Dec. 18, 1945. R. MALING 2,391,023

FOOTWEAR

Filed Dec. 8, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

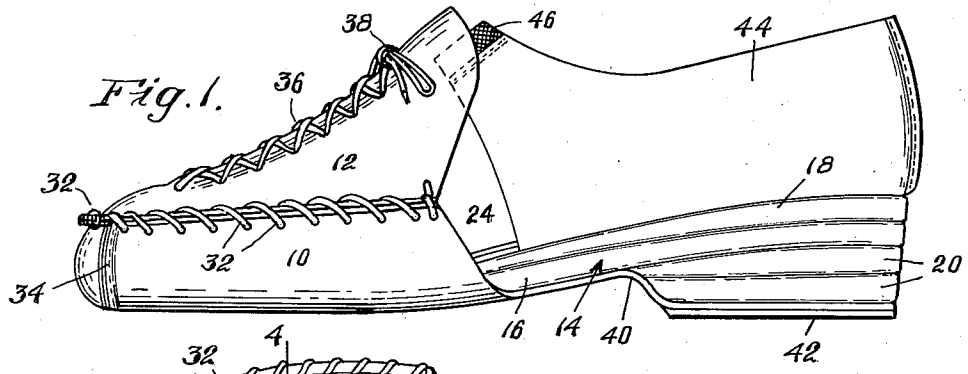


Fig. 2.

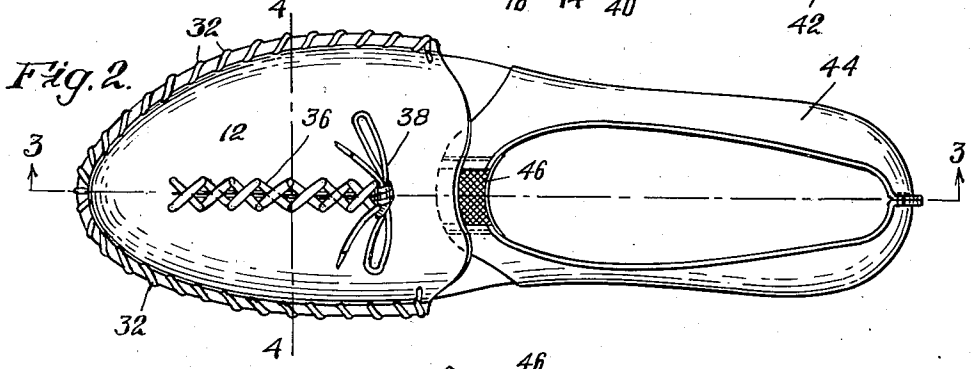
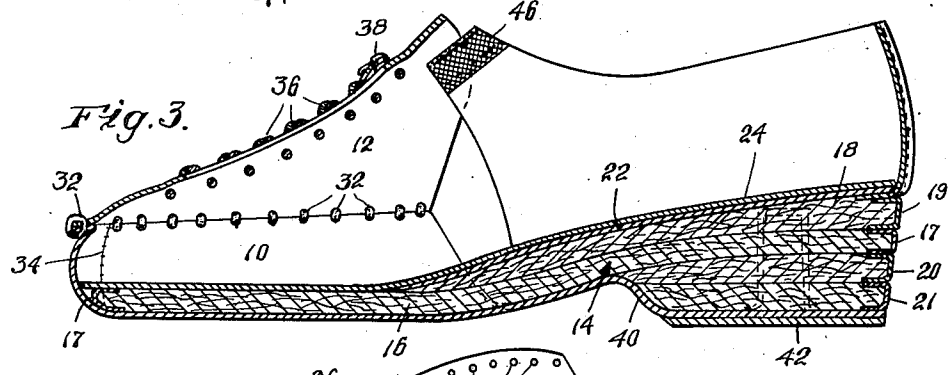


Fig. 3.



