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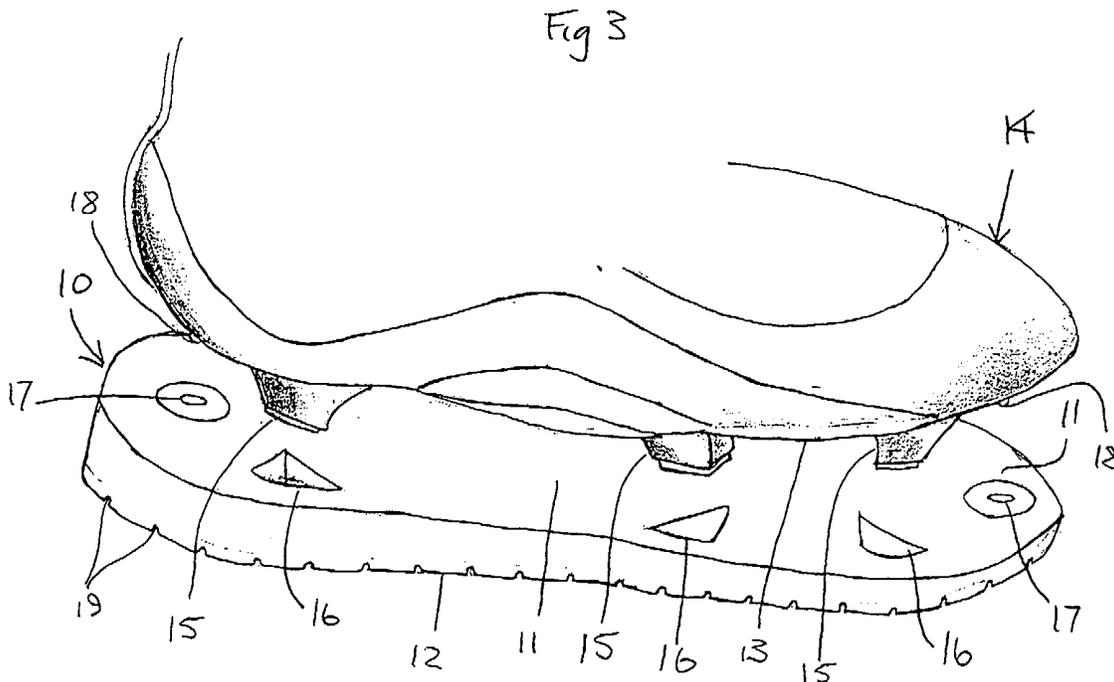
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(56) Documents Cited
WO 1996/034542 A1 **US 5722189 A**
US 5600902 A **US 4258483 A**
US 3243902 A

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UK CL (Edition S) **A3B**
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(54) Abstract Title
Protector for footwear having projections

(57) A protector 10 for an article of footwear 14 having projections 15 extending from the sole 13, such as a football boot, comprises an elongate member having a plurality of recesses 16, wherein each recess is adapted to receive a corresponding projection. Typically, the sole and the protector are connected by snap engagement devices 17, 18 located at toe and heel regions thereof.



