July 1, 1930. L. AUSTER 1,769,328

BATHING SANDAL

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Fig. 1.

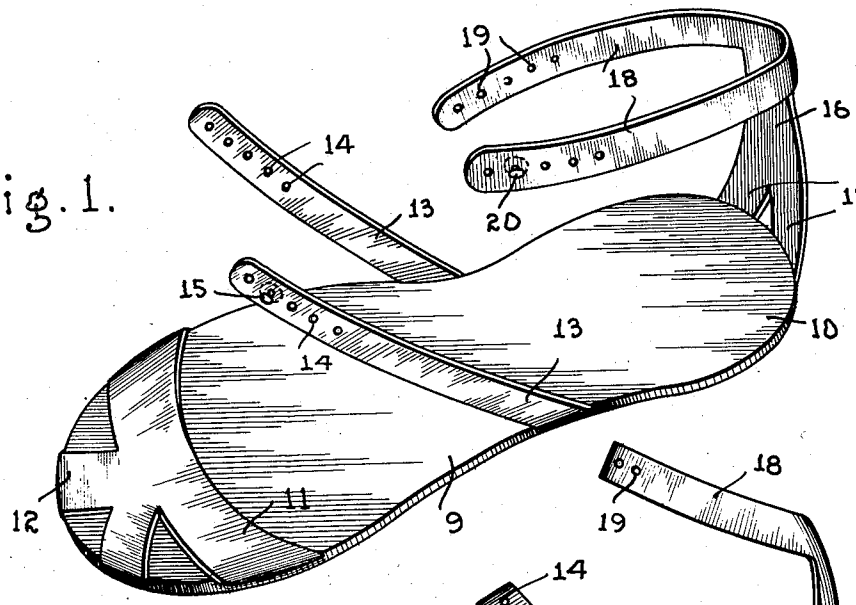

Fig. 2.

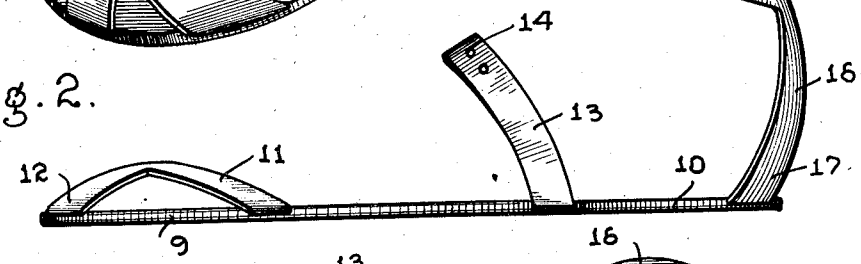

Fig. 3.

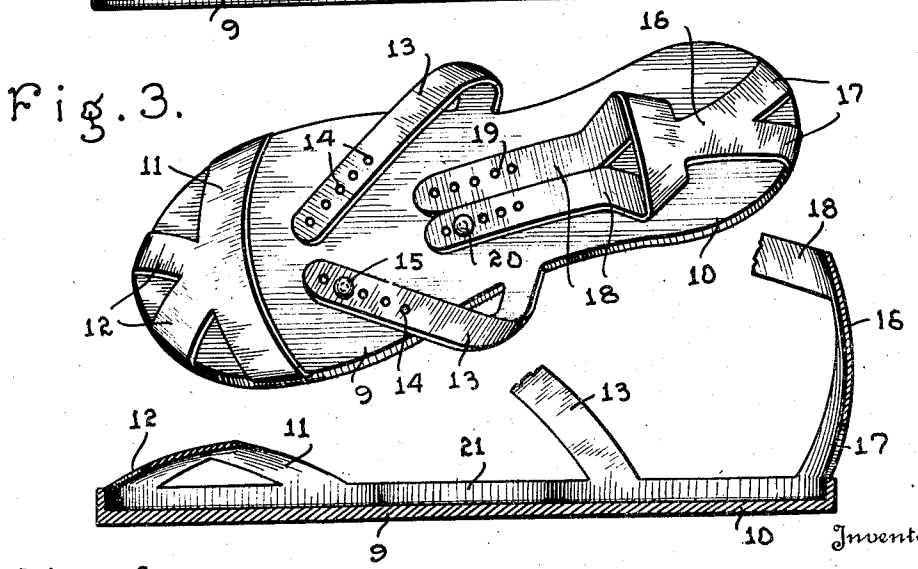

Fig. 4.

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Fig. 5.

