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SHOE OR LIKE RACK

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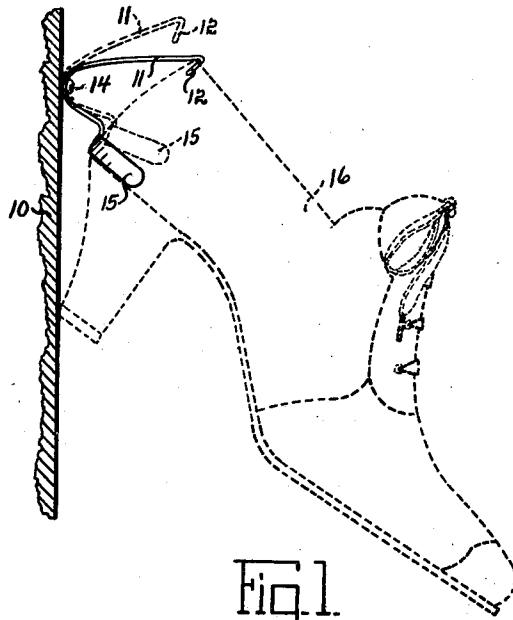


Fig. 1.

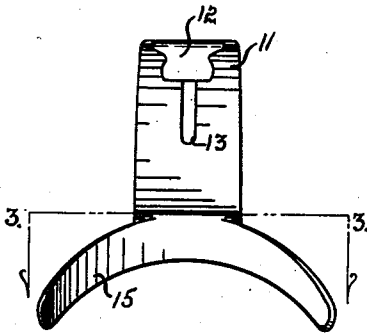


Fig. 2.

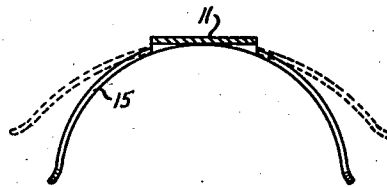


Fig. 3.

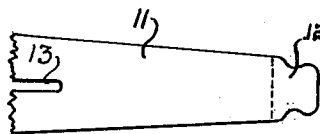


Fig. 4.

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SHOE OR LIKE RACK

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3 Claims. (Cl. 211—35)

The principal object of my invention is to provide a shoe or like rack that may be adjustably secured to a supporting structure for correctly supporting a shoe.

5 A further object of this invention is to provide a shoe rack for either displaying the shoe or supporting it while it is not in use.

10 A still further object of my invention is to provide a shoe rack that will support all sizes and shapes of shoes.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a shoe or like rack that is extremely economical in manufacture, durable and efficient in use and refined in appearance.

15 These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of the device, whereby the objects contemplated 20 are attained as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of my shoe or like rack secured to a supporting structure and showing how a shoe is supported thereby.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged front elevational view of my shoe rack more fully illustrating its structure.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged top sectional view of my shoe rack taken on the approximate line 3—3 of 30 Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged top plan view of the top supporting member of my shoe rack before it is formed more clearly showing its structure.

Hereofore shoes have been stored or displayed 35 on large supporting bases or placed in pouches. These former methods of holding shoes have been objectionable due to the bulk of the racks requiring a great amount of space. Also these racks do not hold the shoe in the proper shape. The rack 40 type of holder permits the shoe to curl at the sole and allows the side portions of the shoe to sag and gap. With the pouch type of holder the shoes are flattened and broken down and the shoes are not readily visible for selection. Also 45 these devices are costly and do not fit all sizes and types of shoes.

I have overcome such disadvantages as will be appreciated and as will be hereinafter set forth.

Referring to the drawing, I have used the numeral 10 to designate a supporting structure which may be a wall, rack bar, box, shelf or the like.

My shoe rack can be formed from one sheet of material, such as steel, plastic or the like, and 55 comprises an elongated arm 11, having an en-

gaging tab 12 formed on its forward end portion and bent downwardly and rearwardly relative to the balance of the arm 11, as shown in the drawing. The rearward portion is bent in U-shape and has cut therein a slot or like 13, as shown in 5 Fig. 2.

