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COUNTER PROTECTOR FOR WOMEN'S SHOES

Filed April 15, 1963

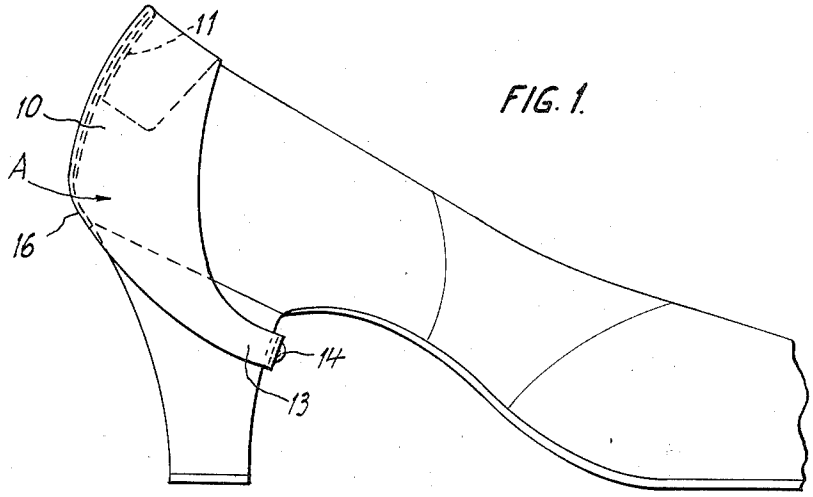
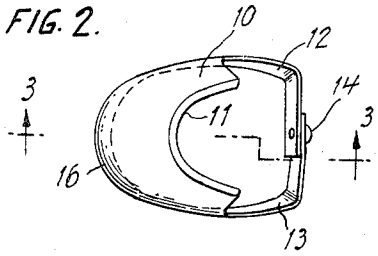


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.



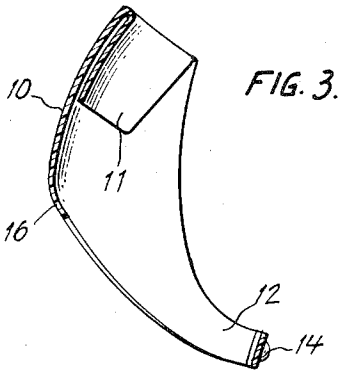
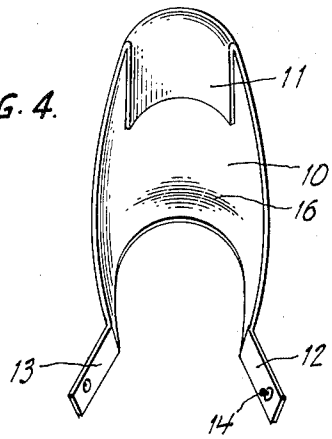


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.



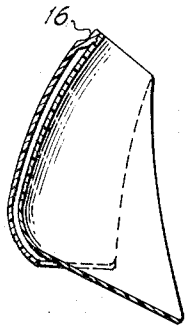


FIG. 5.

INVENTOR.
EVA V. NORTON

BY

Clyde E. Norton
ATTORNEY.

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COUNTER PROTECTOR FOR WOMEN'S SHOES

Eva V. Norton, 5 Sachem Lane, Greenwich, Conn.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 36—72)

This invention relates to a counter protector for women's shoes, and more especially to such a protector which a woman may attach to her shoe or shoes for wearing when driving a car, and which may be easily and quickly attached and removed, and which will not be unsightly or cumbersome, yet will effectively prevent the scuffing and scratching of the shoe or shoes from rubbing against the car floor mat when operating the gas pedal, brake, or clutch.

I am aware that similar articles have been proposed, but as far as I am aware, none is satisfactory. They suffer from defects, among which may be mentioned that they do not fit more than one style or type of shoe, they do not protect the shoe against the points of wear, they are likely to come off in use, and their appearance disfigures the shoe.

