Sept. 22, 1925. 1,554,969

F. HENKE

AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORY

Filed Dec. 9, 1924

FIG. I.

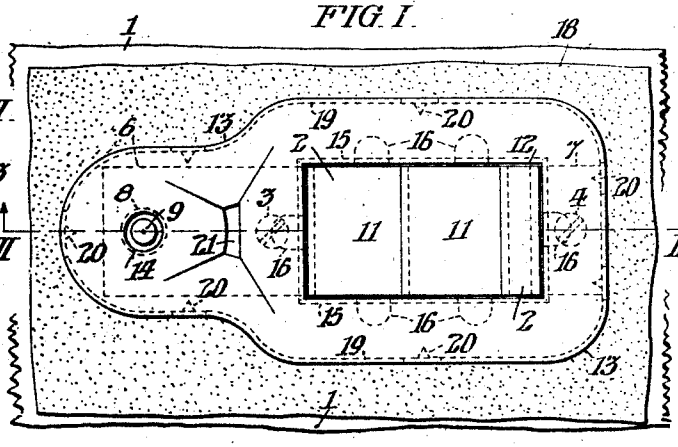


FIG. III.

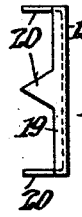


FIG. IV.

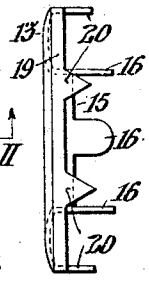


FIG. II.

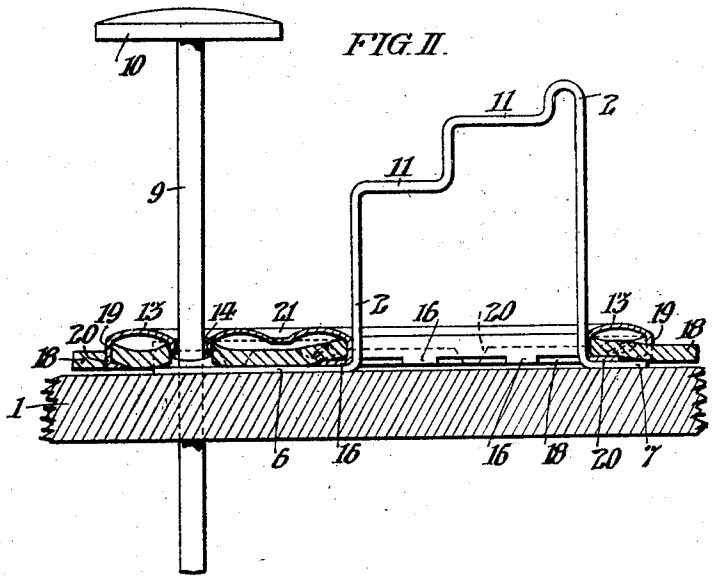
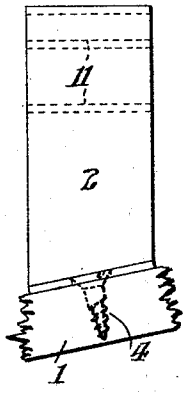


FIG. V.



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Patented Sept. 22, 1925. 1,554,969

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORY.

Application filed December 9, 1924. Serial No. 754,781.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK HENKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Automobile Accessories, whereof the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The form of my invention hereinafter described was designed to be appurtenant to the accelerator pedal and pedal rod of an automobile. As ordinarily constructed; such a rod etxends through a drilled hole in the wooden floor of the car, which is upwardly inclined in front of the chauffeur's seat, and said rod is normally upheld with its circular pedal top a few inches above said floor by means of a spring beneath the latter. It is usual to cover such floor with a carpet through which said rod, of course, extends. As such carpets are removable and, consequently, only loosely fitted in the car, it frequently happens that the carpet bears upon said rod so as to arrest or retard the movement of the latter and thus prevent the intended operation thereof. For instance, an operator may release said pedal from a position to which it has been depressed to accelerate the movement of the car, and with the expectation that it will be automatically uplifted by said spring to check the speed of the car, only to find that the friction of the carpet against the rod maintains the operation of the car at high speed. Therefore, a purpose and effect of my invention is to provide a metallic bearing in the carpet aforesaid through which the accelerator rod may slip freely.

Said form of my invention hereinafter described includes a foot rest bracket adapted to be a fixture upon the floor of the car and having, in one of its ends, a bearing for said rod; whereby, said rod is, of course, continuously maintained in a certain position with reference to said bracket. The upwardly projecting portion of said bracket is so constructed and arranged as to fit closely within a metallic plate, which also has an opening through which said rod may slip freely, and said plate is provided with means, conveniently including a plurality of bendable tabs, whereby it may be permanently attached to the carpet; to hold the latter in relatively stationary, but removable, relation with said bracket floor fixture. Such devices not only prevent the carpet from interfering with the operation of the accelerator mechanism, but afford neat, efficient and durable means for binding and reinforcing the carpet where it fits said rod and foot rest, at less cost than the ordinary leather or oil cloth binding means.

My invention includes the various novel features of construction and arrangement hereinafter more definitely specified.

In said drawings; Fig. I is a fragmentary plan view of a carpet and floor including a convenient embodiment of my invention.

Fig. II is a vertical sectional view, taken on the line II, II in Fig. I.

