April 6, 1948.

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2,439,217

OPEN HEEL SHOE HAVING A HEEL COVERING AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

Filed June 28, 1947

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My present invention relates generally to shoes, and has particular reference to an improved construction and procedure relating to the heel region of the shoe.

The general object of the invention is to simplify the provision and application of a heel-seat cover and of a heel cover in a shoe of the so-called D'Orsay type in which the vamp terminates in the shank region of the shoe. A coordinate object is to provide an assembly of parts in which the heel-seat cover and the heel cover are of unusually neat appearance, firmly and tautly retained in position and of simplified and economical character.

The features of the invention are of particular utility in an article of footwear of the mule or sandal type in which there is no quarter in the heel region. However, certain phases of the invention are not necessarily restricted to shoes of this particular style.

Briefly stated, the advantages of the improved construction and procedure are predicated upon the employment of a pre-formed enclosure consisting of a stitched assembly of two blanks or sheets, one defining a heel-seat cover, the other a heel cover. This enclosure is constructed as an independent unit, and may be produced at low expense by relatively unskilled hands. It is applied to the shoe only after an insole has been otherwise completely assembled or made ready for assembly with a vamp, and after a heel has been attached to the rear end of the insole. The enclosure is adapted to fit over and snugly envelop the heel and the rear end of the insole, and the completion of the shoe then involves nothing more than the application of an outside which preferably underlies the covered heel.

I achieve the foregoing objects and advantages, and such other objects and advantages as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, in the manner illustratively exemplified in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank defining the heel cover;
Figure 2 is a plan view of the blank defining the heel-seat cover;
Figure 3 is a perspective view of these two elements shown in united relationship;
Figure 4 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 4--4 of Figure 2;
Figure 5 is a perspective view of the heel region of a shoe during one stage of manufacture;
Figure 6 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 6--6 of Figure 5; and
Figure 7 is a perspective view of the finished shoe.

To explain the features of the invention, I have chosen to illustrate it in connection with a sandal-type shoe of the character shown in Figure 7. This shoe is provided with a forwardly tapered heel 10, an outsole 11 which is co-extensive in length with the shoe and underlies the heel, a vamp 12 which terminates in the shank region of the shoe, and a strap 13 which extends rearwardly from the vamp and is adapted to engage around the foot of the wearer. In the heel region, the shoe illustrated is devoid of an upper or quarter.

In carrying out the present invention, I first cut or stamp out blanks or sheets 14 and 15, as indicated in Figures 1 and 2. These sheets or elements may be composed of any suitable material such as woven or felled fabric, or its equivalent. The sheet 14 is of elongated character, having an edge 16 which is preferably convex at the center, as shown, and an opposite edge 17 which is preferably provided with cut-outs or notches 18. The sheet 15 has substantially the shape of a heel-seat cover with a transverse front edge 19, side edges 20, and a convex or semi-circular rear edge 21.

Quite independently of the other shoe-assembling procedures, the two blanks or sheets of Figures 1 and 2 are stitched together as indicated in Figures 3 and 4. The edge 16 of the element 14 is laid along the side and rear edges 20 and 21 of the element 15, and stitched thereto by a row of stitches 22. The stitched edges are arranged wrong-side out, so that when the assembly of Figure 3 is turned into the disposition shown in Figures 5 and 6, the stitches 22 will be concealed.

In a separate procedure, the rear end of an insole 23 (of any suitable or desired thickness or material) is attached to a heel 24. The attachment may be achieved by means of nails or equivalent fasteners, or the parts may be held together by adhesive means. The heel 24 may be composed of any desired material, and may have any desired shape. The wedge-shaped heel shown in the present drawings is intended to be purely illustrative.

Preferably, the insole 23 is assembled in any suitable fashion with the vamp part of the upper prior to the application of the stitched assembly shown in Figure 3. However, the practice of the invention is entirely independent of the forward
part of the shoe, and, if desired, the completion of the shoe in its forward region may be subsequently accomplished.

In either case, the unit shown in Figure 3 is turned inside out and is then applied from the rear into an enveloping or enclosing relation to the heel 24 and the rear end of the insole 23. It is held in position by adhesive previously applied to the insole, to the heel and insole, or without adhesive. This associates the parts in the manner best illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. The side and rear margins 25 (Figure 6) of the heel-seat cover 19 assume a turned-down disposition embracing the edge of the insole, and the stitched or upper edge of the heel cover 14 assumes the turned-in disposition shown. The notched edge or margin 17 of the heel cover is then folded to lie beneath the heel 24, and may be adhesively secured in this position.

As a final step, the outsole 11 is applied, preferably by adhesive means, and this firmly engages and retains in position the lower internut margin of the heel cover 14.

In the finished shoe, the heel-seat cover 19 lies flat and taut. The heel cover 14 also lies smoothly and neatly over the exposed side and rear surfaces of the heel.

For style purposes, it is obvious that the heel-seat cover and the heel cover may be composed of contrasting materials, although this is not essential. Moreover, if the shoe is of the kind in which a quarter is to be employed, with or without reinforcement by a counter, it is a relatively simple matter to associate this quarter with the unit shown in Figure 3, prior to the application of this enclosure to the heel and insole as indicated in Figures 5 and 6. The economies of the present invention manifest themselves to best advantage, however, when the shoe is of the mule or sandal type shown.

In general, it will be understood that those skilled in the art may in a number of respects make changes in the details herein described and illustrated without necessarily departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

Having thus described and illustrated my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a shoe, an insole, a heel attached to its rear end, and a pre-formed enclosure enveloping said heel and rear end, said enclosure comprising a sheet defining a heel-seat cover and having front, side, and rear edges, and a second sheet defining a heel cover and stitched along its upper edge to the side and rear edges of said first-named sheet.

2. In a shoe, an insole, a heel attached to its rear end, and a pre-formed enclosure enveloping said heel and rear end, said enclosure comprising a sheet defining a heel-seat cover and having front, side, and rear edges, said side and rear edges having downturned margins adapted to embrace the edge of the insole, and a second sheet defining a heel cover and having an internut upper edge stitched to said margins.

3. In a shoe, an insole, a heel attached to its rear end, an outsole underlying said heel, and a pre-formed enclosure enveloping said heel and said rear end of the insole, said enclosure comprising a sheet defining a heel-seat cover and having front, side, and rear edges, and a second sheet defining a heel cover and stitched along its upper edge to the side and rear edges of said first-named sheet, said heel cover having its lower edge sandwiched between said heel and outsole.

4. An enclosure for the rear end of a shoe, comprising a sheet defining a heel-seat cover and a second sheet disposed at substantially right angles to said heel-seat cover and having an edge thereof stitched side-out to the side and rear edges of said heel-seat cover.

5. In the manufacture of a shoe, the steps which consist in first forming an enclosure by stitching a heel-seat cover along its side and rear edges to the upper edge of a heel cover, attaching a heel to the rear end of an insole, and then applying said enclosure to the heel and insole.

6. In the manufacture of a shoe, the steps which consist in first forming an enclosure by stitching a heel-seat cover along its side and rear edges to the upper edge of a heel cover, attaching a heel to the rear end of an insole, applying said enclosure to the heel and insole and folding the lower edge of the heel cover beneath the heel, and then applying an outsole to said heel to hold said lower edge in position.

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