April 30, 1963 M. A. HUDON 3,087,260

COMBINED GAITER AND OVERSHOE

Filed Feb. 5, 1962

Fig. 1

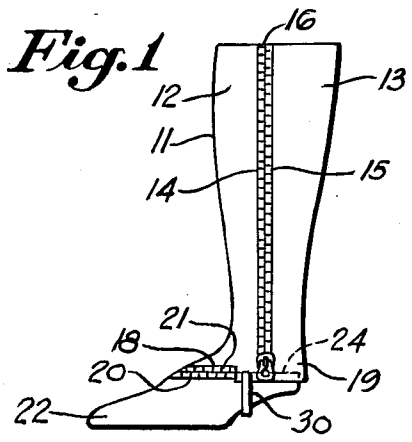


Fig. 3

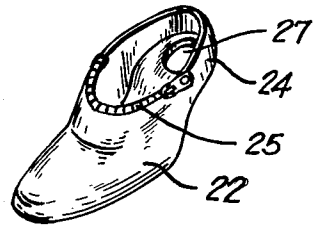


Fig. 4

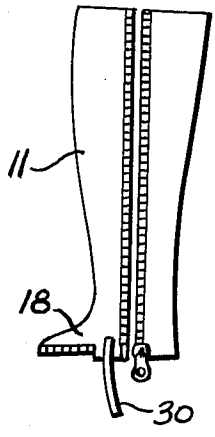
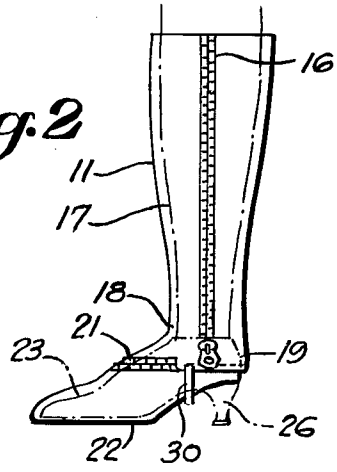


Fig. 2



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COMBINED GAITER AND OVERSHOE

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This invention relates to gaiter construction and refers more particularly to a gaiter with a removable sandal.

It is an object of the present invention to provide means for protecting a person's lower leg and foot from rain, snow and other effects of inclement weather.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a combined gaiter and sandal from which the gaiter may be removed and the sandal worn separately.

Another object is to provide a combined gaiter and sandal that is easy to put on and take off. Other objects of the present invention will become apparent in the course of the following specification.

In achieving the aforementioned objectives of the present invention, it was found desirable to provide a combined gaiter and sandal which has a leg portion contoured to fit around a person's leg between the knee and ankle and adapted to be secured thereon by means of a slide fastener extending from top to bottom along a vertical seam at the side of the leg. The lower part of the leg portion has a widened segment which covers the frontal half of the ankle. A sandal type overshoe is removably connected to the bottom of the leg portion by means of a slide fastener. The sandal is also adapted to be worn separately in which case it is slipped over the wearer's street shoe and secured in place by a heel strap.

The invention will appear more clearly from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing showing, by way of example, a preferred embodiment of the inventive concept.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a combined gaiter and sandal constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is the same as FIGURE 1 showing the combined gaiter and sandal as it appears when worn on a wearer's leg.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the sandal portion.

FIGURE 4 is a side elevational view of the gaiter showing the sole strap used for securing the gaiter to the leg.

Throughout the specification, like reference numerals are used to indicate like parts.

The combined gaiter and sandal has a leg portion **11** which is shaped to fit around the wearer's leg between the knee and ankle. The leg portion **11** comprises a longitudinally elongated piece of material, preferably of plastic or rubber, which has longitudinal margins **12** and **13**. Secured along each margin **12** and **13** are two halves **14** and **15**, respectively, of a slide fastener **16** by means of which the leg portion **11** is secured to the wearer's leg **17** after wrapping it around the leg between knee and ankle with the slide fastener positioned at the side of the leg (FIG. 1). The slide fastener **16** may be one of a type old and well known in the art and the halves **14** and **15** thereof are secured to the leg portion **11** in a conventional manner as, for example, by stitching. The bottom of the leg portion **11** has an integral transverse frontal section **18** which extends down over and covers the front half of the wearer's ankle. Connected to the bottom edge of transverse section **18** is one-half **20** of another slide fastener **21** which is used to connect the after described sandal-like overshoe **22** to the leg portion **11**. The leg portion **11** also has a sole strap **30** for securing the leg portion on the leg when only the gaiter is worn. The sole strap **30** is wrapped under the foot outside the overshoe **22** and is

secured on the inner side of the leg portion by means of a snap fastener **31** (FIG. 4).

