May 15, 1951 M. H. RICCI 2,552,589

SHOE

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Fig. 1.

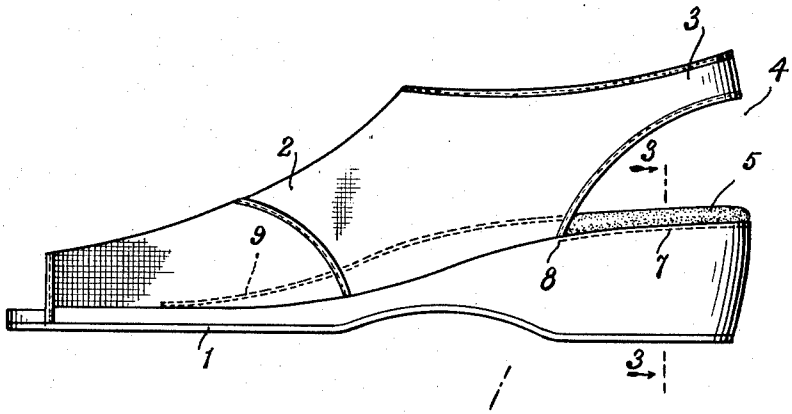


Fig. 2.

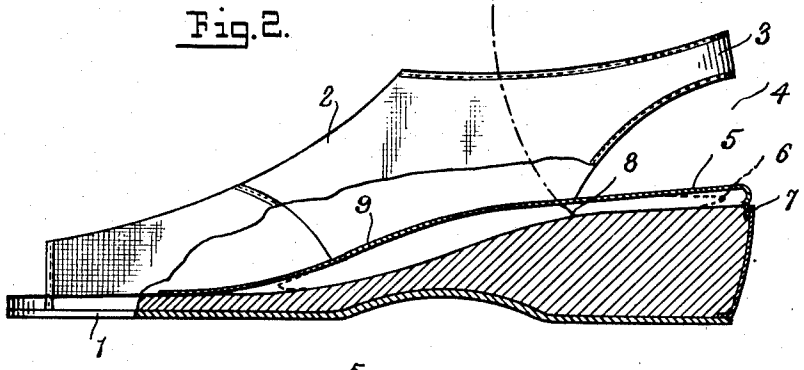
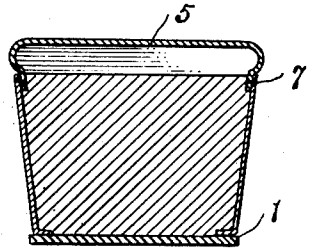


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.
Mary Helena Ricci
BY
Joseph J. Juhasz,
her attorney

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SHOE

Mary Helena Ricci, New York, N. Y.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

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This invention relates to shoe construction, and more particularly to means by which arch supporters are held in position and concealed in shoes.

One of the objections found in wearing shoes of the so-called "open-back" construction, and in which the heel portion of the shoe upper is cut-away or supplanted by a strap extending about the back of the foot, is that arch supporters cannot be worn in that type of shoe. The reason for this is that the open back of the shoe permits the arch support to creep or slide rearwardly and out of the back of the shoe. Moreover, even if this creeping of the arch support does not occur, the rear portion of the support would be visible under the heel of the foot. Consequently those wishing to avail themselves of the comforts of the open back shoe are often compelled to forego wearing shoes of such construction due to the inability of the wearer to use arch supporters in that type of shoe.

The present invention has for its object the provision of means for retaining arch supporters in shoes and more particularly in shoes of the open back construction and it contemplates the provision of means by which arch supporters when so worn will be wholly concealed from view and will, at the same time, be prevented from shifting, and particularly rearwardly and out of the open back of the shoe.

More particularly, the invention contemplates the provision of a pocket in the rear of the shoe, said pocket receiving and concealing the rear portion of the arch support, at the same time holding the same from shifting rearwardly. The invention further contemplates the use, in some cases, of a forward flap-extension on said pocket, the same tending to serve as an inner lining or covering for the inside of the shoe, and fitting over the top of the arch supporter and serving to prevent direct contact of the foot therewith.

These and other objects are attained by the invention, a more particular description of which will hereinafter appear and be set forth in the claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein an illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a shoe constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a similar view, with parts in section, and other parts broken away, to disclose construction, and Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawing, 1 indicates the sole portion of a shoe of conventional construction,

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the same being provided with an upper 2 also of usual form. The shoe disclosed is an example of the so-called "backless" or open-back type wherein the usual closed back is supplanted by a strap 3, leaving the heel of the foot exposed through the open rear 4 of the shoe.

