March 27, 1945. R. H. LAWRENCE 2,372,501

ATTACHMENT FOR SPORT OR SIMILAR SHOES

Filed April 21, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

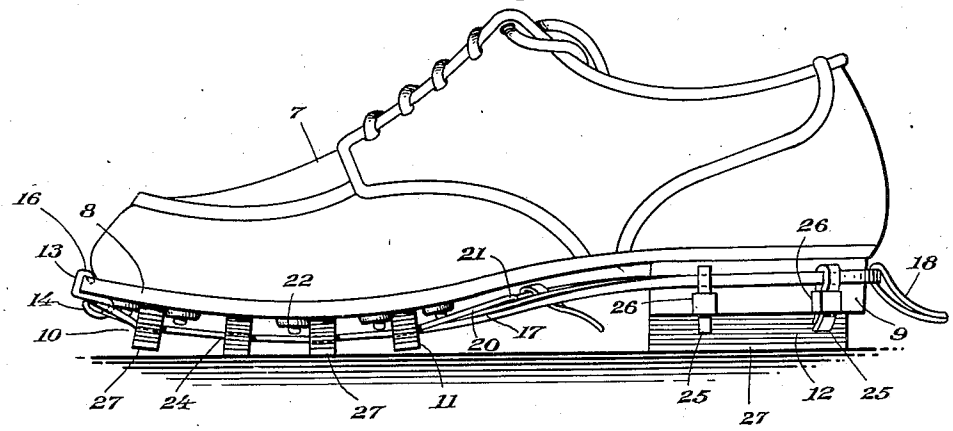


Fig. 2.

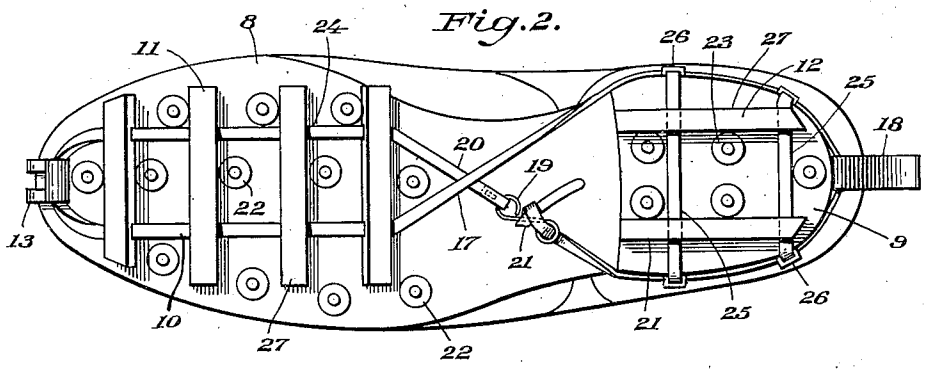


Fig. 3.

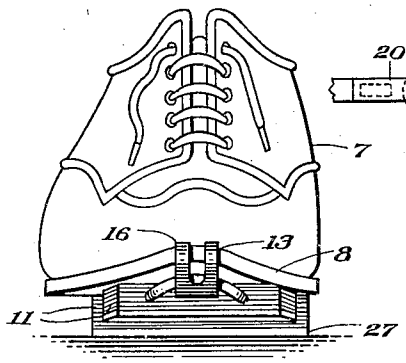


Fig. 5.

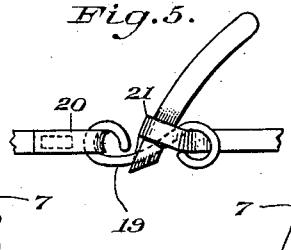
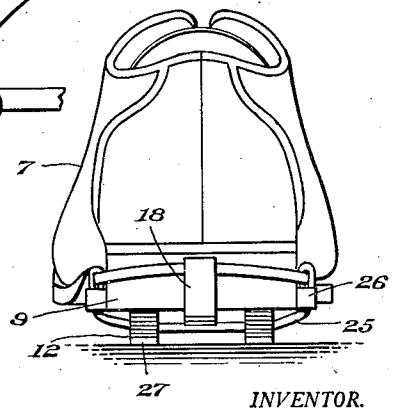


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 10.