The sandal-like overshoe **22** which is also made of a resilient material, preferably plastic or rubber, is contoured to fit snugly over the front half of the wearer's street shoe **23**. Integral with the sandal **22** is a strap **24** which extends around the wearer's heel and acts to secure the overshoe properly on the street shoe. Connected to the upper front edge of the sandal **22** is the other half **25** of a slide fastener **21**. The rear bottom **19** of the leg portion **11** extends below and overlaps the upper part of sandal **22** for the purpose of barring the entry of water at points where the sandal **22** is not connected to the leg portion **11**.

In operation:

The wearer may don the combined gaiter and sandal of the present invention in several ways. In the first manner, the gaiter or leg portion **11** is wrapped around the lower leg and secured thereon by means of slide fastener **16**. This covers the leg from the knee to the ankle. The wearer then pulls the sandal-like overshoe **22** over the front of street shoe **23** and slips the strap **24** under and around the heel **26** of the street shoe to hold the sandal **22** securely on their foot. In this position the strap **24** is also covered by the rear bottom **19** of leg portion **11**. The sandal **22** is then secured to the front of the leg portion by means of slide fastener **21**. In this manner the combined gaiter and sandal provides protection from rain, snow, etc. Inasmuch as this type of foot protector is intended mainly for use by women, the heel of the sandal **22** is left open as at **27** to allow the heel **26** of the street shoe to pass through. This is done for the reason that the walker's balance depends on the heel of high-heeled shoes striking the ground evenly and if the heel was also covered by the sandal **22** it might interfere with proper grounding of the heel. As an alternate, the wearer may first connect the sandal **22** to leg portion **11** by means of slide fastener **21**. The overshoe **22** is then slipped over the street shoe as described above, after which the leg portion **11** is wrapped around the leg and the margins thereof brought together at the side of the leg and then connected by slide fastener **16**.

If the wearer desires to wear only the sandal **22**, it may be slipped on as described above.

It is thus seen that the above described combined gaiter and sandal offers a high degree of protection to the wearer's foot from rain, snow, etc. Further, it is easy to put on and remove and may be worn by women wearing high heels with comfort and facility. It is obvious that it can be made from a variety of resilient materials such as plastic, rubber, etc., and marked with designs to give it an air of attractiveness.

While there is disclosed above but one embodiment of the combined gaiter and sandal, it is possible to produce still other embodiments without departing from the inventive concept herein disclosed.

What is claimed is:

A leg protector for protecting the wearer's lower leg and foot during inclement weather, said leg protector comprising a gaiter having an elongated wide contoured body with substantially straight side margins, said gaiter being adapted to fit snugly around the wearer's leg between the knee and the ankle, slide fastener means for connecting together the margins of said gaiter at the side of the wearer's leg, an ankle piece integral with the bottom of said gaiter and extending forwardly a distance therefrom for covering the wearer's instep, the bottom rear portion of said gaiter extending downwardly on the wearer's heel to a level below said ankle piece, a sandal adapted to fit over the wearer's foot, said sandal having

an opening at the rear of the sole and a heel portion constituting a strap for supporting the sandal on the wearer's foot, said heel portion extending upwardly on the wearer's foot and under the bottom of said gaiter, slide fastener means for connecting a front upper marginal portion of said sandal to the margin of said ankle piece, and a sole strap connected at one end to one side of said gaiter, said sole strap being adapted to girt the underside of said sandal, the other end of said sole strap having a snap fastener for securing said sole strap to said gaiter at the side opposite the first mentioned side.

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