Nov. 8, 1949 P. F. EBERLE 2,487,227

SHOE WITH POINTED SOLE AND RIBBED UPPER

Filed Dec. 29, 1945

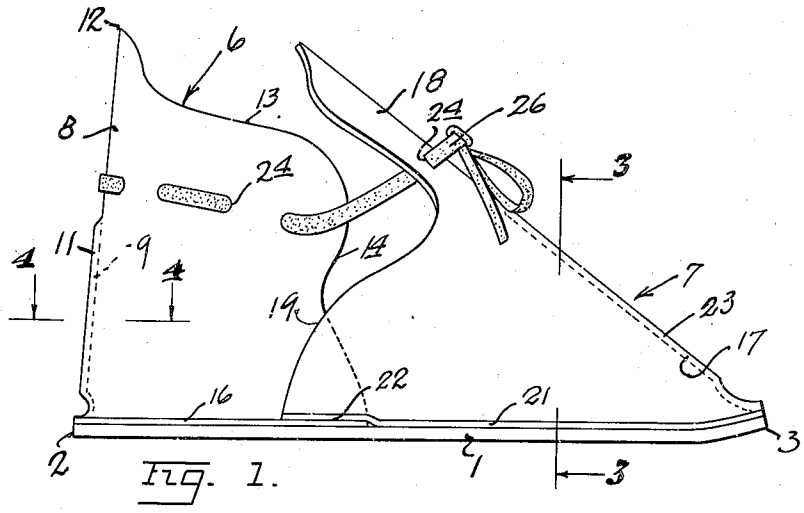


Fig. 1.

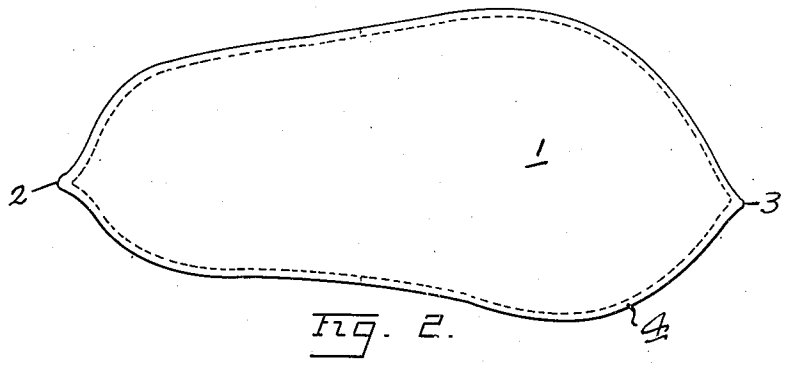


Fig. 2.

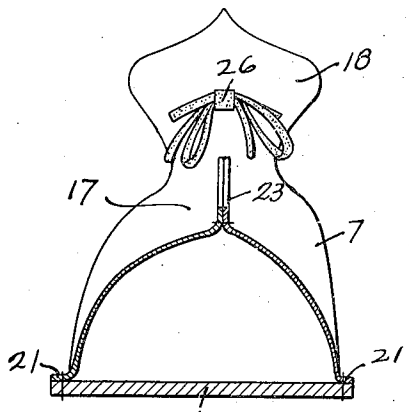


Fig. 3.

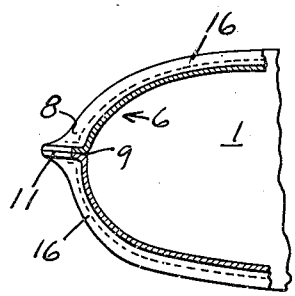


Fig. 4.

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SHOE WITH POINTED SOLE AND RIBBED UPPER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

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This invention relates to shoes and particularly to shoes which require flexibility on tender feet, such as baby shoes.

An object of the invention is to provide a shoe which has no seams in the inside, and the upper of which is made of two separate sections mounted on a flexible sole in such a way so as to allow the flexing of the sole, under pressure exerted at the toe without exerting undue pressure on or distortion of the toe or the foot.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shoe which is highly flexible between the heel and the instep and the toe so as to allow the flexing of the sole when the weight rests on the toe, for instance, in a crawling attitude, without any undue friction or pressure on the foot, and which engages the contour of the foot so that it remains in position and is prevented from falling off the foot.

Another object of this invention is to provide a shoe which is highly useful and simple in construction. Convenience of arrangement, lightness and comparative inexpense of manufacture are further objects which have been borne in mind in the production and development of the invention.

