

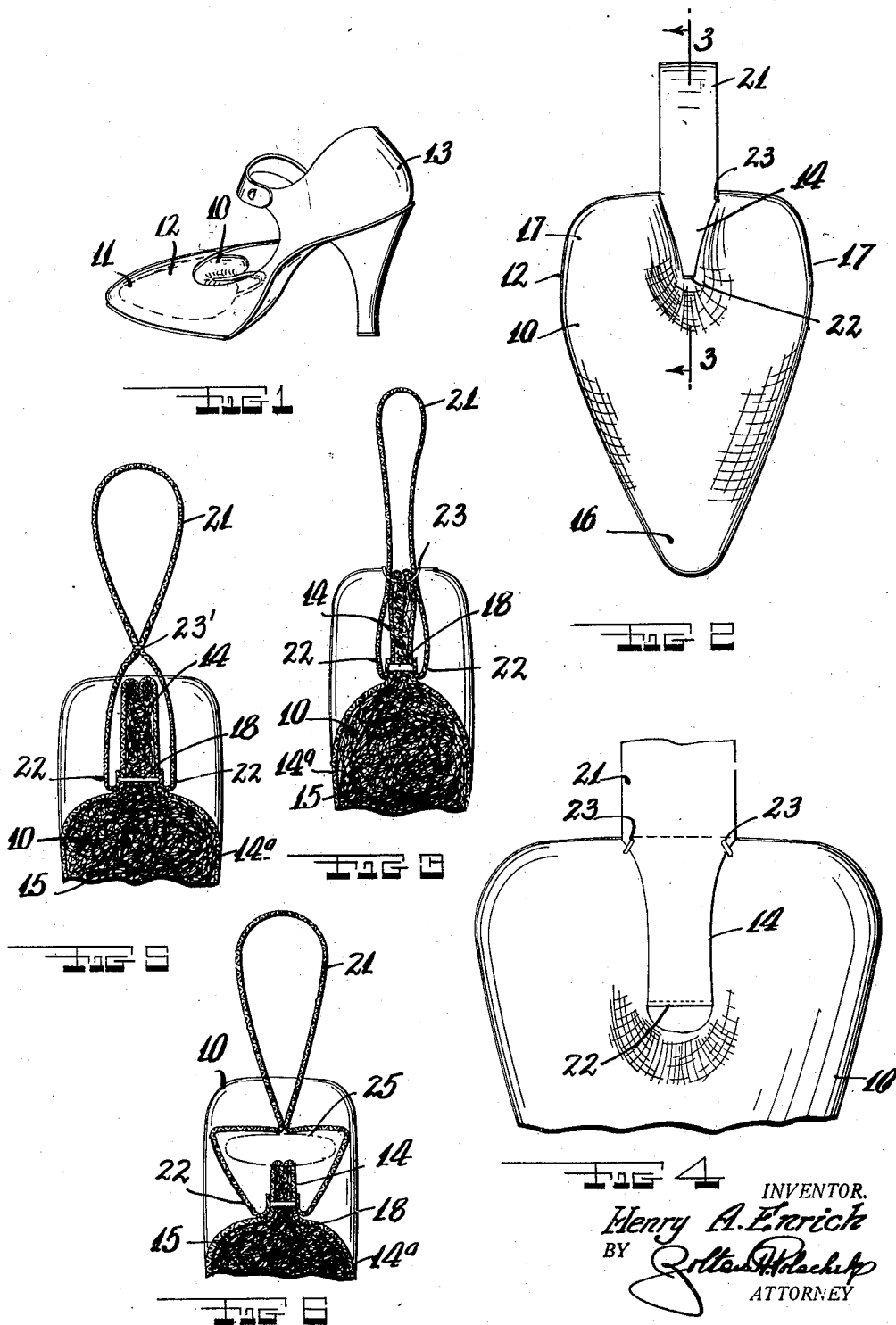
April 12, 1932.

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1,853,896

SHOE FORM

Filed March 17, 1930



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SHOE FORM

Application filed March 17, 1930. Serial No. 436,295.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a shoe form.

The invention has for an object the provision of a device of the class mentioned which is of simple durable construction, dependable in use and efficient in action, and which can be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

The invention proposes a soft plastic, tractable heart-shaped body formed to engage within the toe and vamp sections of a shoe, and so constructed that it may be shaped and forced to various widths and thicknesses to conform with the internal widths and thicknesses of the vamp sections of different shoes.

Heretofore shoe forms have been made with springs or the like resilient material so as to be self adjusting, and such construction is expensive and undesirable in several ways. One undesirable feature is that the inherent resiliency of such shoe forms causes undue outward pressure on the shoe which is harmful, especially where the shoe is made of a light material.

With the present invention, the arrangement is much cheaper than those used at the present time, more durable, and more desirable in every manner. Its natural life is much longer since there are no parts which can cause stresses which may be detrimental to the shoes or destroy and wear the articles out.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a lady's shoe with the shoe form applied.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed plan view of the shoe form, per se.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view of Fig. 3 indicating another condition into which the articles may be forced.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3, but embodying a modification.

Fig. 6 is a view of the device shown in Fig. 5, but in another position.

The shoe form consists of a soft tractable heart-shape body 10 shaped to engage within the toe section 11 and vamp section 12 of a shoe 13, and formed with a thinned longitudinal central portion 14 so that the body may be forced to various widths to conform with the internal widths of the vamp section of different shoes.

