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E. HESS

MEANS FOR MAKING CASTS

Filed March 14, 1927

Fig. 1.

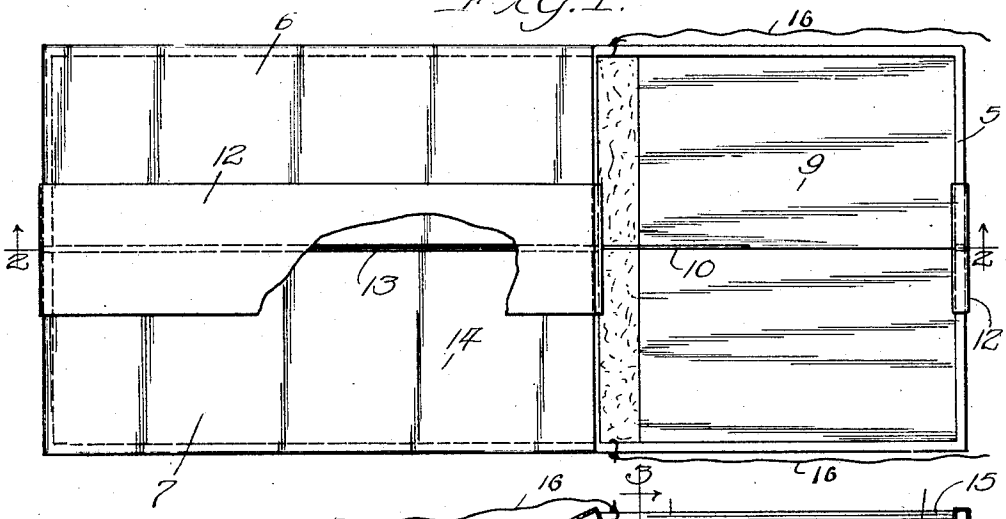


Fig. 2.

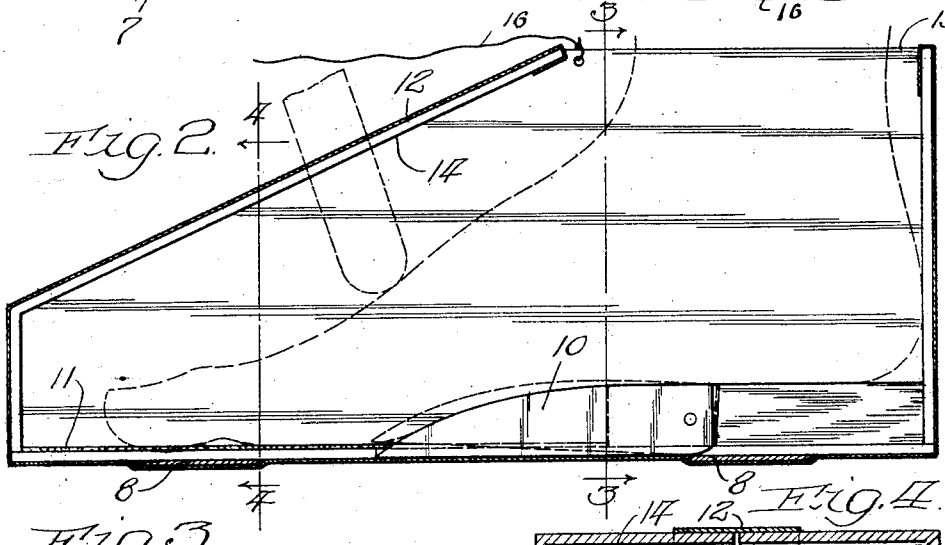


Fig. 3.

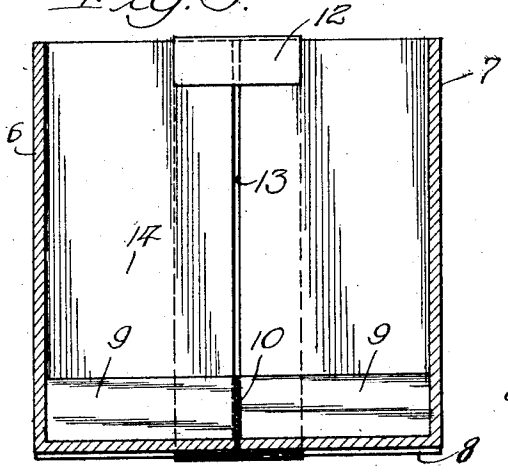
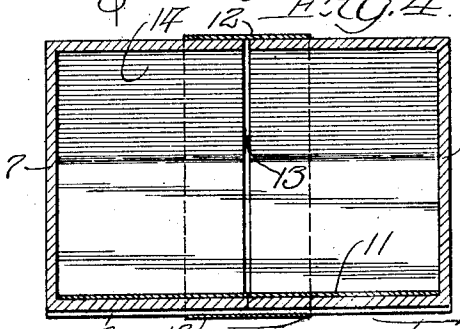


Fig. 4.



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MEANS FOR MAKING CASTS.

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In order to make boots or shoes which will fit properly, it is desirable to have lasts made to conform to the feet of the wearer, and this is particularly true in cases of misshapen or deformed feet. In order to make the lasts, it is necessary to have casts made of the feet. While the molds or negatives for making such casts may be readily made by experts, it is often impossible or inconvenient for persons desiring such casts to secure the services of such an expert. The principal object of the present invention is to provide means whereby any persons with ordinary skill or intelligence may make molds or negatives of their feet, from which the necessary casts may be made. My improved devices and the material for making the molds may be sent to persons at any distance from the place of business where the casts are made and returned by them to such place of business so that suitable lasts may be made for people at any distance throughout the country.