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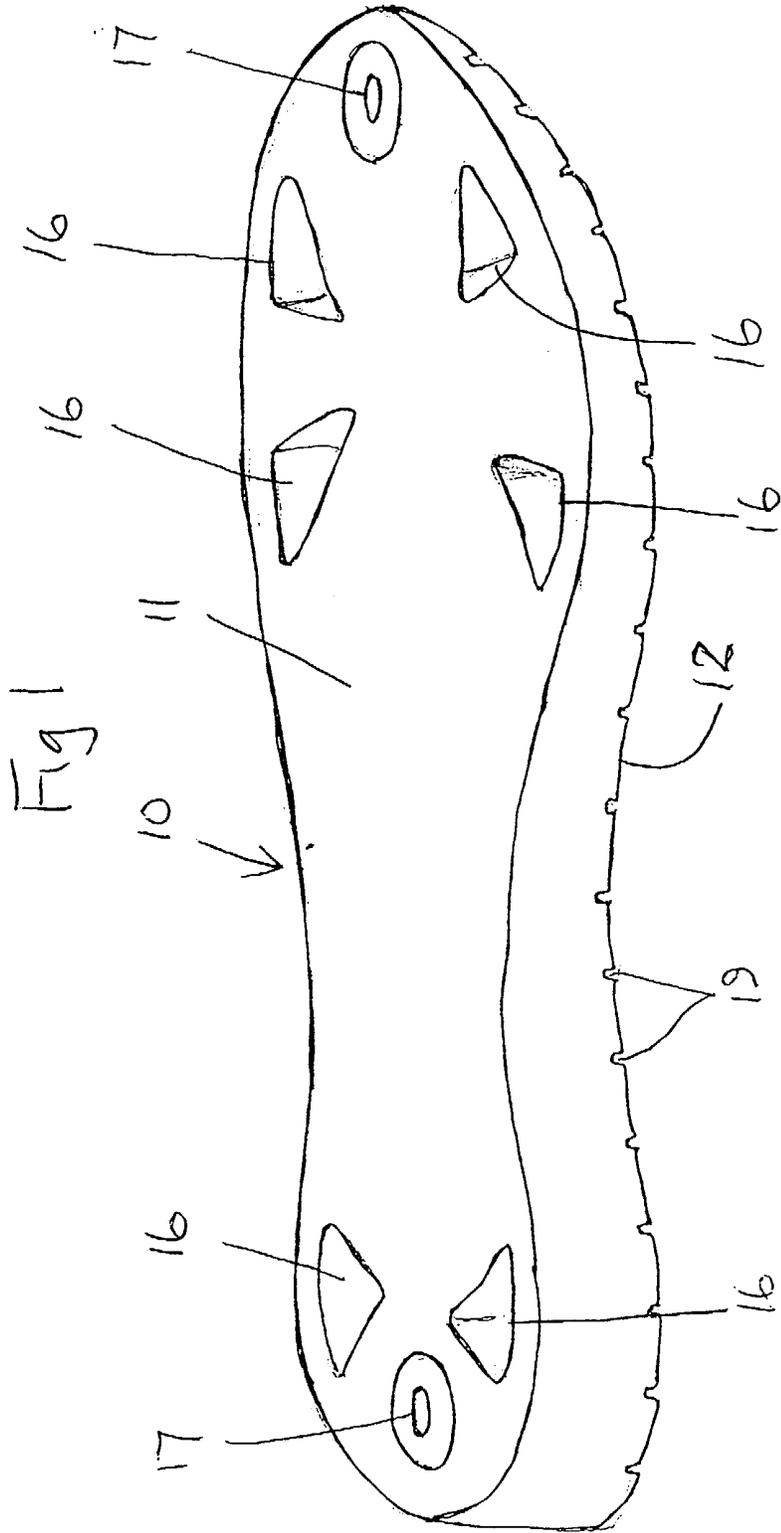