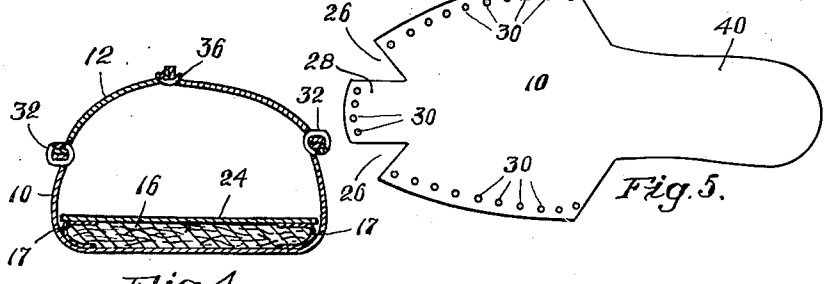


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

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Dec. 18, 1945. R. MALING 2,391,023

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Filed Dec. 8, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

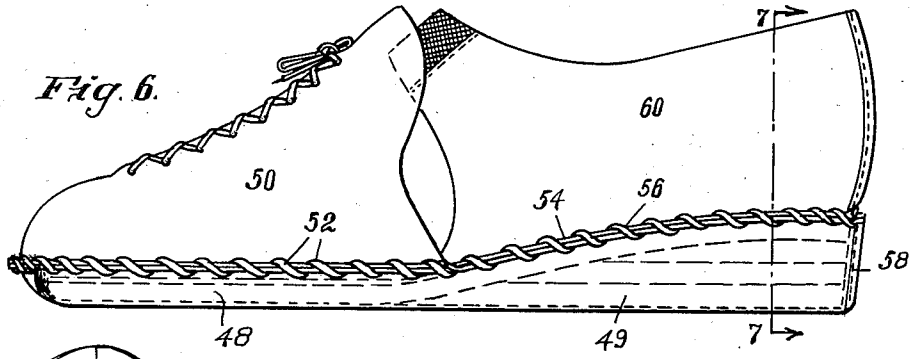


Fig. 6.

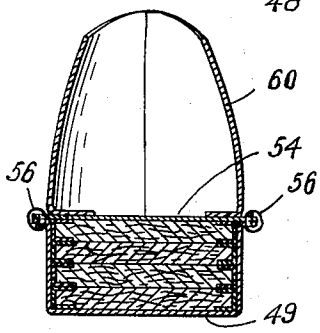


Fig. 7.

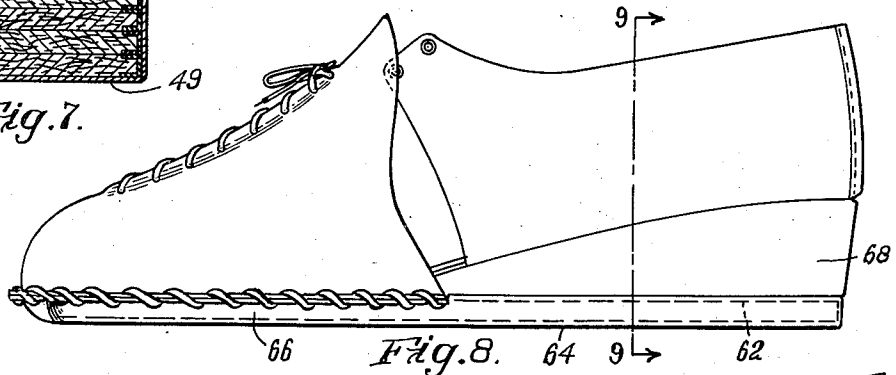


Fig. 8.

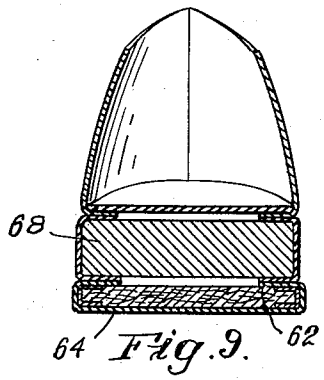


Fig. 9.

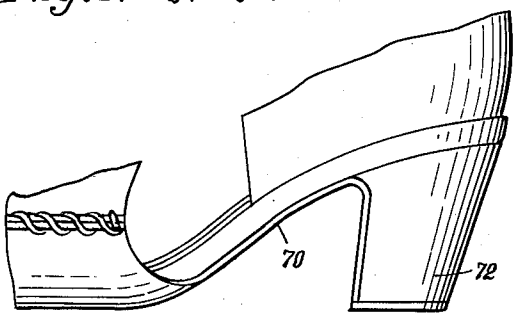


Fig. 10.

