March 18, 1958 W. M. SCHOLL 2,827,049

BUNION PAD AND THE LIKE

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FIG. 1

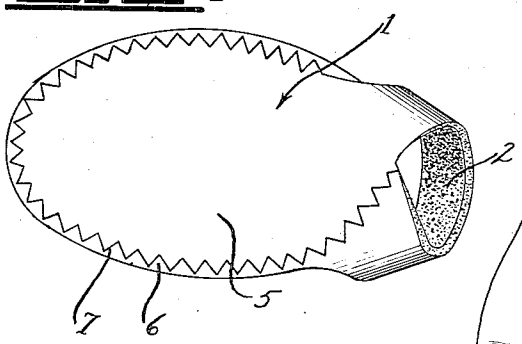


FIG. 2

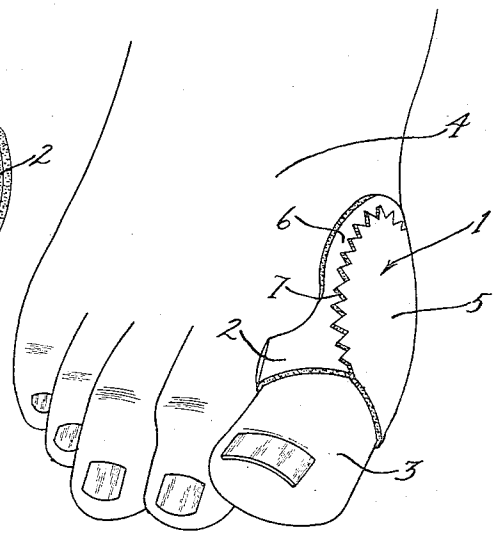


FIG. 3

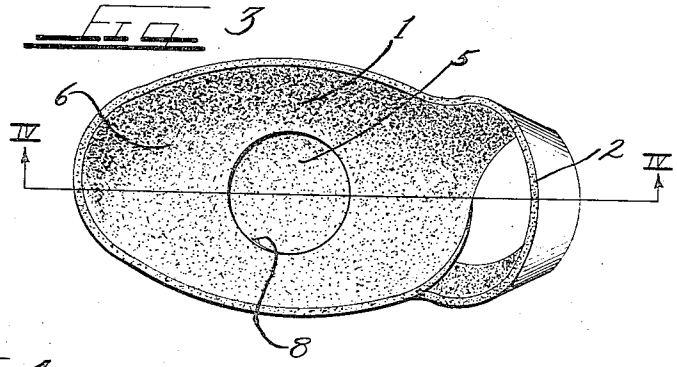
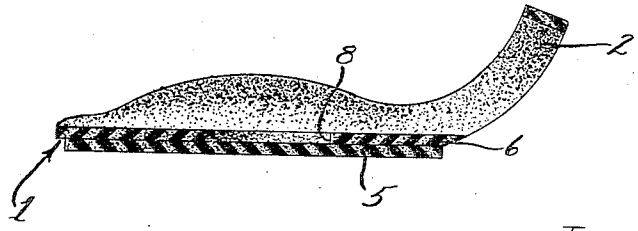


