United States Patent [19]

Gellert

[11] **3,772,722**

[45] **Nov. 20, 1973**

[54] **SHOE TREE WITH ARTICLE BASKET**

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[73] Assignee: **Helmac Products Corporation,** Flint, Mich.

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[21] Appl. No.: **279,699**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 232,131, March 6, 1972.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **12/115.8,** 12/128 B

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A43d 5/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 12/128 R, 128 B, 12/114.2, 115.6, 115.8, 116.2, 116.4, 116.6, 12/116.8, 117.2, 117.4

[56] **References Cited**

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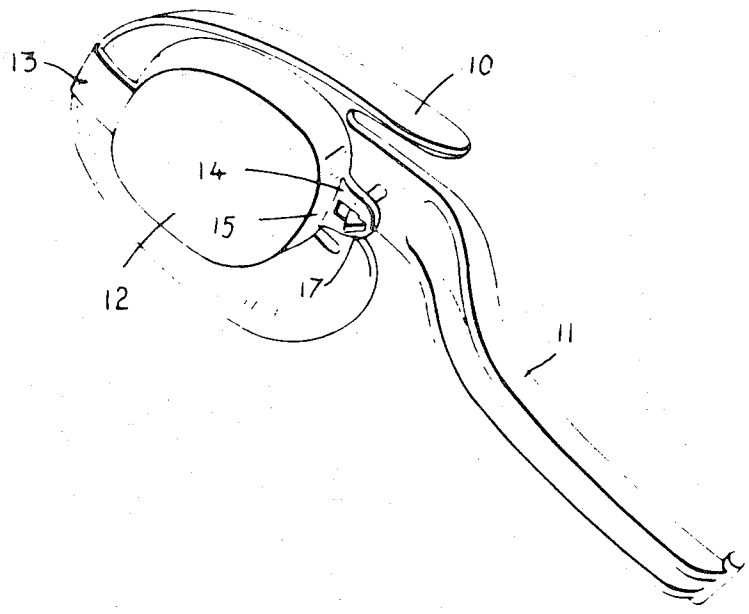
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Primary Examiner—Patrick D. Lawson
Attorney—George H. Riches et al.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An article basket attached to the toe section of a shoe tree by a suitable means which allows the basket to be folded into and removed from the cavity of the toe section. Complementary fastening means releasably locks the basket inside the toe section.

6 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures



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SHEET 1 OF 2

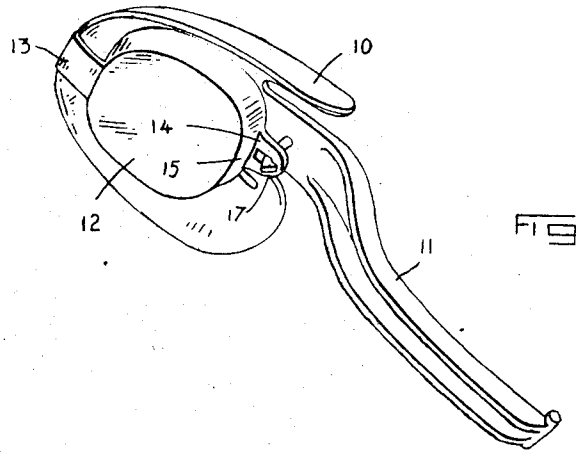


Fig 1.

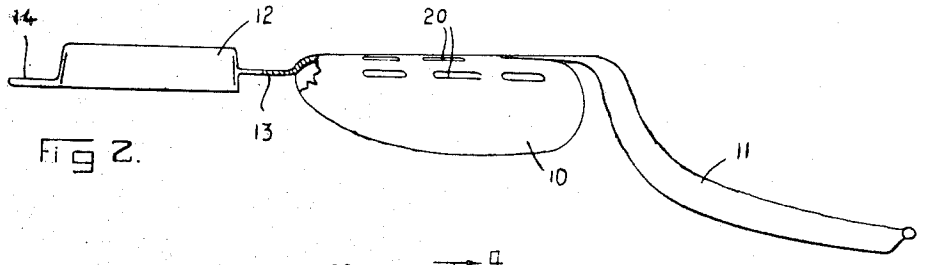


Fig 2.

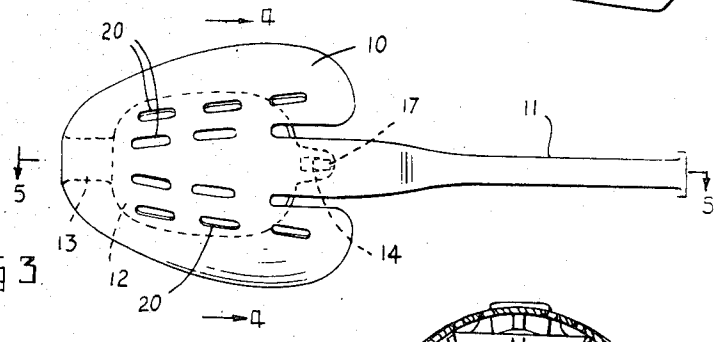


Fig 3.

