Sept. 6, 1966 J. S. LIEBMANN ETAL 3,270,442

DECORATIVE COVER FOR WOMEN'S SHOES

Filed May 7, 1965 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

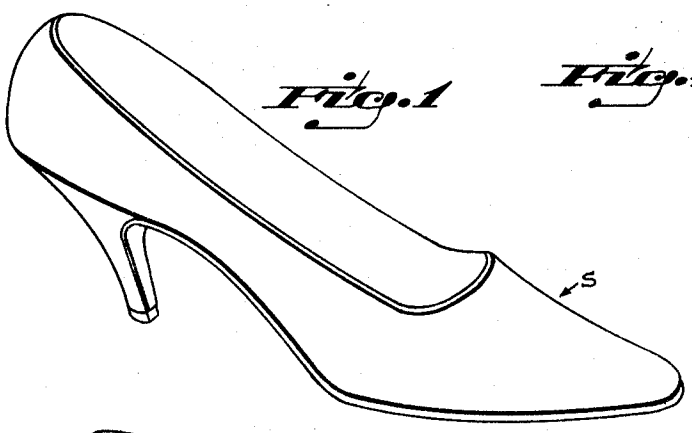
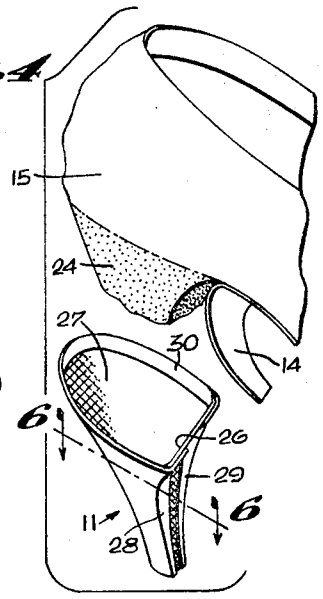


Fig. 4



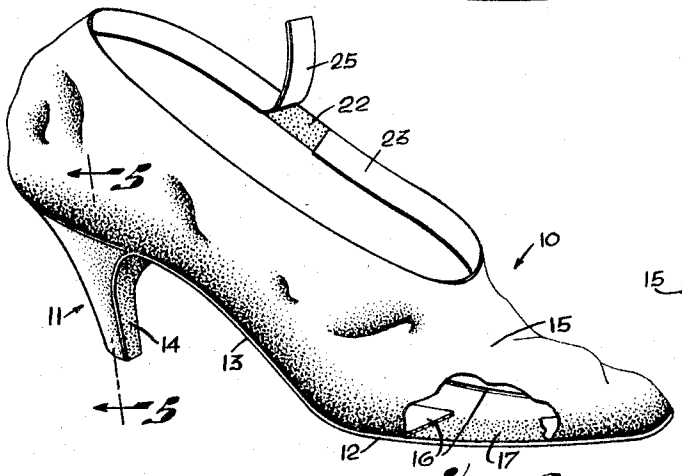


Fig. 2

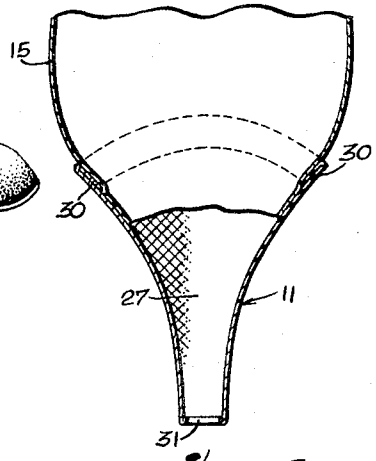


Fig. 5

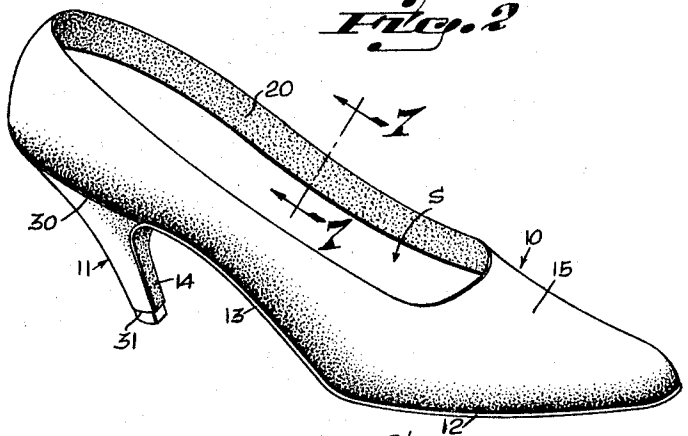


Fig. 3

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DECORATIVE COVER FOR WOMEN'S SHOES

