Nov. 5, 1940. F. W. McLEAN 2,220,534

FOOTWEAR

Filed Oct. 19, 1938

Fig. 1.

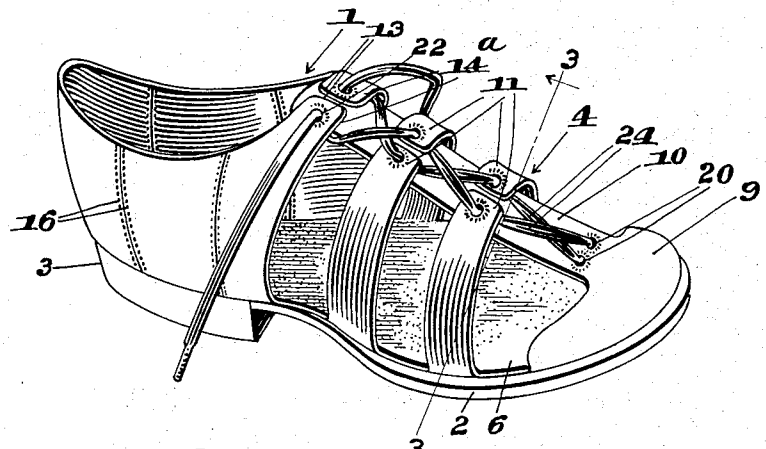


Fig. 2.

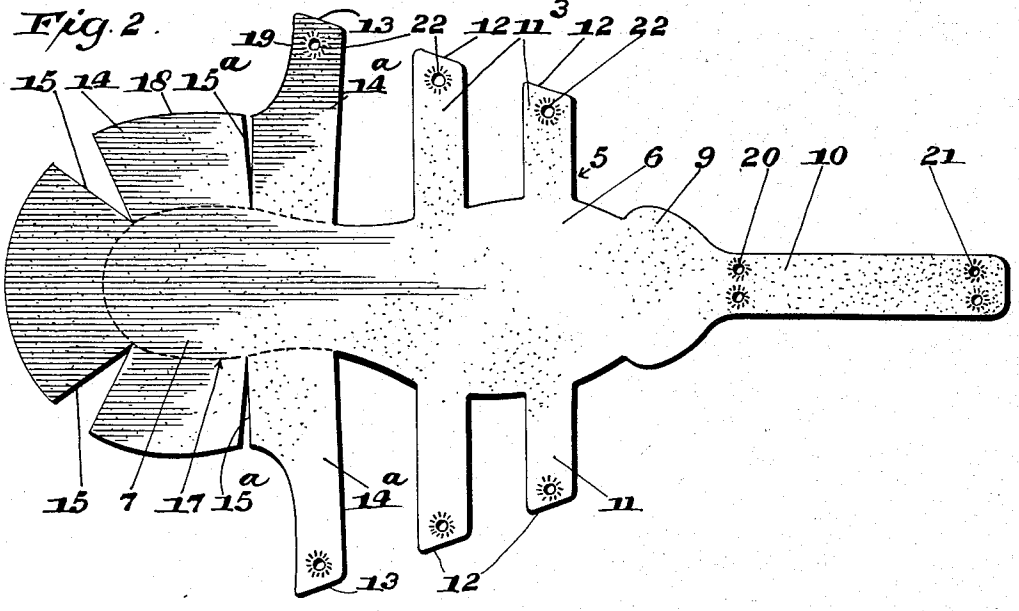


Fig. 3.

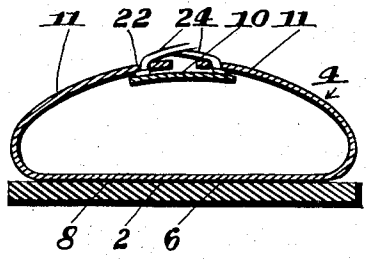
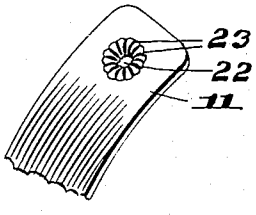


Fig. 4.



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FOOTWEAR

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Application October 19, 1938, Serial No. 235,838

1 Claim. (Cl. 36—11.5)

This invention relates to improvements in footwear, a particular purpose thereof being to afford the wearer greater comfort than has hitherto been obtainable by known types. The particular designation of the invention as a sandal is not to be regarded as a limitation upon the extension of the principles herein announced. The latter can be embodied in a shoe as well as a sandal.