FIG. 4



Inventor
William M. Scholl

By Hill, Sherman, Meroni, Gross & Simpson
Attys

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FIG. 5

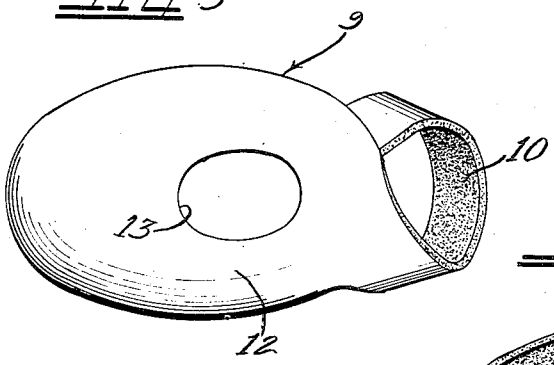


FIG. 6

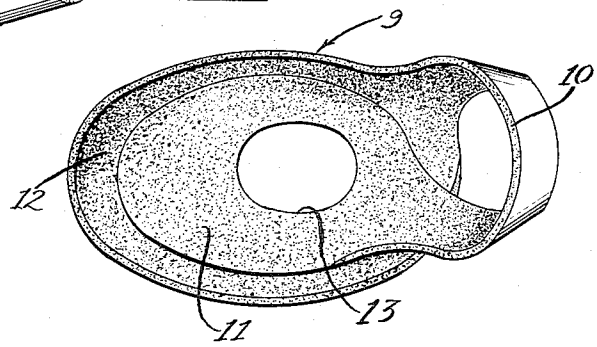


FIG. 7

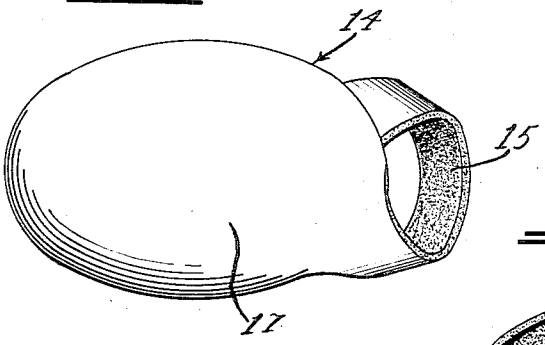
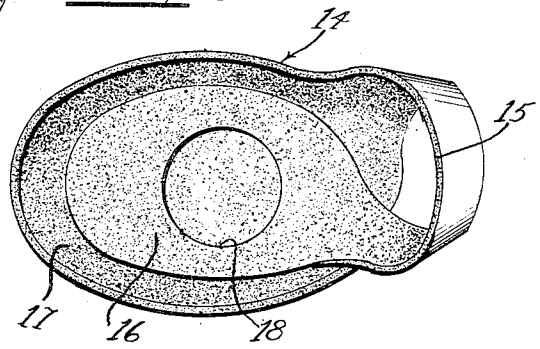


FIG. 8



Inventor
William M. Scholl

By Hill, Sherman, Meroni, Gross & Simpson
Attys

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BUNION PAD AND THE LIKE

William M. Scholl, Chicago, Ill.

Application September 24, 1954, Serial No. 458,155

6 Claims. (Cl. 128—153)

This invention relates to improvements in a bunion pad and the like, and more particularly to a bunion pad having an offset toe loop for disposition over a toe of the foot, with the pad overlying the side of the adjacent metatarsal head, although the pad may have other uses and purposes as will be apparent to one skilled in the art.

In the past, many and various types of bunion pads have been developed, but have proven objectionably difficult in properly attaching them to the foot did not fit the affliction and adjacent portion of the foot in a substantially tailored manner, were sometimes difficult to maintain in the proper location, and frequently increased pressure around the affliction to an objectionable extent while relieving pressure over the affliction itself. Also in many cases bunion pads heretofore known were not as durable as desired, could not be laundered whenever necessary, and could not be removed and replaced as frequently as desired.

With the foregoing in mind, it is an important object of the instant invention to provide a bunion pad of concavo-convex shape in both directions, and which has an offset toe loop so the pad intimately fits over the side of the toe and the corresponding matatarsal head.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a soft resilient cushioning bunion pad which, of course, may be made in a size to fit a bunion on or adjacent the first metatarsal head, and made readily in a smaller size to alleviate a tailor's bunion.

