

J. LA CROIX.
HEEL SUPPORT.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 29, 1910.

984,571.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

Fig. 1

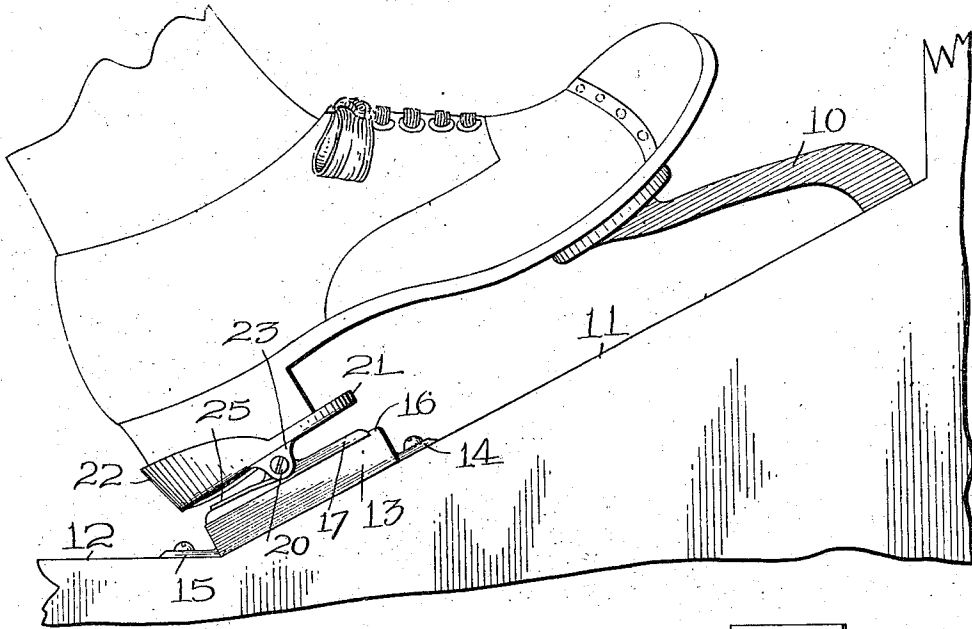


Fig. 2

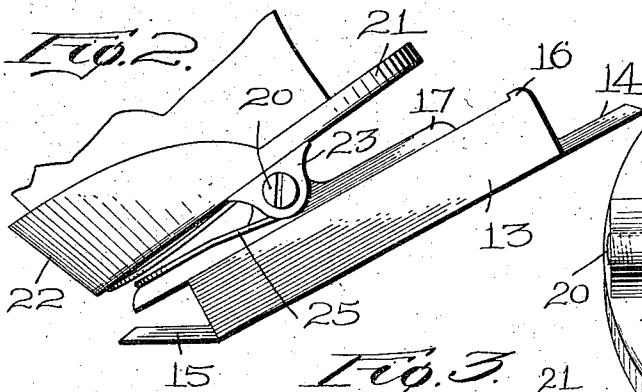
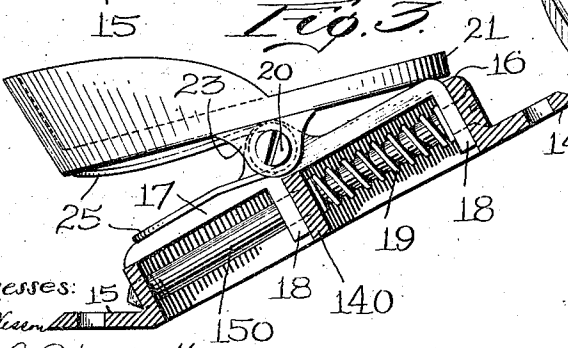
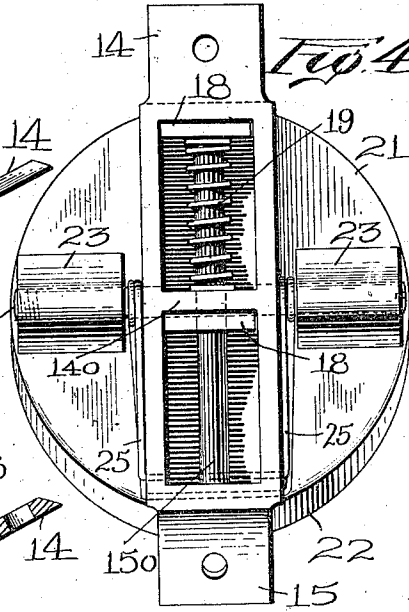


Fig. 3



Witnesses:
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Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH LA CROIX, OF SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

HEEL-SUPPORT.

984,571.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH LA CROIX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Southbridge, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Heel-Support, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a device for supporting the heel of an operator in such a position that he can bring the front part of his foot conveniently into place for operating the accelerator treadle or lever of an automobile; also to provide a support of this character with means whereby the heel is not only conveniently supported, but is capable of making the necessary motion to operate the treadle and to leave it in a convenient position when the operator's foot is at rest.

