

Feb. 20, 1945.

H. H. HOFFMAN

2,369,899

DECORATING SHOES

Filed Aug. 9, 1943

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

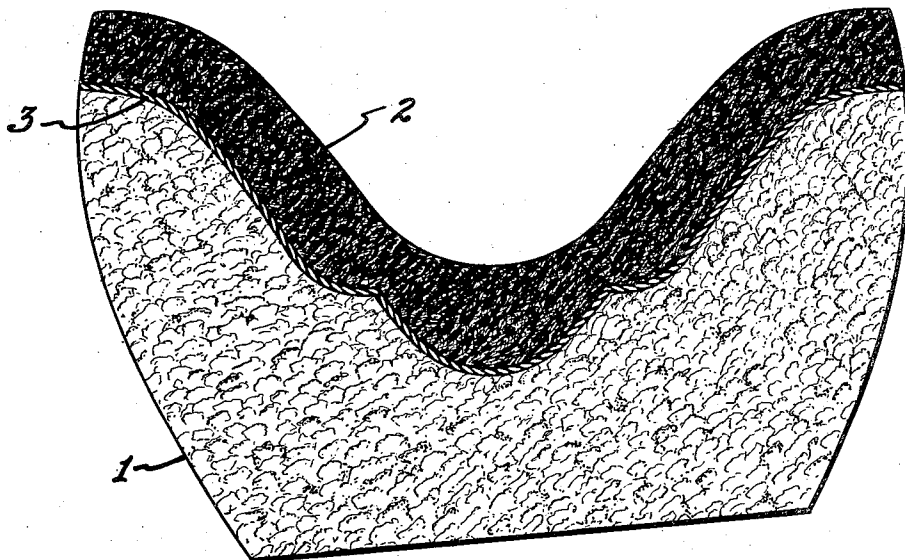


FIG. 1.

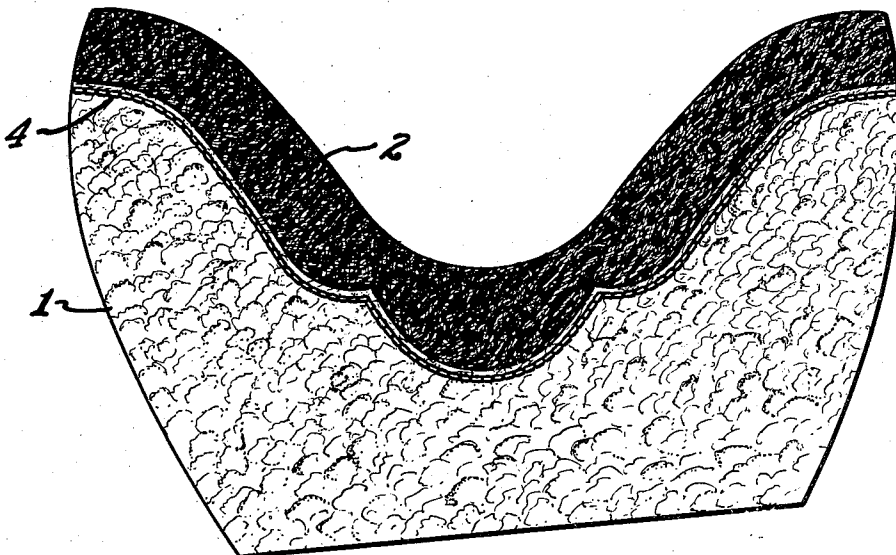


FIG. 2.

INVENTOR.
HOWARD H. HOFFMAN.
BY *Chas. E. Riden*
ATTORNEY

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

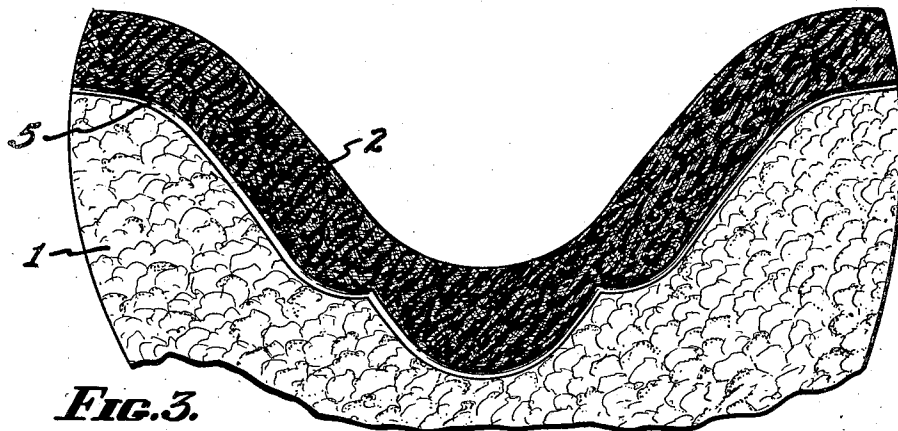


FIG. 3.

