July 7, 1970 N. DE VITA 3,518,781

SHOE PROTECTOR

Filed June 2, 1969

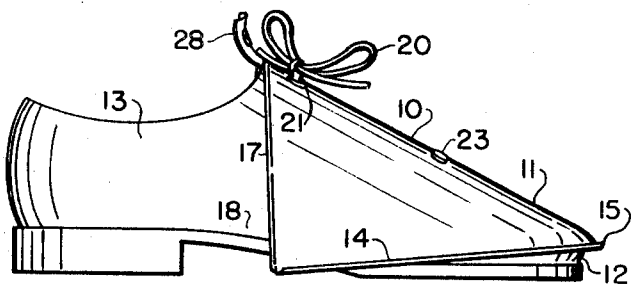


Fig. 1.

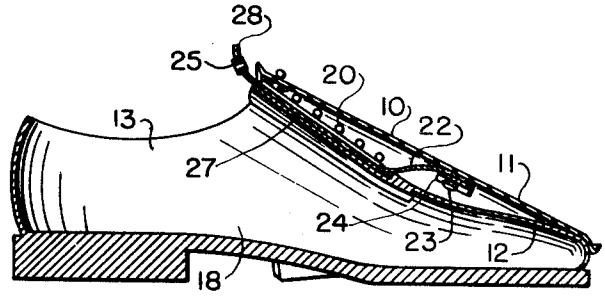


Fig. 2.

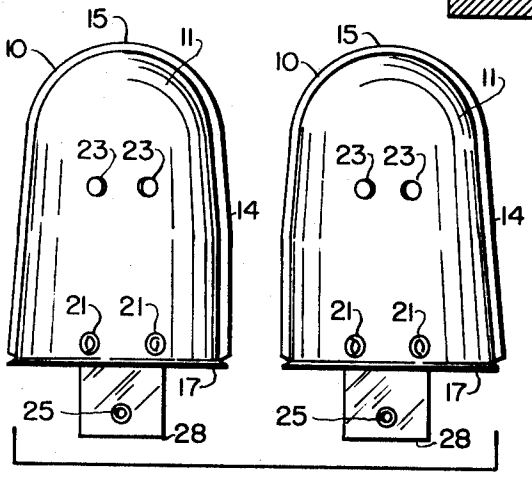


Fig. 3.

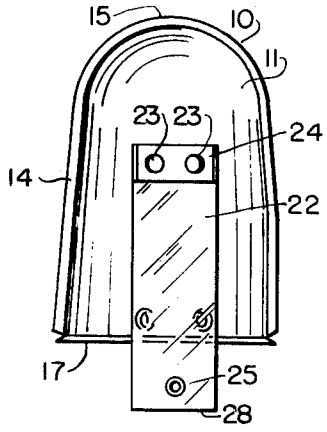


Fig. 4.

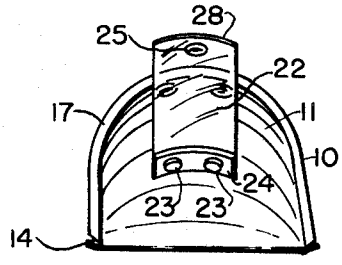


Fig. 5.

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SHOE PROTECTOR

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Int. Cl. A43b *13/22*
U.S. Cl. 36—72 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shoe protector is shaped like the front portion of a shoe upper and is fixed over the front of a shoe by means of a pair of rearwardly disposed apertures which receive the laces of the shoe therethrough and by means of a tongue fixed to extend rearwardly from the inner side of the shoe protector under the lacing flaps and laces of the shoe, the shoe protector having a rearwardly and downwardly sloping lower edge formed as a drain trench and having a substantially vertical rear edge curled forward to conduct fluid and form a large contact area with the ankle of a wearer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Operators of many production machines find oil or other fluid drips on the uppers or toes of their shoes to rot the leather of their shoes and otherwise cause distress. Ordinary rubbers or other conventional footwear which could protect shoes from dripping fluid are hot and uncomfortable if worn for long periods of time. Further, such conventional protective footwear may not provide a desired shoe sole surface. The shoe protector of this invention is comfortable to wear, is easily fixed to any lace shoes, and provides excellent protection from dripping fluids. This device may also be used by auto mechanics, gas station attendants, painters, and other who find their shoes ruined and their feet soiled by dripping fluids.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a side view of a shoe with the protector of my invention fixed thereon;

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section through a shoe with a shoe protector fixed thereon;

FIG. 3 is a top view of a pair of shoe protectors according to my invention;

FIG. 4 is a bottom view of a shoe protector; and

FIG. 5 is a rear view of a shoe protector.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Each shoe protector **10** of my invention has a rigid lightweight guard portion **11** formed or shaped to generally correspond to and fit over the front or toe portion **12** of the upper of a shoe **13**. Guard portion **11** may be stamped and formed from thin aluminum or other metal sheets, or it may be molded or otherwise formed from any suitable plastic. Guard portion **11** has a drain trench **14** curled from its lower edge. The front toe portion **15** of trench **14** is highest so that trench **14** slopes downward as it extends rearwardly toward both sides of the instep **18** of shoe **13**. The rearmost substantially vertical edge **17** of guard portion **11** is curled forward to prevent fluids from running from edge **17** and to provide a large area portion to contact the ankle of a wearer for comfort.

The shoe protector **10** is fixed to a shoe by passing the laces **20** through a pair of eyeleted apertures **21** formed in the top rear edge of guard portion **11**. The laces **20** are then tied as shown in FIG. 1. To secure the front of the shoe protector **10**, a tongue **22** of flexible material, such as plastic, is fixed to the forward underside of guard portion **11** by means of rivets **23** and a clamp bar **24**. The free end **28** of tongue **22** contains an eyeleted aperture **25** to enable the shoe protectors **10** to be stored by hanging thereby when not in use. Tongue **22** secures the front of shoe protector **10** in place by passing it under the laces **20** and the lacing flaps **27** of a shoe **13**. The tongue **22** should have its free end **28** extend well back of the upward curled rear edge **17** so that it may be pulled or tugged to position and secure the front of protector **10**.

The shoe protector **10** of my invention may be left on work shoes when they are taken off by merely untying laces **20** and leaving the protectors **10** in place. Two or three sizes of the protectors **10** will fit most shoes. The shoe protectors **10** of this invention are inexpensive to make and effective in use.

While I have shown and described my invention in the best form known to me, it will nevertheless be understood that this is purely exemplary and that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention except as it may be more limited in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

1. Shoe protectors for use with shoes having lacing flaps and laces closing the lacing flaps, each of said shoe protectors comprising, in combination, a lightweight, substantially rigid guard portion shaped to correspond to and fit over the front portion of the upper of a shoe, the lower edges of said guard portion being bent outward and upward to form a rearwardly and downwardly sloping drain trench at its lower edge, said guard portion having a forwardly curled substantially vertical rear edge, and said guard portion containing a pair of apertures in its upper rear portion to receive the laces therethrough; and a tongue of flexible material fixed to the under surface of the front of said guard portion, said tongue having a free and extending beyond the upper rear edge of said guard portion, said tongue being adapted to extend under the lacing flaps and the laces of a shoe to secure the front portion of said guard portion to a shoe.

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