Shoes of this character, and more especially those adapted for women's wear, are made in a large variety of styles, and the shoe disclosed is merely one of the many types to which the present invention is applicable. While backless or open back shoes of this kind afford a great deal of comfort to the wearer, they cannot be worn by a great many people because they possess the disadvantage of preventing the use of arch supporters since the arch supporters cannot be confined within the shoe and soon work their way rearwardly and out of the open back 4 of the shoe. Moreover, even if it be assumed that a well-fitting arch supporter could be retained in a shoe of this character, its use therein would not be feasible because the open back of the shoe would cause a portion of the arch supporter to be rendered visible so that few, if any persons would wear the same.

In carrying out the present invention, I not only provide means for holding the arch supporter against rearward movement, but I also enclose the rear portion of the arch supporter in such a manner that it is concealed and can thus be worn in shoes of this kind without being exposed and thus causing the wearer embarrassment. For this purpose, I provide the rear portion of the inside top face of the shoe sole with a pocket 5 which extends co-extensively with the rear opening 4. Said pocket has its entrance opening facing toward the front of the shoe and the rear end of the arch supporter 6 is readily slipped into the pocket and is covered and concealed thereby. The pocket thus not only covers and conceals the rear portion of the arch supporter, but holds the arch supporter against rearward sliding movement.

The pocket 5 may be composed of textile fabric, leather or any other suitable flexible sheet material and it is made with sufficient fullness to enable it to easily fit over the rear portion of the arch supporter 6. It may be attached to the shoe by stitching, such as indicated at 7, or by being glued in place. The means of attaching the pocket in place may be one, in the case of a shoe being manufactured, which can be most conveniently employed to fit in with the method of making the shoe. A different means of attaching the pocket can be

employed in cases which the pocket is to be fitted to shoes already completed.

The pocket 5 can, if desired, be made relatively short and may have its forward or open end terminate at or adjacent to the front end of the rear opening 4 of the shoe, as for example, at or about the point indicated at 8, or it may be made as shown in the drawing, with a forwardly-extended free flap portion 9 constituting a lining member, and which overlies the top of the arch supporter for its length. When the structure is made in this manner, a lining or insole is thus provided which completely covers the top of the arch supporter and keeps the foot of the wearer from direct contact therewith. This is found useful when the wearer does not wear stockings, which is often the case with open-back shoes.

The flap portion 9 is preferably shaped to conform to the shape of the insole of the shoe, and it preferably constitutes an integral forward extension of the pocket 5. It is not secured down along its edges and in inserting the arch supporter in the shoe, the flap portion 9 may be readily raised out of the top of the shoe, as indicated in dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 2, to enable the arch supporter to be placed underneath it, and the rear end of the arch supporter placed within the pocket 5.

From the foregoing, the operation of the described structure will be clear. An arch supporter may be readily placed within a shoe of the open-back type by placing the rear end of the arch support in the pocket 5 and the part of the arch supporter which would ordinarily be visible in the open back of the shoe will then be covered and concealed by the pocket 5. The arch supporter will also be held against rearward sliding movement by the pocket, as above described.

While I have herein described the pocket 5 as being provided with a forwardly extended flap constituting an inner lining for the shoe and covering for the arch supporter, it will be understood that the use of such a flap extension is not absolutely essential to the present invention since the forward or open end of the pocket may terminate, if desired, at or about the forward end of the opening 4 in the back of the shoe. Also, while I have shown the supporter-receiving pocket as conforming closely to the

inside top of the sole of the shoe in the heel portion thereof, the pocket need not necessarily be of such shape. Hence, when herein describing the element 5 as a "Pocket" I wish to be understood as meaning any element situated at the rear end of an open-back shoe which will engage and conceal the rear portion of an arch-supporter and hold the same against rearward sliding movement.

Having described one embodiment of the invention, it is obvious that the same is not to be restricted thereto, but is broad enough to cover all structures coming within the scope of the annexed claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a shoe provided with an open back, an arch support resting on top of the inside face of the shoe, means for concealing said arch support and preventing it from sliding rearwardly out of the open back of the shoe comprising a pocket fixedly and permanently secured in place in the shoe and overlying the top of the inside face of the shoe and confining the arch support between it and the permanent top inside surface of the shoe, said pocket being open at the front whereby the arch support can be inserted through said front opening, the pocket having a closed rear portion secured in and visible through the open portion of the back of the shoe, said closed rear portion enclosing and concealing the arch support in said open back portion of the shoe.

2. In a shoe as provided for in claim 1, wherein the pocket is provided at the open front portion with a raisable flap part adapted to be lifted to permit the arch support to be inserted in the secured-down rear portion of the pocket.

MARY HELENA RICCI.

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