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(54) **BOOT WEAR PROTECTOR**

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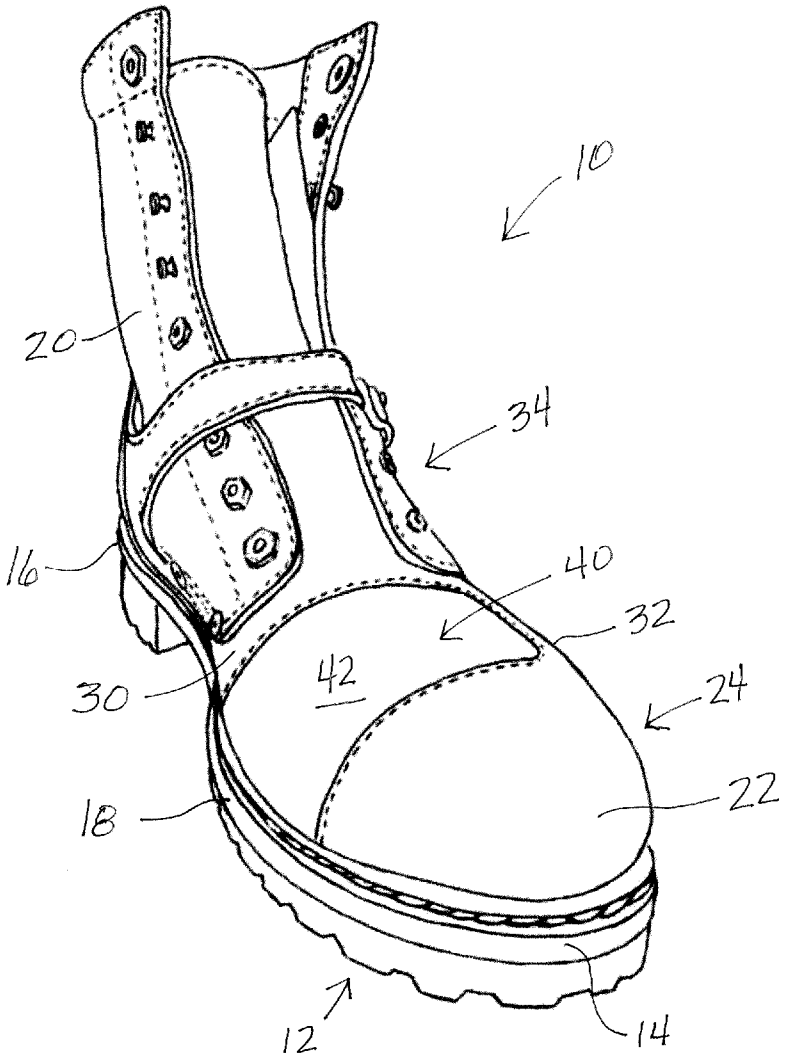
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wear protective motorcycle boot according to the present invention for use when operating a motorcycle shift lever includes a sole having a front end, a rear end, and side edges extending between the sole front and rear ends. A toe portion extends upwardly from the sole front end. A top surface of the boot is situated rearwardly from the toe portion and upwardly from the side edges of the sole. An ankle portion extends upwardly from the top surface. A protection member is situated on the top surface of the boot between the toe portion and the ankle portion, the protection member including a textured surface configured to resist wear when bearing against the motorcycle shift lever. In some embodiments, the protection member may be removable and selectively attached to front portion of a boot.



