

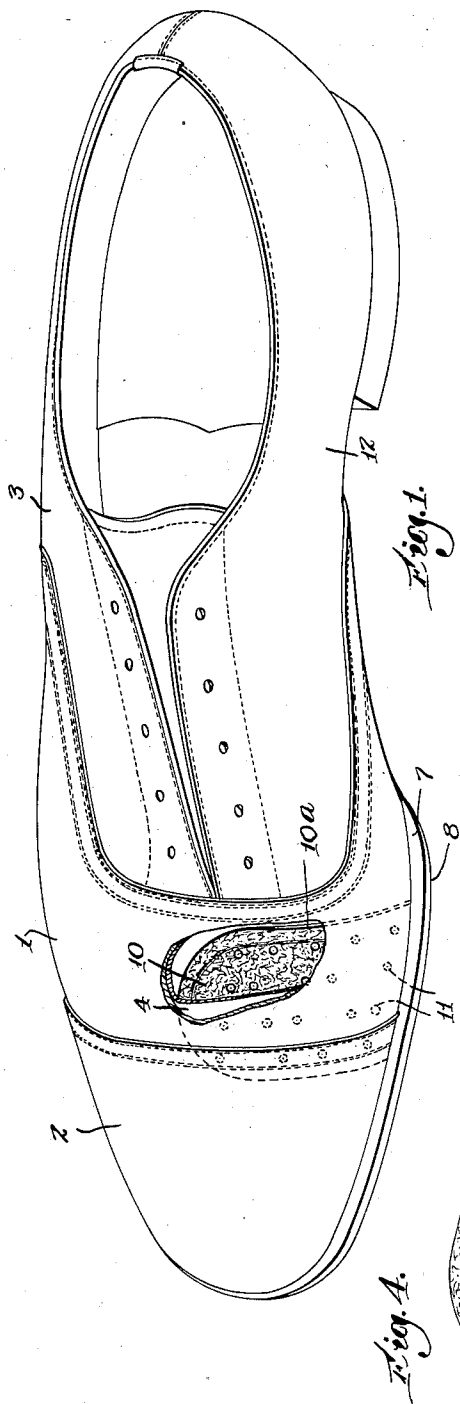
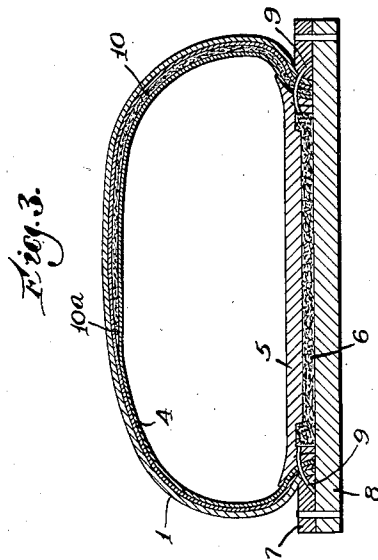
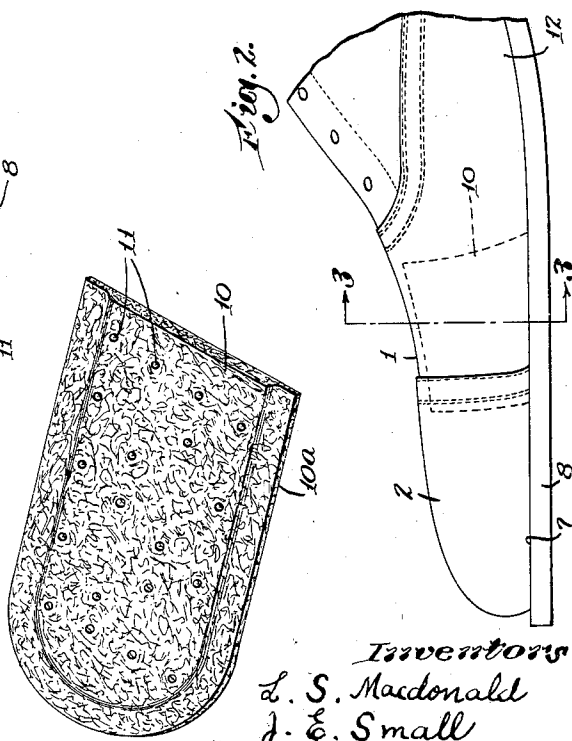
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SHOE

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SHOE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 36—8.5)

This invention relates to boots and shoes and is particularly intended to overcome certain faults or objectionable features often experienced by the wearer of shoes, particularly when the leather vamp of the shoe becomes wet and creased.

The constant flexing of the foot in walking necessitates a corresponding flexing across the top of the vamp between the rear edge of the usual toe cap and the seam that joins the quarters to the vamp in front of the instep of the foot. Oftentimes when the leather vamp is at all stiff or heavy, and particularly after the shoe has dried after being wet, creases extending across the top of the vamp at the above described location become more or less fixed or set and cause much discomfort by their pressure upon the foot across the inside ball portion thereof.

