H. R. STRAUSS.

ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR.

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1,247,467.

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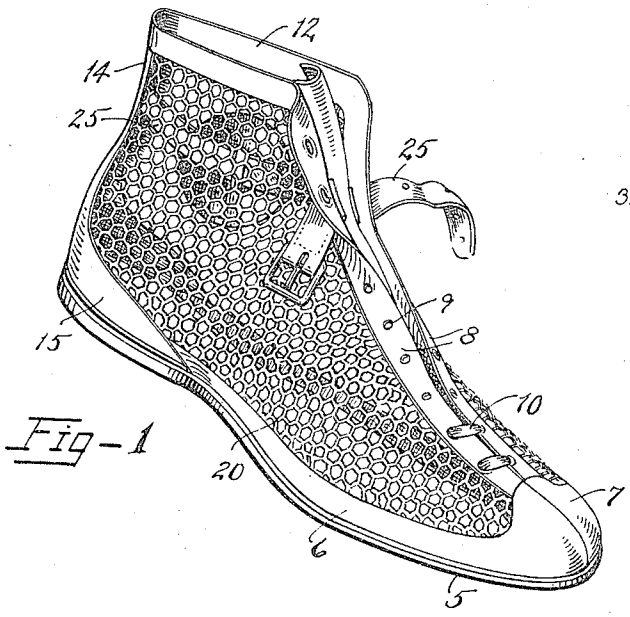
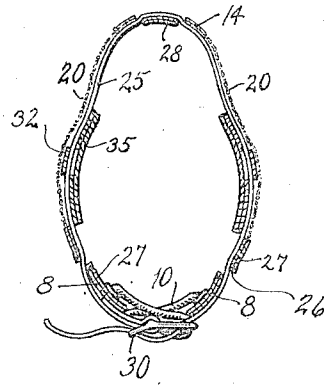


Fig-1

Fig-2



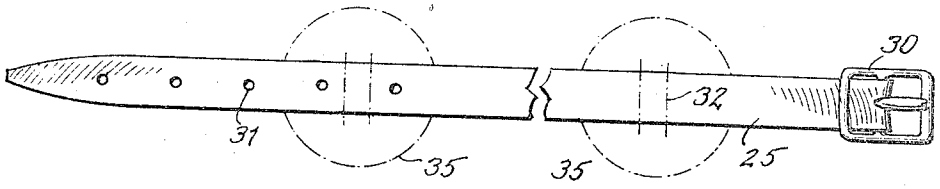


Fig-4

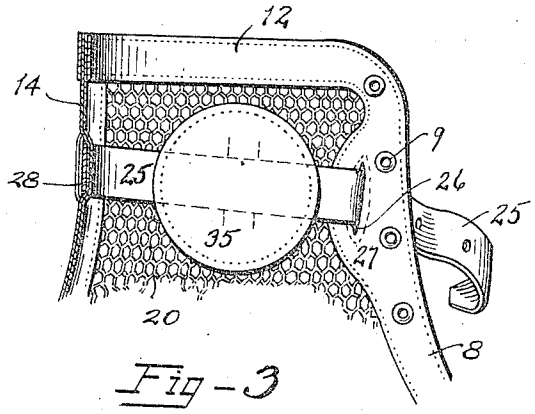


Fig-3

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ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT R. STRAUSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland Heights Village, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Articles of Footwear, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an article of footwear in the form of a shoe, and the general object is to provide a shoe having a large proportionate area of openings in the upper of the shoe, while being very durable and artistic in appearance. In carrying out the above object I have provided the usual sole and a skeleton of the upper composed of leather or other durable flexible material, with the intervening spaces occupied by an open net. The skeleton comprises narrow vamp strips rising only a short distance from the sole along the greater portion of each side and terminating in a suitable short tip from which lead the strips for laces or buttons, which join at their upper ends with the top strap, which in turn is joined with the heel portion rising from the counter. The intermediate space on each side of the shoe is occupied by the net referred to, which may be of any durable material having a comparatively large mesh, thus leaving a large area of the shoe very open. Features of this open net are that it permits most excellent ventilation, reduces the weight of the shoe and provides extreme flexibility. When desired this open work netting may be made in ornate patterns and very pleasing effects may be procured by coloring the net in such a manner that it may blend or provide artistic contrast with the hose of the wearer.

My invention is particularly well adapted for athletic shoes, and another object of the invention is to provide a strap which may serve as an effective ankle brace and may be conveniently carried by the shoe, thereby relieving the strain on the netting when the shoe is in use. Another object is to protect the ankle joints of the wearer against injury, and this I accomplish by providing slidable pads arranged on the bracing straps and preferably positioned within the shoe. Other features of my invention will become apparent in the following description which refers to the drawings. The essential characteristics are hereinafter set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a substantially horizontal section taken along the bracing strap for the ankle; Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the upper portion of the shoe showing a portion of the bracing strap with a protector pad slidable thereon; Fig. 4 is a view of the strap removed with the protector pads mounted thereon indicated in broken lines.

