To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, William F. Bosstock, of Brockton, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Top Lifts for Boot and Shoe Heels, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to sole-leather top lifts which are given approximately their final shape before being applied to boot or shoe heels, and are adapted to receive short nails or slugs which are driven into the marginal portion of the tread surface of the top lift, and are symmetrically arranged in close proximity to each other so that their outer ends form a row of heads which are flush with the tread surface of the top lift, and whose principal function is to impart a finish to the marginal portion of the top lift. These slugs are driven by a slugging machine, each slug being cut from a strip of wire of indeterminate length mounted upon the machine, the latter having mechanism for cutting off lengths of the wire to form slugs, and for driving the same. The outer ends of the slugs thus formed are left somewhat rough by the cutters, and have to be smoothed off by the application of a buffing appliance to the tread surface of the heel, said appliance being usually a roll covered with sandpaper, or other abrasive material, which removes the roughness of the outer ends of the slugs and leaves said outer ends smooth and flush with the tread face of the top lift.

My invention has for its object to provide a top lift having an ornamented area occupying the greater part of the tread face of the top lift, and to enable that portion of the top lift which contains the slugs to be buffed and slightly reduced in thickness by the buffing operation without defacement of the ornamentation of the ornamented area.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a view of the bottom or tread face of a top lift embodying my invention. Figure 2 represents a section on line 2—2 of Figure 1. Figure 3 represents an enlargement of a portion of Figure 2 showing the top lift applied to the body of a heel, and a slug driven into and through the top lift. Figure 4 represents a view similar to Figure 3, showing the condition of the top lift and slugs after the buffing operation, which removes material from the slugs to smooth their outer ends.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, 12 represents a sole-leather top lift, the tread face of which has an ornamented area formed in the present case by impressing diagonal rows of pyramidal indentations 13 in the outer face of the top lift, said indentations being so disposed as to form intersecting diagonal ribs 14. This treatment diversifies the surface of the said area, giving it an attractive appearance, and also roughens it so that it is less liable to slip than if left smooth. The said ornamented area may be formed by a suitable die, which at one operation forms the indentations 13 and the ribs 14, suitable pressure being used to indent or depress the entire ornamented area, as indicated in Figure 2.

The ornamented area occupies less than the entire tread face of the top lift, a marginal U-shaped area 15 being left upon the tread face, which area being unaffected by the pressure which forms the ornamented area, is left offset outwardly from the ornamented area, as clearly shown in Figures 2 and 3. The top lift thus formed is secured to the body of a heel in any suitable manner. Into the marginal area 15 are driven the usual slugs 17, which are commonly formed of brass wire which is furnished in coils or strips of indeterminate length, the slugging machine being provided with mechanism for cutting lengths from the strip and driving the same, each length forming a slug 17 having a slight roughness or burr formed on its outer end by the cutting mechanism. It is customary to remove a portion of the outer ends of the slugs to make the same smooth and flush with the tread face of the top lift, this operation necessarily removing also a part of the said tread face.

By reference to Figure 3, it will be seen that the raised or offset slug-receiving area 15 enables a portion of the material of each slug and a portion of the material of the top lift immediately surrounding the same to be removed by a buffing roll or wheel without contact between the buffing appliance and the ornamentation on the central portion of the top lift. The dotted lines in Figure 3 indicate the slugs cut from the strip of wire.
cates the extent to which the material, both of the top lift and the slugs, may be removed by the buffing appliance without defacement of the ornamentation.

Fig. 4 shows the condition of the top lift after the removal of the material below the dotted line shown in Fig. 3.

I claim:

A sole-leather top lift having on its tread face an ornamented area and a marginal area formed to receive slugs, the said marginal area being offset outwardly from the ornamented area, whereby material may be removed from the marginal area and from the outer ends of the slugs without defacement of the ornamentation, all of the portion of the lift within the offset marginal portion being of greater density than said marginal portion.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. BOSTOCK.

Witnesses:

MARGARET KENNEY,

JAMES STEWART.