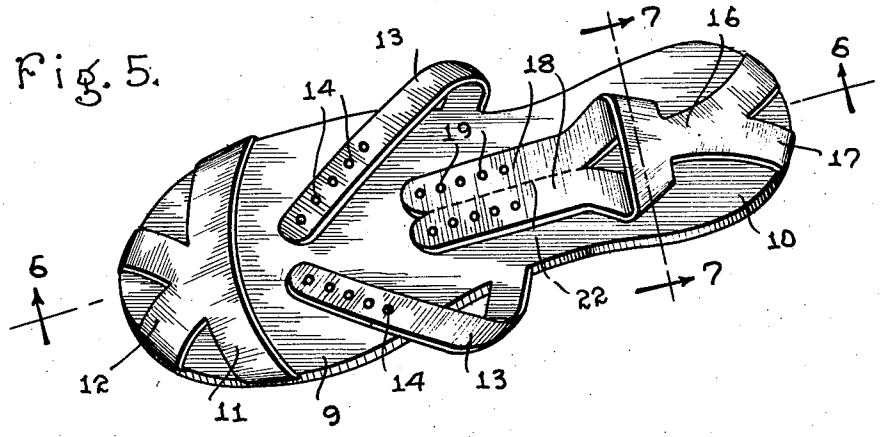


Fig. 6.

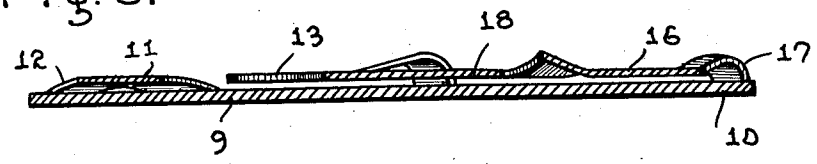


Fig. 7.

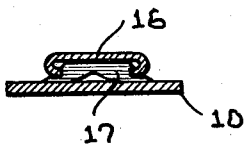
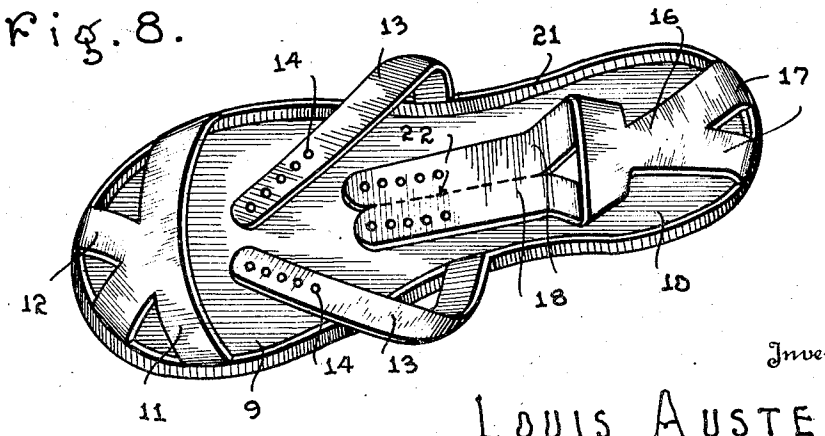


Fig. 8.



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Patented July 1, 1930 1,769,328

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LOUIS AUSTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BATHING SANDAL

Application filed August 20, 1928. Serial No. 300,618.

The present invention relates to bathing sandals and to a method of manufacturing the same, and consists in the steps of procedure in making, and combinations and arrangements of elements forming the article as hereinafter described and particularly set forth in the accompanying claims.

Present known bathing slippers are characterized in that they are made in several pieces united together, as by cementing, in the so-called curing process with the result that there is no uniformity in the strength of the article and consequently the different portions of the slipper frequently come apart due to insecure union along the seams. To avoid this defect it is here proposed to produce a bathing sandal or slipper in one piece and in a single and unbroken process of moulding.

Present made slippers are furthermore bulky and require individual packing boxes with the natural result that considerable space is needed for keeping on hand a reasonable supply or stock on the part of the dealers, and this in turn has resulted in many dealers refusing to carry a line of bathing slippers for ready sale to the trade. There is a further disadvantage in that the present day bathing slippers in addition to being bulky are tending to run in styles, and this obviously further aggravates the disadvantage above referred to.

From the standpoint of the wearer the present known bathing slippers are not only heavy in themselves but they collect and retain water around the wearer's feet and thereby considerably retard ones progress in swimming. As a consequence of the slippers becoming too heavy they are frequently forced off while swimming, and lost, and for this reason many bathers prefer to remove the slippers before entering the water.

Another objection is that if the slipper be worn for some time while out of the water the wearer's feet being entirely encased in rubber become excessively hot and perspire, thereby causing great discomfort.

To overcome these disadvantages it is proposed to provide a bathing slipper or sandal that is moulded in preferably one piece and consequently is lighter, cheaper, stronger, and less bulky than the kind now used. Secondly, to provide a sandal which during wear will permit free circulation of air to every part of the foot while on land and effectively shed water when swimming. And thirdly, to provide a sandal which may be easily put on and removed, readily adjustable to the foot, and neat and attractive in appearance.

A further advantage—and an essential one—is to produce a bathing slipper which with its foot attaching appendages may be manufactured, shipped, and stored in a substantial lay-flat condition all to the end of economy in cost of production, conservation of space both for the dealer and owner, permitting a full line of articles being easily carried by a dealer with the minimum space in his sales room, in like manner requiring minimum space in transportation, and which because of the personal advantages aforesaid will commend the article to the wearers.

