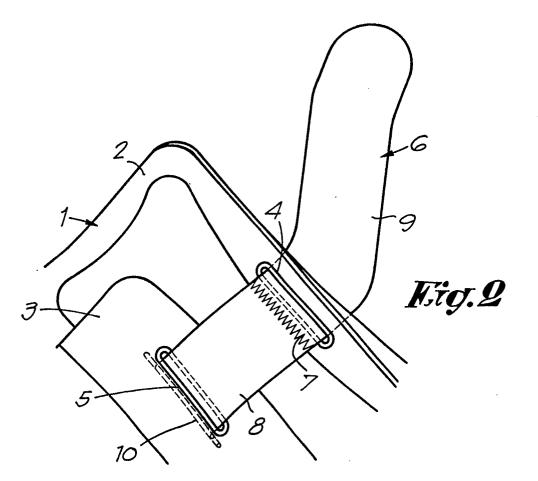
Claims.

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- 1.- Replaceable lacing means, comprising a ribbon made of two parts (8-9) fixed to one another such as by sewing, the first of said parts being one part of a hook and loop fastener and the second of said parts being the other part of said fastener, said ribbon being intended to be slid through two slots (4-5) provided to this end in the elements (2-3) to be tied together, one end of said ribbon being provided with an abutment means (10), at least one dimension of which being larger than the corresponding dimension of said slots (4-5).
- 2.- Replaceable lacing means according to claim 1, wherein the length of said abutment means (10) is greater than that of said slots (4-5).
- 3.- Replaceable lacing means according to claim 1, wherein the width of said abutment means (10) is greater than that 20 of said slots (4-5).







## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                   |                      |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Category                            | Citation of document wit of relev                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | th indication, where appropriate,<br>ant passages | Relevant<br>to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE<br>APPLICATION (Int. Ct. 3)       |
| A                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5 544 (STREULE)<br>, lines 37-52;                 | 1                    | A 43 C 11/00                                            |
| A                                   | <u>US - A - 4 29</u><br>* Totality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <br>6 558 (ANTONIUS)<br>*                         | 1                    |                                                         |
| A                                   | EP - A1 - 0 0<br>* Totality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 61 971 (GOUNIN)                                   | 1                    |                                                         |
| A                                   | GB - A - 259<br>* Fig. 6 *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   | 1,2                  |                                                         |
| A                                   | <u>US - A - 1 77</u> * Totality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2 238 (BONNE)<br>*                                | 1                    | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int. CI. 3)  A 43 C 11/00 |
|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                   |                      | A 43 B 5/00                                             |
|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | •                                                 |                      |                                                         |
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|                                     | The assessment of the second of |                                                   | -                    |                                                         |
|                                     | The present search report has be                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                   |                      |                                                         |
| Place of search VIENNA              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Date of completion of the search 12–12–1983       |                      | Examiner LEBZELTERN                                     |

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Particularly relevant if taken alone
 Particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
 technological background
 non-written disclosure
 intermediate document

D: document cited in the application
L: document cited for other reasons

&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document