SET OF FITTING AIDS

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Abstract

A set of aids for use in the fitting of the length of slacks and other floor-length garments to the user, which aids substitute for modern platform shoes of various different conventional heights and are used in connection with the fitting of the desired length of the garment to the user. The user selects one of the aids corresponding to the height of his or her own personal platform shoes which are unavailable at the time, so that any necessary alterations in the length of the garment can be determined to render the garment a proper length for wearing with the user’s own personal platform shoes.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures
SET OF FITTING AIDS

The present invention is primarily concerned with fitting and alteration problems encountered by retail clothing stores and caused by the modern trend of customers wearing pairs of shoes of different heights on different occasions or for different purposes. Modern high platform shoes have become fashionable for women, men and children, particularly for dress use. Such platform shoes come in three common heights for women, as follow: heel height 3% inches and sole height 1½ inches; heel height 2½ inches and sole height 1⅝ inches; and heel height 1½ inches and sole height one half inch. The three common heights for men are the same as for women except that the heel height for the large size is 3½ inches rather than 3¾ inches. Two common heights are used for children corresponding to the medium and small sizes for men and women. Nearly all people who wear modern high platform shoes do so only on certain occasions, and they wear conventional shoes, sneakers, loafers or other, low shoes for comfort or other purposes at other times such as when shopping. Thus, when such a person happens upon a slacks sale, for instance, while wearing low shoes, he or she cannot be fitted to the proper length for the slacks with respect to his or her own personal high platform shoes and must either guess at the proper length, return to the store at a later time while wearing the platform shoes or miss the sale opportunity.

The retail stores also encounter reciprocal problems, i.e., loss of sales, real-time alteration problems, unfinished sales transactions, and the like. Health laws prevent such stores from permitting a slacks customer to use a pair of new platform shoes from the shoe department for purposes of fitting slacks. While the retail stores can set aside a collection of several pairs of platform shoes of various sizes for use by customers in the fitting of slacks, such a collection is difficult to store and the shoes can become mismatched or lost or stolen. Moreover, many people will not wear shoes which they know have been worn by numerous other people for fitting purposes.

It is the principal object of the present invention to provide an organized set of fitting aids for use by retail clothing stores, in the absence of the customer's own personal platform shoes, to permit the length of floor-length garments to be accurately fitted to the customer as if he or she were wearing personal platform shoes.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a set of fitting aids which can consist of a small number of such aids, i.e., about four, which represent all of the most conventional heights of modern platform shoes worn by men, women and children.

It is yet another object of this invention to provide fitting aids which are neat in appearance, safe and sanitary to use and resistant to loss and theft.

These and other objects of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the present disclosure including the drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one member of a set of fitting aids according to the present invention, and FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the fitting aid of FIG. 1 and illustrating by means of broken lines two other fitting aids of different heights which are other members of the set.

The objects and advantages of the present invention are accomplished by the provision of a set of fitting aids for use by retail stores in connection with the determina-

1. Given the description of the invention, it is particularly useful for retail stores to have a set of fitting aids to accommodate customers wearing platform shoes. The aids should be neat, safe, and sanitary to ensure customer satisfaction.

2. The invention is designed to provide accurate fitting of their garments, especially for slacks, where the height of the platform shoes varies. The fitting aids allow for a more personalized fitting experience, reducing the need for customers to guess at the correct length.

3. This invention not only addresses the issue of fitting slacks but also covers a range of garments, including shoe fitting, providing a comprehensive solution to the problem of height variability in clothing and shoes.

4. The provision of a set of fitting aids for retail stores to use in connection with the determination of the proper length of a floor-length garment, such as a pair of slacks, one member of the group of fitting aids being selected to elevate the customer a predetermined height above floor level corresponding to the height of the customer's own personal modern platform shoes.

5. Referring to FIG. 1 of the drawing, each of the fitting aids of the present invention comprises a support having attached thereto or integral therewith a pair of elevated foot supports or platforms and a continuous sloping upper surface which corresponds to the foot-supporting inside face or insole of a platform shoe and which is adapted to receive and support the shoeless foot of the user. The platforms 12 and 13 are closely spaced at a slight angle from each other to simulate a normal stance, i.e., 3½ inches at the closest heel areas and by about 6 inches at the closest sole areas.

6. The support 11 preferably is a solid wooden laminate such as plywood having a thickness of from one-eighth to one-half inch or a plastic sheet of similar thickness. The support 11 preferably extends beyond the platforms 12 and 13 in all directions to provide a substitute floor surface for gauging the proper length of the garment relative thereto, but this requirement becomes less important as the thickness of the support is decreased.

7. As shown by FIG. 1, each support 11 preferably is provided with a hand slot 17, which facilitates the handling of the fitting aid, and with a hanger opening 18 provided with a notch 19 which permits the set of fitting aids to be suspended on a dowel or rod attached to a wall during periods of non-use to provide an organized and neat appearance.

8. FIG. 2 illustrates a support 11 having attached thereto a medium height man's platform 20, illustrated by solid lines. Also shown, by means of broken lines 21 and 22, are the relative heights of a small and large man's platform. The heel heights increase from 1½ inches to 2½ inches to 3½ inches. The sole heights are one-half inch for the small size 21 and 1⅝ inches for the medium and large sizes. It should be understood that FIG. 2 is used for purposes of simplification to illustrate three separate and distinct fitting aids comprising a set of fitting aids, each of which has a perspective appearance similar to the fitting aid of FIG. 1 and each of which has attached thereto a matched pair of platforms of the appropriate height, i.e., either small, medium or large height.

