April 2, 1935. F. A. SMITH 1,996,083

TOE PAD

Filed Aug. 23, 1933

Fig. 1.

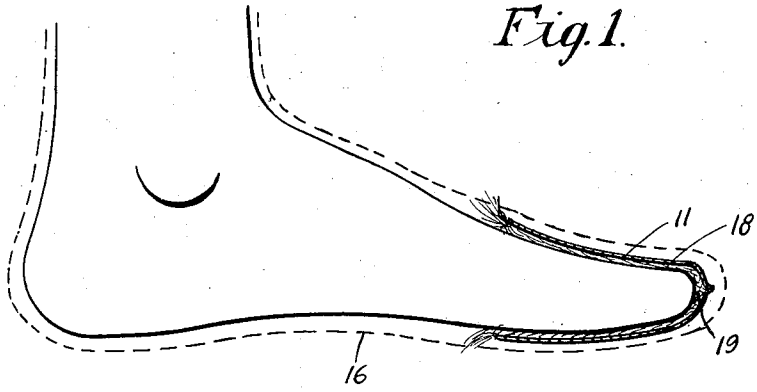


Fig. 2.

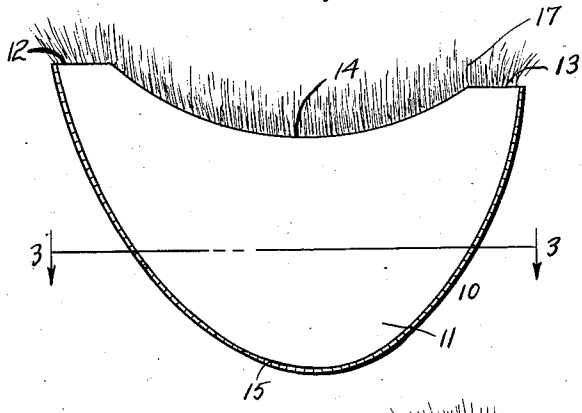


Fig. 4.

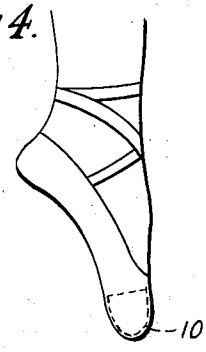


Fig. 5.

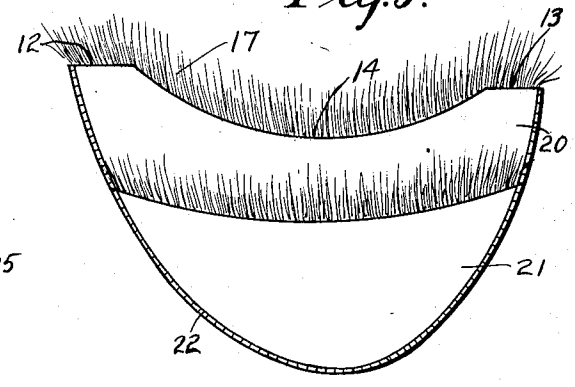
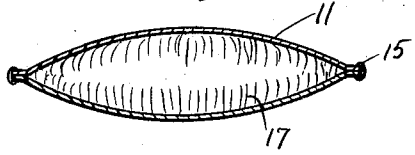


Fig. 3.



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Patented Apr. 2, 1935 1,996,083

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,996,083

TOE PAD

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Application August 23, 1933, Serial No. 686,329

4 Claims. (Cl. 36—8.3)

This invention relates to means for protecting the toes of a wearer and has reference more particularly to a toe pad especially adapted to provide cushioning protection for the toes of a toe dancer.

It has been proposed to provide toe pads, caps, shields or protectors for wear inside a dancing shoe to protect the toes of a toe dancer but as these pads were often made of rubber, or other substances, considerable trouble resulted due to the formation of blisters on the toes. It has been also found desirable to provide special protection for the toes of persons exposed to cold weather to prevent freezing of the toes and prevent further inconvenience due to cold feet.

An object of this invention therefore, is to provide a toe pad made of fur which acts as a cushion to protect the toes of toe dancers from injury.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fur pad to be worn inside a shoe so as to protect from cold the toes of persons exposed to severely cold weather.