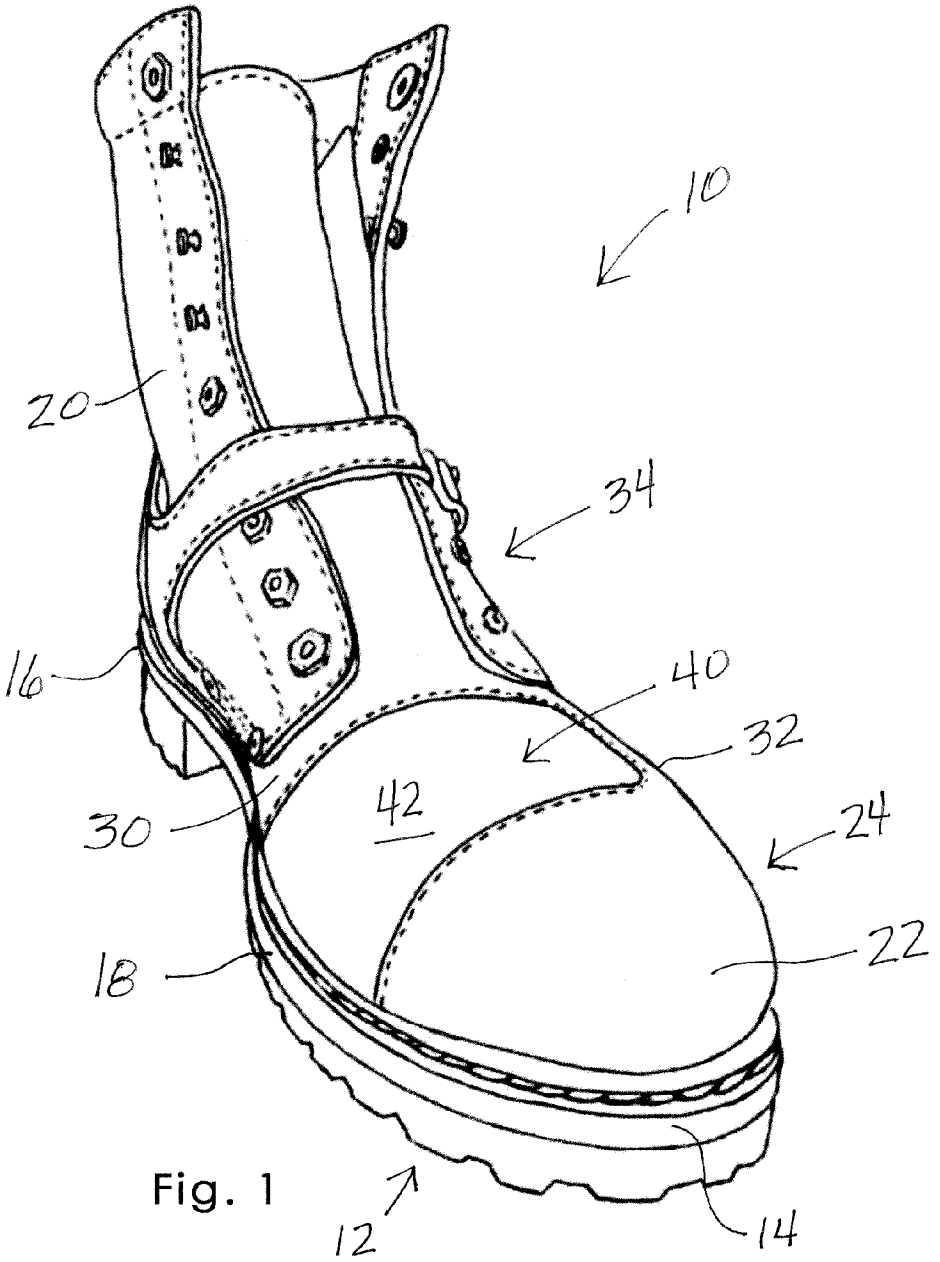


Fig. 1

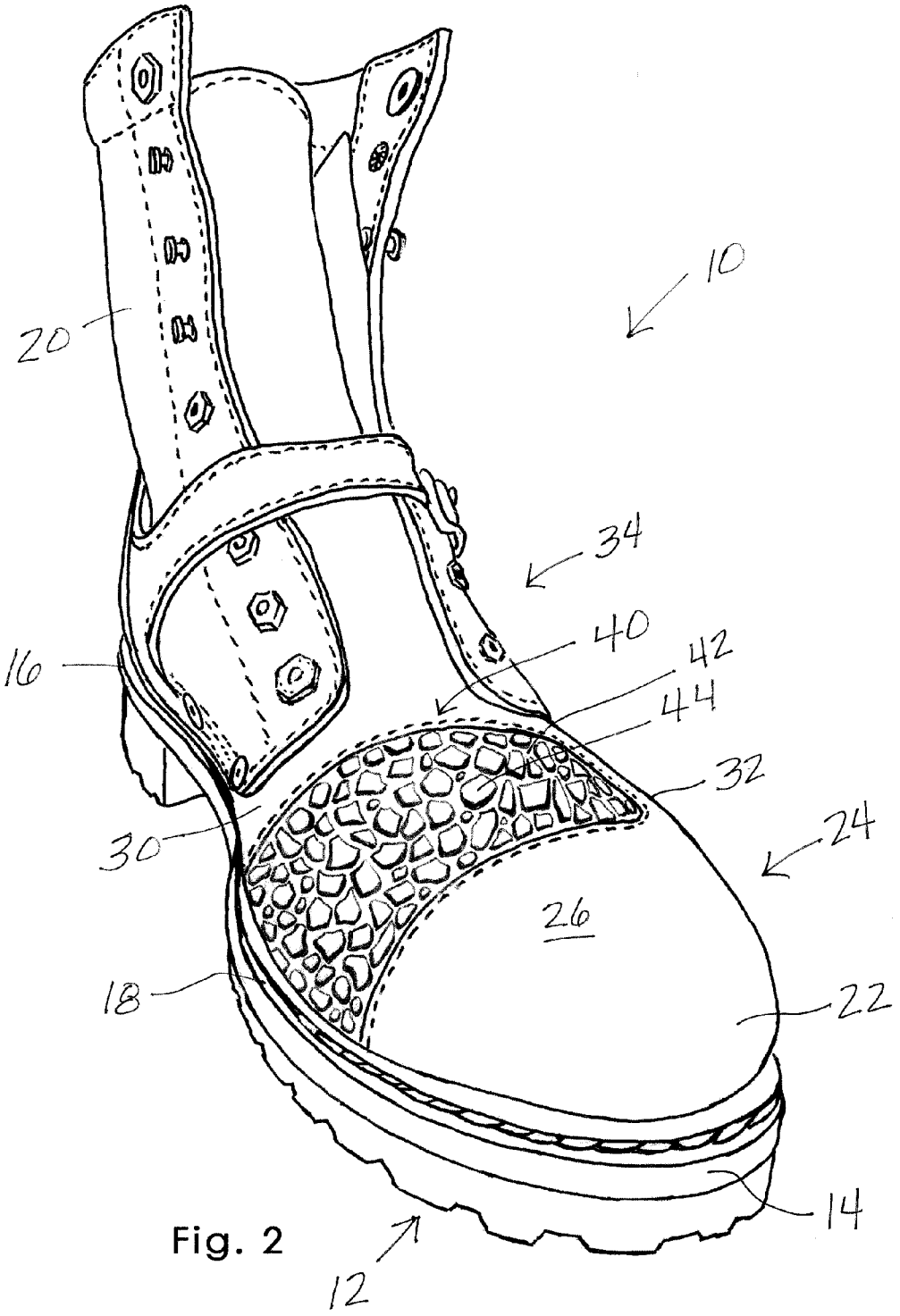


Fig. 2

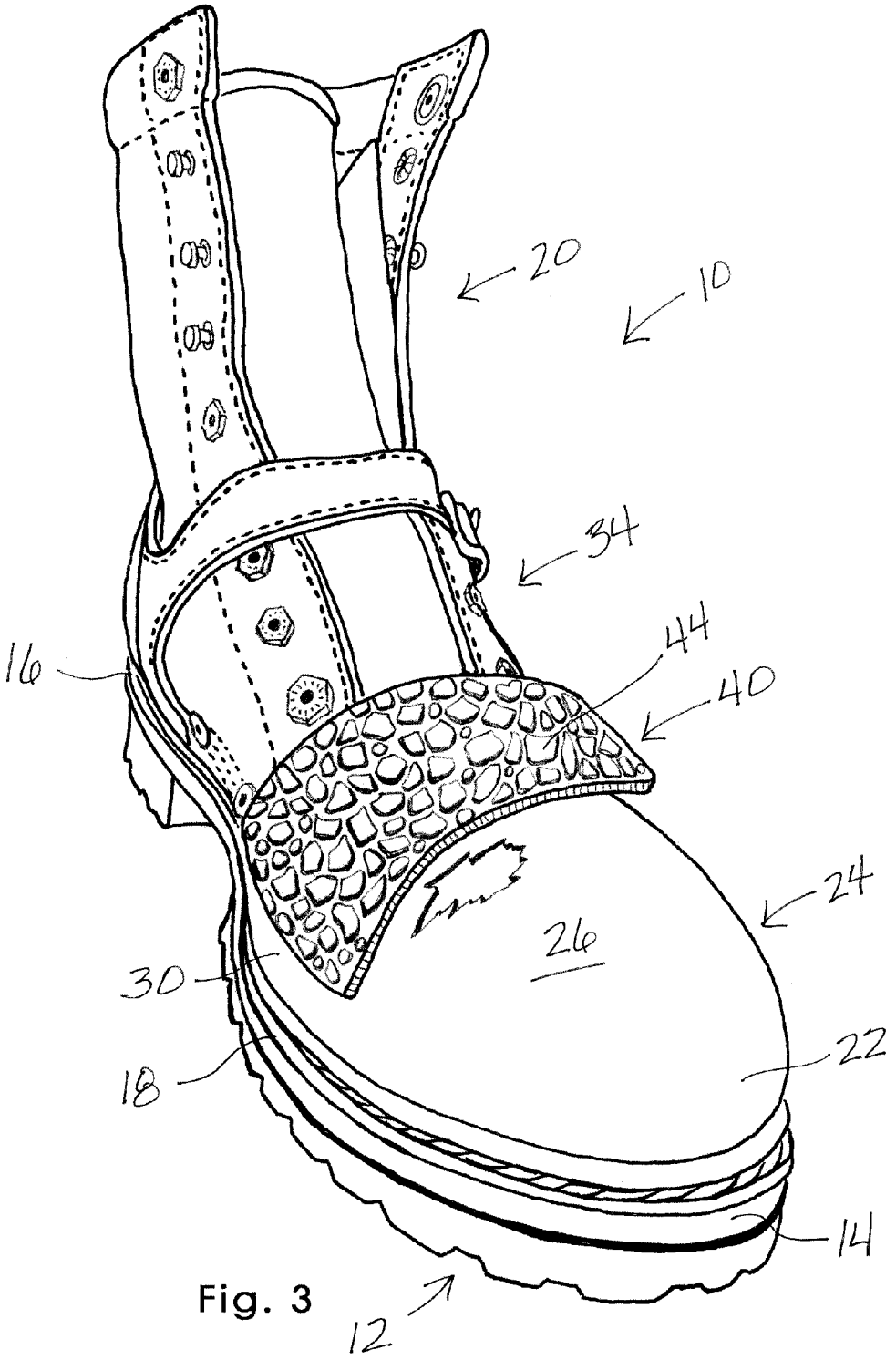


Fig. 3

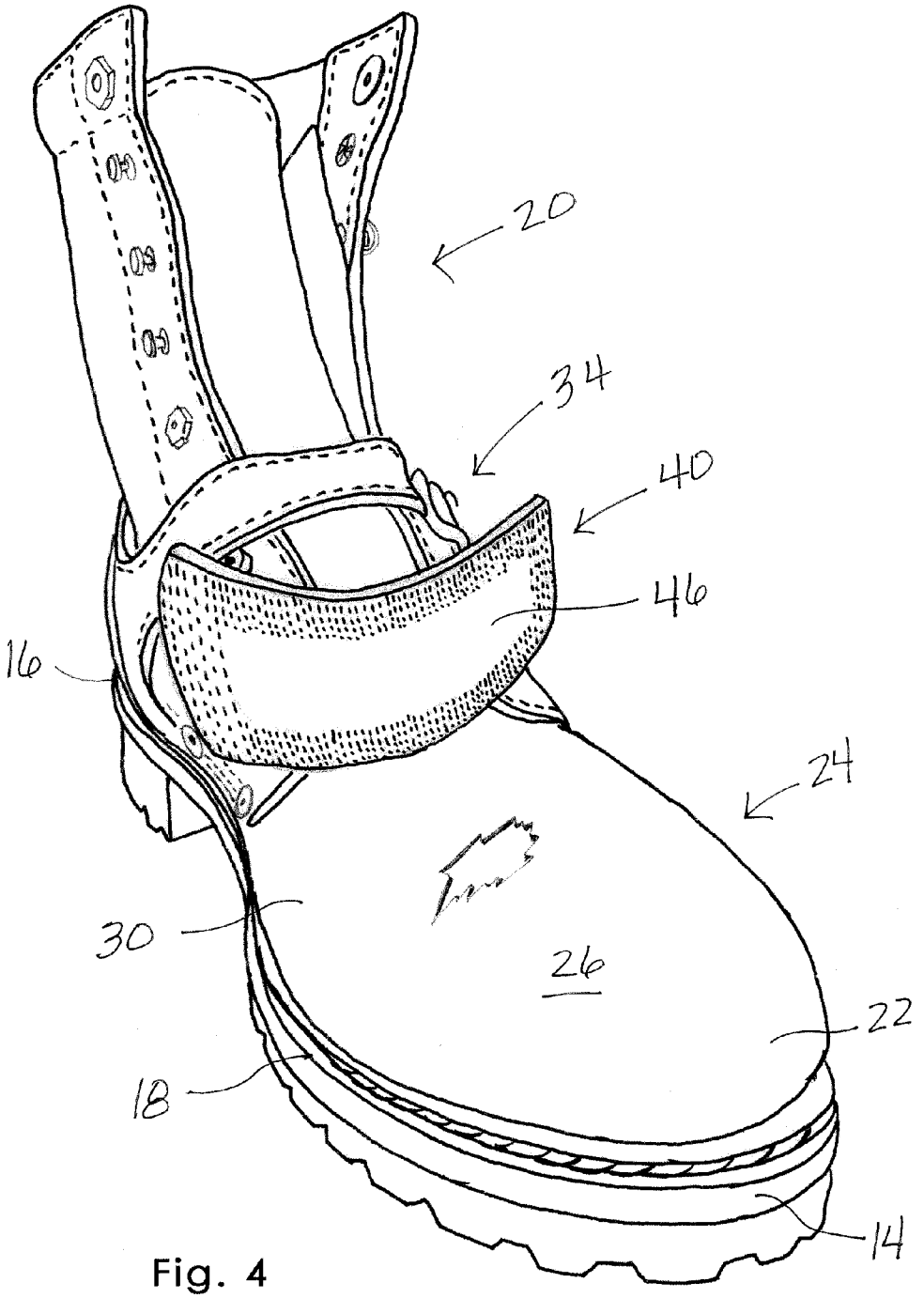


Fig. 4

BOOT WEAR PROTECTOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates generally to footwear protection and, more particularly, a motorcycle boot having a protection member situated on a top surface of a front portion of the boot having a textured surface configured to resist repeated contact with a foot operated gear shift lever of a motorcycle.

[0002] The gears of a motorcycle are shifted by action of the foot of a rider. For instance, the motorcycle may be placed into first gear by pressing down on the gear shift lever with the foot. Then to shift into second gear, the shift lever is urged upwardly by the user's foot. The same action is taken to shift into third gear, and so on. Motorcycle riders know that this repeated up-shift action quickly causes an unsightly wear mark to be formed on the top of a motorcycle boot and, in time, to wear a hole completely through the top surface.

