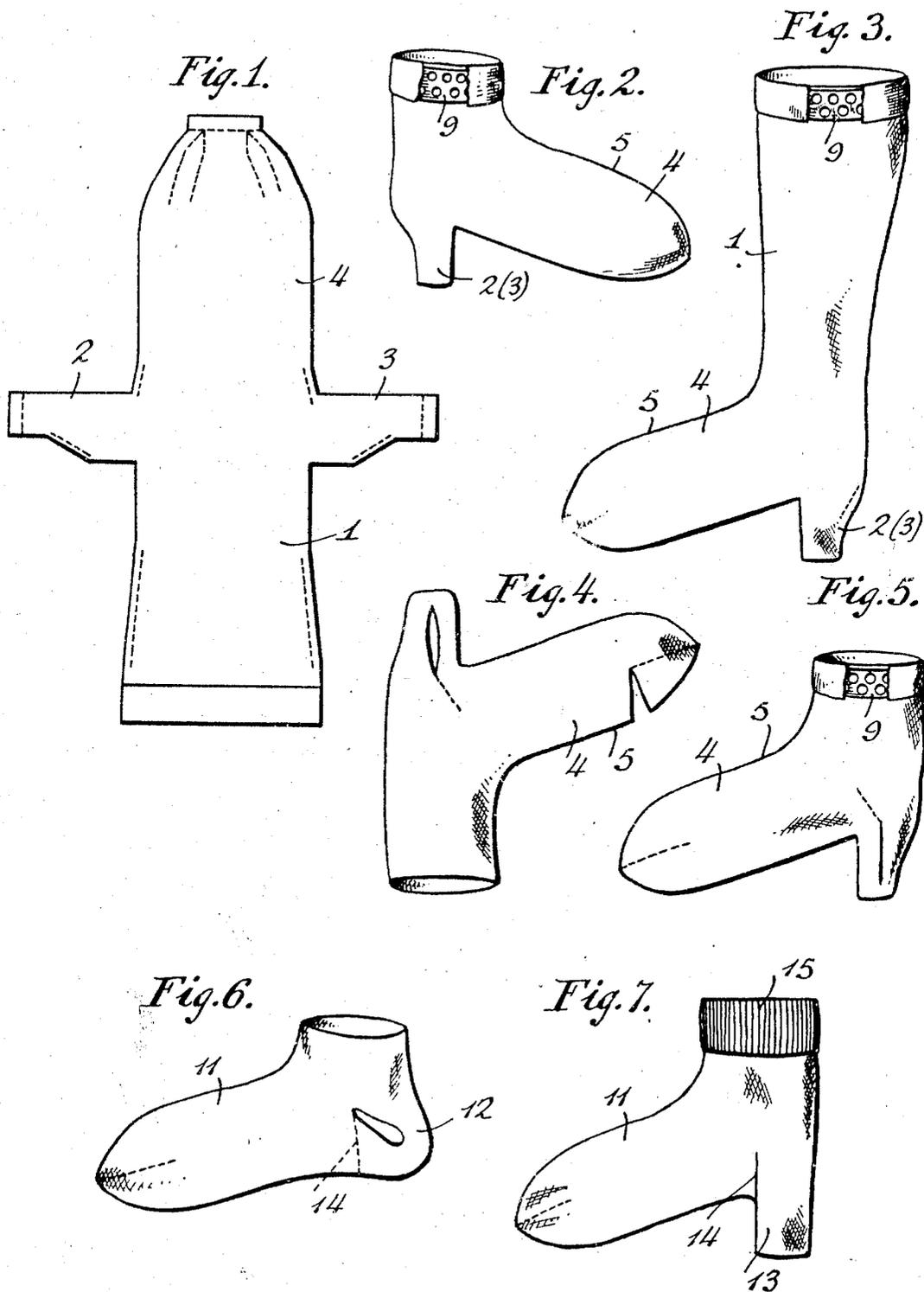


Feb. 24, 1931.

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PROTECTING LINING FOR SHOES

1,794,035

Filed March 19, 1930



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PROTECTING LINING FOR SHOES

Application filed March 19, 1930, Serial No. 436,946, and in Germany April 2, 1929.

My invention relates to shoe protectors or linings adapted to be worn between the shoe and an overshoe, and has for one of its objects to provide a shoe protector of this type which will effectively protect the whole surface of the shoe and also, if desired, the lower part or all of the stocking against soiling, wear and injury to the color or finish thereof. It is also an object of the invention to provide a shoe protector which is neat in appearance and simple and inexpensive to manufacture. It is a further object of the invention to provide a novel method of forming a lining of the type indicated having a heel portion adapted to receive and protect the heel of the shoe, the heel of the lining being constituted of extensions formed during the knitting of the lining.

There have already been proposed a number of different kinds of linings to protect the shoe against soiling when overshoes are worn in cold or wet weather. These known linings were in general provided with openings at their heels through which the heels of the shoes were passed, so that the heels were not covered and, therefore, not protected against dirt. Such known linings were also usually so constructed, particularly when made of cut material, that there was present a seam or thickened portion at the upper or instep portion thereof which rubbed against the top part of the shoe and injured the finish thereof, frequently producing lighter colored streaks which spoiled the appearance of the shoe.