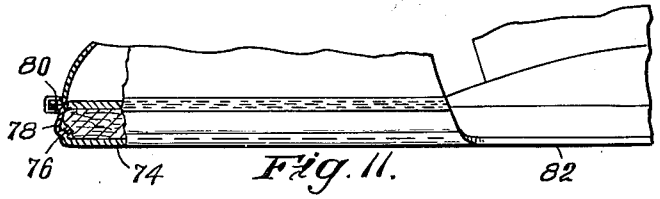


Fig. 11.

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Patented Dec. 18, 1945

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,391,023

FOOTWEAR

Roy Maling, West Roxbury, Mass.

Application December 8, 1944, Serial No. 567,157

9 Claims. (Cl. 36—11)

This invention relates to improvements in footwear.

More particularly it provides improvements in shoes and slippers whereby a moccasin type forepart may be variously combined with shank and heel elements, and with lasted rear parts of uppers to provide footwear having structural and visual characteristics of a moccasin but with foot supporting qualities at the shank and heel regions comparable with what are customary in shoes and slippers having built-in arch-supporting qualities.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a shoe or slipper construction wherein a moccasin type forepart of upper and a regularly lasted rear part of upper may be secured respectively to the under side and the upper side of a platform and heel unit with the sheet material of the forepart of upper completely covering, as a tread surface, the under surface of the forepart of the platform and having an integral rearwardly extending portion facing at least a substantial rear portion of the under side of the platform and heel unit.

Another object is to provide a shoe or slipper structure having an all-over moccasin type bottom within which is secured a platform and heel unit on whose rear part a lasted rear part of upper is secured.

Still another object is to combine in a shoe or slipper structure a moccasin forepart and bottom with platform and heel unit providing arch-supporting functions.

Yet another object is to provide moccasin structural and aesthetic effects in an arch-supporting shoe or slipper with the moccasin features confined to the forepart or extending into the rear part at the base portions thereof.

A further object is to provide an arch-supporting moccasin type shoe or slipper which may have any of a wide variety of heel structures and styles associated therewith.

It is, moreover, my purpose and object generally to improve shoe and slipper constructions.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a shoe embodying features of my invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan of the shoe of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a medial longitudinal section on line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view on line 4—4 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the blank from which the bottom part of the moccasin forepart is formed, and showing its rearwardly extending integral portion;

Figure 6 is a side elevation of a modified shoe construction embodying features of my invention;

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view on line 7—7 of Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a side elevation of still another modification;

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view on line 9—9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a fragmentary side elevation showing how Cuban and other unitary heel structures may be utilized with my improved shoe and slipper structures; and

Figure 11 is an elevation, partly in section, of still another modified form of base structure.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1–5, the moccasin forepart comprises the bottom section 10 of leather or other flexible sheet material, and a top forepart section 12 of flexible sheet material. A platform and heel unit is indicated generally at 14, which may include a full length platform element 16 with which is combined, at the shank and heel regions, heel lift elements 18, 20, one or more of which may extend into the shank region to contribute to the shank curvature. As represented in Figs 1 and 3, the lift element 18 is arranged above the platform element 16 and two shorter lift elements 20 are arranged below the platform. However, the heel and shank regions may be variously formed and shaped by selected combinations of lift laminations, or a solid wedge heel may be used above or below the platform. Also, if desired, a Cuban or other style of unitary heel may be employed below the platform, with suitable shank stiffening means incorporated at the shank regions, such as the shank stiffener 22 shown in Fig. 3. A sock lining 24 is shown covering the stiffener and facing the entire area of the platform and heel unit.

In making the shoe of Figs. 1–5, the platform and heel unit 14 is first laid on a last, after which the bottom sheet 10 may be laid over the platform, it being suitably over-size so that material is available at the sides and toe for being turned against the sides and toe portion of the last. This sheet 10 preferably is a cut blank, as shown in Fig. 5, with its toe portion notched as at 26 to provide the toe flap 28. When the moccasin forepart is to be laced as herein represented, the blank 10 may be provided with the lacing perforations 30, such perforations being not necessary for a stitched construction. After sheet 10 has been laid over the platform on the last, the flap 28 and the over-

hanging side portions of the sheet may be turned over the edge of the platform and against the last, and the top sheet 12 placed on the last so that its edges may be pinched with the edges of sheet 10 to draw both sheets tight on the last, after which the edges are laced together as at 32, or they may be stitched together, if desired. Preferably the toe flap is stitched at the closed notches, as indicated at 34. Additional lacing 36 is shown at the front of the upper and provides tie strings for the bow knot 38. By slitting the sheet 12 where the lacing 36 is embodied, this lacing may be utilized to draw the upper tightly over the last.