Other objects of my invention are to provide a novel flask or box in which the mold or negative of a foot or the like may be made; to provide an improved method of making molds or negatives of feet or the like and means for carrying out such method in a convenient manner; and to provide such other advantages and desirable features as will appear from the following description.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating this invention,

Figure 1 is a top view of my improved mold box or flask;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

The flask or box 5 may be made of any suitable material, but for convenience in shipping, as by parcel post, as well as for cheapness in construction, I prefer to make the same of paper, cardboard, fibre board, or the like. The flask is made in two parts 6 and 7 which are hinged together, as shown at 8, by any suitable hinges. In the device as shown, these hinges are formed of straps of webbing, tape or the like. The two halves are provided at one end with blocks 9 to form a heel support, as shown particularly in Figures 1 and 2. A thin plate or blade 10 is pivoted to the lower portion of one of the halves and projects forwardly from the heel support. The upper edge of this blade is shaped to conform to the arch or central portion of the foot, as shown in Figure 2 and the blade may be adjusted to fit different arches. The bottom of the box or flask is preferably lined with a lining 11 of felt or cloth.

The flask or box, when sent out for the purpose of making a mold or negative, is provided with a strip of paper or easily severable fabric 12 which is pasted over the joint or opening 13 between the two halves. The flask or box is made so that it conforms somewhat roughly to the shape of the foot, having a tapered or bevelled cover 14 over the front part thereof, and an opening 15 through which the foot may be inserted.

In carrying out my method of operation, these flasks will be sent out to the person desiring casts to be made and will be accompanied with a sufficient quantity of plaster of Paris or the like for making the form or mold. The person receiving the same mixes the plaster with a sufficient amount of water to make a proper mixture and, when the foot is placed in position in the flask, the plaster is poured in around the same, thereby filling the flask or box and completely enveloping the foot with the exception of the points of support where it rests on the heel blocks and bottom of the flask. It will be noted that this plaster will run in under the arch of the foot and will come to a thin edge around the ball of the foot and the lower portions of the toes. The plaster will adhere closely to the felt or fabric 11 in the bottom of the flask, and these thin edges will be supported and held in position more securely after the foot is removed than if the bottom surface were hard or smooth and unyielding. As soon as the plaster has become slightly set so that it will not run, the person takes a knife or blade and cuts through the paper strip 12 and extends the knife inwardly close to the front of the foot and also along the back so that the plaster or mold is substantially divided into two halves. It is then allowed to further set until it becomes substantially hard when the two halves of the flask or box are swung apart on the hinges 8 to release the foot. At such time

the blade 10 serves as a separator so that the plaster will be evenly divided under the arch of the foot. The flask or box is then closed and the parts tied or fastened together by strings 16, or in any suitable manner and sent back to the manufacturer who then uses the mold in the usual manner for making a cast of the foot and eventually, the cast having been properly manipulated, is used as a form for making the last.

From this description, it will be seen that I provide an improved method or system for assisting those needing special forms of boots or shoes to be supplied with the same without the assistance of experts in making molds, and it will also be noted that the flasks or boxes may be made cheaply so that they will ordinarily be used once only. However, changes in the form and construction of the device may be made without departing from the scope of my invention, as set forth in the following claims, in which I claim:

1. A flask for making molds of feet or the like comprising a box formed of suitable material and conforming generally to the form of the foot and having an opening for inserting the foot, said box being formed in two parts which are hinged together and united on a substantially median plane and having frangible means for temporarily holding the free edges together when the cast is to be made.

2. A flask for forming a mold of a foot, comprising a frame conforming generally to the shape of the foot and divided on a substantially median line, hinges on the bottom of the frame, a heel plate for supporting the heel above the bottom of the frame, and an adjustable blade extending forwardly from the heel plate and conforming to the arch of the foot.

3. The combination with a divided flask, of a strip of paper or fabric covering the joint between the portions of the flask, as and for the purpose described.

4. A flask for forming molds, having a lining of felt or the like for a portion or all of the interior of the flask.

5. A flask which conforms generally to the shape of a foot and is adapted for receiving a foot for making a mold, said flask being formed in two parts which are hinged together at the bottom, and a strip of paper covering the division between the upper portions of the flask, said paper serving to hold the parts in closed position and to seal the flask whereby it will hold the mixture and being adapted to be severed when the mold is formed in order to open the flask.

6. The method of forming a mold of a foot, which consists in inserting the foot in a divided flask, then fastening the parts of the flask together by severable strips, then pouring plaster or the like into the flask around the foot, then inserting a blade between the parts of the flask at the front and back of the foot thereby severing the strips and dividing the plaster before it has hardened, then permitting the plaster to harden, and finally opening the flask to release the foot.

7. The method of making a mold or negative of a foot, which consists in inserting the foot in a box which is divided longitudinally with the parts held together by a strip of paper or the like over the joint between the parts, then pouring plaster or the like in the box around the foot and permitting it to harden to a predetermined degree, then inserting a blade between the two parts to divide the plaster longitudinally of the foot and at the same time cut the strip, then permitting the plaster to harden to a further degree, and finally opening the box to release the foot.

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