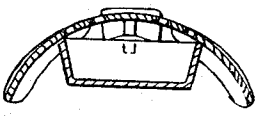


Fig 4

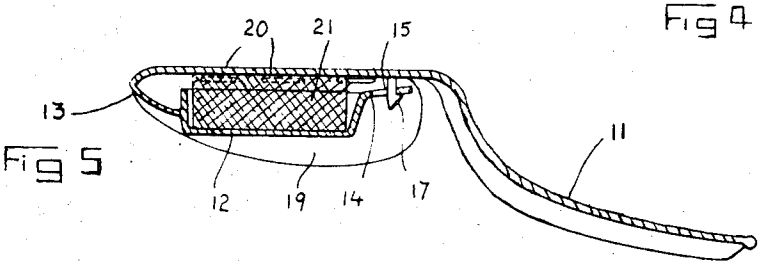


Fig 5

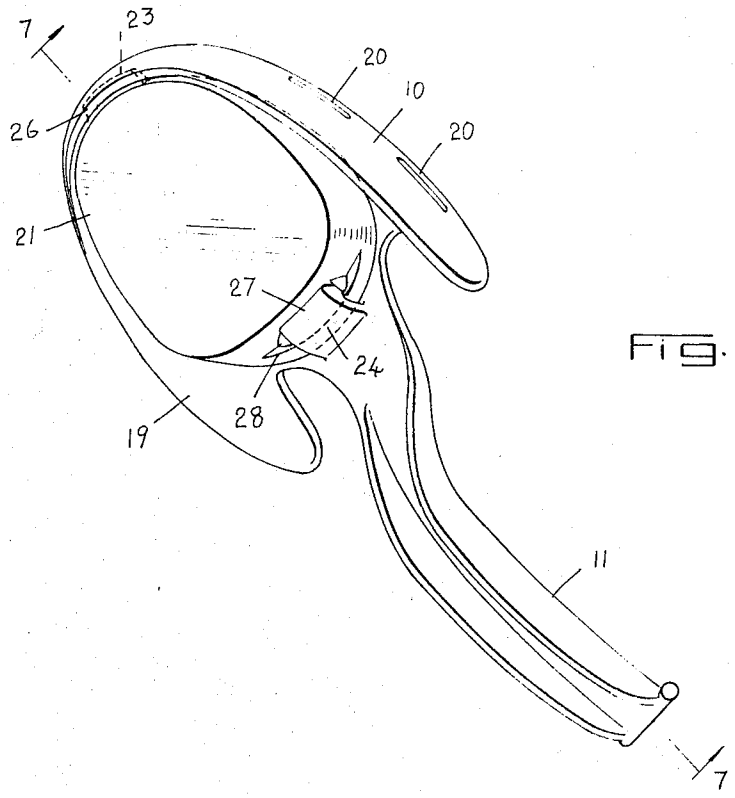


Fig. 6.

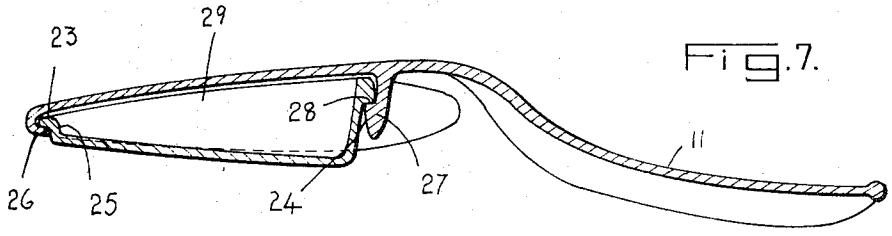


Fig. 7.

SHOE TREE WITH ARTICLE BASKET

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 232,131 filed Mar. 6, 1972.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Insofar as I am aware, no one has heretofore proposed a one-piece shoe tree in which a basket is formed integrally with the toe section and hinged thereto by means of a flexible membrane or releasably secured by complemental catch means made of the same material as the toe section and basket, namely polypropylene. One type of shoe tree which is suitable for use with this invention is disclosed and described in U. S. Pat. No. 3,251,083 granted to Donald W. Bay on May 17,

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to provide a shoe tree with a deodorant basket which can be easily refilled and secured in the cavity of the toe section for the purpose of deodorizing shoes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The embodiments of the invention will be described in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the underside of the shoe tree with the basket inside the cavity;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation showing the basket extended outwardly in front of the toe section;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a cross section on the line 5—5 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the underside of the shoe tree on the line 7—7; and

FIG. 7 is a side view showing the basket secured in the cavity by two catching means.