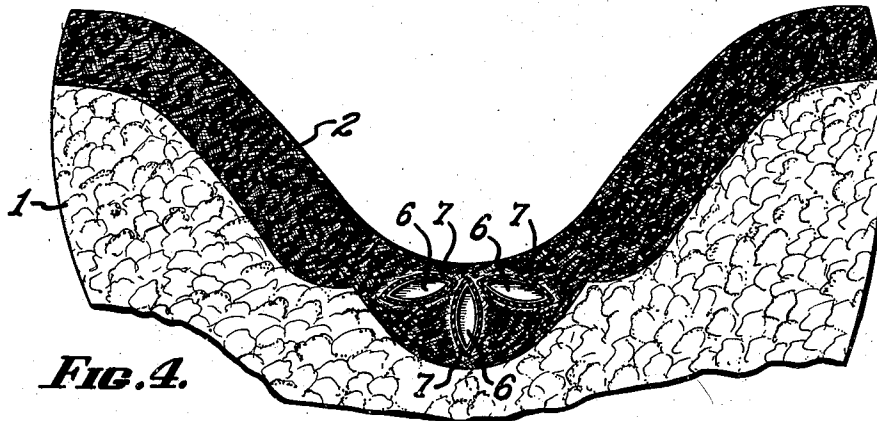


FIG. 4.

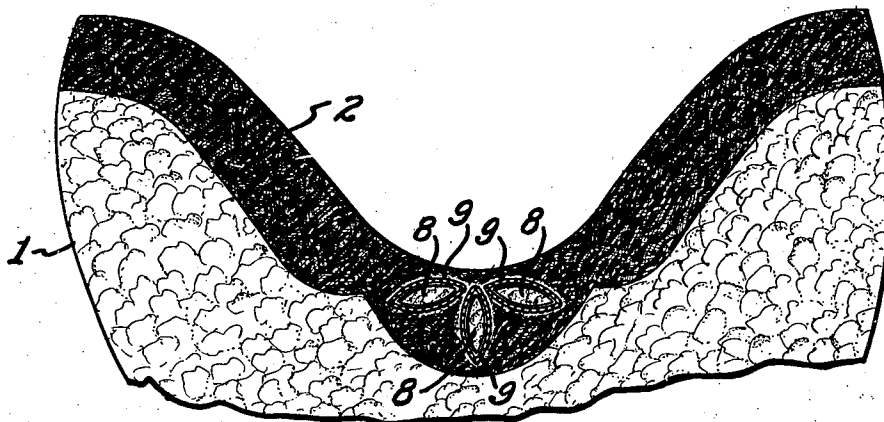


FIG. 5.

INVENTOR.
HOWARD H. HOFFMAN.
BY *Chas. E. Rindow*
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DECORATING SHOES

Howard H. Hoffman, Fort Thomas, Ky., assignor
to The Louis G. Freeman Co., Cincinnati, Ohio,
a corporation of Ohio

Application August 9, 1943, Serial No. 497,983

1 Claim. (Cl. 41-24)

My invention relates to process of decorating shoes and the product produced thereby, and in its essentials consists in the formation by means of embossing of areas on the shoe upper which are so located and defined as to indicate applications to the upper of pieces of leather different from the main leather body of the shoe. By reference to leather I do not intend to exclude any material from which shoe uppers are made which is subject to taking a permanent embossed design.

It has been suggested to impress raised areas upon shoe upper materials, and it has been suggested to imprint as by photographic means, upon shoe uppers, areas which will look like pieces of material appliqued onto the body of the upper, but the first suggestion does not result in anything of value, and the second suggestion is too expensive and would result in a product which looks like just what it is, to-wit: an imitation.

If the leather or other upper material is simply embossed in a raised design, this design being located as desired on the shoe, there is no simulation of an appliqued or overlaid strip of material, because the areas embossed are still of the same surface appearance as the main body of the shoe. If, however, as in accordance with my invention, the areas embossed are of an area which simulates an overlaid or appliqued piece of material, and the body of the area is itself modified in the embossing so as to have the surface appearance of material unlike the material forming the body of the upper, then an effect is gained which looks like an overlaid design, and which has an appearance factor of itself which is decorative and satisfying entirely apart from the simulation of effects with which shoe wearers are familiar.

As an example, with reference to the vamp of a shoe upper, I may supply a vamp throat collar on a smooth leather vamp by means of embossing the vamp with an area which is one likely to be occupied by such a throat collar, and so forming the embossing die that it impresses a grained effect on the said throat collar embossed area. In order to enhance the effect, the margins of the design may be embossed with imitation stitches or they may be actually stitched. Also to enhance the effect simulated cut-outs can be formed in the area of another surface effect from the body of the shoe, leaving the portions within what appear to be the cut-out areas either with a surface which is like that of the shoe in general or which has a third effect, such as a shiny or polished effect. These cut-out areas may have

real or imitation stitching around them. Or the margins of the areas of different surface effect may be heightened in appearance as overlays by deeply impressing a boundary line in the shoe material adjoining the modified area.