Fig 2

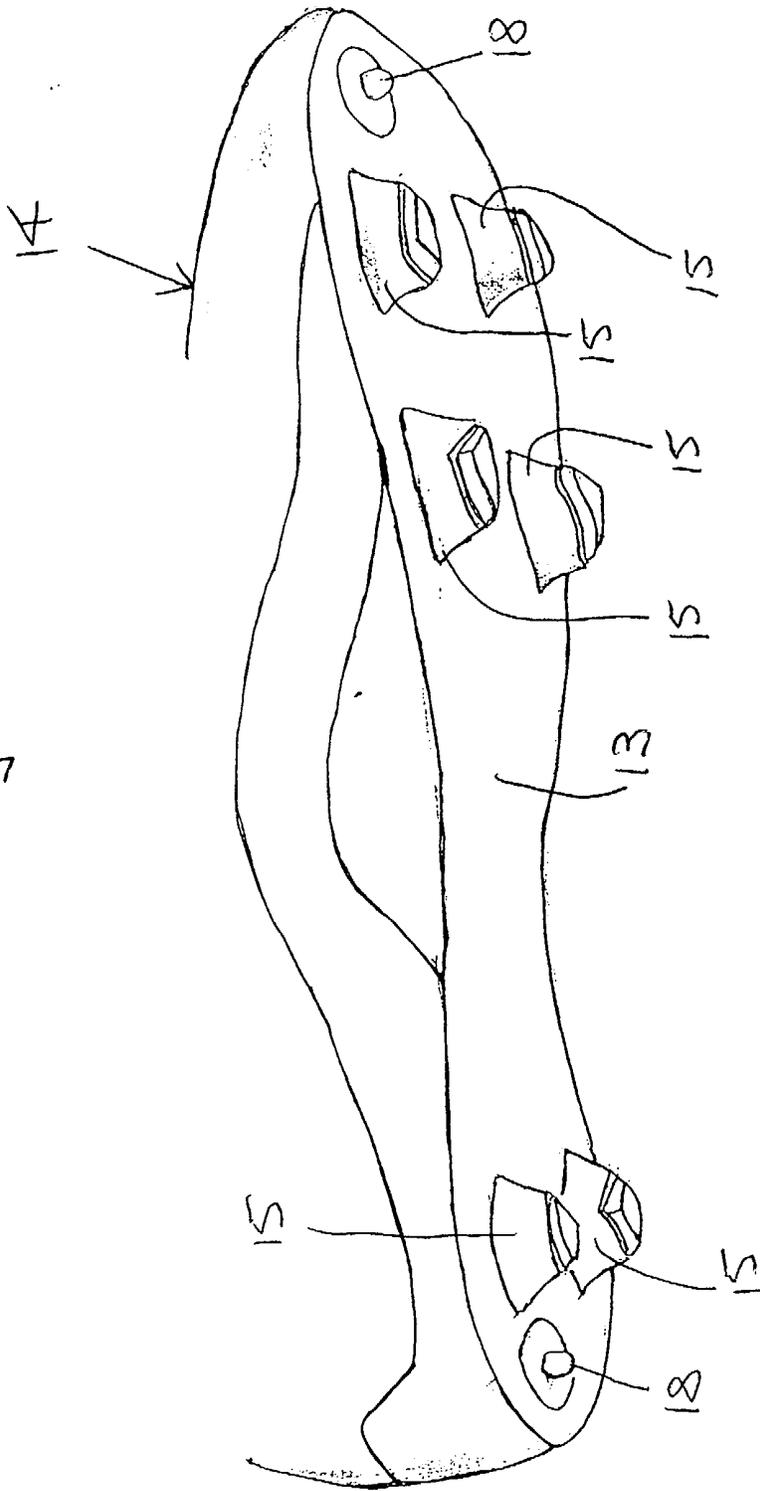
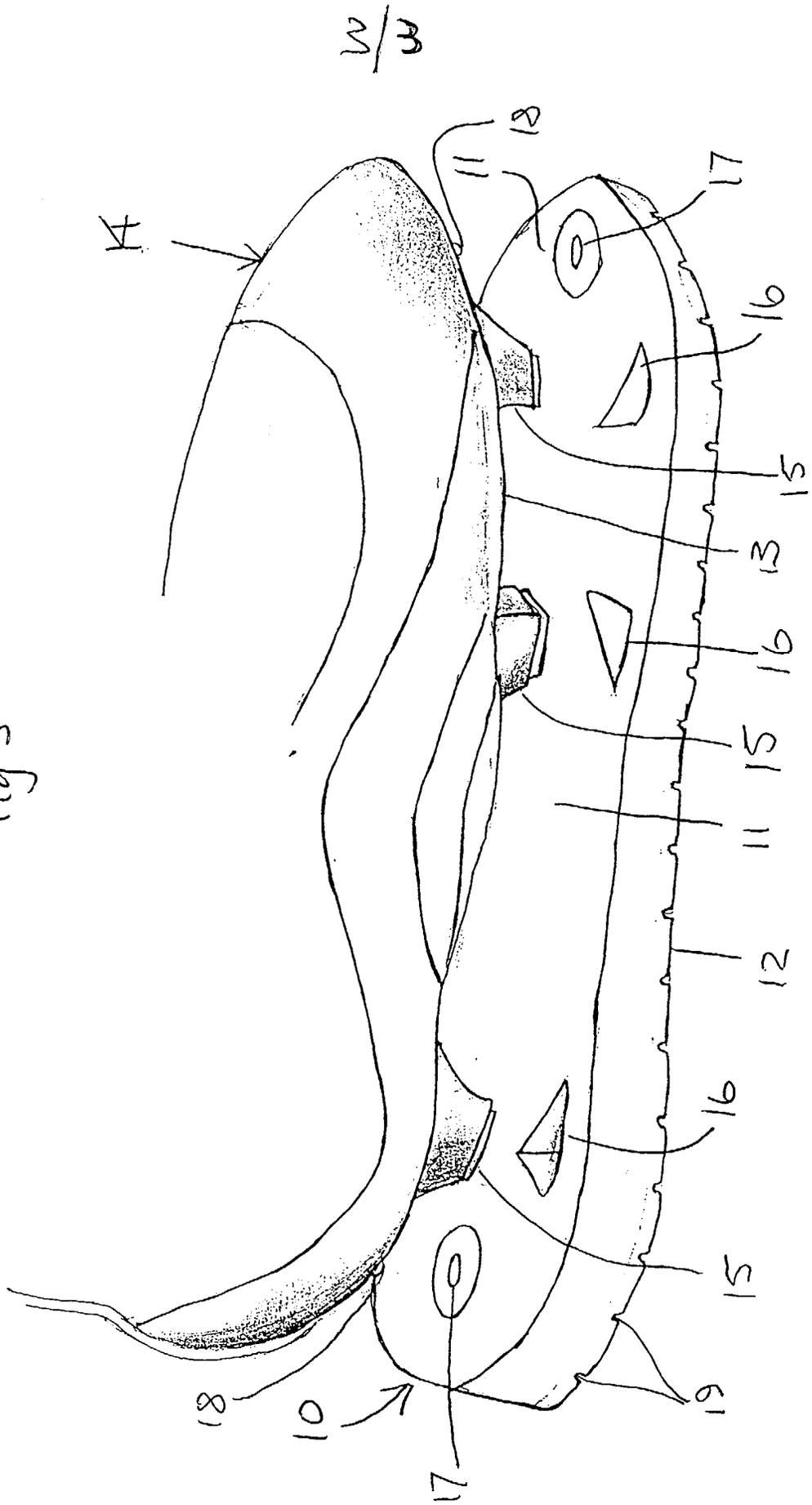


Fig 3



FOOTWEAR BLADE PROTECTOR

This invention relates to a footwear blade protector and, more particularly,
5 to a protector for an article of footwear having projections extending from
an outer surface of a sole thereof.