[0003] Various devices have been proposed in the art for covering and protecting an outer surface of a boot or other type of foot covering. Although assumably effective for their intended purposes, the existing devices and proposals in the art often require a covering device to be strapped on, slid on, or otherwise affixed to the boot or shoe.

[0004] Therefore, it would be desirable to have a motorcycle boot that includes a protection member having a textured surface situated on a top surface of a front portion of the boot that resists wear from repeated contact with a gear shift lever.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] A wear protective motorcycle boot according to the present invention for use when operating a motorcycle shift lever includes a sole having a front end, a rear end, and side edges extending between the sole front and rear ends. A toe portion extends upwardly from the sole front end. A top surface of the boot is situated rearwardly from the toe portion and upwardly from the side edges of the sole. An ankle portion extends upwardly from the top surface. A protection member is situated on the top surface of the boot between the toe portion and the ankle portion, the protection member including a textured surface configured to resist wear when bearing against the motorcycle shift lever. In some embodiments, the protection member may be removable and selectively attached to front portion of a boot.

[0006] Therefore, a general object of this invention is to provide a wear protective motorcycle boot having a protection member that resists wear caused by contact with a motorcycle gear shift lever.

[0007] Another object of this invention is to provide a wear protective motorcycle boot, as aforesaid, that includes a protection member situated on a top surface of a front portion of the boot that resists wear so as to avoid wearing a hole in the boot.

[0008] Still another object of this invention is to provide a wear protective motorcycle boot, as aforesaid, in which the protection member includes a textured surface that is more durable than a traditional boot surface.

[0009] Yet another object of this invention is to provide a wear protective motorcycle boot, as aforesaid, that is aesthetically attractive.

[0010] A further object of this invention is to provide a wear protective motorcycle boot, as aforesaid, that in some embodiments is removable from a boot surface.

[0011] Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein is set forth by way of illustration and example, embodiments of this invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a wear protective motorcycle boot according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0013] FIG. **2** is another perspective view of the boot as in FIG. **1** with reinforced protection member;

[0014] FIG. **3** is another perspective view of another embodiment of the invention that includes a protection member that is selectively attachable to a motorcycle boot; and

[0015] FIG. **4** is a perspective view as in FIG. **3** illustrating a bottom side of a protection member.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0016] A motorcycle boot that is resistant to wear when operating a motorcycle shift lever according to the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0017] The motorcycle boot **10** includes a sole **12** and an upper portion **20** supported by the sole **12**. The sole **12** may include a front end **14**, an opposed rear end **16**, and side edges **18** extending therebetween in a traditional manner (FIG. **1**). The boot **10** may also include a toe portion **22** adjacent the front end **14** of the sole **12** and a front portion **24** situated rearward of the toe portion **22**. The front portion **24** may include a top surface **26** and side surfaces extending between the top surface **26** and the sole side edges **18**. Specifically, the side surfaces may be characterized as inside **30** and **32** outside surfaces. The motorcycle boot **10** may also include an ankle portion **34** situated rearward the boot front portion **24**, the ankle portion **34** extending upwardly from the top surface **26** of the front portion **24** and from the sole **12** The ankle portion **34** may include a plurality of spaced apart holes arranged to receive laces.

[0018] The wear protective motorcycle boot **10** also includes a protection member **40** situated on the front portion **24** and configured to withstand repeated contact between the boot **10** and a motorcycle shift lever (not shown). The protection member **40** includes a top side having a textured surface **42** that is configured to resist wear when contacted repeatedly by a motorcycle shift lever. The textured surface may include a plurality of nubs **44**, other irregular or roughened sections, grooves, or the like so as not to be easily worn down (FIG. **2**).

