May 19, 1953 K. A. STRITTER 2,638,689

COUNTER FOR SHOES

Filed April 22, 1950

Fig. 1

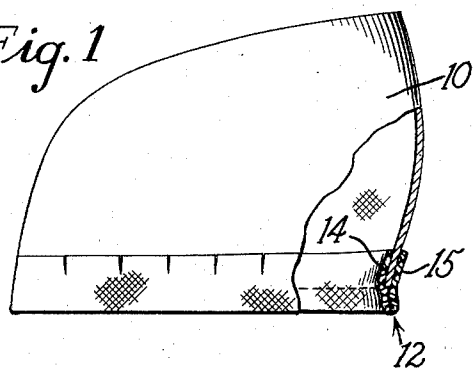


Fig. 2

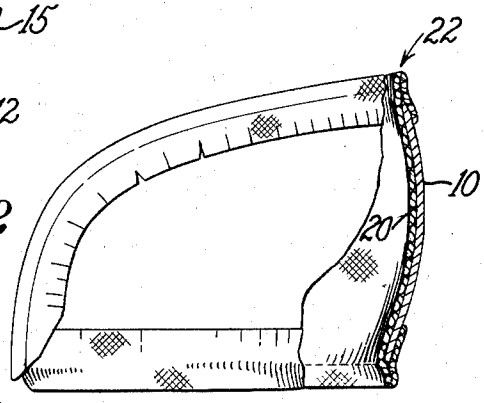


Fig. 3

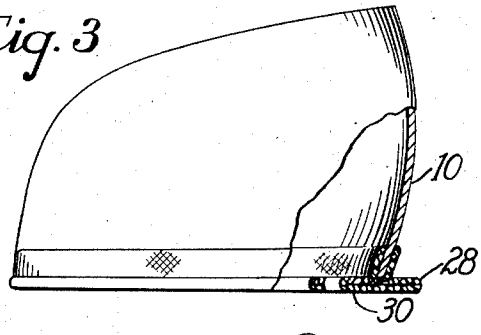


Fig. 5

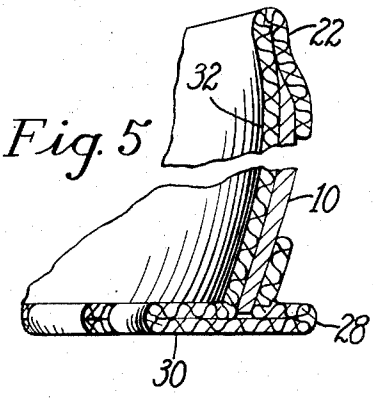
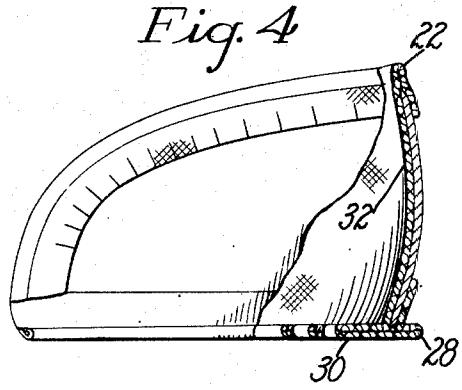


Fig. 4



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COUNTER FOR SHOES

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11 Claims. (Cl. 36—68)

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This invention relates to improvements in shoe counters for use in various shoe constructions.

The counters each comprise a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last made of suitable material such as fibreboard and having at least one flexible flange which extends around the lower edge of the body portion, the flange or flanges being made of a piece of soft readily sewable material having each of its margins overlapping a different side of the lower margin of the body portion and being attached thereto, the intermediate portion of the readily sewable material extending a substantial distance beyond the lower edge of the body portion whereby a seam or the like may be readily inserted through the flange and upper materials to securely hold the counter in the shoe.