Filed May 7, 1965 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

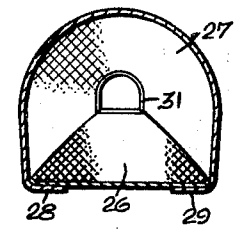


Fig. 6

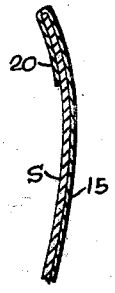


Fig. 7

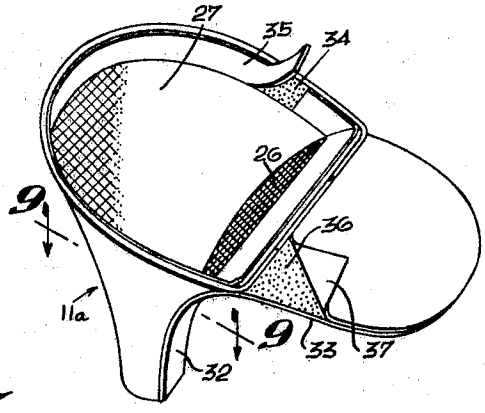


Fig. 8

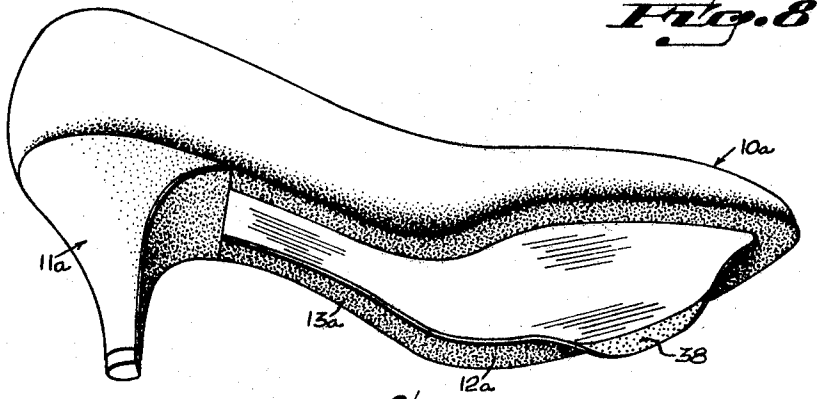


Fig. 10

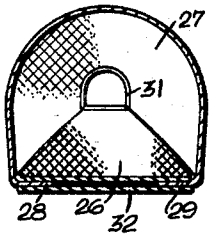


Fig. 9

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DECORATIVE COVER FOR WOMEN'S SHOES

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9 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

This invention relates to women's shoes and is directed particularly to improvements in reuseable decorative covers for women's dress shoes.

In United States Patent No. 3,221,421, issued December 7, 1965, to the present inventors there is described a reuseable decorative shoe cover especially suitable for use with formal and semi-formal pumps of the type having an eggshell throat and long, slender heel. Particularly, that patent describes a decorative shoe cover comprising a soft leather or leather-like sole secured to which is a flexible shoe upper member adapted to be stretched over the upper of a shoe, the sole member being integrally formed with a sole shank portion and a breasting member, and a flexible, fabric heel-covering portion secured to the back of the upper covering member, and pressure-sensitive adhesive means for removably securing the breasting member against the inside marginal portions of the shoe opening. The present invention has for its principal object the improvement of such shoe covers by the provision of a novel pre-formed heel cover portion of unitary construction with the rest of the shoe cover, thereby simplifying its application to a shoe.

