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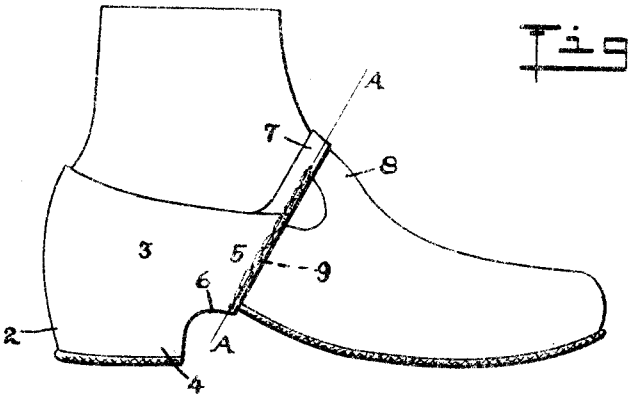
HEEL POCKET.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 6, 1914.

1,129,439.

Patented Feb. 23, 1915.

Fig. 1.



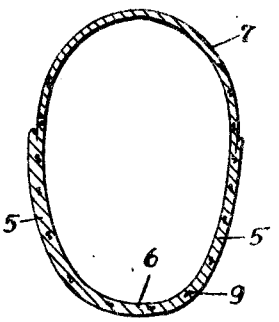


Fig. 2.

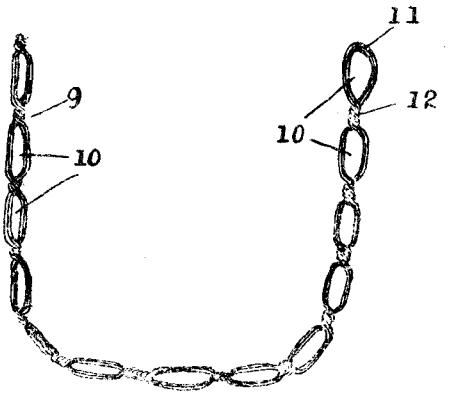


Fig. 3.

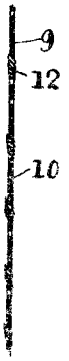


Fig. 4.

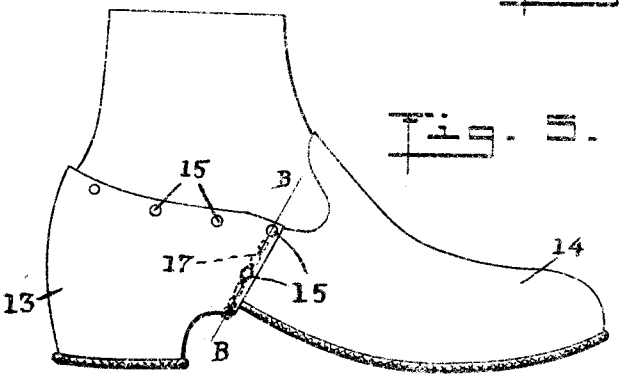


Fig. 5.

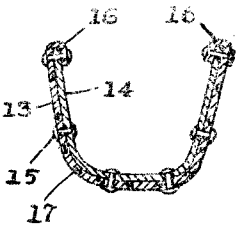


Fig. 6.

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HEEL-POCKET.

1,129,439. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 23, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH J. ALLEN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of South Orange, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Heel-Pockets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of articles which are employed for protecting the heel of a shoe, either by supplementing the worn out heel of an ordinary rubber or overshoe or in conjunction with a foothold or sandal protecting the forward part of the foot, and the objects of the invention are to provide such a heel pocket which can be used and worn in a manner very similar to that in which a sandal or foothold is now used and worn for the forward part of the foot; to provide a heel pocket which can be slipped on and off like a sandal or foothold; to provide means for securing the pocket in place; to reinforce the front or free end of said pocket; to provide a reinforcement which will yield or elongate somewhat; to embed the reinforcement in the material of which the pocket is composed; to obtain a firm connection between said material and the reinforcement; to secure simplicity of construction, and to obtain other advantages and results as may be brought out in the following description.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals of reference indicate the same parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a shoe and overshoe to which my invention has been applied; Fig. 2 is a sectional view of my improved heel pocket on line A—A of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of certain reinforcement shown dotted in Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is an edge view of a portion of the same; Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a modified construction of my heel pocket, and Fig. 6 is a section on line B—B thereof.

In the specific embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawings, the reference numeral 1 indicates an overshoe over the heel end of which is held my improved heel pocket 2. Said pocket preferably follows the shape and contour of the heel end of the overshoe so as to fit snugly thereon, and is therefore formed with a counter 3 of a height substantially that of the overshoe and has at its bottom a heel depression 4 adapted to receive and surround the heel of the overshoe. The ends of the counter 3 preferably extend forwardly somewhat beyond the heel depression, as at 5, and are joined at the bottom, providing a sole portion 6. It will be understood that this sole portion is integral with both the counters 3 and the heel depression 4 and is adapted to fit up under the arch of the overshoe so as to be above the bottom of the heel, and thus elevated from the pavement or the like when in use.

