April 16, 1929. A. C. BOOMER 1,708,964

SHOE HEEL GUARD

Filed May 6, 1927

Fig. 1.

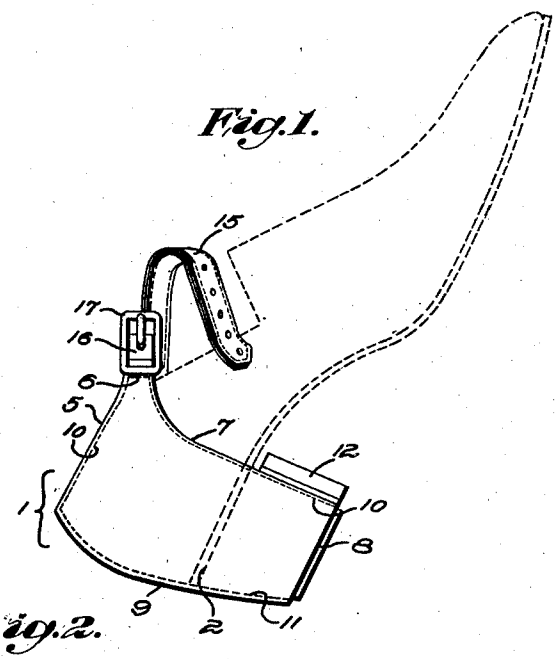


Fig. 2.

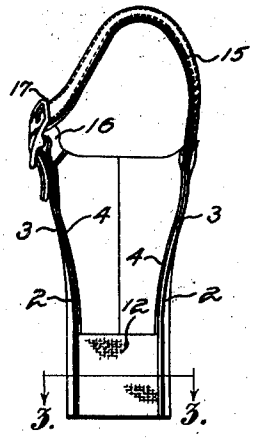


Fig. 3.

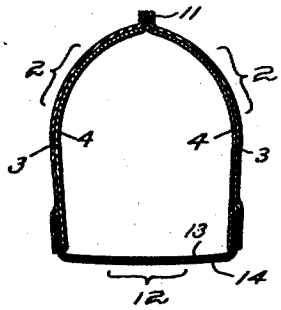
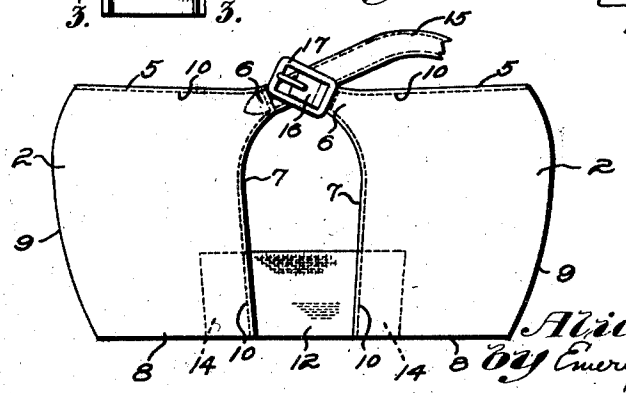


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALICE C. BOOMER, OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS.

SHOE-HEEL GUARD.

Application filed May 6, 1927. Serial No. 189,328.

My invention aims to provide an improved guard or protector for the rear portions, including particularly the heel and counter portions, of shoes, and especially women's shoes. While the device of my invention is adapted for use under various circumstances in which injury to a shoe is likely to arise, it is primarily intended for the protection of a shoe or the shoes of a person operating an automobile.

In the drawings illustrating by way of example one embodiment of my invention

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the device as applied to a shoe, the releasable securing means being unfastened;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the guard or protector with the releasable securing means fastened;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a plan of the two main sections of the guard prior to its completion.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the shoe heel guard or protector, in the illustrative form of my invention, comprises a shield or body, preferably formed of two main sections 2, 2 oppositely positioned but substantially identical in size and form, permitting them to be cut out or stamped simultaneously and by the same die. Any suitable wear-resistant and desirably somewhat flexible material may be employed for the purpose, preferably leather, fabric or fibrous material of substantial weight. As illustrated, each main section 2 includes an outer member or layer 3 for which I may employ a suitable weight of patent leather or other material of pleasing appearance, and an inner or lining member or layer 4 which may be a suitable grade of sheepskin or the like. Various colors and grades of leather, or other suitable material such as mentioned above, may be employed for the outer member to correspond if desired with that of the shoe to be protected.

Said main sections of the shield, as best seen in Figs. 1 and 4, are each of a roughly rectangular shape substantially as illustrated, avoiding wastage of stock such as marked irregularities of contour would occasion, each section having an approximately straight upper edge 5, a short projection or tab-like part 6 at its upper forward portion, a front edge 7 extending downwardly from the latter, a substantially straight bottom edge 8 at approximately right angles to the front edge, and a rear vertical edge 9 convexed substantially as shown to conform generally to the contour of the rear portion of a usual shoe counter.