The invention is shown by way of illustration in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the sandal.

Figure 2 a side elevational view thereof.

Figure 3 a perspective view showing the sandal in its lay-flat condition.

Figure 4 a longitudinal sectional view of a modified construction.

Figure 5 a perspective view showing the sandal as produced by the mould.

Figure 6 a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 6; and,

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the modified construction of sandal as coming from the mould.

Referring to the construction in further detail and wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the different views, the sandal consists of a sole portion 9 of suitable pliable material, preferably rubber, and having a heel portion 10. The sole and heel portions may be of uniform thickness throughout or the heel portion 10 may be of greater thickness than the sole proper if preferred. Suitable means are provided

for securely holding the sandal to the foot of the wearer at the toe, instep, and ankle thereof, and said attaching devices are preferably formed integral with the sole of the sandal as a unitary structure and all in one and the same moulding operation.

The toe attaching device comprises a cross strap 11 having projecting portions 12 that connect with the sole portion 9 at substantially the extreme edge thereof as shown. This construction of the toe strap portions 11 and 12 gives in effect the usual crossing toe straps characterizing the ordinary household sandal.

A pair of instep straps 13 are formed integral and continuous with the sole portion 9 as clearly shown in Figure 3, and the free ends of said straps are apertured as at 14 to receive the detachable button 15 for adjustably holding the straps across the instep of the wearer. Instead of the button member 15 any other suitable form of adjustable securing means may be employed. And instead of moulding said instep straps 13 as two separate members the invention contemplates moulding the same as one continuous piece adapted to be severed after the moulding operation as will be understood.

A heel piece 16 has bifurcated connection 17 at the extreme end of the heel portion 10 and at its upper end said member 16 has a transversely extending and continuous member providing a pair of straps of suitable length for encircling the ankle of the wearer. Apertures 19 are formed in each of the ankle straps 18 to receive the adjustable fastening means 20 as with the instep strap 13.

In the construction disclosed in Figure 4 the sandal is in all respects the same as that described aforesaid excepting that in this instance the sole portion 9 is provided with a continuous and marginal side portion or flange 21. With this arrangement the several strap portions for holding the sandal to the foot are formed integral and continuous with the marginal side edge 21 after the same manner as said straps are attached to the sole portion of sandal as described with respect to Figure 1.

It will therefore be seen that the bathing sandal herein disclosed is made up of the minimum amount of material, is produced and sold in its lay-flat form, has the least possible weight on the foot of the wearer, and thereby contributes to giving maximum comfort during walking or swimming. The sandal will remain firmly on the foot without discomfort from perspiration, and due to the novel form of foot attaching means there is ample ventilation entirely around the foot, and while swimming there is the least possible hindrance to action inasmuch as there is a complete avoidance of water pockets but on the other hand effective shedding of water.

In Figures 5 to 8, inclusive, the sandal is shown as it comes from the mould. In the manufacturing operation suitable mould forms are designed to produce the sandal in substantially that form shown in Figure 5, and this form is characterized in that the sole portion, heel piece 16 and 17, toe strap 11 and 12. instep straps 13, and ankle straps 18, are all formed in the folded and substantially lay-flat condition shown. The ankle engaging straps 18 are moulded as one integral part which is scored along the line 22 so that it may be easily severed after coming from the mould to provide the separate straps. That portion of the ankle straps at the juncture of the heel piece 16 is folded under and immediately against the sole portion 9 after the manner clearly shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7.

It will be understood, of course, that in all places on the sandal or its attaching means where there is an appreciable fold-over or bend in the material that the moulding element thereat will obviate any liability of break or rupture in the texture or body of the rubber or other material.

It will be understood that the invention as herein disclosed is not limited to the details of construction shown and described as these may be varied without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the claims.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A bathing sandal comprising a sole member of rubber, and means for securing the sole to the wearer's foot; said means including adjustable straps having free ends and formed integral with the sole member.

2. A bathing sandal comprising a sole member of rubber, and integral and adjustable means for securing the sole to the wearer's foot; said means including ankle and instep straps having free end portions.

3. A bathing sandal constructed of rubber comprising a sole portion, and an integral ankle portion including a pair of straps; said ankle portion being formed in double width and scored medially thereof for the purpose of severing to provide ankle attaching straps substantially as described.

4. As an article of manufacture a bathing sandal having a sole portion and integral foot attaching portions, said foot attaching portions being formed continuous and adapted to be severed to provide strap members, said sole and foot attaching portions complete forming a lay-flat article of appreciably narrow thickness for the purpose set forth.

5. As an article of manufacture a bathing sandal constructed of rubber and having a sole portion, instep and ankle attaching portions, said ankle portion being formed in double width and scored medially thereof for the purpose of severing to provide ankle attaching straps, said sole, instep, and ankle

attaching straps complete all forming a lay-flat article of appreciably narrow thickness for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Washington, District of Columbia, this 16th day of August, A. D. nineteen hundred and twenty-eight.

LOUIS AUSTER.