Another object is to provide a shoe cover of the above nature wherein the heel portion will be of cup-like shape pre-formed to fit over tapered high heels of women's shoes in form-fitting relationship.

A more particular object is to provide a shoe cover of the character described wherein the heel cover portion comprises a flexible yet fairly stiff fabric inner heel cover member, and a relatively supple fabric outer heel cover member joined with said inner member, to provide a cup-like cover having sufficient rigidity to independently maintain its shape for ease of application to a shoe heel when covering a shoe, yet being of sufficient flexibility in the outer heel cover member to readily conform in close-fitting embracing relation to the shape of the shoe heel to which it is applied.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in a shoe cover, a heel cover member of the above nature which is provided with an opening at its lower end for projection therethrough of the tip of the heel to which it is fitted.

Yet another object is to provide a decorative heel cover member of the above nature which can be used independently of an upper cover for changing the appearance of women's shoes and which, for this purpose, includes pressure-sensitive adhesive means for its securement to the heel. In this embodiment of the invention the heel cover preferably will be highly decorated by the use of unusual outer fabric designs and surface treatments, such as by the use of sequins and the like, to distinctly change the appearance of a shoe although covering only the heel.

Still another object is to provide shoe covers of the character above described which will be inexpensive to manufacture, easy to apply and remove from a shoe, and sufficiently durable to permit reuse many times.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description when read with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings, wherein like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a woman's shoe before

covering with a decorative shoe cover embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of one form of decorative cover for women's shoes;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the shoe cover of FIG. 2 applied over the shoe of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a partial view of the shoe cover of FIG. 2 illustrating constructional details of the heel cover portion and its method of attachment to the upper portion of the shoe cover;

FIG. 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIG. 2 in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 6 is a horizontal cross-sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of FIG. 4 in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of FIG. 3 in the direction of the arrows and illustrating how the shoe cover upper portion is secured at the foot opening of the shoe;

FIG. 8 illustrates in perspective, a decorative heel cover member for use in independently covering the heel of a woman's shoe;

FIG. 9 is a horizontal cross-section taken along the line 9—9 of FIG. 8 in the direction of the arrows; and

FIG. 10 is a perspective view, as seen from the underside, of a shoe covered by a modified form of shoe cover embodying the invention.

Referring to the drawings, S in FIG. 1 designates, generally, a woman's shoe, and FIG. 2 illustrates a decorative cover embodying the invention, designated generally by numeral **10**, shown before application to the shoe of FIG. 1. FIG. 3 illustrates the decorative cover of FIG. 2 applied to the shoe of FIG. 1, the same being fitted and secured in place by the method and means hereinafter described.

Referring now in detail to FIG. 2, the decorative shoe cover **10** comprises a sole member **12**, which is preferably of a supple leather such as calfskin having a thickness of about 1/32 inch, integrally formed with a sole shank portion **13** the outer end of which is integrally formed with a breasting member **14**. Attached against the upper side of the sole **12** and a sole shank portion **13** is a flexible upper member **15**, of such shape as to fit snugly over the shoe to be covered, a high-heeled pump as illustrated by way of example in the drawings. The upper member **15**, which is preferably fabricated of a cotton, satin, or silk-like or leather-like fabric having two dimensional stretch qualities, will be of a color and pattern to effect the desired change in external appearance of a shoe. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the upper member **15** can be secured against the top of the sole **12** by having lower marginal portions **16** of said upper member glued thereto by adhesive, as indicated at **17**. The breasting member **14** extending from the sole member **12** is so shaped as to conform to the inside wall of the shoe heel portion to which it is affixed as hereinbelow more particularly described (see FIG. 4).

The flexible upper member **15** of the decorative cover **10** has a marginal portion **20** about the foot opening adapted to be folded in over the rim of a shoe upper. Pressure-sensitive means is provided for securing the marginal portion **20** in place, said means preferably comprising an inside marginal coating of pressure-sensitive adhesive **22**, the surface of which is protectingly covered with a paper or fabric strip **23** before use. The protective strip **23** is preferably provided with a tab **25** to facilitate its removal.