A further object of the invention is to provide a double thickness fur toe pad to give extra cushioning protection to the toes of toe-tap dancers; also to improve toe pads in other respects hereinafter specified and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a human foot with my improved toe pad shown in cross section.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the toe pad.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view through the toe pad taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an elevation of a toe dancer's foot in dancing position, and

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of double toe pad.

My improved toe pad 10 is preferably made of two similar pieces of fur 11 which are of semi-circular shape to conform in general to the outline of the toes on the human foot. One side 12 of the fur pieces placed adjacent the outside of the foot is preferably longer than the other side 13 which is arranged adjacent the inside of the foot. An arcuate opening 14 is formed in the fur pieces connecting the sides 12 and 13.

The upper and lower fur pieces 11 are connected together along their semi-circular outer edges by a glove seam 15 to form an envelop or cap. The two fur pieces are so arranged that the fur extends inwardly and rearwardly, the fur leather being on the outside in contact with the shoe 16 of the wearer, and the fur 17 being in direct contact with the toes and foot 18 of the wearer. As the pad is slipped over the toes of the foot, the fur 17 is crowded forwardly toward the toe of the pad to form a cushion 19 which aids in preventing injury to the toes of a toe dancer. If desired, a stocking may be worn between the pad and the foot 18. The fur of the toe pad provides a certain measure of ventilation around the toes due to the loose character of the hairs of the fur. The pad is also useful for wear by sportsmen and others exposed to cold weather, as it prevents freezing of the toes. The fur pad is preferably made of the skin of domestic rabbits although the furs of other fur-bearing animals may be used. The rabbit fur is especially useful as it does not mat up when the pad is in use.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 5, a toe pad of double thickness is provided for added cushioning effect when worn by toe-tap dancers. The complete pad is made by telescoping together two fur pieces 20 with two smaller fur pieces 21, the four fur pieces being stitched together around a portion of their periphery by a common seam of glove stitching 22. The fur of each fur piece extends inwardly and rearwardly for the same reasons as that described above.

My improved toe pad provides proper cushioning effect for toe dancers as it enables the dancer to "feel the floor", thereby giving a greater efficiency in this arduous performance. Where the toe cannot "feel the floor" the effect is as "dancing on air" which is detrimental to efficiency. The toe pad is so designed as to snugly fit over all the toes and not to extend beyond the box of the shoe. The fur extends backwards over the edge of the leather thus preventing any irritation by cutting into the foot. The toe pad also permits relative movement between the pad and the shoe and between the pad and the toes, thus providing maximum freedom of movement and comfort for the dancer and elimination of any irritation.

The fur in the pad forms many minute air spaces which affords proper ventilation for the toes, thus preventing blistering from perspiration and keeping the toes at normal temperature. The air spaces in the fur also provide an effective heat insulator, thus protecting the toes in cold weather. The toe pad is also effective in easing the pains of corns, callouses and other afflictions by removing friction and maintaining the natural warmth of the toes and foot.

I would state in conclusion that while the illustrated examples constitute practical embodi-

ments of my invention, I do not limit myself precisely to these details since, manifestly, the same may be considerably varied without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent;—

1. In a toe pad, a cap of fur adapted to fit loosely over the toes inside a shoe, the fur of said cap being turned inwardly and rearwardly so as to crowd forwardly during the insertion of said cap on the toes and form a cushion adjacent the ends of the toes.

2. In a toe pad, a pair of fur pieces shaped like the end of a foot and sewed together along a portion of the periphery thereof so as to form an envelop to enclose the forward end of the foot, the fur of said pieces being turned inwardly and rearwardly so as to crowd forwardly during the insertion of said envelop on the toes and form a cushion adjacent the ends of the toes.

3. A cushioned shield for dancers, comprising a pair of telescoped envelopes of fur covered skin joined together by a common peripheral seam, the fur of each envelop being turned inwardly.

4. In a toe pad for dancers, an envelope of fur skin formed of two similar pieces of fur of semi-circular shape to conform in general shape to the outline of the toes of the human foot, the semi-circular outer edges of said fur pieces being sewed together with a glove seam, the hairs of said fur extending inwardly and rearwardly to contact with the toes.

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