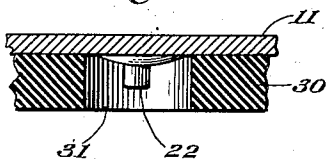


Fig. 6.

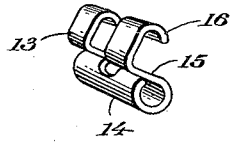


Fig. 7.

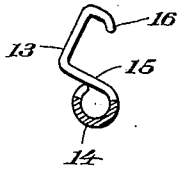


Fig. 8.

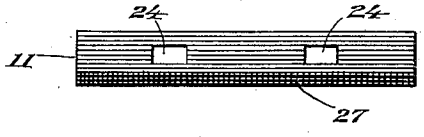


Fig. 9.

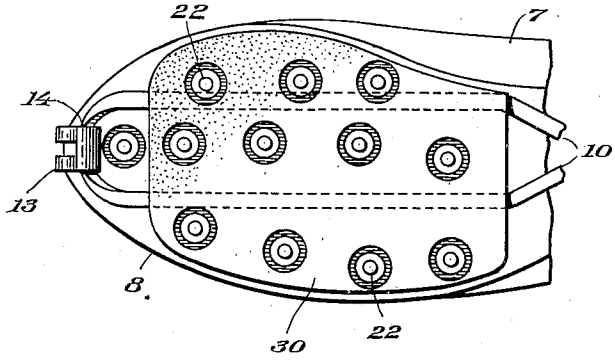


Fig. 11.

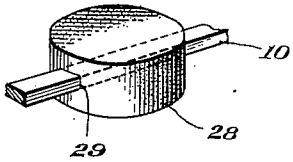
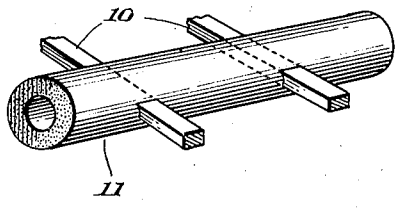


Fig. 12.



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Patented Mar. 27, 1945 2,372,501

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,372,501

ATTACHMENT FOR SPORT OR SIMILAR SHOES

Robert H. Lawrence, Fort Worth, Tex., assignor of one-half to Henry T. Marshall, Sweetwater, Tex.

Application April 21, 1944, Serial No. 532,128

12 Claims. (Cl. 36—7.5)

This invention relates to improvements in attachments for sport or similar shoes and has for its primary object the provision of means that may be conveniently carried and applied to, or removed from, a spiked or cleated shoe enabling the latter to be worn in the house without danger of marring the floor or floor covering, and at the same time protecting the spikes or cleats themselves from harm by impact thereof against a tiled or other hard surface when it is desired to use the shoe out of play, so to speak, and the functioning of the spikes or cleats is not needed.

A convenient and preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a flexible supporting means carrying a suitable number of, preferably flexible or resilient, tread portions adapted to be fastened to the sole and heel of a sport shoe in an adjusted fashion to avoid contact with the ends of the spikes or cleats projecting from the sole and heel in customary manner, and of a depth to contact the under surface of the shoe intermediate the spikes or cleats, and to project downwardly beyond the points or edges thereof, the whole being adapted to be rolled or folded into a compact condition, when disassociated with the shoe, to enable the same to be conveniently carried in the pocket of the user, or pocket as of a golf bag, automobile, or equivalent.

The above-mentioned embodiment of the invention also, preferably, is provided with a means for adjusting the flexible supporting means to enable fitting the attachment to shoes within a substantial range of sizes to minimize the expense and trouble otherwise inherent in the making of the attachment, especially for a given size of shoe.

The preferred embodiment of the invention, referred to, comprises the tread or protecting portions formed of rubber, fiber, leather or plastic material, or a combination of these materials, in strips of considerable thickness adjustably sleeved upon the supporting member to extend transversely across the sole of the sport shoe between the spikes or cleats thereof and longitudinally across the heel, but it will be apparent from the specific description hereinafter contained, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, and wherein said embodiment is illustrated, that alternative details may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, all as may be embraced within the terms of the hereinafter recited claims.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a spiked or sport shoe with the attachment of the present improvement applied thereto.