As illustrated in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6, the heel cover portion **11** embodying our improved shoe cover is hollow and self-supporting in the approximate shape of the high or moderately high heel which it is designed to cover. Preferably the heel cover portion **11** is fabricated by forming it over a dummy heel of the desired shape. A salient fea-

ture of the heel cover portion **11** resides in the greater stiffness given to the inner wall portion **26** as compared with that of the outer wall portion **27**, whereby the inner wall portion provides the stiffness required for preserving the shape of the heel cover to prevent wrinkling or other deformation of the heel cover which would spoil its appearance in use, while at the same time permitting limited flexing of the outer wall portion in its embracing conformance to shoe heels of slightly different shapes, as may occur in shoes of the same type by a different manufacture. To this end, we have found that the heel cover portion **11** is best fabricated by making the inner portion **26** of a piece of stiff though somewhat flexible fabric, such as of buckram, and the outer wall portion **27** of a relatively supple fabric. As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 6, the outer wall portion **27** of the heel cover portion **11** is secured to the relatively stiff inner wall portion **26** by having marginal side portions **28** and **29** thereof affixed inwardly against marginal outer side portions of said inner wall portion by a suitable adhesive. The upper and lower edges of the outer wall portion of the heel cover portion **11** are rolled or folded in as indicated at **30** and **31** to present a finished appearance, said rolls or folds being secured by stitching or a suitable adhesive.

As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, the heel cover portion **11** is secured to the remainder of the shoe cover by gluing or otherwise affixing a marginal portion **24** at the heel opening end of the flexible upper member **15** against the inside upper portion of said heel cover portion, after which the breasting member **14** at the end of the sole shank portion **13** is glued, heat sealed, or otherwise affixed against the inside of the heel cover portion to complete the appearance of a finished shoe.

In the use of the decorative shoe cover **11** it will be applied simply by slipping it over the toe of the shoe and then pulling it up at the back into form-fitting position over the heel and the back of the shoe. The marginal portion **20** at the top of the decorative cover **10**, after having removed the protective strip **23**, will then be turned in over the rim at the shoe opening and pushed down against the inside of the shoe, to secure it in place by means of the pressure-sensitive adhesive **22**. The roll **30** at the upper end of the outer wall portion of the heel portion **11** will, as illustrated in FIG. 3, register generally with the curved line of juncture at the heel seat of the shoe to which the cover is to be fitted. The tip of the shoe heel will project slightly from the lower end of the heel portion of the cover.

FIGS. 8 and 9 illustrate a decorative heel cover member **11***a* for use independently of a shoe upper cover, said separate heel cover member differing from the above-described heel cover portion **11** in that it has permanently secured thereto against the inside, as by a suitable adhesive or any other means of attachment, a separate breasting portion **32** having an outwardly-projecting tongue portion **33**, which breasting portion may be of a supple leather or leather-like material of beige or tan color to match the color of the sole shank member of the shoe to which it is applied. As a means for securing the heel cover member **11***a* in place, an inner marginal portion at the upper end is coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive **34**, protected by a pull-away cover strip **35** until ready for use. In addition, the tongue portion **33** is similarly coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive **36** protected before use with a cover strip **37**.

FIG. 10 illustrates a modification of our improved decorative shoe cover differing from that of FIGS. 1 through 7 only in that the sole member **12***a* and shank portion **13***a* instead of fully covering the sole and shank portion at the underside of a shoe, consist of marginal portions only, coated at the inside with a suitable pressure-sensitive adhesive **38** serving for attachment against outer marginal portions of a shoe sole and shank. A cover strip (not illustrated) is preferably provided to protect the adhesive **38** before application of the cover to a shoe.

Removal of the shoe and heel covers is effected simply by carefully pulling away their adhesive portions and then slipping them off. In the case of heel cover members **11***a*, the adhesive covering tapes can be replaced. The heel cover pairs can then be nested one within the other for compact storage in a suitable box. The comparative stiffness of the flexible inner wall portions of the heel covers will prevent collapse and thereby preserve their shape to insure smooth fitting during their entire lifetime of repeated use.