While my invention may be embodied in any form of boot or shoe desired, the drawings illustrate the same embodied in an athletic shoe. Referring to these drawings by reference characters, 5 indicates the sole of the shoe which is shown as having a spring heel such as is commonly used in athletic shoes. Narrow vamp strips 6 rise only a short distance from the sole along the greater portion of each side and terminate at their forward ends in an upwardly extending short tip 7. Leading from this tip are the strips 8 shown as carrying suitable eyelets 9 for laces, indicated at 10, although it is obvious that these strips might be adapted to be secured together in any suitable manner, as, for example, by buttons. At their upper ends these strips 8 are shown as integral with the top strip 12 of the upper, looping rearwardly around the shoe and joined at its rear portion with the heel portion 14 shown as rising from the counter 15 to which the rear portions of the vamp strips 6 are attached.

It will be noted from the drawings that the vamp strips 6 are comparatively low, the tip 7 comparatively short, that the low counter, narrow heel portion and comparatively narrow strips for the laces, leave a large intervening space on each side of the shoe which is occupied by a suitable net indicated at 20. This net is shown as of a form similar to mosquito bar and is preferably made of sufficiently strong material to have the desirable wearing qualities. It is to be understood, however, that this net may be of any form desired, the necessary characteristics of the same being that it shall have very open mesh to provide the best possible ventilation, and still be of sufficiently strong material to withstand wearing strains to which it may be subjected.

It is frequently desirable in athletic shoes

to provide an additional bracing means for the ankles. Accordingly, I have shown such a bracing means particularly adapted for my shoe comprising essentially a strap 25 threaded through slits 26 in widened portions 27 of the lacing stripes 8 and extending through a pair of slits in the heel portion 14, so arranged as to provide a short vertical strap 28 supporting the bracing strap 25 at this point. This bracing strap may be of any suitable form, preferably of leather or like material provided with a suitable securing means. I have shown a buckle 30 on one end and the other end of the strap is provided with holes 31 adapted to receive the tongue of the buckle.

With a shoe of the usual form the material comprising the upper is of a comparatively heavy material which may serve as a more or less effective ankle brace in itself if the shoe fits properly and tightly enough to permit the upper to be drawn snugly about the ankle by means of the lacing. Such shoes, however, are usually very uncomfortably warm if laced tight enough to serve as an ankle brace. This undesirable feature is accentuated if additional bracing straps are provided for the ankle, outside of such shoe. With my invention, however, I have provided most excellent ventilation around the ankles as well as over the greater part of the foot and have also provided an ankle bracing means which does not materially interfere with such ventilation and accordingly does not cause chafing or discomfort from the heat. At the same time this ankle bracing strap relieves undue strain on the open net work of the shoe, thereby materially prolonging the life of the same.

It is further desirable to protect the ankle joints from injury such as those due to one foot striking the other, or due to being hit by a ball, when the shoes are worn by ball players. Accordingly, I have provided substantially circular pads 35 adapted to protect each side of the ankle joint. These pads are preferably carried by the strap 25 on the inside of the shoe and have a transverse strap 32 integral with a portion of the pad and cut therefrom by suitable parallel slits through which the strap 25 may extend, thereby supporting the pads and permitting them to be adjusted longitudinally of the strap 25. This longitudinal adjustment is a desirable feature in that the size of the ankle of different wearers may vary. This adjustment allows proper positioning of the pads with relation to the proportionate length of the strap 25 required to encircle the ankle.

From the foregoing description it will become apparent that the form and purpose of the shoe is immaterial and that my invention may provide an excellently ventilated shoe for any purpose, and, as heretofore stated, the net may be arranged in ornate patterns and of such colors as to provide very artistic effects.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In a shoe, the combination of a sole, a skeleton of an upper, a net work fabric occupying the intervening space between the members of the skeleton, and an ankle bracing strap carried by the members of the skeleton and adapted to extend around the ankle.

2. In a shoe, the combination of a sole, a skeleton of an upper, a network fabric occupying the intervening space between the members of the skeleton, an ankle bracing strap carried by the members of the skeleton and adapted to extend around the ankle, and pads slidably carried on said strap and adapted to be positioned to protect the ankle joint.

3. The combination, in a shoe, of a sole, a skeleton of an upper comprising a counter, a heel strip rising therefrom, strips for laces and a top strip connecting the heel strip and the last named strips, said heel strip and last named strips having openings in the form of slits, a strap adapted to occupy these openings and extend around the ankle, a buckle-fastening means on the strap, and pads on the strap adapted to be positioned over the ankle joints.

4. The combination in a shoe, of a sole, a skeleton of an upper comprising a counter, a heel strip rising therefrom, front strips for fastenings, and a top strip connecting the heel strip and the fastening strips, said fastening strips having openings, and an ankle strap adapted to occupy said openings.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

HERBERT R. STRAUSS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents. Washington, D. C."