Dec. 19, 1922. 1,439,104.

E. B. HELWITZ.

RUBBER TIP FOR FRENCH HEELS.

FILED AUG. 24, 1921.

Fig. 1.

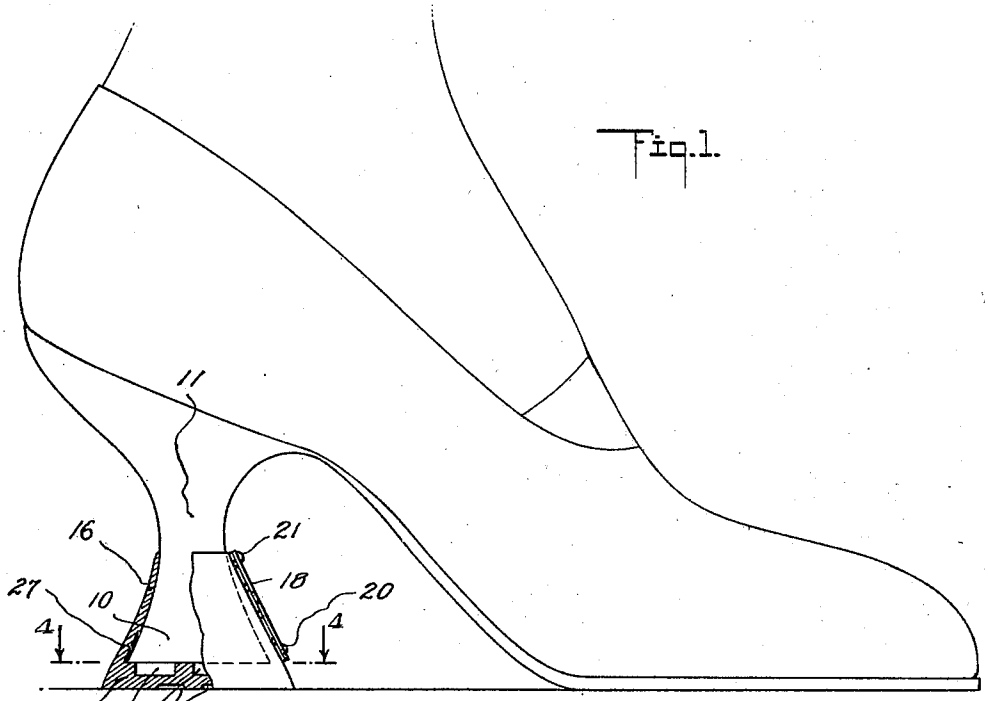


Fig. 2.

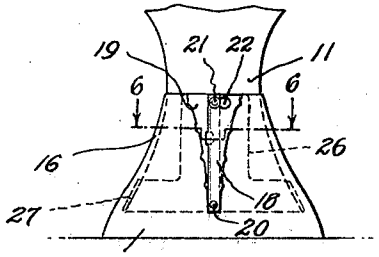


Fig. 3.

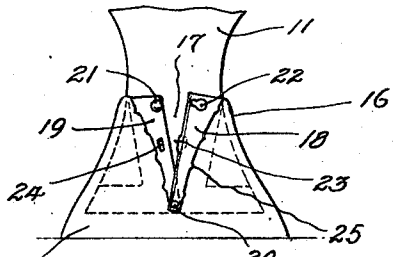


Fig. 4.

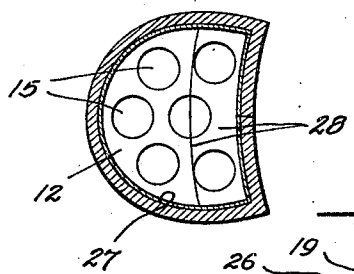


Fig. 5.

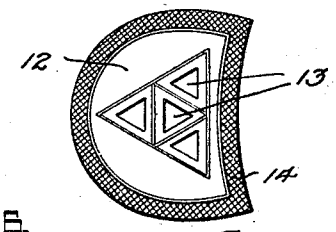
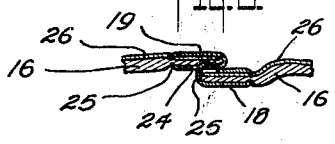


Fig. 6.



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Patented Dec. 19, 1922. 1,439,104

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD B. HELWITZ, OF WAUSAU, WISCONSIN.

RUBBER TIP FOR FRENCH HEELS.

Application filed August 24, 1921. Serial No. 494,802.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD BERNARD HELWITZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wausau, in the county of Marathon and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rubber Tips for French Heels, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to resilient tips or cushions for shoes, and has particular reference to rubber tips designed especially for French heels, or heels having relatively slender shanks.