The inner and outer members 3, 3 and 4, 4 of the respective main sections 2, 2 are placed together flatwise and secured in said position in any suitable manner, desirably by suitable flexible adhesive or cement applied to the juxtaposed faces and by the peripheral stitching 10 along one or more edges, herein the top and front edges 5 and 7. The two sections so formed are united at their rear edges only by the rear seam 11 at approximately the rear vertical median line of the shield.

The shield or body of the guard thus provided is adapted to receive and fit over the heel and rear counter portion of the shoe, the two main sections extending forwardly to, and terminating with their front edges substantially in, the transverse vertical plane containing the front face of the heel lift.

The two sections of the shield are spaced at their front edges but are connected at the lower portion thereof, preferably adjustably or yieldably, as by the cross-piece or member 12, herein comprising one or more and preferably a plurality of thicknesses or strips of elastic webbing 13, 14. As illustrated, see particularly Figs. 2 to 4, the opposite ends of said cross-piece 12 are inserted between the outer and inner members 3, 4 of the respective main sections 2, 2 and are secured in said position preferably by the peripheral stitching 10 previously mentioned. Said cross-piece constitutes a yieldingly adjustable union permitting the guard to adjust itself to and conform with various styles and sizes of shoe. Due to its described construction and arrangement it affords adjustability for the guard both transversely and longitudinally of the shoe. As shown it is adapted to lie substantially vertically against the front face of the heel lift, holding the guard securely in the desired position at its lower portion.

Additional means for properly positioning and holding the guard upon the wearer's shoe desirably is provided. In the present form I have shown for the purpose a strap-like member 15 attached at one end at the upper portion of one main section 2, desirably forming, at it were, an extension of the tab 6, and

adapted to extend flatwise transversely of the instep of the wearer's foot. Suitable fastening means for said strap-like member is provided at the corresponding location on the other main section 2, herein the looped strip 16 having a fastener, such as the buckle 17. Said members 15 and 16 each preferably have their inner ends secured to the respective sections of the guard in a manner similar to that in which the cross-piece 12 is secured, that is, by being inserted between the inner and outer members or layers 3, 3 and 4, 4 and held by the peripheral stitching 10. It will be noted that the inner surface of the shield is thus entirely smooth and free of any projection, metal, or irregularity of any nature that might occasion discomfort to the wearer or injury to the wearer's shoe or stocking. Said members 15, 16, together with the fastener 17 provide readily releasable fastening means for the upper forward portions of the guard. They may be of any preferred relative lengths but desirably such as to bring the fastener 17 at the outer side of the wearer's foot.

If desired, the described heel guards may be supplied the wearer in pairs, in which case the strap-like fastening members are desirably oppositely arranged to provide a "right" and a "left" guard. In connection with the operation of an automobile, however, most of the scuffing, scratching or like injurious effect comes only on the right shoe, that of the foot used to control the accelerator and brake pedals, so that in most instances a single guard designed for the right foot will suffice. The position of the operator's right foot at such time is approximately that illustrated in Fig. 1, from which it will be apparent how contact of the heel and counter portions of the shoe with the floor boards and adjacent parts of the automobile is likely to cause injury and excess wear at the region mentioned, all of which is protected against by the disclosed device.

In forming the guard the ease of manufacture is increased and the manufacturing cost lessened by following the method substantially as illustrated in Fig. 4, from which figure the described construction and its advantages, particularly from a manufacturing standpoint, will be apparent when viewed in connection with the other figures. The inner and outer members of the two main sections are superposed, any suitable adhesive having been applied between them, retaining them in intimate and non-wrinkling relation over substantially their entire area, and the two sections placed flatwise with their forward edges facing each other. The inner ends of the fastening members 15, 16 are inserted in their proper position between the inner and outer layers of the respective main sections, and the ends of the cross-piece 12 similarly inserted at their correct location. The peripheral stitching 10 is then applied to each of the two sections, passing through and securing together the inner and outer members thereof and at the same time anchoring the cross-piece and fastening members. The two main sections are then brought together at their rear edges and stitched along the line 11, as the final step, forming an unturned or other vertical seam at the rear central region of the guard.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that I have provided an efficient shoe heel guard or protector of extreme simplicity and inexpensiveness of manufacture which will conform neatly to the rear portion of the wearer's shoe and will adjust itself automatically to various sizes or styles of footwear.

My invention is not limited to the particular embodiment or method herein shown and described, its scope being pointed out in the appended claim.

I claim:

A shoe heel and counter guard comprising, in combination; two similar, oppositely disposed shield sections of flexible sheet material uniting at the rear vertical median line of the guard, the abutting portions of said two sections thereat having their edges operatively upset at substantially right angles to the adjacent faces of the shield sections as in wearing position and being seamed in said relation thereby to provide a vertical ridge on the outer face of the guard adapted to assist as a fulcrum or centering means in positioning the wearer's foot for operation of a pedal member of an automobile; and means for releasably securing said shield sections upon the wearer's shoe.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

ALICE C. BOOMER.