Joining the tops of the ends 5 of the counter is a strap 7 preferably vulcanized or otherwise secured to the counter and extending upwardly forming at its front edge a continuation of the front edge of the counter. This strap is made and adapted to extend over the instep of the user's foot for holding the heel pocket in position, and preferably overlaps the usual storm tongue 8 forming part of the overshoe.

In the use of my improved heel pocket it will be seen that the strap 7 and the front edge of the counter are subject to a stretching tendency and I preferably reinforce these parts to prevent breakage and yet admit sufficient stretching for applying and holding the device in place. To this end I preferably vulcanize a reinforcement 9 within the front portions or ends 5 of the counter and the front portion of the sole 6 extending around the same in U-shape with its end continuing upward and vulcanized in the strap 7. In this manner a reinforcement is effected which will also prevent the strap from being readily torn from the counter. The reinforcement which I prefer to employ comprises a cable wire or wire having a plurality of strands, this wire being formed into a plurality of loops 10 throughout its length. The specific manner whereby these loops are obtained in the present instance is by doubling the wire intermediate of its end as at 11 and twisting the two portions together at a short distance from the double or bend 11, as at 12. Then beyond the twist 12 the two portions of wire are spread away from each other forming another loop, the wire coming together and being twisted as before at the bottom of the loop, and so on. In vulcanizing this wire reinforcement in place, the rubber joins through and around the loops, said loops lying flatwise of the material. Furthermore the twisted portions between the loops

are made as flat in the plane of the loops as possible and may be hammered or pressed for this purpose.

As the front edge of the counter is subjected to a stretching tendency the loops 10 will elongate and allow the rubber to stretch moderately. However, the stretch which this reinforcement will admit is sufficiently limited that the rubber will not be subjected to a strain exceeding the elastic limit of the material and thus tear, nor will the upper edge of the counter be pulled upward to such an extent as to be unsightly. Furthermore, the reinforcement is flat enough so as to add no material thickness to the edge of the counter and being made from cable wire the rubber will obtain a firm grip upon the reinforcement so that the counter and the reinforcement unite as a substantially integral unit.

It will be understood that my improved heel pocket can be worn by itself, or it can be worn in conjunction with a foothold or sandal to also protect the heels; or it can be worn outside of a rubber or overshoe whose heel has become so worn as to afford sufficient protection, thus supplementing the partially worn out rubber or overshoe and making it as good as new.

The heel pocket may be slipped on and taken off independent of the overshoe, that is, the overshoe may be left on the wearer's foot and the heel pocket applied or removed as desired. But it will be obvious that the heel pocket may be left upon the overshoe and the overshoe put on or taken off without disturbing the heel pocket therefrom. The overshoe and heel pocket are more readily removed or applied at a single operation by the strap 7 extending over the tongue 8 of the overshoe although should the tongue 8 be omitted the simultaneous removal or application of the device with the overshoe could still be effected.

Under some circumstances it may be desirable to unite the heel pocket with the overshoe in such manner that the heel pocket necessarily remains upon the overshoe at all times. This end may be accomplished in various ways, one of which is shown in Figs. 5 and 6 wherein a heel pocket 13 is shown secured to an overshoe 14. The heel pocket may be cemented in place upon the overshoe and indeed it is preferable to cement the edges of the heel pocket in place even if no other parts are cemented. As a further means of securing the pocket to the overshoe, I have shown rivets or fasteners 15 of any suitable construction at intervals along the edges of the pocket. Furthermore, greater strength and increased attractiveness is obtained by doubling the upper edge of the pocket over the upper edge of the overshoe, as at 16, and I prefer to have the rivets or fasteners 15 extend through this turned over edge 16 as well as through the outer or exposed portion of the pocket and the overshoe.

With the heel pocket thus held upon the overshoe, it is not essential that a strap extend over the tongue of the overshoe and I have accordingly not shown any strap in connection with this modified construction. However, I deem it important to reinforce the front edge of the pocket as in the previous case, with a wire reinforcement 17. Preferably the rivets or fasteners 15 along this front edge of the pocket pass through the loops of the reinforcement, so that the reinforcement will be riveted to the overshoe and thus more positively secure the edge of the heel pocket thereto.

Obviously detail modifications may be made in manufacturing my improved heel pocket without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself except as required by the following claims when construed in the light of the prior art.

Having thus described the invention what I claim is,—

1. In a heel pocket, the combination with a body portion arranged to receive the heel of a shoe and being open at its front with upwardly projecting side walls, of a strap extending along the front end margin of said side walls upwardly therebeyond in a closed loop and adapted to reinforce the ends of said side walls.

2. A heel pocket comprising a counter having a heel depression integral therewith, said counter having ends extending in front of said heel depression, a sole portion joining the bottoms of the extending ends and the heel depression, a reinforcement extending through the front marginal edges of the extending edges of the counter and the sole portion, and means for retaining said heel pocket in position on a wearer's foot.

3. A heel pocket comprising in combination with means for surrounding the heel portion of an overshoe, a reinforcement comprising a series of loops adapted to be inclosed by the material comprising the heel pocket flatwise thereof admitting a limited stretch of said material by virtue of the elongation of said loops.

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