Also a feature of the invention is the provision of a bunion pad or the like comprising a body portion made of a plurality of layers of cushioning material secured together in face to face relationship, one or both of the layers having an affliction receiving opening or aperture therein, and one of the layers preferably extending beyond the other in all directions so as to properly distribute pressure from an article of footwear around the affliction and thereby alleviate pressure over the affliction directly, without providing uncomfortable pressure adjacent the affliction.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a bunion pad or the like having an offset toe loop and a concavo-convex configuration, of which the body portion is made of a plurality of layers of foam latex or equivalent cushioning material, one of the layers having an affliction receiving opening therein.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a bunion pad which may readily be removed and replaced, and laundered whenever deemed necessary, without any injury to the pad itself.

Still a further object of the invention resides in the provision of an economical and highly efficient bunion pad or the like of which the body part comprises a double layer of foam latex or equivalent material, with the outer surface of the pad covered with a smooth covering over which articles of apparel may readily slide.

While some of the more salient features, characteristics and advantages of the instant invention have been above

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pointed out, others will become apparent from the following disclosures, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an outer side elevational view of a bunion pad embodying the principles of the instant invention;

Figure 2 is a pictorial illustration illustrating the bunion pad of Fig. 1 located in proper position to alleviate a bunion on a human foot;

Figure 3 is an inside elevational view of the pad of Fig. 1;

Figure 4 is a transverse longitudinal sectional view through the pad taken substantially as indicated by the line IV—IV of Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view of a bunion pad of slightly different construction, also embodying principles of the instant invention;

Figure 6 is an inside elevational view of the pad of Fig. 5;

Figure 7 is an outside side elevational view of a bunion pad of still different construction but embodying principles of the instant invention; and

Figure 8 is an inside elevational view of the pad of Fig. 7.

As shown on the drawings:

In the first illustrated embodiment of the instant invention, namely the structure seen in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, there is shown a bunion pad or the like comprising a concavo-convex body part generally indicated by numeral **1** which is concavo-convex in both the longitudinal and lateral directions, with the concave side disposed inwardly. This body portion has an offset toe loop **2** thereon for flatly and intimately fitting around a toe **3** of a human foot **4**, as best seen in Fig. 2, and when applied to the foot as seen in this figure, it will be noted that the pad very intimately fits the toe, adjacent metatarsal head, and parts immediately posterior to that metatarsal head in a tailored intimate manner.

Initially, the entire pad is stamped from a flat piece of cushioning material, there being two body portion layers **5** and **6**, and the toe loop is then a narrow neck portion joining the two body part layers. One of the body part layers is rotated a full revolution, and secured in face to face relationship to the other layer, as by a suitable adhesive, whereupon the original narrow neck-like portion is shaped into the flat toe loop **2** as illustrated in the drawings.

In this first form of the invention, it will be noted that the outer body part layer **5** is of slightly less size than the inner layer **6**, and the outer layer is provided with a serrated or tortuous edge **7** to eliminate any substantial line pressure by an article of footwear. The serrated or tortuous edge evenly distributes the pressure of the footwear so that there is no abrupt pressure anywhere against any part of the foot around the affliction, even though the article of footwear may be relatively tight fitting. It will also be noted that one of the body part layers, preferably the inner layer **6**, is provided with an affliction receiving opening or aperture **8** which will be disposed directly over the bunion or similar affliction so as to receive the same and transfer pressure to the surounding parts of the foot. The outer body part layer **5**, having no opening or aperture, provides a means whereby a suitable medicament may be adequately applied to the affliction itself, if so desired, without danger of the medicament coming in contact with articles of apparel such as stockings, shoes, or the like.

Preferably, the entire pad is made of foam latex or equivalent material. Foam latex is preferred because this material has intercommunicating cells, is extremely light in weight, provides a soft clinging action against

the skin of the user, and may be freely laundered at will without injury. In addition it may be noted that foam latex possesses extreme restorative powers, and is very long lived. Preferably over the outer face of the cushioning material is a thin skin-like cover which may be of a finely woven fabric, or which may be in the form of a rubber skin. In either event, the outer covering or skin is preferably smooth so that articles of apparel will readily slide thereover. As and when the loop **2** is disposed over a toe, an article of apparel such as a stocking will maintain the bunion pad in proper position.