The soft tractable heart-shaped body 10 consists of casing material 14^a preferably velvet or other cloth, formed of two equal sections and in such a manner to form a substantially heart-shape or triangular shape when stitched together and provided with filling material 15 encased within. This filling material preferably consists entirely of shredded cork. The shape of the body member for adapting it to engage within the toe and vamp sections of a shoe consists of a pointed round front end 16 to fit the point of conventional shoes and rounded sides 17, so as to form a wider rear end to fit the vamp portion.

By reason of the fact that the casing is filled with shredded cork, the shoe form as a whole is plastic and may be shaped by the hand to assume any desired shape for fitting various shoes. The particles of cork are merely pushed around or rearranged upon shaping the shoe form which may be done with the hands, and the shoe form will remain in any shape given it. Obviously, the shoe form is not inherently resilient and will not change its shape of its own accord.

The thinned longitudinal central portion 14 is formed by stitches 18 bringing opposite sides of the casing material 14^a somewhat closer together. Consequently, somewhat less filling material is held in this portion and forms the thinned portion. The thinned portion may extend from the rear end of the body 10 to a point approximately one-quarter of the distance from end to end of the body. More specifically, the thinned portion may be defined as located towards the rear

end of the vamp portion of a shoe when the device is engaged within a shoe.

As is clearly shown in the drawings, the filling material is disposed between the opposite sides of the casing at the thinned portion thereof so that the opposite walls of the casing do not contact each other at intermediate portions in the shoe form. In use the shoe form may be shaped generally to conform to the shape of the shoe toe and then inserted into the toe. The rear or thinned portion of the shoe form may then be pressed inwardly for filling out the shoe toe. Thus the rear end of the thinned central portion 14 may be forced frontwards so as to press the shoe form firmly against the inner sides of a shoe vamp. In fact, because of the plastic character of the shoe form, the same may be accurately shaped to fit any shape of shoe toe, and the shape of the shoe form will be maintained after the shoe form is once properly shaped. It will be noted that should the rear portions of the shoe form be compressed together, the remainder of the shoe form is not changed in shape since the shoe form is filled with particles and is plastic.

It is desirable to provide a handle for the insertion and retraction of the form within a shoe. Such a handle is provided by a looped ribbon 21 attached at its front ends 22 to the front ends of the reduced portion 14. Intermediate of its ends the ribbon 21 is secured to the rear portion of the tractable body 10 by stitches 23. One's finger may be engaged thru the looped portion and the body inserted or withdrawn from a shoe by such suspension. Stresses caused by manipulating the tractable body by the handle are transmitted to the front and rear of the reduced portion 14 and this distribution reduces any strains to a minimum. Although the shoe form is substantially triangular in shape, with rounded corners, the ribbon at the reduced portion 14 gives the shoe form a heart-shaped appearance.

In Figs. 5 and 6, a looped ribbon 21 is attached at its free ends 22 to the front end of the reduced portion 14. Intermediate the ends of the ribbon and slightly outside of the rear end of the reduced portion 14, stitches 23' connect the portions of the ribbon together. Filling material indicated by dot and dash lines 25 in Fig. 6 may be forced within the ribbon section between the stitches 23' and the free ends 22. This filling material will serve as a wedge for holding the portions of the tractable body on opposite sides of the reduced portion 14 against moving towards each other so that the tractable body may be firmly stuffed within the vamp portion of a shoe.

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

1. A shoe form adapted to be inserted

within the toe of a shoe comprising a flexible casing and a filling therein comprising particles of cork, and being formed with a thinned longitudinal central portion at the rear thereof.

2. A shoe form comprising a soft filled plastic body of substantially triangular shape to engage within the toe of a shoe and formed with a thinned longitudinal central portion at the rear thereof.

3. A shoe form comprising a soft filled plastic shoe body substantially triangular in shape to engage within the toe of a shoe and comprising a flexible casing and a plastic filler therein formed of loose particles, and means for reducing the thickness of an intermediate portion of said shoe body.

4. A shoe form comprising a soft filled plastic shoe body substantially triangular in shape to engage within the toe of a shoe and comprising a flexible casing and a filler therein formed of loose particles, means for reducing the thickness of an intermediate portion of said shoe body, and a handle for said shoe form consisting of a flexible strip attached to opposite sides of said casing.

5. A shoe form comprising a soft filled plastic body of substantially triangular shape to engage within the toe of a shoe and formed with a thinned longitudinal central portion at the rear thereof, and a handle for said shoe form comprising a looped flexible member having ends attached to opposite sides of said body at said reduced portion.

6. A shoe form comprising a soft filled shoe body substantially triangular in shape to engage within the toe of a shoe, and comprising a flexible casing and a filler therein, and a transverse cord within said casing attached to opposite wall portions of said casing for drawing said wall portions closer together to reduce the thickness of an intermediate portion of said shoe.

7. A shoe form comprising a soft filled shoe body substantially triangular in shape to engage within the toe of a shoe, and comprising a flexible casing and a filler therein, and a transverse cord within said casing attached to opposite wall portions of said casing for drawing said wall portions closer together to reduce the thickness of an intermediate portion of said shoe, and a handle for said shoe form consisting of a flexible strip attached to said opposite sides of said casing at said reduced portion.

8. A shoe form comprising a soft filled shoe body substantially triangular in shape to engage within the toe of a shoe, and comprising a flexible casing and a filler therein, and a transverse cord within said casing attached to opposite wall portions of said casing for drawing said wall portions closer together to reduce the thickness of an intermediate portion of said shoe, and a handle for said shoe form consisting of a flexible strip at-

tached to said opposite sides of said casing at said reduced portion, said strip being attached together at the rear of said body to form a loop.

5 In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

HENRY A. ENRICH.

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