A screw 14 or the like may be introduced through this slot 13 for securing the rack to the supporting structure 10 and the arm 11 can be moved to the desired attitude or inclination, as 10 shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1 and the screw 14 then tightened. It will here be noted that a series of holes may be employed for this adjustment in lieu of the slot 13.

I have used the numeral 15 to designate a yoke or rest bar formed on the lower end of the arm 11 and designed to encompass the rearward portion of the counter of a shoe adjacent the heel. This rest has its two arms or fingers extending 20 outwardly and curved forwardly to follow the lower outline of the counter of the shoe. The end portions of this yoke or rest bar are curved outwardly to facilitate the placing of the shoe therein and this yoke is flexible in order that it may assume the shape of the shoe and flex as 25 shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3.

I have used the numeral 16 to indicate a shoe, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

The practical use of my device is as follows:

30 The U-shaped arm 11 is secured to any supporting structure, thus holding the rack in position. The finger or hook 12 is introduced into the upper rear side of the counter of the shoe and the counter of the shoe next to the heel is brought to rest in the yoke portion 15. When a 35 lady's shoe is placed in the rack, this yoke must be small and when a man's shoe is placed on the rack the yoke must be larger. To accommodate these varying sizes of shoes, I have made this yoke portion flexible in order that the yoke will 40 automatically conform to the size and shape of shoe.

Obviously, the yoke portion may be V-shaped and of rigid structure or of such other shape 45 necessary to give adequate support to the lower portion of the counter of the shoe and also the shape of the arm 11 may be varied to suit individual conditions.

It will be noted by reference to the drawing that the tab finger, or hook 12 may have its side 50 portions so notched and formed as to receive the upper rear portion of the counter of the shoe and retain it in position. These notches receive the marginal edges of the shoe counter and retain 55 this portion of the shoe firmly and securely.

The angle at which it is desired to have the shoe 16 inclined may be changed at the will of the user or adjusted for uniformity by merely changing the angle of the complete rack relative to its supporting structure.

By using my rack, the center of gravity of the shoe is forward of the rack and the weight of the shoe holds the shoe in its proper shape and prevents the counter from sagging and the shoe from deforming itself due to improper support, also due to the fact that all shoes are readily visible it is easy to select a given shoe from a variety of shoes and the shoes may be placed on the rack or removed therefrom with a minimum of effort and without chance of injuring the shoe.

My shoe rack is of great utility both as a shoe rack for the home and for use in displaying shoes. Very little contact between the shoe and the rack makes the whole shoe readily visible and lends the advantage of compactness to multiple shoe retaining racks.

Thus, it will be seen that I have provided a shoe rack which fulfills all of my objects and presents many more obvious advantages and which fulfills several important functions. The shoe is supported in the proper attitude and is held there firmly, the rack is adjustable to meet varying conditions, is refined in appearance and tends to hold the shoe in the proper way to prevent the sagging or distortion of the shoe and, furthermore, my rack takes up very little space when it is not being used for supporting shoes.

Some changes may be made in the construction and improvement of my shoe or like rack without departing from the real spirit and pur-

pose of my invention and it is my intention to cover by claims any modified forms of structure or use of mechanical equivalents which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, an arm element designed to be secured to a supporting structure, means for adjusting said arm relative to said supporting structure, a shoe engaging tab formed on one end of said arm and having notches therein for receiving the upper rearward portion of a shoe or like, and a yoke element secured to the other end of said arm and designed to engage the lower rear portion of the counter of the shoe.

2. A shoe rack comprising a U-shaped member having a slot at the bight of the U for adjustable attachment to a vertical surface, the upper end of the U member being provided with a hook element for engaging over the upper part of the counter of a shoe and the lower end of the U element being provided with a yoke for engaging the lower part of the counter of a shoe near the heel.

3. A shoe rack comprising a U-shaped member having a slot at the bight of the U for adjustable attachment to a vertical surface, the upper end of the U member being provided with a hook element for engaging over the upper part of the counter of a shoe and the lower end of the U element being provided with a flexible yoke for engaging and conforming to the shape of the lower part of the counter of a shoe near the heel.

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