Instead of forming a groove to imitate the edge of an applique, as last above noted, the material may be split with a shallow cut bounding the decorated or embossed area, and this slit will open up sufficiently in the lasting of the shoe to give an indication of an overlay by reason of the visibility of the cut margin surrounding the decorated panel.

Other effects which can be produced by an embossing die will be well within the grasp of the man skilled in the art, with the above concepts in mind, namely that the areas should be ones which correspond to ones which might be expected to be covered by an added material, that the areas should in the embossing be given a different surface effect from the body of the upper, and preferably, that other devices of embossing be employed to heighten the effect as by imitation stitches, cut-outs, deeply impressed margins and the like.

In the drawings, in which I have chosen a single simple throat collar on a vamp as a mode of illustrating the points of my invention:

Figure 1 is an illustration of a vamp having a smooth grain, on which has been embossed a throat collar with a rough grain and in which imitation stitches define the meeting line between the throat collar and the vamp proper.

Fig. 2 is a like view, but in which real stitching has been made in the vamp to bound the area.

Fig. 3 is a like view except that the boundary of the throat collar has been indented.

Fig. 4 is a like view, but here the throat collar has been formed with cut-outs around which are imitation stitches.

Fig. 5 is like Fig. 4, except that the cut-outs have real stitching around them instead of imitation or embossed stitches. In the case of the last two figures the boundaries with the vamp proper have not been picked up in any way, and any of the forms of Figs. 1 to 3 could be added.

It should be particularly noted that the selection of this one simple overlay of a throat collar on a vamp should not be taken as in any way limiting the type of overlay or applique patterns which can be embossed. As a mode or practice of embossing upper materials in shoe making so that the embossing remains permanent, and does not smooth out or degenerate, I employ pressure with

dies and heat. In applications for Letters Patent, Serial No. 372,372, filed by Benjamin W. and Louis G. Freeman, Jr. on December 30, 1940, is shown and described suitable mechanisms for performing the operation. It is necessary that heat or some other means be used on leathers and imitation leathers in order to get a permanent effect, which will last as long as the shoe is supposed to last.

Referring to the drawings in each of the figures, 1 is a vamp, which is to be decorated, and later formed with other necessary parts into a shoe upper. 2 is a throat collar, i. e., an area which is similar to that which might conventionally be occupied by an overlaid piece of material in order to form such a collar.

In each of the instances the same surface effect has been shown, for purposes of simplicity, a close smooth grain for the vamp, and a coarse grain, as of some fancy leather, for the collar effect. This coarse grain will preferably be one which is characteristic of some known decorative leather or skin, used in shoe upper decoration.

In Fig. 1, imitation stitching has been shown at 3, to define the boundary between the collar and the vamp proper. If the area were defined on all sides by the vamp proper, then the imitation stitching would preferably be all the way around, since the point is to denote a separation of materials, even though the actual material be the same. In Fig. 2 there has been no effort to denote a particular type of boundary between the throat area and the vamp proper area by means of embossing, but instead of this, just outside of the margin of the collar effect where it meets the vamp proper an actual line of stitching has been made, as at 4. In Fig. 3, instead of any stitching effect, the idea has been to indicate the thickness of an added piece of material. For this purpose the boundary of the embossed design, where it meets the vamp proper, has been depressed in the embossing, so as to gradually depress the material of the vamp proper and develop a distinct edge as a boundary, all as indicated at 5. I have not illustrated the boundary formed by slitting instead of depressing, as heretofore noted, but it will be understood that such a slit is shallow, sur-

rounds the exposed edges of the panel, just as does the depressed boundary last above noted.

In Fig. 4 I have employed the same throat collar embossed design but in this case have included within its boundaries, three oval areas 6 indicating conventional cut-outs. In order to enhance the effect and indicate what is normally accomplished by an underlay between the collar and the vamp, I have so arranged the embossing die that it smooths out the fine grain of the vamp proper to give a patent leather effect to the material that shows through or rather seems to show through the imitation cut-outs. In addition to this, I have also shown imitation stitching 7 around these simulated cut-outs.

In Fig. 5, I have formed simulated cut-outs 8, as in the case of Fig. 4, but here I have not polished off the areas 8, but left them of the same grain surface as the vamp proper. To heighten the effect here, I have simply left a well defined depression for the cut-outs, as would result in an actual cut-out overlay, and have defined the boundaries of the cut-outs with actual stitching 9.

The above will illustrate the procedure. In any instance where in conventional shoe making it is customary to superimpose material of different surface effect from the body of the shoe upper, it will be my practice to form this same in effect by embossing, using preferably, but not necessarily, some mode of heightening the effect of which the principal ones have already been illustrated.

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

A shoe upper part having a relatively narrow embossed portion thereon which simulates in its shape and position a decorative superimposed piece of material, the embossing being such as to give a surface effect of a different material than the body of the upper upon which it is embossed, and the boundary of the embossing where it intersects the body of the material being embossed to give the effect of stitching.

HOWARD H. HOFFMAN.