The essential features of the invention involved in the carrying out of the objects indicated are susceptible to modification, but a preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side view of the shoe;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the shoe;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the shoe, the section being taken on lines 3—3 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the heel portion of the shoe the section being taken on the lines 4—4 of Fig. 1.

In the herein shoe, a sole 1 is cut for the right foot and another sole is cut for the left foot so as to conform to the usual contour of the soles of the respective feet. The sole terminates in a peak 2 at the heel and in a substantially aligned peak or point 3 at the toe. It is to be noted that the curvature is such that the peak 2 at the heel is substantially in the middle of the arcuate contour of the base of the heel, but the peak or point 3 at the toe is offset toward the toe portion 4 of the sole 1. This sole of the shoe thus fits the contour of the sole of the foot.

The upper of the shoe is made in two portions. The counter portion 6 extends in a substantially semi-circular contour, as shown in Fig. 4, to conform to the average arc of the back of the heel and the ankle. It extends upwardly as a rear

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wall 8. The counter portion 6 is held upright and against buckling, by separated slit edges 9 which latter are brought together to overlap outwardly and are sewed together into a ridge 11 which extends from the heel point or peak 2 of the sole 1 upwardly to an intermediate portion of the rear edge 8 of the counter portion 6, and to a point spaced from the top of the edge 8. This ridge 11 forms a reinforcing rib which renders the counter firm without any inside seam and without any projection inwardly of the counter portion 6. The contour of the top edge of the counter portion 6 in this illustration has a high point at the rear at 12, curved side edges 13 on each side, which incline toward the sole 1, and a scalloped edge or design at each edge 14 down to the sole 1. At each side and all around the lower edge the soft material of the counter portion 6 is flanged outwardly, as shown in Fig. 3, and this outward flanged edge 16 all around is suitably secured by sewing, stitching or otherwise to the corresponding edges of the sole 1.

The toe and instep portion 7 of the shoe is also cut in one piece and extends in a rearwardly and upwardly inclined front side or edge 17 to a tongue 18, which latter extends in continuation with said front edge and above part of the area enclosed by the counter portion 6. The tongue edges are scalloped and curved toward the toe and then terminate in a downward curvature toward the counter at the edge 19. The opposite sides of the toe and instep portion 7 conform substantially to the toe and instep portion of the foot and extend from edge to edge of the sole 1. The edges are bent outwardly to form outward securing flaps at 21 which at the portion 22 overlap the corresponding flaps or flanges 16 of the counter portion 6. The flaps all around are secured by sewing, stitching or by other suitable means to the edges of the sole 1. The toe and instep portion 7 is slit from the toe point 3 upward to about the base of the tongue 18 and these slit edges are again turned outwardly and secured together into a reinforcing ridge or rib 23.

The shoe herein described is particularly adapted for use by babies during the crawling age and up to about the age of two. When babies crawl and the toes obtain a grip, the reinforcing ridges hold the shoe in a manner to give suitable support to the babies' feet without the shoe coming off. The entire shoe is flexible, but has sufficient rigidity at the ridges 9 and 23 to hold the two portions of the upper of the shoe in its proper relationship without collapsing. This structure permits the making of baby shoes for

the respective right or left foot, protecting the shape of the feet and the arrangement of the toes. There are no inside seams. For securing the shoe in place in the usual manner, holes **24** are provided in the counter portion **6** and at the tongue **18** of the shoe through which holes a lace **26** or the like may be inserted in the usual manner to provide a comfortable arrangement for holding the upper of the shoe in position.

I claim:

1. In a shoe of the character described, a sole, a counter portion secured to the sole, sides of said counter portion extending down about the middle of said sole, a toe and instep portion extending upwardly from the toe of the sole toward said counter portion, sides of said instep portion extending downwardly spaced from the side edges of said counter portion near the top and overlapping said side edges of said counter portion near the sole, said sole being pointed at the toe and at the heel and said counter portion and toe and instep portion each having a reinforcing ridge extending from the respective point unwardly from said heel and toe respectively.

2. In a shoe of the character described, a sole, having a contour substantially conforming to the sole of the foot and being pointed at the toe and at the heel, an upper on said sole including a counter portion substantially conforming to the heel and ankle of the foot, a reinforcing ridge

extending from the heel point upwardly of said counter portion, the side edges of said counter portion extending down to about the middle of the sole, and a toe and instep portion of said upper, a reinforcing ridge extending from the toe point of said sole upwardly, and said instep portion extending toward and beyond the sides of the counter portion, the side edges of said instep portion being spaced from the side edges of said counter portion near the top and overlapping the said side edges of said counter portion near the sole.

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