In playing many sports it is necessary to provide footwear with projections
extending from an outer surface of a sole thereof in order that the wearer of
10 the footwear may confidently expect to gain firm footing on soft ground.
For example, a football boot is provided with a plurality of blades
extending from an outer surface of a sole thereof. When worn, the blades
enter a football pitch and provide the wearer with firm footing when
playing the game.

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A disadvantage of such footwear is that, if worn on a hard surface, the
blades can be blunted and rendered ineffective.

According to the present invention, there is provided a protector for an
20 article of footwear having projections extending from an outer surface of a
sole thereof, the protector comprising an elongate member having a
plurality of recesses each for receiving a corresponding one of the
projections when the protector is located against the said outer surface.

25 Therefore, the protector may be located on the outer surface of the sole of
the footwear so that, if the footwear is worn on a hard surface, most of the
load is borne by the protector and not the projections.

Following is a description, by way of example only and with reference to
30 the accompanying drawings, of one method of carrying the invention into
effect.

In the drawings:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a protector in accordance with the present invention,

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Figure 2 is a perspective view of a lower portion of a football boot adapted to receive the protector shown in Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing interconnection between the protector and the football boot.

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Referring to the drawings, there is shown a protector 10 comprising an elongate member formed of resilient material having an upper surface 11 and a lower surface 12 and having a configuration in the shape of a sole 13 of a football boot 14, the sole having blades 15 extending downwardly from an outer surface thereof. The upper surface 11 of the protector 10 is provided with a plurality of recesses 16 each having a configuration corresponding to a corresponding one of the blades 15 of the football boot 14 when the upper surface 11 of the protector 10 is pressed against the outer surface of the sole 13 of the football boot 14, the blades 15 thereby being located in corresponding recesses 16 of the protector 10.

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The upper surface 11 of the protector 10 also is provided, at a toe portion thereof and at a heel portion thereof, with receptors 17. The outer surface of the sole 13 of the football boot 14 is also provided, at a toe portion thereof and at a heel portion thereof, with projectors 18 each adapted to be received in a corresponding one of the receptors 17 so as to provide snap engagement between the cooperating projectors 18 and receptors 17. In this manner, the protector 10 is adapted to be removably secured to the outer surface of the sole 13 of the football boot 14.

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It will be appreciated that the protector 10, when located so that the upper surface 11 thereof is in abutment with the outer surface of the sole 13 of the football boot 14, protects the blades 15 when a wearer of the football boot 14 runs or walks on a hard surface.

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The lower surface 12 of the protector 10 may be provided with treads 19 for enhancing the grip of the protector 10 when in engagement with a hard surface.

10 The recesses 16 of the protector 10 may extend through the protector 10.

It will be appreciated that a protector in accordance with the present invention may be used to protect footwear other than football boots and may be used to protect, for example the studs of cricket boots or golf shoes
15 or the spikes of running shoes.

CLAIMS

1. A protector for an article of footwear having projections extending
5 from an outer surface of a sole thereof, the protector comprising an elongate member having a plurality of recesses each for receiving a corresponding one of the projections when the protector is located on the said outer surface.
- 10 2. A protector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the sole and the protector are provided with complementary devices for connecting the protector to the sole.
3. A protector as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the devices are adapted
15 so as to snap-engage and dis-engage one with another.
4. A protector as claimed in Claim 3 wherein two pairs of such devices are provided, one pair at a toe portion and one pair at a heel portion.
- 20 5. A protector as claimed in Claim 4 when the recesses are apertures.
6. A protector for an article of footwear having projections extending from an outer surface of a sole thereof substantially as hereinbefore described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Claims searched: 1-6

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Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK CI (Ed.S): A3B.
Int CI (Ed.7): A43B 5/18.
Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO.

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	WO 96/34542 A1 (MINERS). See particularly Figures 4-6.	1-5
X	US 5722189 A (JOHNSON). See particularly Figure 2.	1,2
X	US 5600902 A (YAVITZ). See particularly Figures 1 & 7.	1,2
X	US 4258483 A (HOGUE). See particularly Figures 1 & 2.	1-5
X	US 3243902 A (CHAPMAN). See particularly Figures 1-4 & 6.	1-5

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.