Fig. III is an elevation of the left hand end of said carpet plate, as located in Fig. I, but in the position in which they extend before attachment of said plate to the carpet.

Fig. IV is a right hand end elevation of said carpet plate with its tabs in their initial position aforesaid.

Fig. V is a right hand elevation of said foot rest bracket.

In said figure; the car floor 1 is provided with the foot rest bracket 2 which is rigidly connected therewith, conveniently by flat headed screws 3 and 4 extending through openings in the bracket floor flanges 6 and 7. Said flange 6 has the circular hole 8 extending therethrough and forming a bearing through which the vertically extending accelerator rod 9 may slip freely in either direction. Said rod is provided with the circular pedal top 10, normally upheld above the top of said bracket 2 by a spring connected with said rod beneath said floor 1, but not shown. I prefer to form the top of said bracket in steps 11 of different

heights to conveniently support the foot of the operator with the pedal depressed to effect correspondingly different degrees of acceleration of the car motor.

As indicated in Fig. I, the upwardly extending portion of said bracket is of rectangular configuration, and adapted to extend through a corresponding opening 12 in the carpet plate 13; so as to hold the accelerator rod bearing 14 in said plate in registry with the bearing 8 in said bracket. Said floor plate 13 has the flange 15 extending around said opening 12, with bendable tabs 16 thus adapted to bind the corresponding rectangular opening in the carpet 18. The outer edge of said carpet plate 13 is provided with a flange 19 which reinforces it and bears upon said carpet and has a series of sharp pointed tabs 20 which are driven through the carpet and clinched beneath the latter, as indicated, to secure said plate on said carpet.

I prefer to further stiffen and incidentally ornament said floor plate 13 by forming a depression 21 in the top thereof. As indicated, said floor plate may be conveniently formed as a sheet metal stamping and is preferably formed of steel provided with a protective coating such as nickel-plate or enamel; the latter being available in colors to match carpets. As indicated; said bracket may be conveniently formed of a stock steel bar cut and bent to the configuration shown. However, it is to be understood that said carpet plate and bracket may be otherwise formed. For instance, they may be constructed of cast metal and, if thus formed, the corners of the opening 13 may be rounded to fit a correspondingly curved portion of the bracket 2.

Therefore, it is to be understood that I do not desire to limit myself to the precise details of construction and arrangement herein set forth, as it is obvious that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the essential features of my invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a foot rest, formed of a bent strip of metal, and comprising a floor flange having a bearing for an accelerator rod and means for connecting it with a floor, and a stepped portion projecting above said floor, said stepped portion being of rectangular configuration in plan; of a carpet reinforcing plate having a rectangular opening adapted to fit over said projecting foot rest portion, and having a bearing for said rod arranged to register with the bearing in said foot rest, and means for connecting said plate with a carpet, including tabs at the outer edge of said plate and at the margin of said opening therein; the outer edge tabs being pointed, and the inner edge tabs being rounded at their ends; said plate being formed of stamped sheet metal, having reinforcing flanges respectively at its perimeter and at the margin of said opening therein, and having a reinforcing depression therein between said opening and said bearing.

2. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a foot rest, formed of a bent strip of metal, and comprising a floor flange having a bearing for an accelerator rod and means for connecting it with a floor, and a portion projecting above said floor; of a carpet reinforcing plate having an opening adapted to fit over said projecting foot rest portion, and having a bearing for said rod arranged to register with the bearing in said foot rest, and means for connecting said plate with a carpet, including tabs at the outer edge of said plate and at the margin of said opening therein; the outer edge tabs being pointed at their ends; said plate being formed of stamped sheet metal, having reinforcing flanges respectively at its perimeter and at the margin of said opening therein.

3. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a metal foot rest, comprising a floor flange having a bearing for an accelerator rod and means for connecting it with a floor, and a portion projecting above said floor; of a carpet reinforcing plate having an opening adapted to fit over said projecting foot rest portion, and having a bearing for said rod arranged to register with the bearing in said foot rest, and means for connecting said plate with a carpet, including tabs on said plate; said plates being formed of stamped sheet metal.

4. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a metal foot rest, having a bearing for an accelerator rod and means for connecting it with a floor; of a carpet reinforcing plate having an opening adapted to fit over said foot rest, and having a bearing for said rod arranged to register with the bearing in said foot rest, and means for connecting said plate with a carpet.

5. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a metal foot rest, having means for connecting it with a floor; of a carpet reinforcing plate having an opening adapted to fit over said foot rest, and having a bearing for a rod, and means for connecting said plate with a carpet.

6. In an automobile accessory, the combination with a foot rest; of a floor covering reinforcing metal plate, having an opening adapted to fit over said foot rest, and having a bearing for an accelerator rod.

7. An automobile accessory, including a floor covering reinforcing metal plate; having means, including tabs, arranged to be clinched through such covering to connect it therewith, and having a slide bearing for an accelerator rod.

8. An automobile accessory, including a metal reinforcing plate having means adapted to attach it to a flexible floor covering, and having a slide bearing for a rod.

9. An automobile accessory, including a metal foot rest, and a metal plate having means adapted to engage said foot rest, and having means adapted to engage a flexible floor covering.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this 18th day of November, 1924.

FREDERICK HENKE.