Preferably, when the sheet 10 initially is laid over the platform on the last, either it or the platform will have a coating of cement thereon so that the sheet 10 becomes secured to the platform throughout the area of its forepart.

The particular platform 16 herein represented is a matted fibre element having its edges bound with a fabric or other binding strip 17. Similarly, the heel lift elements 18, 20, as shown, each is a matted fibre element having a binding strip 19 or 21 secured around its edges. It should be understood, however, that the platform and heel lift elements may be of various materials with or without their edges bound.

According to the invention, the bottom forepart sheet 10 has an integral extension into the shank and heel regions. In the construction of Figs. 1–5, this extension is a bottoming strip 40 which faces the under surfaces of the platform and heel unit 14, being cemented or otherwise secured in place as best seen in Figs. 1 and 3. An outer thin heel lift element 42 may be cemented to the under side of the strip 40, at the heel, if desired.

The rear portion of upper, indicated at 44, may be regularly lasted to the sock lining 24 and be secured by cement or otherwise upon the platform and heel unit 14, with or without a shank stiffener 22. As shown, this rear part of upper comprises the quarter and counter, the latter having a preformed counter stiffener therein or not as may be desired. In the style portrayed the quarter is joined across the instep by an elastic goring 46, although a separate lacing may be provided if desired, in which case suitable eyelets would be provided as shown in the form of Fig. 8.

Referring now to the modified structure of Figs. 6 and 7, the bottom and top forepart sheets 48, 50 are laced around their edges at 52 as in the previous case but the lacing is lower down toward the tread plane of the forepart. Also, the rearwardly extending integral portion 49 of the bottom sheet 48 has dimensions permitting it to be turned over the edges or sides of the platform and heel unit all around the rear parts of the shoe. A strip 54 of flexible material covers the top of the said unit with its edges projecting beyond the unit all around the rear parts of the shoe, so that its edges may be laced as at 56 to the upturned edges of the rearwardly extending oversize portion of the bottom sheet 48. At the rear of the shoe, this turned up bottom portion will be notched similar to the notches at 26 in the blank of Fig. 5, so that a rear flap is provided whose edges at the closed notches may be stitched at 58, similar to the toe stitches 34. Thus the moccasin bottom effect extends throughout the extent of the shoe, and the lacing 52, 56 is continuous all around the shoe.

The rear part of upper 60 is secured upon the strip 54, by cement or otherwise, and the heel element or elements may be a solid wedge underlying the platform or may be superimposed lift laminations as shown.

Figs. 8 and 9 illustrate still another modification in which the platform element 62 extends from end to end of the shoe in a single plane, and the rearwardly extending portion 64 of the bottom sheet 66 is wrapped over the edge of the platform and secured by cement between the platform and the heel lift element or elements above. As shown, a single wedge lift element 68 intervenes between the platform and the rear part of the upper.

While wedge type heels enter nicely into the design and structure of my improved footwear, conventional Cuban or other unitary heel elements may be employed as suggested in Fig. 10, in which case a rearwardly extending strip 70 similar to the strip 40 of Figs. 1–5 may face the under surfaces in the shank region and also the breast of the heel 72, if desired.

In Fig. 11 there is illustrated a platform covering sheet comprising a leather split tread element 74 to whose marginal edge at the forepart is stitched at 76 a strip 78 which extends over the platform edge for securement to the upper by stitching or by the lacing 80 as shown. This tread element 74 has a rearwardly extending integral part 82 for facing the under surfaces of the platform and heel unit which latter may be a unitary piece or laminated as shown.

I claim as my invention:

1. An article of footwear comprising a platform element extending from end to end of the article, a moccasin type forepart of upper having a tread part secured in covering relation to the under side of the forepart of said platform element; a heel unit underlying the platform element at the rear portion of the article; and a lasted rear portion of upper separate from said moccasin forepart of upper and secured on the upper surface of said platform element; said moccasin forepart of upper having an integral extension of its said tread part secured as a facing for the said heel unit.