The invention also contains several other features and advantages and improvements in details of construction as will appear hereinafter.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a portion of an automobile showing an ordinary accelerator treadle and a heel support therefor constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a side view of the heel support on a larger scale showing the same in the position which it assumes when the toe of the foot is raised and the heel is brought back. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the support in the other extreme position and showing the internal parts in longitudinal cross section, and Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Ordinarily the accelerator lever or treadle is operated by the operator's foot and the heel rests below near the angle at the bottom of the foot rest. This results in digging the heel into the parts below that support it, and as there is no particular place for the heel to rest the operator does not always get it in the proper position for the most efficient operation of the treadle. Also as there is a tilting movement of the foot heel is likely to get out of place and the toe sometimes slips from the treadle. This invention is designed to remedy these defects and provides a positive support for the heel which always will be in proper position, but which can move sufficiently to allow for the necessary movements of the operator's foot.

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that the treadle 10 is shown in the usual po-

sition near the dash of an automobile. Located on the slanting part 11 between the treadle and the bottom 12 of the front portion of the machine is a fixed base 13 having a straight ear 14 and an angular ear 15 by which it is secured respectively to the slanting and the horizontal parts 11 and 12. In this way it is located just above the angle between these two parts. This base is shown as provided with an integral cross piece 140 and as having a fixed rod 150 extending through the cross piece from end to end. This rod preferably is screw threaded at one end so that it can be removed for repairs.

The base, which obviously is located on an incline and at a suitable distance from the treadle 10, is provided with an upper surface having an integral stop 16 at the top thereof. On this surface is a plate 17 having a pair of ears 18 standing downwardly therefrom and perforated to receive the rod 150. This rod therefore serves as a guide for the plate 17 and the plate is capable of sliding up and down the inclined surface until its top comes into engagement with the stop 16. The ears 18 are so located and designed that they also come into engagement with the partition 140 and the end of the base when the top of the plate engages the stop 16. Mounted between the partition 140 and the upper ear 18 is a spring 19 surrounding the rod and acting normally to force and hold the plate in its uppermost position against the stop.

Mounted transversely on the plate 17 is a rod 20 also screw threaded at one end. On this rod is mounted the heel support 21. This support is capable of swinging about the center of the rod as an axis. It comprises a flat plate for supporting the heel of the operator and a rim 22 around the back thereof for holding the heel in position. The rod 20 passes through two integral lugs 23 on the bottom of the heel support and the end of the rod is secured in one of these lugs so the rod turns with the heel support. A spring 25 extends around this rod and engages the heel support at the back and the plate 17 below. Therefore this spring normally holds the back of the heel up, but permits the heel to swing on an axis substantially at its center. In this way the heel is capable of two independent motions, both resiliently resisted, so that the operator's foot can take all the positions necessary for operating the treadle and yet

the springs bring the heel support back to proper position. It will be seen also that the operator is always certain that his heel is in proper position if it is on the plate and there is no uncertainty about the proper operation of the treadle.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of the invention I am aware that many modifications can be made therein by any person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as expressed in the claims. Therefore I do not wish to be limited to all the details of construction herein shown and described, but

What I do claim is:—

1. The combination with an accelerator treadle for an automobile, of a heel support adjacent thereto movable toward and from the treadle.

2. The combination with an accelerator treadle for an automobile, of a heel support adjacent thereto movable toward and from the treadle, and oscillatable on a transverse axis.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination of a fixed base adapted to be mounted in inclined position, with a heel support slidably mounted thereon, and slidable longitudinally along the base.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination of a fixed base adapted to be mounted in inclined position, with a heel support slidably mounted thereon.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination of a fixed base adapted to be mounted in inclined position, with a heel support slidably mounted thereon, and

means for resiliently holding the heel support at the top of the base.

6. In a device of the character described, the combination of a fixed base adapted to be mounted in inclined position, with a heel support pivotally mounted thereon, and means for resiliently holding up the rear of the heel support.

7. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base, a fixed rod thereon, a plate slidable on the base having guides engaging said rod, a spring for normally holding the plate in one position, and a heel support mounted on the plate.

8. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base, a fixed rod thereon, a plate slidable on the base having guides engaging said rod, a spring for normally holding the plate in one position, a transverse rod on said plate, a heel support pivoted to swing about the center of said transverse rod, and a spring for normally holding said heel plate in one position.

9. As an article of manufacture, a pivoted heel support constructed and adapted to be mounted on an incline and resiliently held with its rear end up.

10. As an article of manufacture, a slidable heel support constructed and adapted to be mounted on an incline and resiliently held up.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH LA CROIX.

Witnesses:

M. B. CLEMENCE,
A. J. LA CROIX.