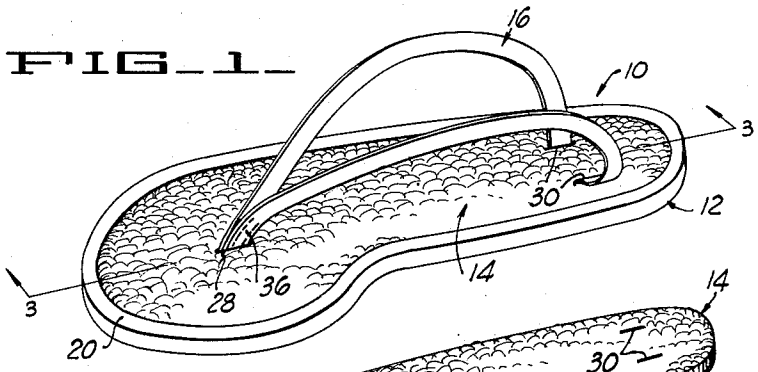
April 12, 1960 F. GEORGE 2,932,097

SANDAL CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 18, 1957

FIG_1_



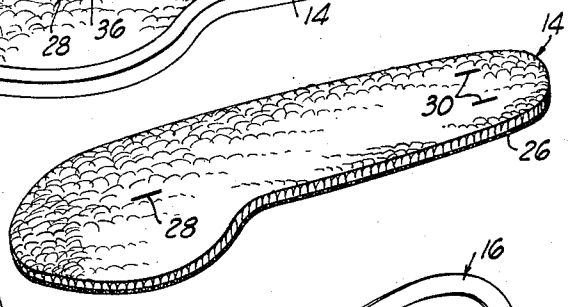
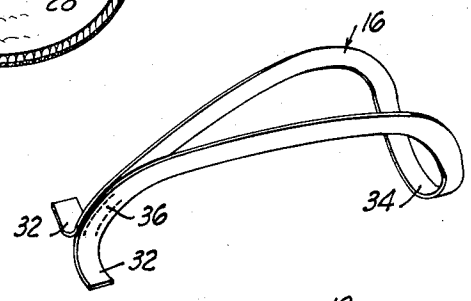


FIG_2_



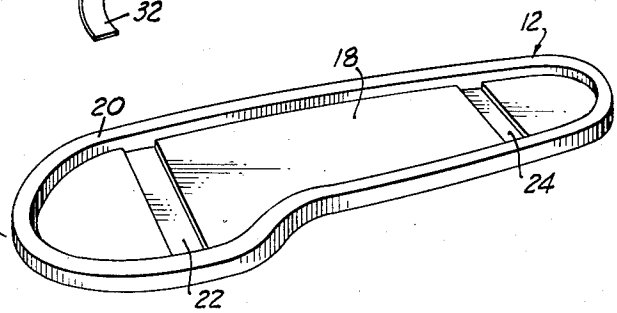
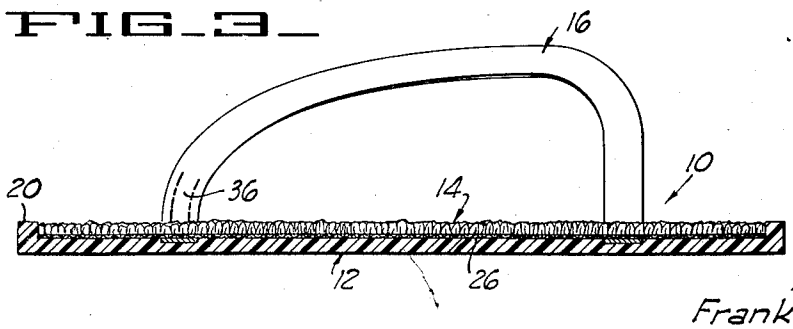


FIG_3_



INVENTOR.
Frank George

BY
Fleit & Swain

ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 2,932,097
Patented Apr. 12, 1960

2,932,097

SANDAL CONSTRUCTION

Frank George, Alameda, Calif.

Application November 18, 1957, Serial No. 697,060

1 Claim. (Cl. 36—11.5)

This invention relates generally to articles of footwear such as sandals and the like.

In general, it is an object of the invention to improve upon the construction of such articles of footwear, particularly with respect to the provision of means permitting a simplified attachment of the insole and footstrap of a sandal to the outsole.

It is another object of the invention to provide such an article of footwear employing a soft fibrous, carpet-like insole.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved sandal construction, employing a minimum of unitary, easily assembled components.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description and from the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of an article of footwear embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is an exploded view in perspective of the device of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view in section and elevation along the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

In the drawings, the invention has been shown as particularly applied to a flat sandal construction, although it is to be understood that it can be employed with other types of footwear, such as slippers, hightop sandal constructions, etc.

Generally stated, a sandal of the present invention comprises a flat outsole of molded resilient construction, countersunk to receive an insole. The insole is preferably of a fibrous, carpet-like material adapted to fit within a peripheral rim of the outsole so as to provide a soft upper surface substantially flush with the rim. Completing the sandal is a one-piece thong having a rear loop portion and a pair of laterally extending free end portions all secured between the insole and the outsole so as to be hidden from view. Other advantages of the invention will appear from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the sandal construction.