2. An article of footwear comprising a platform element extending from end to end of the article; a moccasin type forepart of upper made of a top and a bottom sheet of flexible material having their edges secured together, moccasin style, around the forepart of the article, said bottom sheet extending integrally downward over the edges of the platform and integrally over the under surface of the forepart of the platform element; a lasted rear part of upper, separate from the moccasin forepart, and secured on the top side of the platform element at the rear of the article; and a shank and heel unit secured on the under surface of the platform element at the shank and heel regions of the article; said moccasin forepart of upper having an integral extension secured in covering relation to under surfaces of said shank and heel unit.

3. An article of footwear comprising a platform element extending from end to end of the article; a moccasin type forepart of upper encasing the forepart of the platform element and having a tread portion underlying the forepart of the platform element; a lift element combined flatwise with the rearwardly extending portion of the platform element and constituting therewith a shank and heel unit; and a lasted rear portion of upper, separate from said moccasin forepart of upper, and secured on the top side of said shank and heel unit; said moccasin forepart of upper having an integral rearwardly extending portion covering the under surfaces of said shank and heel unit, and also covering the edges of said

shank and heel unit at least throughout an appreciable fraction of the total height thereof.

4. An article of footwear comprising a platform and heel unit of which a platform element extends from end to end of the article and at least one heel element is associated therewith and extends to provide shank curvature for the article; an integral bottom sheet of flexible material underlying the platform and heel unit throughout the area thereof and turned upward over the edges of said unit all around the article; a forepart top sheet of flexible material secured around its edges to the forepart edges of said upwardly turned portions of said bottom sheet; a rear top sheet of flexible material overlying said unit at the shank and heel regions and secured around its edges to the edges of said upwardly turned portions of said bottom sheet; and a lasted rear part of upper secured on said rear top sheet.

5. An article of footwear comprising a platform and heel unit of which a platform element extends from end to end of the article and at least one heel element is associated therewith and extends to provide shank curvature for the article; an integral bottom sheet of flexible material underlying the platform and heel unit throughout the area thereof and turned upward over the edges of said unit all around at least the forepart of the article, a forepart top sheet of flexible material secured around its edges to the forepart edges of said upwardly turned portions of said bottom sheet; and a lasted rear part of upper under which the rearward portion of said platform and heel unit is secured.

6. An article of footwear comprising a platform and heel unit of which a platform element extends from end to end of the article and a heel element is associated therewith; a bottom sheet of flexible material underlying the platform and heel unit throughout the area of its forepart and at least a substantial area of its rear part, and turned upward over the edges of said platform element all around the forepart of the article; a forepart top sheet of flexible material secured around its edges to the forepart upturned edges of said bottom sheet; and a lasted rear part of upper, separate from said bottom and top sheets, under which the rearward portion of said platform and heel unit is secured.

7. An article of footwear comprising a platform and heel unit of which a platform element extends from end to end of the article and at least one heel element is associated therewith and extends to provide shank curvature for the article; an integral bottom sheet of flexible material underlying the platform and heel unit throughout the area thereof and turned upward over the edges of said unit all around the article; a forepart top sheet of flexible material secured around its edges to the forepart edges of said upwardly turned portions of said bottom sheet, the rear upturned portions of said bottom sheet being secured in covering relation to the edge of at least one of said platform and heel elements all around the shank and heel regions of the article; and a lasted rear part of upper secured above said platform and heel unit.

8. An article of footwear comprising a moccasin forepart having bottom and top sheets of flexible material with their edge portions mutually overlying each other and secured together around the forepart of the article, the said secured edges being spaced upward from the plane of the under side of said bottom sheet to provide foot space between the two said sheets; a platform element having its forepart overlying and secured to said bottom sheet; a heel lift element secured to a rearwardly extending portion of the platform element; and a lasted rear part of upper secured above said platform and heel lift elements; said bottom sheet having a rearwardly extending integral portion covering at least a portion of at least one of said platform and heel lift elements.

9. An article of footwear comprising a platform and heel unit of which a platform element extends from end to end of the article and at least one heel lift element is associated therewith and extends to provide shank curvature for the article; a forepart of upper encasing the forepart of the platform element and cemented to its under surface throughout its forepart area, the top wall of said forepart of upper being spaced from said platform element to provide foot space therebetween; and a lasted rear part of upper separate from the said forepart of upper and secured above said platform and heel unit; said forepart of upper having a rearwardly extending integral portion secured below said platform and heel unit.

ROY MALING.