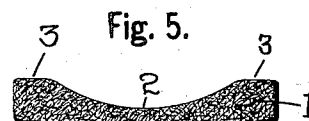
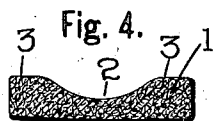
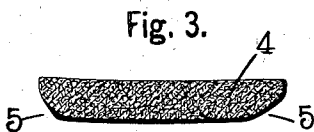
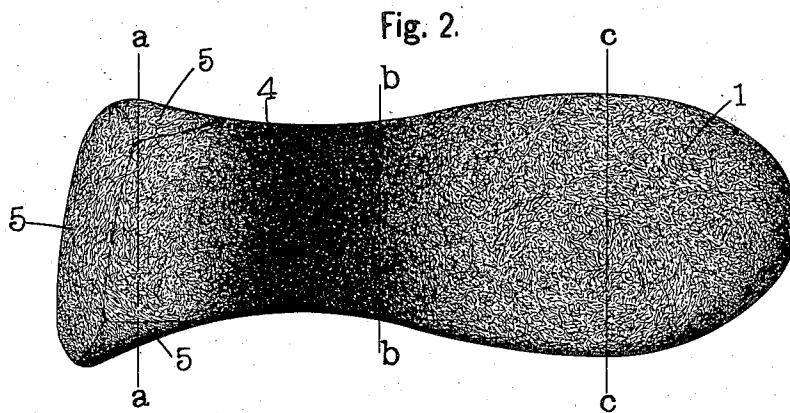
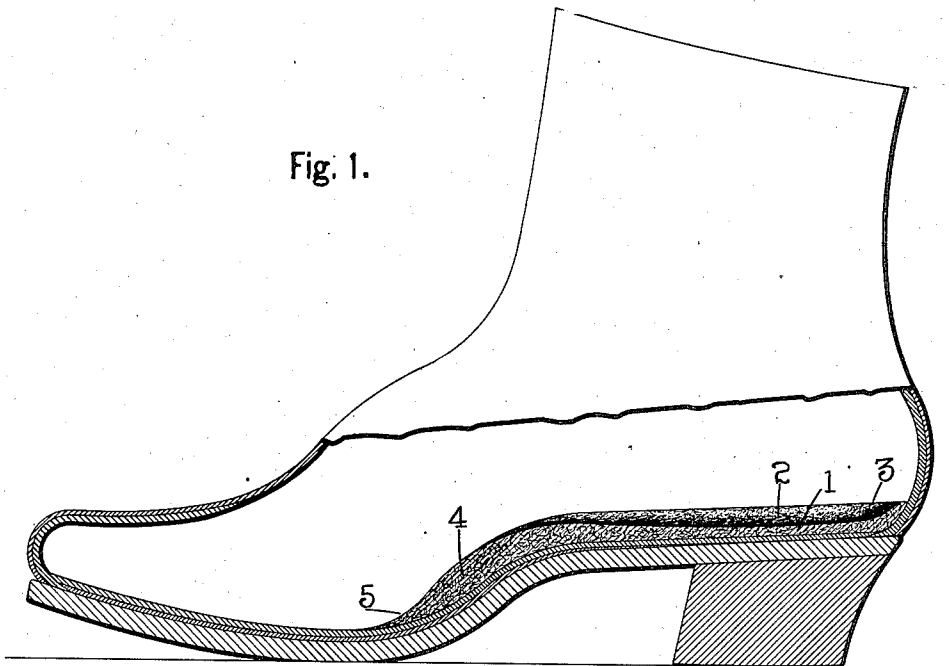


J. STROOTMAN.
CUSHION INSTEP RAISER FOR SHOES.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1908.

1,009,110.

Patented Nov. 21, 1911.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN STROOTMAN, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

CUSHION INSTEP-RAISER FOR SHOES.

1,009,110.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 21, 1911.