In accordance with a preferred mode of carrying out the present invention, shoe linings having bag-like heel portions adapted to encase the heel of a shoe, and free of the objectionable seam mentioned above, are made on a regular or circular knitting machine. It has never before been recognized that an article of this type could be made on these machines. I obtain, in this manner, a shoe lining which covers the whole of the shoe including the heel, which is free of friction areas and very elastic so that it can easily be pulled over a shoe having any type of heel and fitted snugly thereon. According to the present invention, a projecting

heel portion may be formed integral with the main body of the lining on a circular knitting machine and extended beyond the usual outline of the lining. Such heel portion is capable of being sewn together to provide a bag-like heel extension which may be either closed or open at its bottom, as desired.

In the accompanying drawing are shown, by way of example, several embodiments of the invention. In said drawing, Figure 1 shows a form of the protecting lining or stocking as it leaves the Cotton machine; Figures 2 and 3 show two forms of completed protecting linings or socks; Figure 4 shows the form of a lining or sock as it leaves a circular knitting machine; Figure 5 shows the lining of Figure 4 in finished condition; and Figures 6 and 7 illustrate a modified form of the invention.

The protecting lining shown in Figure 1 is made like an ordinary sock or stocking on the Cotton machine except that, in accordance with the present invention, the heel portions 2, 3 are formed on the leg portion and then cut, whereupon the leg portion is placed on the foot machine and the foot portion 4 formed. The heel portions 2, 3 are made somewhat longer than the heel on the finished lining or sock. The edges of the blank form coming from the machine are connected in the usual manner by stitching or in any other suitable way. The portions 2, 3 which project beyond the outline of the usual sock or stocking heel form, when they are sewed together, a bag-like covering or casing for the heel of the shoe.

The form of the invention shown in Figures 4 and 5 comprises a protecting lining made on a circular knitting machine in a manner similar to the manufacture of a seamless stocking or sock with a ribbed edge or top. By this mode of manufacture there is formed only a single heel portion in the form of a bag by cutting out the increasing and decreasing mechanism after half of the heel is finished. The machine thus knits the narrow piece of goods without increase or decrease. The edges of the two openings at both sides of the heel and also the end of the

foot portion are sewn together or otherwise attached.

The heel portion of the lining can also be made in a manner shown in Figures 6 and 7 as follows:

After removal of the blank form from the machine the object is cut up in a manner shown in line 5, so that the heel portion 2 is hanging down perpendicularly. It is now stitched and connected with the foot portion, as per Figure 5. Then the heel extension 3 is also stitched or connected in any other suitable manner at its foreside unconnected edges and, if desired, the lower edges are treated in the same manner. Finally an edge may be provided at the top edge as shown in 8.

It will be seen from the above that I have provided a shoe-protecting lining which has the elasticity and resiliency of knitted material and is free of seams at the top or instep portion 5 thereof, so that no injury to the color or finish of the shoe can result from friction as would be the case if a seam or rib of greater thickness or consistency than the rest of the lining were present at such instep portion.

In order to hold the top edge of the lining to the ankle or leg of the wearer, I may form such edge of elastic ribbed material which is folded over and sewed to form a loop within which may be positioned a preferably perforated elastic band or garter, such as one of pure Pará rubber.

Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, the bottom of the heel portion may be left open instead of being closed, the heel portion being so formed that it fits tightly against the heel of the shoe to avoid being pushed upwardly when the overshoe is put on. The free edges of the heel may in such case be suitably treated to prevent unraveling, as by being hemmed or reinforced with a rubber coating. The heel portion may also be made separately and then attached to the main body of the lining in any suitable manner.

Where in the claims I employ the term "sock-like article", such term is to be understood as including also stocking-like articles, i. e. those whose leg portions reach to or above the calf or knee.

What is claimed is:

1. A shoe-protecting lining adapted to be worn between a shoe and an overshoe, comprising a knitted sock-like article having a heel portion extended beyond the normal heel of a sock and forming a bag-like casing for receiving the heel of a shoe, the instep portion of said lining being of uniform thickness, whereby rubbing against the top of the shoe and injury to the color or finish thereof are prevented.

2. A shoe-protecting lining adapted to be

worn between a shoe and an overshoe, comprising a sock-like article composed of one piece of material and having a heel portion extended beyond the normal heel of a sock and forming a bag-like casing for receiving the heel of a shoe, the instep portion of said lining being of uniform thickness, whereby rubbing against the top of the shoe and injury to the color or finish thereof are prevented.

3. A shoe-protecting lining adapted to be worn between a shoe and an overshoe, comprising a knitted sock-like article composed of one piece of material and having a heel portion extended beyond the normal heel of a sock and forming a bag-like casing for receiving the heel of a shoe, the instep portion of said lining being of uniform thickness, whereby rubbing against the top of the shoe and injury to the color or finish thereof are prevented.

In testimony whereof, I have affixed my signature.

PAUL LINUS SCHÖNFELD.