While we have illustrated and described herein only three forms in which our invention can conveniently be embodied in practice, these forms are presented by way of example only and not in a limiting sense. The invention, in brief, comprises all the embodiments and modifications coming within the scope and spirit of the following claims.

What we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a decorative cover for a woman's shoe of the type having a sole, a projecting heel and an upper defining a foot opening, the combination comprising, a flexible upper member shaped to conform to the outer surface of a woman's shoe when fitted thereon and having a toe end and a heel end and a foot opening, a flexible sole member in the shape of a woman's shoe, said sole member being integrally formed with a sole shank portion and a heel breasting member, means attaching said upper member to said sole member and said sole shank portion to provide a pocket therewith for receiving a woman's shoe, said upper member having an opening at its heel end for receiving in outwardly-projecting relation thereto the heel of a woman's shoe fitted in said pocket, and a heel cover member secured to said upper member in surrounding relation to the heel opening thereof, said heel cover member comprising an inner heel wall cover portion of a flexible yet fairly stiff fabric, and an outer heel wall cover portion of a relatively supple fabric joined to said inner heel wall portion and together therewith forming a hollow member having upper and lower end openings adapted to be fitted over the heel of a woman's shoe in embracing relation with respect thereto and with the heel tip projecting outwardly of said lower end opening, said heel breasting member comprising an outer wall portion of said heel cover member.

2. A decorative cover for women's shoes as defined in claim **1** including folded-in portions at the upper and lower ends of said outer heel wall cover portion.

3. A decorative cover for women's shoes as defined in claim **1** wherein marginal side portions of said outer heel cover portion are turned inwardly and secured against marginal outside portions of said inner heel wall cover portion.

4. A decorative heel cover for women's shoes comprising, in combination, an inner heel wall cover portion of a flexible yet fairly stiff fabric, and an outer heel wall cover portion of a relatively supple fabric joined to said inner heel wall portion and together therewith forming a hollow member having upper and lower end openings adapted to be fitted over the heel of a woman's shoe in embracing relation with respect thereto and with the heel tip projecting outwardly of said lower end opening, marginal side portions of said outer heel cover portion being turned inwardly and secured against marginal outside portions of said inner heel wall cover portion.

5. A decorative heel cover for women's shoes as defined in claim **4** including a breasting member secured in covering relation against said marginal side portions of said outer heel cover portion.

6. A decorative heel cover for women's shoes as defined in claim **5** including means for securing said outer heel cover portion with respect to a shoe heel.

7. A decorative heel cover for women's shoes as defined in claim **6** wherein said securing means comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to an inner marginal

portion at the upper end of said outer heel cover portion.

8. A decorative heel cover for women's shoes as defined in claim 7 wherein said breasting member includes a tongue portion extending outwardly beyond the upper ends of said marginal side outer heel cover portion, and wherein said securing means further comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive on said tongue portion for securing it to the shank portion of a woman's shoe.

9. In a decorative cover for a woman's shoes of the type having a sole, a projecting heel and an upper defining a foot opening, the combination comprising, a flexible upper member shaped to conform to the outer surface of a woman's shoe when fitted thereon and having a toe end and a heel end and a foot opening, a flexible sole member in the shape of a woman's shoe, said sole member being formed with a sole shank portion, said upper member comprising a continuous marginal strip in the form of a loop and defining a central opening, means attaching said upper member to said sole member and said sole shank portion to provide a pocket therewith for receiving a woman's shoe, said upper member having an opening at its heel end for receiving in outwardly-projecting relation thereto the heel of a woman's shoe fitted in said pocket, and a heel cover member secured to said upper member in surrounding relation to the heel opening thereof, said

heel cover member comprising an inner heel wall cover portion of a flexible yet fairly stiff fabric, and an outer heel wall cover portion of a relatively supple fabric joined to said inner heel wall portion and together therewith forming a hollow member having upper and lower end openings adapted to be fitted over the heel of a woman's shoe in embracing relation with respect thereto and with the heel tip projecting outwardly of said lower end opening, said heel breasting member comprising an outer wall portion of said heel cover member.

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