Among the objects of the invention is to provide a tight, sung fitting, and neat appearing tip adapted to be put on or removed from a slender shank French heel, and after being so put on will not materially disturb the fine graceful lines of the heel and yet will afford a most comfortable cushion for the heel, as well as prolonging the flat form of the bottom of the heel in practice.

A further object of the invention is to provide a detachable rubber tip for ladies' shoe heels, in which the flange portion of the tip is provided with a fly or opening in order to enable the same to pass over the bottom of the heel and yet make a close or glove fitting closure around the slender portion of the shank well above said bottom.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a suitable means to fasten or close the divided flange portion of the rubber heel tip and at the same time provide a strengthening or reinforcing means to take care of the mechanical fastening device when the device is being stretched and yet not interfere with the free stretch or elasticity of the main portion of the flange where it is drawn around the slender shank.

With the foregoing and other objects in view the invention consists in the arrangement and combination of the parts hereinafter described and claimed, and while the invention is not restricted to the exact details of construction disclosed or suggested herein, still for the purpose of illustrating a practical embodiment thereof reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of one of my improved tips shown in place on a French heel, a part of the tip being broken away.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the heel and tip applied thereto.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but indicating the fly open.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the tip.

Fig. 6 is a horizontal section of the fly or clasp portion of the device, on line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings I show my device as adapted for a French heel 10 having a slender shank 11, such heels being now commonly made of metal, but of course I do not intend to limit myself in any respect to either the shape or construction of the heel.

The tip is preferably made of rubber and comprises a bottom 12 of sufficient thickness to afford a substantial cushion, the form and size of which correspond to the shape and size of the individual shoe heel. Any suitable design may be provided for the bottom surface of the tip, the design shown in Fig. 5 including a group of triangular cups 13 and a roughened margin 14. The inner or upper surface however of the bottom 12 is formed with a group or series of suction cups 15 as shown in Fig. 4 which serve several important functions as follows: first, to reduce the body of the rubber making the same more flexible as a cushion, and, secondly, to increase the grip of the bottom of the tip against the bottom of the heel by the formation of more or less of a vacuum in each cup when pressure is brought to bear thereon.

The flange portion 16 of the tip is formed so as to extend well up along the shank 11 and is made thin enough at the free edge to not only fit snugly around the shank but to increase the size thereof but little, and so the graceful lines of the heel with the tip in place are not sufficiently disturbed to destroy the beauty of the shoe.

To enable the tip to be slipped over the bottom of the heel I provide an opening or fly 17 in the front or breast portion of the tip, the same being provided with what might be called a vertical slit directly down the front portion of the flange from its edge or top. In order to manipulate this portion of the tip I provide a pair of clips 18 and 19, made of metal or the like and each of U-form in horizontal section and embracing

the vertical edge of the fly. The lower ends of the clips are pivoted together at 20, and the upper ends thereof are provided with interlocking members such as a head 21 and key hole slot 22. Between the ends the clips may be provided with additional locking means such as a hook 23 adapted to enter a slot or hole 24. The edge portions of the clips have teeth 25 fastening into the flange embraced thereby.

To strengthen or reinforce the fly portion of the flange I insert a strip of fabric 26 extending along both sides of the slit downward and thence along the lower portion of the flange as indicated at 27. One portion also of the fabric extends across the front part of the inner surface of the bottom 12 as indicated at 28. Thus a strong substantial reinforcement is provided without affecting materially the free stretch or flexibility of the main portion of the flange. Hence after the tip is snapped or slipped into place over the bottom of the heel and occupies the form somewhat as shown in Fig. 3, by manipulating the two clips as finger pieces and bringing them into interlocking or fastened position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the flange 16 is stretched and made to fit snugly and neatly to the heel. The clip portion of the device being adjacent to the breast of the heel is unconspicuous and hardly noticeable. These tips may be put on or taken off at will and so may be worn only for special occasions if not desired for constant use.

I claim:

1. The herein described tip for French heels with slender shanks, the same comprising a bottom, a flexible and elastic upwardly projecting flange having a relatively thin edge portion, the flange being slitted along the breast to enable the tip to be put on or taken off a heel having a relatively wide bottom, and interlocking metal clip means along the slit serving as finger pieces for drawing and stretching the edge portion of the flange snugly around the slender heel shank and for holding the slit thereof closed.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1 in which the slit down the breast portion is provided with a fabric lining extending along the slitted portion of the flange all the way from the edge thereof to the bottom and thence across a portion of the tip bottom, and also including a strip or band of fabric extending around the inner surface of the bottom of the flange remote from the slitted portion of the flange.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EDWARD B. HELWITZ.