The inner margin of the readily sewable material may completely cover the inner surface of the counter or body portion and may extend a substantial distance beyond the top edge of the body portion, the sewable material being then folded upon itself and attached to the outer surface of the top margin of the body portion to provide a top flange through which a seam may be sewed to hold the counter in position in the shoe upper.

The invention also contemplates forming two flanges along the bottom edge of the counter by suitably manipulating the fold of sewable material which extends beyond the lower edge of the body portion. For example, before the adjacent surfaces of the fold are caused to adhere, heightwise pressure is applied to the fold to cause two folds therein, one directed inwardly and the other outwardly of the body portion of the counter. This arrangement may be combined with that previously set forth by extending the inner flange of the sewable material to completely cover the inner surface of the counter and extend beyond its upper edge, the extension being folded back upon itself against the outer face of the body portion to form an attaching flange along the top edge of the counter. By this invention there is provided a stiff preformed counter with a strong, readily sewable attaching flange or flanges. When the flexible flange of sewable material is directed inwardly hard heel-seats are avoided and the use of the forms of counter which are lined on the inside make a quarter lining or counter pocket unnecessary. A counter as described with a narrow sewable flange extending along its lower edge is particularly adapted for use in the manufacture of slip-lasted shoes in which the upper and platform cover may be sewed to the sewable flange.

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These and other features of the invention will appear more fully from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings and will be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a side view, partly in section, of a counter having a stiff body portion and a two-ply flange extending along its lower margin;

Fig. 2 is a side view, partly in section, of a counter having a single piece of sewable material forming a top and bottom flange on the stiff body portion as well as covering the inner surface thereof;

Fig. 3 is a side view, partly in section, of a counter having a stiff body portion and a pair of flanges along its lower margin, both flanges being formed of a single piece of sewable material;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 of a counter having a stiff body portion and a pair of flanges along its lower margin formed of a single piece of sewable material which also covers the inner surface of the body portion and forms a flange along the upper edge of the body portion; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the construction shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 1 illustrates a counter comprising a body portion 10 composed of any suitable stiff material such as fiberboard, which portion is shaped like the heel end of a last. Attached to the lower margin of the body portion 10 is a flange 12 which is composed of a single piece of material folded along its longitudinal median line to provide generally parallel portions 14, 15, one of which is secured to the outer surface of the lower margin of the body portion 10 by adhesive or other fastenings such as stitching, and the other is similarly secured to the inner lower margin of the body portion.

The flange 12 is formed of any material easily penetrable by the needle of a sewing machine, for example a textile. The lower edge of the flange 12 extends beyond the lower edge of the stiff member 10 a distance sufficient to allow the insertion of a seam or the equivalent through the flange, whereby the counter may be readily secured in position in the shoe by a seam passing through the said flange and the adjacent parts of the shoe. The flange is doubly attached to the body portion and the double thickness of the flange provides a strong means for holding the seam uniting the counter to the adjacent shoe parts. The flange may be made of any desired width and may be turned in or out, depending upon the use to which it is to be put. Such a

counter is well adapted for use in shoes of the slip-lasted platform type in which the single flange 12 (Fig. 1) or the outer flange (Fig. 3) may be sewed to the platform and platform cover. Fig. 2 illustrates a counter similar to that of Fig. 1 but in which the inner flange 14 is extended to form a cover 20 for the inner face of the body portion 10 and to extend substantially beyond it, the portion extending beyond the counter being folded back upon itself and secured to the outer face of the body portion 10. Thus a sewable flange 22 is formed along the top margin of the counter, the counter thus having a sewable flange about its entire periphery. The sewable material 20 covering the inner face of the body portion is preferably secured thereto by cement.