Figure 2 is a bottom view of the same.

Figure 3 is an end elevation looking at the toe portion of the shoe.

Figure 4 is an end view looking at the heel of the shoe;

Figure 5 is a detail view of the adjusting device;

Figures 6 and 7 are detail perspective and sectional views, respectively, of the sole engaging hook;

Figure 8 is a side view of one of the tread strips of Figure 1;

Figure 9 is a bottom view of a modified tread;

Figure 10 is a detail section thereof; and

Figures 11 and 12 are perspective views of still other modifications.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, wherein like reference characters denote the same parts in the several views, 7 represents the upper of a golf or sport shoe of conventional type, provided with the customary sole 8 and heel 9, no special provision being required in these elements to accommodate the improved attachment now to be defined.

10 is a flexible supporting member, as a leather thong, elastic strip, web, or tape constituting, in the main, the supporting member for a plurality of downwardly projecting sole treads 11 and similar heel treads 12, to be further described in detail. The thong at the appropriate point between its ends, marking the toe portion of the attachment, has secured thereto a pair of hooks, generally denoted 13, having a common integral clamping portion 14 bent around and impinging upon the thong, the hooks having base portions 15 to contact the under surface of the shoe sole, from which the hooks are bent upwardly to engage the sole or toe edge of the sole, as at 16, and then downwardly over the top of the sole to interlock the attachment with the shoe when applied to the latter.

The supporting thong extends rearwardly in parallel portions passing through the tread portions throughout the sole of the shoe, said parallel portions terminating below the instep portion of the shoe beneath which the opposite portions of the thong are crossed, as at 17, to pass around the heel of the shoe, a finger lift 18 being loose upon the thong to be manually engaged at the back of the heel to lift or adjust the heel portion of the attachment when applied, to the top of the heel, where the tension of the encompassing thong will retain the attachment

on the heel. While the thong, being formed of strong leather, is capable of some stretch and will exert a bind on the heel portion of the shoe pulling against the hook at the toe portion of the sole, and in most instances being altogether sufficient to retain the attachment in place, it is to be understood that the thong may similarly, in instances, be formed in whole or in part of rubber or cloth webbing so long as the same may be connected at the ends to afford adjustment thereof, as well as the desired clamping action on the sole and heel, this adjustment in any instance being afforded by a suitable fastener, such as a double eyed link 19, permanently secured at one end to the adjoining end 20 of the thong and at the other end separably attached to the opposite end of the thong, the latter being drawn through the adjacent eye to obtain the proper tension or hold and then tied, as at 21.

22 are the customary spikes, or they may be equivalent cleats or the like, normally attached to the sole of a sport shoe and 23 are the similar devices normally projecting from the heel of the shoe. The treated portions 11 and 12, in the strip formation illustrated, are formed of rubber fiber or fiber and rubber, as for instance made from automobile tire carcase involving alternate layers of canvass and rubber, and they are provided with slip connections with the supporting thong in the nature of transverse passages 24 therethrough for the frictional engagement of the thong, permitting the tread portions to be forcibly slid on the thong to position the same, as desired, to escape the spikes or cleats according to the positioning of the latter on the sole and heel. The tread portions 11 for the sole extend transversely thereof while the portions 12, at the heel, extend longitudinally of the heel, the latter being held in place by additional or auxiliary short thongs 25, extending downwardly from the sides of the heel and thereacross, being connected at their terminals by eyes 26 slidably engaging the opposite portions of the main supporting thong 10. The arrangement permits the longitudinal, as well as the transverse adjustment of the tread members 12 with respect to the heel.

The tread strips 11 and 12 are preferably rubber faced, as at 27, and the strips being flexible may be slightly bent or deflected laterally in planes parallel to the shoe sole and heel to escape being obstructed by a spike or spikes somewhat disaligned across the bottom of the sole or heel so that the unspiked portions of the sole and heel may have a flat bearing upon the upper surface of the strips.

In lieu of having the tread portions of the attachment continuous solid strips or bars, as thus far defined, the tread portions of the device may be in the nature of separate resilient discs, or tubular cylindrical members, attached as heretofore described to the various thong portions and capable of similar sliding movement on the latter to position the same between the spikes or cleats (Figure 11), or in instances the thongs may carry complete perforated sole or heel portions to accommodate the spikes or cleats (Figure 9).