It has been proposed to insert in the shoe, beneath the vamp, a strip of fabric that has been provided with stiffening means, either through sizing or glazing or otherwise to resist this tendency to wrinkle, but in practice such expedients are found to be unsatisfactory because the wrinkling of the upper and of any inserted lining must occur whenever the foot is flexed and the stiffer the fabric is made at this point the more uncomfortable will be the wrinkles or creases formed by the repeated flexing.

The present invention overcomes this trouble by providing an insert of an entirely different character which does not endeavor to resist the wrinkling or creasing of the upper, but which is made of a soft, yielding or compressible material which readily absorbs the pressure at the bottom of each wrinkle or crease by reason of the compressibility of the material inserted and also serves to distribute what little pressure is transmitted through it over a wider area, so that it serves the purpose of a cushion pad. The pad is preferably provided with perforations to facilitate ventilation and drying out of the foot or other moisture and, as it opposes no substantial resistance to the flexing of the upper its presence is not noticed by the wearer of the shoe. These and other features of the invention will be particularly described in the following specification and will be defined in the claims hereto annexed.

In the drawing is illustrated a specific form embodying the principles of this invention, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe provided with this improvement, the vamp being partly broken away to expose the interior.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the construction shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view on the plane indicated by broken line 3—3 on Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the cushion pad or insert construction before its insertion.

In the drawing we have illustrated a well known type of shoe comprising the vamp 1, the toe cap 2 provided with a well known doubler lining 3 and the usual inner lining 4, although the doubler lining is of course not essential. Before the upper is stitched to the insole 5 by the welt-attaching stitches 9 in accordance with any usual or well known practice, there is inserted between the inner lining 4 and the upper a pad 10 of soft felted fiber, which has sufficient length to extend down to the bottom edge of the upper and lining to receive the welt-attaching stitching 9 and extend upward therefrom around and forwardly of the inside ball portion of the foot to somewhat beyond the medial longitudinal line of the shoe, as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3. This pad 10 preferably has its edges skived to a thin edge, as at 10^a, to avoid forming any ridges or shoulders that would be objectionable and is also preferably provided at frequent intervals with perforations 11 to aid in ventilating the foot and to facilitate the quick drying out of the pad or insert in case any moisture should be absorbed thereby. The material of which the insert or pad is made preferably consists of loosely felted textile fibers, preferably wool fibers, the object being to form a readily compressible pad which will absorb through its yielding qualities the greater part of the pressure from the creases or wrinkles in the overlying portion of the upper. Such a pad does not interfere with, or resist, the flexing action of the shoe which must take place when the foot, to which it is fitted, flexes or bends as in walking, but does absorb and distribute the pressure of the wrinkle or crease so as to completely avoid any discomfort to the foot of the wearer.

To prevent temporary displacement before the pad is stitched, it may at some suitable portion of its surface be cemented to the lining or upper. By bevelling or skiving down the edge of the pad, as shown at 10^a, we prevent the formation of any abrupt shoulder which would be visible in the vamp of the shoe.

Except for the presence of the inserted pad or cushion, the remainder of the shoe may have any usual or well known construction. As here shown, the shoe is illustrated as a welt shoe having an outsole 8 stitched to the welt 7 in accordance with the usual practice, the welt together with

the edges of the upper and lining being stitched to the insole channel or lip by the seams 9, the space between the insole 5 and the outsole 8 being filled with a plastic filler 6. Experience 5 has shown that this soft insert, located between the seam attaching the forward edges of the quarters 12 to the vamp 1 and the rear portion of the toe cap 2, completely remedies the long standing trouble due to the wrinkling or creasing of the vamp at this point.

10 What we claim is:

1. A protective device for a shoe that has a vamp, a lining and an attached bottom, comprising a strip of relatively soft yielding material interposed between that portion of the vamp 15 located over and forwardly of the ball joint at the inner side of the foot and the corresponding portion of the lining, said strip being held in position against displacement by a line of stitches 20 directly securing it to the bottom member of the shoe.

2. In a shoe having vamp, lining and bottom

members, a pressure absorbing pad of loosely felted textile fibers interposed between the vamp and the lining, the bottom portion of said pad being attached to the shoe by the in-seam sole-attaching stitches and located to extend around 5 the inside ball joint of an inserted foot and across the top thereof to approximately the medial longitudinal line of the foot, said pad being provided with perforations to facilitate drying out of moisture. 10

3. Foot protecting means for a shoe of the type having vamp, lining and bottom members, comprising a soft pad of yielding felt interposed between the vamp and the lining to subtend that portion of the shoe subtending the ball joint 15 forwardly of the instep, said pad being secured directly to the bottom member of the shoe by stitching and having its periphery bevelled to a thin edge.

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