May 28, 1935. R. NICHOLS 2,002,864

TRACTION DEVICE FOR ATHLETIC SHOES OR THE LIKE

Filed July 31, 1933

Fig. 1.

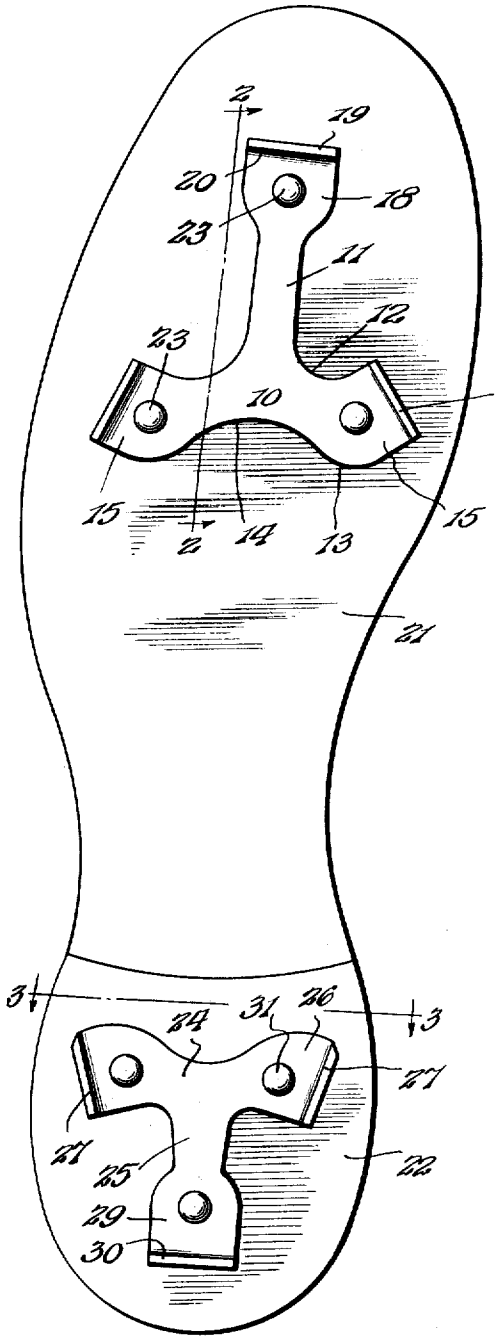


Fig. 2.

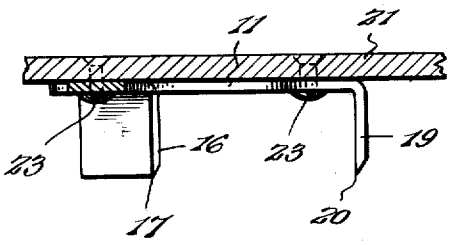
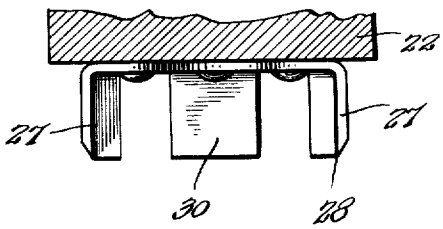


Fig. 3.



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TRACTION DEVICE FOR ATHLETIC SHOES OR THE LIKE

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Application July 31, 1933, Serial No. 683,074

1 Claim. (Cl. 36—59)

This invention relates to improvements in traction devices for athletic shoes or the like, being particularly designed for use in connection with baseball shoes. The invention seeks, among other objects, to provide a toe plate which, as compared with ordinary spikes, will afford better traction, will not slip as easily, and will not gather and hold dirt.

A further object of the invention is to provide a heel plate which will tend to obviate stumbling and wherein the toe and heel plates will cooperate to provide a firm foundation so that a shoe equipped with the plates will feel entirely comfortable and will cause no undue strain on the foot.

And the invention seeks, as a still further object, to so form the heel and toe plates that they may be readily struck from suitable sheet metal.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, it being understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claim without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a bottom plan view showing a conventional athletic shoe equipped with my improved heel and toe plates.

Fig. 2 is a detail section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a detail section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, it will be seen that I employ a substantially T-shaped toe plate 10 having a shank 11 extending obliquely from the laterally overhanging head of the plate. At the junction of the shank with the head, the lateral terminals of said head are provided with concave inner edges 12. For a portion of their length, the outer edges of said terminals are, however, convex, as indicated at 13, and these convex edges merge gradually into a concave edge 14 which extends across the plane of the shank 11. At their outer end portions, the edges of the terminals are straight and parallel to define substantially rectangular base members 15 and extending at right angles to said members are flat ground-gripping blades 16 beveled at their ends to provide relatively sharp edges 17 adapted to bite into the ground.

As will be observed, the concave edges 12 of the lateral terminals of the head of the plate, in conjunction with the convex edges 13 thereof, impart a curvature to said terminals such that the blades 16 stand at an angle of approximately 45° with respect to each other in divergent relation, the base members 15 being each connected with the shank 11 by a reduced neck. In thus forming the plate, tendency to collect and hold dirt is reduced while, however, the base members 15 remain somewhat wide to receive thrust on the blades 16.

As will be observed, the shank 11 is relatively narrow and at its free end is widened to provide a base member 18 like the base members 15. Depending from the base member 18 is a gripping blade 19 like the blades 16, the blade 19 being beveled to provide an edge 20.

In Fig. 1, I have shown the sole of a conventional athletic shoe at 21 and the heel of the shoe at 22. As will be noted, the toe plate is located medially of the forward portion of the shoe sole 21 so as to be positioned centrally of the ball of the foot, and extending through the base members 15 of the plate, and through the shoe sole, are rivets or other approved fastening devices 23 rigidly connecting the plate with the shoe. The shank 11 extends forwardly at a slight angle to the longitudinal center line of the shoe sole so that the blade 19 will afford an initial purchase while, when the blades 16 are brought into engagement with the ground, these blades will not only afford purchase for forward thrust but, due to their angular relation, will securely hold against lateral thrust.

The heel plate is a substantial replica of the toe plate and is provided with a head 24 and a shank 25 which, in the instance of the heel plate, extends at a right angle to the head. The lateral terminals of the head are formed with base members 26 from which depend angularly disposed gripping blades 27 beveled to provide relatively sharp edges 28. The shank 25 is formed with a similar base member 29 from which depends a gripping blade 30 beveled to provide a similar sharp edge, and extending through the base members 26 and 29 into the heel 22 of the shoe are rivets or other suitable fastening devices 31 rigidly connecting the heel plate with the shoe. The shank 25 of the heel plate is, as shown, preferably centered on the longitudinal center line of the heel and extends rearwardly so that the blade 30, in conjunction with the blades 27 will provide efficient traction at the heel of the shoe. As will be perceived, both the heel and toe plates may be readily struck from suitable resilient sheet metal and may be easily applied.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

A traction device for shoes comprising a T-shaped plate of sheet metal having a shank and a cross head at one end thereof projecting from opposite sides of the shank, the other end portion of the shank being of increased width and bent to form a depending transversely extending blade sharpened along its free lower edge and an attaching base having a fastener receiving opening formed therein, the portions of the cross head projecting from opposite sides of the shank being disposed at an angle to diverge outwardly therefrom and being then increased in width and curved in an opposite direction and each bent to form a depending transversely extending blade sharpened along its lower edge and an attaching base formed with a fastener receiving opening, each blade corresponding in width to its attaching base and the blades of the cross head converging toward the blade of the shank.

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