In Figure 11 the tread portion is in the nature of a disc 28, provided with a transverse opening 29 to afford the adjustable frictional engagement with the thong.

In Figure 12 the tread portions are of tubular or cylindrical form.

The complete sole attachment is represented at 30 in Figure 9, the same having apertures 21, Figure 10, to accommodate the spikes or cleats, but the supplemental sole being of adequate thickness to have the spikes terminate well above the tread surface of said sole, the same as in the case of the tread strips heretofore referred to, as will be apparent.

In the last-mentioned embodiment referred to the apertures or recesses in the supplemental sole are of substantially increased diameter relative to the sizes of the spikes or cleats to be accommodated, found in various sport shoes with which the attachment is intended to be used.

The tubular strips are capable of being flexed laterally to avoid contact with the spikes and enable flat engagement of the upper surfaces of the tread portions with the bars or unspiked under surface of the shoe sole.

I claim:

1. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, a resilient tread device adjustable along the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole and constitute tread portions projected outwardly beyond the spikes, and means for fastening the thong portions at the heel of the shoe.

2. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, resilient tread devices adjustable along the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, and means for securing the attachment in place on the heel portion of the shoe.

3. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, tread devices comprising resilient strips adjustable along the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, and means for securing the attachment in place on the heel portion of the shoe.

4. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, tread devices comprising resilient tubular members adjustable along each parallel portion of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, and means for securing the attachment in place on the heel portion of the shoe.

5. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, a tread device comprising a flexible supplemental sole adjustable along the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, and means for securing the attachment in place on the heel portion of the shoe.

6. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, a tread device comprising a flexible supple-

mental sole adjustable along the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, said supplemental sole having passages therein to accommodate said spikes, and means for securing the attachment in place on the heel portion of the shoe.

7. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, tread devices on the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, portions of the thong towards the rear of the sole being crossed to pass around the heel of a shoe and engage the same to retain the attachment in place, and means for adjustably securing the adjoining ends of the thong together.

8. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, tread devices on the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, portions of the thong towards the rear of the sole being crossed to pass around the heel of a shoe and engage the same to retain the attachment in place, means for adjustably securing the adjoining ends of the thong together, in combination with various thong portions adapted to extend across the under surface of the heel, and longitudinally arranged supplemental tread devices adjustably secured to said various thong portions.

9. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising flexible supporting thong portions having means for engagement with the sole of a shoe at the toe portion thereof, parallel portions of the thong adapted to extend rearwardly therefrom, tread devices on the parallel portions of the thong to bear on the sole between the spikes thereof, portions of the thong towards the rear of the sole being crossed to pass around the heel of a shoe and engage the same to retain the attachment in place, means for adjustably securing the adjoining ends of the thong together, in combination with various thong portions adapted to extend across the under surface of the heel, and longitudinally arranged supplemental tread devices adjustably secured to said various thong portions, the various thong portions having a slip connection with the heel engaging thong portions whereby the tread device at the heel may be adjusted laterally and longitudinally of the under surface of the heel.

10. A protecting attachment for spiked shoes, comprising a flexible supporting means adapted to be secured to the sole and heel portions of a shoe, opposite thong portions carrying tread devices adapted to extend transversely of the sole, and other tread devices adapted to extend longitudinally of the heel, and means for adjusting the gripping tension of the supporting means with reference to the sole and heel of a shoe.

11. A supplemental tread for spiked sport shoes, comprising elongated resilient strips, and means for removably attaching the same in position across the bottom of the shoe in engagement with the bare or unspiked portions of the same, said strips being adjustable on their attaching means and flexible transversely to be positioned in avoidance of the spikes.

12. A removable supplemental tread device for spiked sport shoes comprising an adjustable thong having means for engagement with the toe portion of a sole and a portion leading therefrom to embrace the heel and adjustable means for fastening the thong in adjusted position, tread devices carried by the thong, and a lift having a slip engagement with the thong to accommodate for said adjustment and permitting the lift to occupy a position at the rear of the heel of the shoe.

ROBERT H. LAWRENCE.