Fig. 3 illustrates a counter similar to that shown in Fig. 1 which comprises a body portion 10 and a plurality of flanges 28, 30 composed of a single piece of folded fabric material or the like, the upturned margins of which are secured one to the inner and the other to the outer face of the lower margin of the body portion 10 by adhesive or stitching. In forming the flange or flanges, one side of the fabric strip is coated with pressure-responsive cement such as latex, and the margins of the body portion are similarly coated. One marginal portion of the strip is then pressed upon the outer lower margins of the body portion 10, the strip folded upon itself and the opposite lower margin secured to the inner lower margin of the body portion, the folded portion being allowed to extend the desired distance beyond the lower edge of the body portion. By collapsing the folded portion by lateral pressure, a single two-ply flange 12 (Fig. 1) is formed. When the folded portion extending beyond the lower edge of the counter is collapsed by vertical pressure, two two-ply flanges 28, 30 (Fig. 3) may be formed, the flanges being of the same or different widths, their combined widths depending on the width of the fold allowed to extend beyond the body portion. Thus it will be seen that whether the inner face of the counter is covered by extending the inner flange of the strip or not the fold below the lower edge of the counter may be manipulated to form one or two two-ply flanges of the desired width, the counter being thus adapted for use in a variety of shoe constructions.

The counter illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 is like that shown in Fig. 2 except that the inner margin of the folded strip is extended to form an inner layer 32 integral with the two two-layer flanges, the portion 32 covering the inner face of the body portion 10 and the portion 32 being extended and folded upon itself to form a sewable flange 22 extending around the upper edge of the counter similar to that shown in Fig. 2.

Certain changes may be made in the disclosed embodiments of my invention without departing from the spirit thereof and counters embodying my invention may be incorporated in shoes of various types other than those herein mentioned.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A counter for shoes comprising a stiff body portion and a flexible, sewable flange about its lower margin comprising a strip of fabric folded upon itself and having its marginal portions secured to the opposite sides of the body portion with the fold extending beyond the body portion.

2. A counter for shoes comprising a stiff unflanged body portion and flexible, sewable flanges about its lower edge comprising a strip of fabric folded upon itself into two two-ply flanges, the margins only of the strip being secured to opposite faces of the body portion.

3. A counter for shoes comprising an unflanged body portion having two two-ply flanges of sewable material projecting beyond its lower edge and a two-ply sewable flange projecting beyond its upper edge.

4. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a flange comprising a soft sewable fabric attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the lower margin of the body portion and extending along the said lower margin.

5. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a flange comprising a single piece of soft sewable fabric having its margins attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the lower margin of the body portion and extending beyond the said lower margin.

6. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff unflanged body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a flange comprising a soft sewable material attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the unflanged lower margin of the body portion and extending beyond the said lower margin, said material extending upwardly over the inner surface of the body portion to the top edge thereof to cover the said inside surface.

7. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff unflanged, upstanding body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a flange comprising a soft sewable fabric attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the lower margin of the upstanding portion and extending beyond the said lower margin, said fabric extending upwardly to cover the inner surface of the relatively stiff portion to the top edge thereof and there folded upon itself to form on the upper edge of the counter a sewable flange extending beyond the body portion.

8. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff unflanged body portion shaped like the heel end of a shoe and a soft sewable fabric covering the inner surface of the body portion, said fabric extending a substantial distance beyond the upper and lower edges of the body portion and being folded upon itself and attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the upper and lower margins of the body portion.

9. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a soft sewable fabric attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the lower margin of the body portion and folded upon itself to provide a plurality of flanges with folded edges extending beyond the lower margin of the body portion.

10. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a soft sewable fabric covering the inner surface of the body portion, said fabric being attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the lower margin of the body portion and folded upon itself to provide a plurality of flanges extending beyond the lower margin of the body portion.

11. A counter construction comprising a relatively stiff body portion shaped like the heel end of a last and a soft sewable fabric covering the inner surface of the upstanding portion, said fabric being attached to the inner and outer surfaces of the upper and lower margins of the body portion and folded to provide a plurality of

flanges extending along the lower margin of the body portion and a flange extending along the upper margin of the body portion.

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