In use, the bunion pad just above described provides a very intimate fit, distributes pressure from articles of apparel gradually in an easy fashion to parts of the foot surrounding the affliction with no discomfort, and is easily removed and replaced. The bunion pad may be laundered whenever desired and repeatedly used.

In Figs. 5 and 6 I have shown a slightly different form of the invention which in some cases is more desirable in that it effects a further and more even transference of pressure from an article of footwear to parts of the foot remote from the affliction itself. In this instance, the pad comprises a body part generally indicated by numeral **9**, of concavo-convex shape in both directions, and generally similar to the body part of the pad described in connection with Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive.

The pad of Figs. 5 and 6 embodies a toe loop **10** of the same character as previously described, and the pad is formed in the same general way. However, in this instance, the inner layer **11** of the body part is of less size than the outer layer **12**, so that the outer layer extends well beyond the inner layer in all directions and thus effects a greater distribution and spreading of pressure from an article of footwear. In this instance also, both layers are provided with aligned affliction receiving apertures as indicated at **13**, thus giving an opening entirely through the body part of the pad. The pad is therefore suitable for bunions of greater protuberance than the pad described previously in connection with Figs. 1 to 4. The pad of Figs. 5 and 6 operates in substantially the same manner as the pad of Figs. 1 to 4 and possesses all the favorable characteristics of that pad.

In case it is desired to have the added distribution of wearing apparel pressure provided by the pad of Figs. 5 and 6, and yet have the outer layer of the body part imperforate, the bunion pad may be constructed as illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8. In this instance, the body portion of the pad, generally indicated by numeral **14**, includes an inner layer **16**, an outer layer **17**, integral with a toe loop **15** of the character previously described. The inner layer only is provided with an affliction receiving opening or aperture **18**, and this inner layer **16** is of considerably less overall size than the outer layer **17**. Thus, the outer layer **17** effects a greater distribution of pressure from articles of footwear, while the inner layer has the opening to receive the affliction, and carry a medicament if the same is desired.

All the embodiments of the instant invention herein set forth and described function is substantially the same manner, and are of the same general construction.

It will be understood that modifications and variations may be effected without departing from the scope of the novel concepts of the present invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a bunion pad, a doube layer body part, and an integral single layer toe loop having one end connected to one body part layer and the other end connected to the other body part layer, one of said body part layers having an aperture therein, both said body part layers being concavo-convex to intimately fit over the outer side of a toe.

2. In a bunion pad, a double layer body part, an integral single layer toe loop having one end connected to one body part layer and the other end connected to the other body part layer, and said body part having an aperture therethrough to receive an affliction of the character of a bunion.

3. In a bunion pad, a double layer body part, an integral single layer toe loop having one end connected to one body part layer and the other end connected to the other body part layer, one of said body part layers having an aperture therein, and the outer layer of said body part being of greater size to extend beyond the inner layer in all directions.

4. In a bunion pad, a double layer body part, an integral single layer toe loop having one end connected to one body part layer and the other end connected to the other body part layer, the inner of said body part layers having an affliction receiving opening or aperture therein, and the outer of said body layers extending beyond the inner layer in all directions.

5. In a bunion pad, a concavo-convex body part, a toe loop offset from said body part to lie flatly against a toe while encircling the same, said body part comprising a plurality of layers of foam latex secured together, one end of said toe loop being integrally connected to one layer and the other end being integrally connected to the other layer, the inner of said layers having an affliction receiving opening therein, and a thin smooth covering over one face of both said body part layers and the outside of said toe loop.

6. In a bunion pad, a double layer body part comprising superposed layers secured together, a single layer toe loop having one end connected to one body layer and the other end to the other body layer, at least the inner of said body layers having an affliction receiving opening therein, and one of said body layers being larger in area than the other.

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