[0019] In one embodiment, the protection member **40** is fixedly attached to the top surface **26** of the front portion **24** of the boot, such as with stitches (FIGS. **1** and **2**). The protection member **40** may be coplanar with the surface of the first portion top surface **26** so as to be generally smooth in appearance and touch. The protection member **40** may have a generally rectangular configuration situated at least on the top surface **26** of the front portion **24** and may also extend onto one side surface toward the sole **12**. In this embodiment, the protection member **40** may extend all the way to the sole **12** or to a point displaced from the sole **12**. Preferably, the protec-

tion member **40** extends onto the inner side surface **30** as this side is most likely to repeatedly contact the shift lever.

[0020] In another embodiment, the protection member **40** may be removably coupled to the front portion **24** of the boot **10** (FIG. **3**). Specifically, the protection member **40** may include a bottom surface **46** having a layer of adhesive configured to adhere to a surface of the boot **10** when pressed thereon (FIG. **4**). It is understood that a removable protection member **40** may take the form of a sticker and may be round, square, rectangular, or any other suitable shape.

[0021] In use, the wear protective motorcycle boot **10** prevents repeated use of a foot operated gear shift lever from wearing a hole or other unattractive wear marking on the upper surface of a motorcycle boot **10**. As described above, a motorcycle boot **10** includes the protection member **40** properly positioned on a top surface **26** of a front portion **24** of a motorcycle boot **10**, the protection member **40** have a roughened or textured surface that is resistant to wear. The protection member **40** may be coplanar and permanently affixed to the front portion **24** so as to be attractive.

[0022] It is understood that while certain forms of this invention have been illustrated and described, it is not limited thereto except insofar as such limitations are included in the following claims and allowable functional equivalents thereof.

1. A boot wear protector for use with a boot having a sole, a toe portion extending upwardly from the sole, an top surface situated rearwardly from the toe portion, and an ankle portion situated rearwardly from the top surface and extending upwardly from the top surface, said boot wear protector comprising:

a protection member attached to the top surface of the boot between the toe portion and the ankle portion; and

wherein said protection member includes a textured top surface that is configured to resist wear from a motorcycle gear shift lever.

2. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member includes a generally rectangular configuration and extends from the top surface of the boot to the sole of the boot.

3. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member is removably coupled to the top surface of the boot.

4. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member is fixedly attached to the top surface of the boot with stitches.

5. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member is coplanar with the top surface of the boot.

6. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said textured surface includes a plurality of nubs.

7. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member includes a bottom surface having adhesive that is configured to selectively adhere to the top surface of the boot.

8. The boot wear protector as in claim **1**, wherein said protection member is situated on the toe portion of the boot.

9. The boot wear protector as in claim **8**, wherein said protection member is removably coupled to the top surface of the boot.

10. A wear protective motorcycle boot for use when operating a motorcycle shift lever, comprising:

a sole having a front end, a rear end, and side edges extending between said sole front and rear ends;

a toe portion extending upwardly from said sole front end;

an top surface situated rearwardly from said toe portion and upwardly from said side edges of said sole;

an ankle portion extending upwardly from said top surface; and

a protection member situated on said top surface of said boot between said toe portion and said ankle portion;

wherein said protection member includes a textured surface configured to resist wear when bearing against the motorcycle shift lever.

11. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member includes a generally rectangular configuration and extends from the top surface of the boot toward the sole of the boot.

12. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member is removably coupled to the top surface of the boot.

13. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member is fixedly attached to the top surface of the boot with stitches.

14. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member is coplanar with the top surface of the boot.

15. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **14**, wherein said textured surface includes a plurality of nubs.

16. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said textured surface includes a plurality of nubs.

17. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member includes a bottom surface having adhesive that is configured to selectively adhere to the top surface of the boot.

18. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **10**, wherein said protection member is situated on the toe portion of the boot.

19. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **18**, wherein said protection member is removably coupled to the top surface of the boot.

20. The wear protective motorcycle boot as in claim **19**, wherein said protection member includes a bottom surface having adhesive that is configured to selectively adhere to the top surface of the boot.

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