9. According to a preferred embodiment, the foot-supporting surface 16 of each platform is slip-resistant for purposes of safety. Thus the surface 16 may be provided with a series of transverse cuts or notches across the width of each platform, or surface 16 may be molded or cast so as to have a rough or notched surface in the case of plastic platforms, or surface 16 may comprise a thin sheet or series of strips of adhered non-skid material such as textured rubber, leather, or the like. This is an advantageous feature because the foot-supporting surface of each platform can become smoother and more slippery during repeated use. It is not practical to provide a strap or other means to confine the foot on the platform because this represents another danger. If the feet are attached to the fixed platforms and the user loses balance, a fall will result...
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and leg injuries can occur. Thus the feet must be easily separable from the platforms for safety purposes.

The present fitting aids may be provided as separate sets of three or so heights for men, three or so heights for women and two or so heights for children. The platforms 12 and 13 may be solid clogs formed of wood, cork, plastic composition, or other solid material, or may be hollow plastic platforms integrally formed with the support 11 in a molding process and consisting of strong, durable plastic composition such as acrylonitrile-

tetrafluoroethylene or polypropylene. For convenience and economy purposes, the platforms 12 and 13 may comprise the wooden, cork or other composition solid platforms which are used in the shoe industry to produce platform shoes. Thus the raw platforms are attached to the support such as by means of adhesive or screws to provide the present fitting devices. As shown in FIG. 1, such shoe platforms may have arch openings 23 but these do not interfere with their use as fitting platforms according to the present invention.

In use, the potential purchaser of a pair of slacks, pants suit, dress or other floor-length garment (meaning a garment which has a proper length which touches the floor or is closely-spaced therefrom) advises the salesperson regarding the height of his or her personal platform shoes with which the garment is to be worn and which are unavailable at the time. The salesperson selects the appropriate member from the set of fitting aids which the store has on hand, which member carries a pair of platforms having a height corresponding to the height of the customer's personal platform shoes. The customer, wearing the garment to be fitted, steps up onto the platforms, such as 12 and 13 of FIG. 1, and the garment such as slacks extends down, over and around each of the platforms 12 and 13 so that the garment can be marked for alteration purposes at the desired length relative to the support 11, the upper surface of support 11 representing the floor surface.

While the support of the present fitting aids preferably is a flat, floor-engaging member as illustrated, it may also be nothing more than a brace or bracket which attaches the two platforms together and holds them fixed at the desired spacing corresponding to the normal stance. In such case, the bases of the platforms engage the floor and the brace or bracket between the platforms is adjacent the floor so as not to interfere with the fitting of slacks which must extend completely around each of the platforms.

While the present fitting aids are primarily intended for use by retail stores in connection with the fitting of floor-length garments, they are also useful by tailors, modeling agencies and other personnel in connection with the temporary or permanent alteration of floor-length garments.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A set of fitting aids, each member of which simulates the height of a different pair of modern platform shoes having a different conventional shoe platform height, said set being adapted for use in place of platform shoes in connection with the determination of the proper length of a floor-length garment to be worn with platform shoes having one of said conventional heights, each member of the set comprising a support and a matched pair of elevated platforms fixed to the support and spaced at an angle and distance corresponding to a normal stance, each platform having an elevated heel section and a lower elevated sole section and a continuous, sloping upper surface adapted to receive a shoeless foot whereby a person being fitted for a floor-length garment can stand upon said member, one shoeless foot on each platform, to be elevated a distance above floor level corresponding to the conventional height of said particular pair of modern platform shoes.

2. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 1 in which each member comprises as the support a flat, floor-engaging member having the matched pair of elevated platforms attached to the upper surface thereof.

3. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 2 in which the support also includes means for hanging each member of the set on a common holder.

4. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 2 in which the support also includes handle means for facilitating the manipulation of each member of the set.

5. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 1 in which each member comprises a support and a matched pair of elevated platforms which are integrally-formed of plastic material.

6. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 1 in which the upper surface of the pair of platforms of each member is slip-resistant.

7. A set of fitting aids as defined in claim 6 in which the upper surface of the pair of platforms of each member comprises an adhered non-skid material.

8. A fitting aid which simulates the height of a particular pair of modern platform shoes having a particular conventional shoe platform height, said aid being adapted for use in place of platform shoes in connection with the determination of the proper length of a floor-length garment to be worn with platform shoes having a particular conventional shoe platform height, said fitting aid comprising a support and a matched pair of elevated platforms fixed to the support and spaced at an angle and distance corresponding to a normal stance, each platform having an elevated heel section and a lower elevated sole section and a continuous, sloping upper surface adapted to receive a shoeless foot whereby a person being fitted for a floor-length garment can stand upon said member, one shoeless foot on each platform, to be elevated a distance above floor level corresponding to the conventional height of said particular pair of modern platform shoes.

9. A fitting aid as defined in claim 8 in which the support comprises a flat, floor-engaging member having the matched pair of elevated platforms attached to the upper surface thereof.

10. A fitting aid as defined in claim 8 in which the upper surface of the pair of platforms comprises an adhered non-skid material.

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