It is an object of my invention to provide a counter protector which is so designed and constructed that it will fit substantially all types of women's shoes, whether low or high heeled, will protect the shoe in the scuffing areas, and which, when applied to the shoe, will remain securely in position.

It is a further object of this invention to provide such a protector which may be made inexpensively from plastic, clear and transparent if desired, so as not to mar the appearance of the shoe on which it is worn.

Still other objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the specification.

The features of novelty which I believe to be characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. My invention itself, however, both as to its fundamental principles and as to its particular embodiments, will best be understood from the specification and accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of a woman's shoe with my protector in place,

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of my protector before attaching to the shoe,

FIG. 3 is a sectional view on lines 3—3,

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of my protector, and

FIG. 5 is a detail sectional view of a modified form of my invention.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, an examination of shoes worn by women driving a car shows that the right shoe is scuffed on the right side of the counter near the heel, in the general area indicated on FIG. 1 by A.

With cars having an automatic transmission, and no clutch pedal, the left shoe is not ordinarily scuffed, because the left foot is not used, but this is not true with cars having a manual transmission, in which case the left shoe may be scuffed in a mating area.

Women's shoes may vary widely as to type and style of heel, but the counters are generally all substantially the same size and shape, so that the protector according to my invention may be made in a single size and shape, and yet fit shoes having high or low heels, and right and left shoes.

The protector according to my invention comprises a main protecting portion **10** embracing the counter, and having, at its upper side, a tab **11** spaced from portion **10** for insertion into the shoe. The portion **10** may have a pair of strips **12** and **13** extending forwardly and downwardly, and carrying snap fastener **14** by which the strips may be easily secured when the protector is attached, and which aid in holding the protector in position.

In the modification shown in FIG. 5 the tab portion **11** may be extended downwardly and forwardly to lie along the inside of the sole at the heel, thus providing further security against accidental loss of the protector while being worn.

The protector may be formed from a suitable single piece of plastic, or for economy of manufacture by avoiding the use of complicated dies or molds, the upper rim of portion **10** may be shaped to provide an inwardly extending bulge **16**, as shown in FIG. 5, and the tab **11** may be formed as a separate piece and then heat welded to the outer portion **10** along the line of the bulge **16**. This leaves a space between the upper part of portion **10** and tab **11**, to facilitate easy application of the protector to the shoe, and still permit a snug fit.

If the plastic is made sufficiently thick and strong, the strips **12** and **13** may be terminated just beyond the outer portion of the heel, in which case strips **12** and **13** do not overlap and no snap fastener is used.

In the foregoing, I have shown and described certain preferred embodiments of my invention, and the best mode presently known to me for practicing my invention, but it should be understood that modifications and changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. For use with a shoe which has a heel portion and a counter portion, a shoe protector comprising a body shaped to conform to the outer shape of the counter portion of a shoe, and a pair of arms extending from the lower part of said body, one of said arms passing on each side of a shoe heel portion, fastener means on the ends of each of said arms to fasten said arms together about the upper part of a shoe heel to maintain said protector in place, and a tab shaped to conform to the interior of a shoe counter portion and extending forward at its free end to lie on a shoe inner sole under the heel of the wearer.

2. The protector defined in claim **1** wherein said protector is formed of a transparent heat-weldable plastic material.

3. In combination with a shoe having a heel and a counter portion, a shoe protector, said protector being constructed of transparent plastic material and having a body portion and a pair of arms, each of said arms extending from the lower portion of the body portion and embracing both sides of the heel and overlapping at their extremities, and fastening means for securing the ends of said arms to each other, said body portion having a configuration conforming with the shoe from below the top of the heel to the top of the counter portion and extending forwardly on both sides of the counter portion to protect the counter portion against scuffing, said body portion having a tab portion at its top, said tab portion extending against the back of the wearer's heel and along the inside of the sole of the shoe under the wearer's heel.

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JORDAN FRANKLIN, *Primary Examiner.*

FRANK J. COHEN, *Examiner.*