Application filed July 17, 1908. Serial No. 443,945.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN STROOTMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improved Cushion Instep-Raiser for Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a cushion instep raiser for shoes or the like and the principal object of the invention is to enable the fitting of standard measure ready made shoes on feet having low insteps by inserting a cushion between the sole of the shoe and the instep of the foot.

The invention also possesses other objects and advantages and relates to certain details of construction which will be hereinafter described and claimed reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section through a portion of a shoe showing my improved cushion instep raiser in place therein. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the improved cushion instep raiser. Fig. 3 is a cross section on line *a a*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a cross section on line *b b*, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a cross section on line *c c*, Fig. 2.

In referring to the drawings in detail like numerals designate like parts.

It is the universal custom to purchase shoes ready made, a large variety of sizes and widths being carried by retail shoe stores which will accommodate almost all shapes of feet. Yet feet having low insteps cannot be properly fitted from the stock carried in the regular standard measures of shoes, as a shoe which fits otherwise will set very loosely around the waist and instep of the foot and permit the foot to slide in the shoe thus producing friction and strain upon parts of the foot and a tender and sore foot. My improved cushion is designed to remedy this condition by raising the instep sufficiently to fill the shoe and thereby providing a proper fit.

The cushion which is made from wool, felt or similar material is shaped to a distinctive form and is designed to extend from the heel of a shoe to a point slightly forward of that portion of the shoe sole located beneath the instep of the wearer.

It will be noted by referring to the drawings that the heel portion 1, of the cushion is provided with a top concavity 2 and that

the marginal surrounding edge is flat as shown at 3 to provide a supporting outer portion of appreciable thickness. The purpose of this is to center the heel of the wearer in the shoe and also to provide a soft yielding marginal support beneath the heel against which the side margin of the bottom surface of the heel presses so that strain and friction are largely removed from the lower heel bone of the foot thus affording a firm well balanced support for the heel within the shoe.

The edges of the cushion substantially correspond in curve to the curve of the shoe sole being wide enough to completely fill out all that portion of the inner space in the shoe in which the cushion is fitted.

The instep portion 4 of the cushion extends forward from the heel portion 1, and terminates at about the lower bend or curve of the shoe sole see Fig. 1. To provide a cushion capable of raising the instep perceptibly the instep portion is preferably left of full thickness. The forward end of the cushion is chamfered off as shown at 5 so that it gradually tapers and reduces in size to its termination thereby obviating an abrupt elevation on the sole of the shoe.

The concavity 2 in the heel portion 1, distributes the weight of the wearer and the shocks of walking over the entire surface of the heel but principally on the outer margin of the flesh of the heel thereby removing a large proportion of the strain from the heel bones and centering the heel bones in a concave seat which firmly supports the heel in place and steadies the foot and ankle and prevents wobbling or side motion which might cause the foot to turn over or the shoe to run over to one side. This also in a great measure prevents sore feet and by cushioning and supporting the heel provides a comfortable and easy shoe.

The most meritorious feature of this improved cushion is that it raises the instep of a foot so that a shoe which otherwise would be loose and ill fitting sets comfortably on the foot and fits well, and that it accomplishes this without producing a tightness around the forward portion and the toes of the foot as the cushion terminates at or in the vicinity of the lower curve of the instep and does not extend forward to partially fill the forward portion of the shoe.

I claim—

1. A comparatively soft cushion adapted

to be fitted over the heel and instep portion of the sole of an article of foot wear and consisting of a heel portion provided with a top concavity surrounded by a substantially flat top marginal edge, and an instep portion forward of the heel portion formed throughout of the full thickness of the cushion.

2. A cushion of felt adapted to be fitted over the heel and instep portion of an article of foot wear and shaped to correspond in width and contour to those portions of the sole of the article upon which it fits, said

cushion consisting of a heel portion provided with a top concavity forming a concaved seat for the heel bones and surrounded by a substantially flat marginal edge and an instep portion forward of the heel portion formed throughout of the full thickness of the cushion, said instep portion having its transverse forward edge chambered off. 15

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