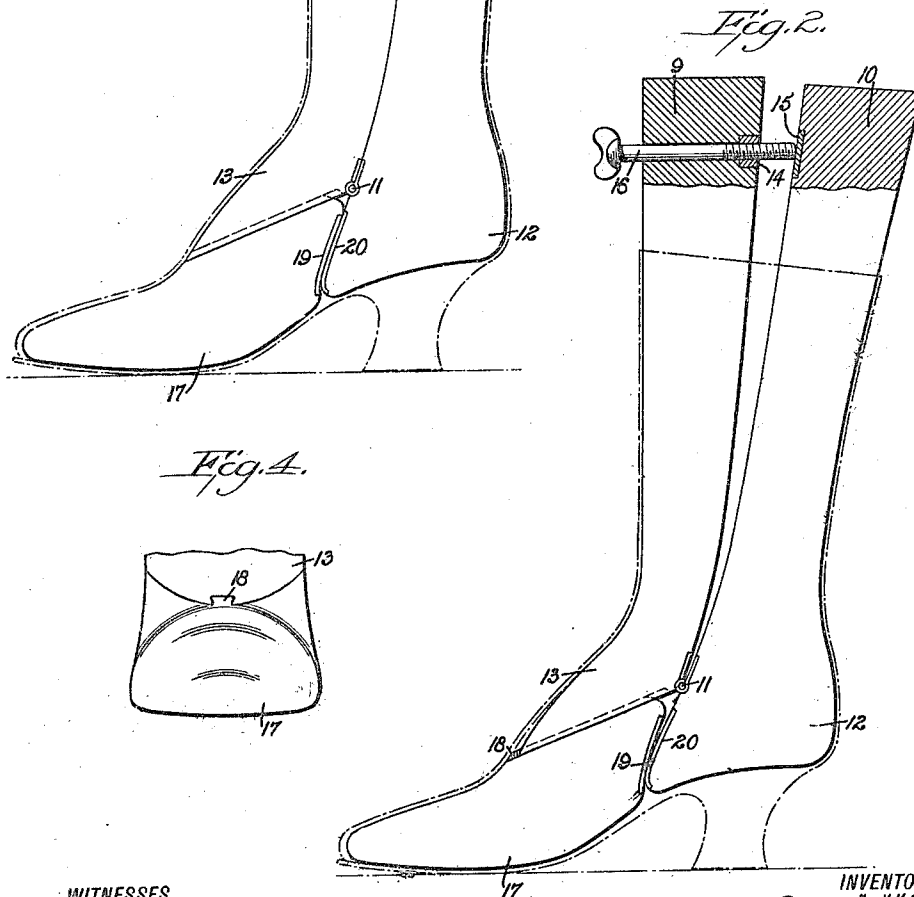
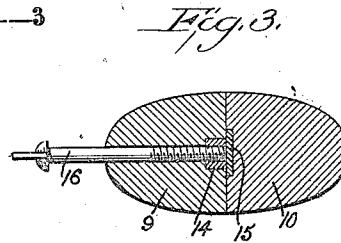


1,237,861.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SHOE-STRETCHING TREE.

1,237,861.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 21, 1917.

Application filed April 16, 1917. Serial No. 162,354.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, VINCENZO BENEDETTI, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Palisade, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Shoe-Stretching Tree, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Among the principal objects which the present invention has in view are: to provide a device for stretching the leg of a shoe without changing the dimensions of the foot of the shoe; to provide a device for stretching the leg and toe of a shoe simultaneously; and to provide an apparatus of the character mentioned with removable parts to adapt the same for a variety of services.

### *Drawings.*

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a tree constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention, the same being shown in inactive position in a shoe;

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the same in active position;

Fig. 3 is a cross section, the section being taken as on the line 3-3 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the front end of a fragment of the tree.

### *Description.*

As seen in the drawings, the leg portion of a tree when constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention, consists of two half sections 9 and 10 parted vertically to form the leg, heel and instep of the tree. The sections 9 and 10 are pivotally connected by a hinge 11. As shown in the drawings, the hinge 11 is located on a line extending through the heel 12 and instep 13 of the tree.

Adjacent the upper ends of the sections 9 and 10 are a screw-threaded thimble 14 and a plate 15. The threads of the thimble 14 operatively engage threads on a screw 16, while the end of the screw 16 bears against the face of the plate 15. As shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, when the screw 16 is advanced, the tree sections 9 and 10 are forced apart, the end of the screw 16 bearing on the plate 15. The ball section 17 of the tree has a feather 18, the sides whereof are undercut to fit a groove formed in the section 9 under the instep 13 thereof. The ball section 17 is detachably mounted on the sec-

tion 9, being free to slide thereunder. When desired, any length or shape of ball section 17 may be adjusted to the tree section 9 or said section may be omitted, as when it is desired to stretch the leg portion only of the shoe. Each ball section 17 has at the rear thereof, a wearing plate 19. The plate 19 is inclined to correspond with a plate 20 permanently attached to the section 10 below the hinge 11.

Having a tree constructed and arranged as above described and as shown in the accompanying drawings, the operation is as follows: The operator desiring to stretch the length of a shoe and the upper thereof first adjusts the ball section 17 of the tree section 9, and then introduces the tree into the shoe in the manner shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. By manipulating the screw 16, the upper ends of the sections 9 and 10 are spread apart as shown best in Fig. 2 of the drawings. In this operation the lower end of the section 10 swinging on the pivot 11, moves forward. In doing so the ball section 17 is pressed forward. It is obvious that if the ball section 17 is designed to stretch the ball section of the shoe in which it is mounted, this will be accomplished at the same time that the upper end or opening of the leg section of the shoe is stretched by the tree sections 9 and 10. Thus the two operations will be performed at one and the same time.

### *Claims.*

1. A shoe-stretching tree comprising a plurality of tree sections, one having an instep portion and the other a heel portion; means pivotally connecting said sections at a point in line with said instep and heel portions; means for separating the upper ends of said tree sections; and a toe portion for said tree adapted for disposition in service in sliding relation to the section having the instep portion and adapted for movement toward the toe of the shoe by the section having the heel portion.

2. A shoe-stretching tree comprising a plurality of tree sections, one having an instep portion and the other a heel portion; means pivotally connecting said sections at a point in line with said instep and heel portions; means for separating the upper ends of said tree sections; a toe portion for said tree adapted for disposition in service in sliding relation to the section having the

instep portion and adapted for movement toward the toe of the shoe by the section having the heel portion; and means operatively connecting said toe portion and in-  
5 step portion.

3. A shoe-stretching tree comprising a plurality of tree sections, one having an instep portion and the other a heel portion; means pivotally connecting said sections at  
10 a point in line with said instep and heel portions; means for separating the upper ends of said tree sections; a toe portion for

said tree adapted for disposition in service in sliding relation to the section having the instep portion and adapted for movement  
15 toward the toe of the shoe by the section having the heel portion; and means operatively connecting said toe portion and instep portion, said means embodying an undercut groove and feather corresponding  
20 therewith operatively uniting said instep portion and toe portion.

VINCENZO BENEDETTI.