The shoe tree illustrated in the drawings comprises a toe section **10**, an end section **11** connected to the upper rear edge of the toe section, a perforate basket **12** connected to the front edge **18** of the toe piece by a flexible hinge **13**. The basket is also provided with an outwardly extending flange **14** which is formed with an aperture **15** in which is engaged a latch **16** formed on the underside of the end section adjacent the rear edge of the toe section. The latch **16** is provided with a hook **17** so that it will engage, and grip in the edge of the aperture **15**. All of the foregoing parts are molded in one piece from polypropylene. The toe section is concavo-convex in shape to fit into the toe of a shoe and is formed with apertures **20**. The concavo-convex shape provides a cavity **19** which houses the basket when it is folded into position. The article contained in the basket is indicated at **29**.

One use of the device is described in the following manner. To fill the basket, it is swung out to the position shown in FIG. **2**. It is then swung to the position shown in detail in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The deodorant will be dissipated throughout the entire inside of the shoe and thus will deodorize it.

Another use of the device as illustrated in FIGS. **6** and **7** comprises a toe section **10**, an end section **11** connected to the upper rear edge of the toe section, and a perforate basket **12**, both of which are similar to shoe tree and basket illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**. In the structure illustrated in FIGS. **6** and **7** the basket is removably mounted in cavity **19** and releasably connected to the toe section by two pairs of complemental catch means **23,24**, the catch means **23** being associated with the front end **22** of toe section and front end of the basket, and the catch means **24** being associated with the back ends of toe section and the basket. The foregoing parts are molded from polypropylene and thus are resilient. The toe section is concavo-convex in shape and is formed with apertures **20** and the cavity **19** which houses the basket. An article, such as a deodorant or a scent is indicated at **29**.

The complemental catch means may be constructed in various ways but it is preferred to form the parts for each complemental catch means molded integrally with a particular part with which it is associated. As illustrated in FIGS. **6** and **7** the complemental catch means **23** consists of flange **25** on the front end of the basket, the flange **25** fitting into flange receiving groove **26** formed on the inside of the front edge of the front end of the toe piece. The other complemental catch means **24** consists of a latch device **27** projecting downwardly from the inside of the toe section adjacent the back edge thereof, which latch device engages with an outwardly projecting lip **28** on the top rear edge of the basket.

In this construction, the basket is mounted inside the cavity by inserting the flange **25** into groove **26** and then pressing the lip **28** upwardly until it is engaged by the latch device **27**. To remove the basket the latch device **27** is released from the lip **28**.

What is claimed is:

1. In a plastic molded shoe tree having a concavo-convex toe section of a shape to fit into the toe of a shoe, said toe section having a front end, an upper rearward edge, a downwardly facing cavity and an end section connected to the upper rearward edge of the toe section, a device consisting of a perforated article basket and a flexible plastic hinge permanently connecting the basket to the front edge for swinging from a position inside the cavity to a position extending outwardly from the front end and complementary catch means on the toe piece and the holder for releasably retaining the basket in the cavity.

2. The device according to claim **1** in which the complementary catch means consists of a latch and slot arrangement, one of which is carried by the basket and the other carried by the toe section.

3. The device according to claim **1** in which the complementary catch means comprises an apertured flange extending outwardly from the basket edge opposite said hinge and a latch having a hook engageable in the aperture in said flange, said hook engaging the edge of the aperture.

4. In a plastic molded shoe tree having a concavo-convex toe section of a shape to fit into the toe of a shoe, said toe section having a front end, an upper rearward edge, a downwardly facing cavity and an end section connected to the upper rearward edge of the toe section, a device consisting of a perforated article basket and two pairs of complemental releasable catch means, one pair of the complemental catch means being on the front end of the basket and on the underside of the front edge of the toe piece respectively, and the other pair of the complemental catch means being on the back edge of the basket and the underside of the toe piece adjacent thereto.

5. The device according to claim 4 in which said catch means on the back edge of the basket and the underside of the toe piece adjacent thereto comprises a fastening device on the underside of the toe piece and a flange on the basket, engaged by the fastening device.

6. The device according to claim 4 in which said

catch means on the front end of the basket and on the underside of the front edge of the toe piece comprises a tongue receiving recess on the front edge of the toe piece and a tongue protruding from the front end of the basket, said tongue being enterable in the recess.

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