But confining the description to the latter type of footwear it is commonly known that the canvas or leather of which sandals are customarily made, often causes the wearer discomfort, especially when the sandal is new because of being hard and relatively non-conforming to the foot. Of course, after the sandal has been worn for a period, the natural breaking-in process overcomes any discomfort which was formerly had. But it is the purpose of the invention to provide a sandal which will be as soft, yielding and comfortable when it is new as when it has undergone considerable wear. With this premise in mind the objects of the invention are as follows:

First, to provide a sandal which can be made to conform to the shape of the wearer's foot, thereby to compensate for high places which would be pressed upon by a virtually rigid sandal, further to ease tender or sore places and to afford the utmost comfort.

Second, to provide a sandal which is freely adjustable at each of a plurality of contact points against the wearer's foot, thereby to obtain a substantially uniform application of pressure upon the whole foot.

Third, to provide a sandal wherein the foregoing principles of conformity and adjustment are produced by a single lace.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved sandal.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the upper structure blank.

Figure 3 is a cross section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of the straps, particularly illustrating the woven eyelet.

In carrying out the invention, the sandal 1 is shown to comprise a sole 2, heel 3 and an upper structure which, as a whole is designated 4. The sole 2 and heel 3 may comprise a single rubber unit. It is also intended to make the sole either of rubber, leather or of a known composition, and to have the heel 3 separate in some cases, for example when it is desired to use a leather heel in combination with a rubber sole. For the purpose of this disclosure the sole 2 and heel 3 are considered as of one piece of rubber.

The upper structure 4 (Fig. 1) originally has the shape of the blank 5 in Fig. 2. The material from which this blank is made is subject to selection. Ordinarily it will comprise canvas or leather. It is herein conveniently considered as being stamped or cut from canvas.

Said blank 5 has sole and heel portions 6, 7, each with appendages which are made to comprise the upper structure 4 (Fig. 1). Said portions 6, 7 are vulcanized at 8 to the sole 2 and heel 3, as illustrated in the instance of the sole 2 in Fig. 3.

At the front the blank 5 has a toe-piece 9 which merges into a tongue 10. Along the sides of the blank there are straps 11 which project out at different distances from the margin of the sole portion 6. The extremities of these straps are desirably beveled at 12 so as to match the beveled extremities 13 of a counter portion 14.

The latter is V-notched at 15 at a sufficient number of places and to a sufficient extent to produce a nicely shaped counter when the edges of the notches are brought together and sewed at 16, as in Fig. 1. The points of the notches 15 terminate approximately at a line 17 which defines the contour of the heel portion 7. The extremities 13 extend out from the margin 18 of the counter portion 14, being so shaped at 19 as to insure a properly curved configuration over those parts of the wearer's foot adjacent to the instep.

The bevel extremities 13 are properly described as being parts of counter straps 14*a*. These straps are separated from the counter portion 14 by V-notches 15*a*. The counter straps 14*a* are generally similar to the other straps 11 inasmuch as they play a part in producing the conformity of the shoe to the wearer's foot when the lace is drawn up.

The tongue 10 has pairs of eyelets 20, 21, respectively adjacent to the toe-piece 9 and to the extremity thereof. Single eyelets 22 are provided in the extremities of the strap appendages. These eyelets are preferably woven as at 23 in Fig. 4. This weaving provides an adequate reinforcement and avoids the hard contact which a metal eyelet might make, especially if the sandal is worn on a bare foot.

A single lace 24 is threaded through the various eyelets. The mode of threading will ordinarily be as depicted in Fig. 1. The lace is started at the twin eyelets 20 and is then passed through the eyelets 22 after successive crossings. It is

finally carried under the tongue 18 and up through the superimposed eyelets 21, 22, in the extremity of the tongue and in the extremities of the counter straps, whereupon it is tied as usual.

From this it will be understood that the tongue 18 is emplaced on the instep of the foot and that the various straps are brought up over the sides of the foot prior to doing the lacing. The extremities of all of the straps go over the tongue. Consequently only a few parts of the lace can come into contact with the foot. The underlying principle of the invention is to enable the wearer to so draw the laces that the various straps will make contact with the foot only with sufficient pressure to afford the best adjustment. In this manner a substantially uniform application is obtained, this being the principal advantage when the wearer is troubled with tender or injured feet.

I claim:

An article of footwear comprising a sole, and an upper structure attached to the sole, said upper structure comprising a sole portion having a toe piece at the front of the sole portion extending well from side to side to substantially cover all of the toes, said toe piece having a tongue attached to an edge thereof and having lace anchoring means substantially at the point of attachment of the tongue to the toe piece and at the upper end of the tongue, said sole portion having a plurality of straps springing from the sides and having eye-terminals adapted to be superimposed upon the tongue, a rear portion at the back of the sole portion, said rear portion including a pair of instep straps having eye-terminals also adapted for superimposition upon the tongue, and a lace anchored medially of its ends at said first mentioned anchoring means and being threaded through the eyes of said strap terminals and through the anchoring means at the upper end of the tongue, most of the lacing being above the tongue.

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