Referring to Figure 1, **10** indicates the complete sandal construction. As shown in Figure 2, this sandal construction comprises but three separate elements; an outsole **12**, an insole **14** and a thong or footstrap **16**.

The outsole **12** is preferably of a molded resilient construction and is substantially planar in configuration. As shown in Figure 2, the outsole is recessed or countersunk, as at **18**, providing an upstanding peripheral rim **20** extending all about the outsole. The countersunk portion of the outsole is further provided with a pair of grooves, a forward groove **22** and a rear groove **24**. These grooves assist in attaching the thong to the sandal, as will be presently explained.

The insole **14** is of such a configuration that it will exactly fit into the countersunk portion of the outsole and within the peripheral rim **20**, as shown in Figure 1. It is a feature of the illustrated sandal construction that the insole **14** is constructed of a fibrous, carpet-like material so as to provide a foot-contacting upper surface in substantially planar alinement with the rim **20**. Preferably the insole **14** is actually cut from a layer of carpet of the type that is provided with a tough, resilient backing **26**. This backing, which may be of cured latex, serves to prevent any tendency of the carpet material to unravel and also to assist in the attachment of the insole and the thong **16** to the outsole **12**. To further assist in the attachment of the thong or footstrap, the insole can be provided with a forward slit **28** and a pair of rear slits **30**.

The footstrap or thong **16** can consist of a single piece of material having a pair of free ends **32** and a loop portion **34**. Preferably the free ends **32** of the thong are attached to one another adjacent their ends, as at **36**, so as to facilitate the laterally-projecting or wing-like arrangement of the ends illustrated in Figure 2. The thong **16** has been shown to be of a one-piece construction. However, it is readily apparent that the thong can be formed in two or more pieces which have been secured together to provide substantially the same type of thong.

To fabricate the sandal construction illustrated, the ends **32** of the thong **16** are first threaded through the slits **30** until the loop portion **34** of the thong is positioned adjacent the backing **26**. The free ends are then attached together and inserted through the slit **28** until they also are adjacent the backing **26**. The ends **32** can now be spread into the laterally-projecting configuration of Figure 2. It will be understood that the slits **28** and **30** of the insole are so positioned with respect to the outsole that the loop portion **34** of the thong will lie in the groove **24** and the free ends **32** in the groove **22**, when the insole and the outsole are fitted together.

By a suitable application of an adhesive composition to the surfaces **26** of the insole and **18** of the outsole, the outsole **12**, thong **16** and insole **14** can be firmly adhered into a unitary article of footwear. Desirably a quantity of adhesive is also applied to the ends **32** and loop **34** of the thong, and to the thong receiving recesses **22** and **24**. When both the outsole **12** and backing **26** are of a rubber-like composition (natural or synthetic), the adhesive may advantageously comprise a polymerizable substance of similar composition, such as a volatile solution of uncoagulated latex. Of course the use of other materials in fabricating the outsole or backing, for example, various resinous compositions or elastomers, will suggest additional adhesive compositions to those skilled in this art, and it is not intended that the invention be limited to any particular materials or compositions. Of importance is the fact that the outsole **12** and backing **26** of the insole unite to form a tough, durable unit between which the anchor portions **32** and **34** of the footstrap are firmly held.

From the above description, it will be apparent that the sandal construction of the invention can be fabricated from a minimum of components, simply, and at very low cost. Moreover, fabrication of the insole from a carpet-like material not only provides a luxuriant foot-engaging surface but also a means to firmly adhere the components of the sandal into a sturdy, flexible article of footwear.

I claim:

A sandal comprising: an integral substantially planar outsole of molded resilient material, said outsole being provided with an upstanding peripheral rim so as to provide a countersunk upper surface, said countersunk surface being provided with forward and rear transverse grooves adjacent ball and heel supporting portions of the outsole and extending below said surface; a relatively soft thick insole cut from a layer of carpet and fitted within the upstanding rim of said outsole, said cut layer of carpet having a pile providing a soft foot-contacting surface substantially flush with said rim, said insole be-

ing provided with a tough resilient cohesive backing in contact with said countersunk surface, said insole being provided with a forward longitudinally extending slit in communication with the forward groove in said outsole and a pair of rear longitudinally extending slits in communication with the rear groove in said outsole; a one-piece sandal thong having a rear loop portion received in the rear groove of said outsole so as to extend upwardly through said rear slits in the insole, and free end portions extending forwardly to said forward slit in the insole and downwardly therethrough so as to be received in said forward groove of the outsole; means securing the free end portions of the sandal thong to one another in the vicinity of said forward slit in the insole; and adhesive means securing both said insole and the loop and free end portions of said sandal thong within the countersunk surface and grooves of said outsole.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

39,713	Bowker	Sept. 1, 1863
736,194	Bassett	Aug. 11, 1903
1,092,373	Long	Apr. 7, 1914
1,387,691	Davenport	Aug. 16, 1921
1,823,445	Goldstone	Sept. 15, 1931
2,167,035	Westheimer	July 25, 1939
2,370,301	Ghez et al.	Feb. 27, 1945
2,595,643	Daugherty	May 6, 1952

FOREIGN PATENTS

331,758	Italy	Nov. 14, 1935
560,835	Great Britain	Apr. 21, 1944