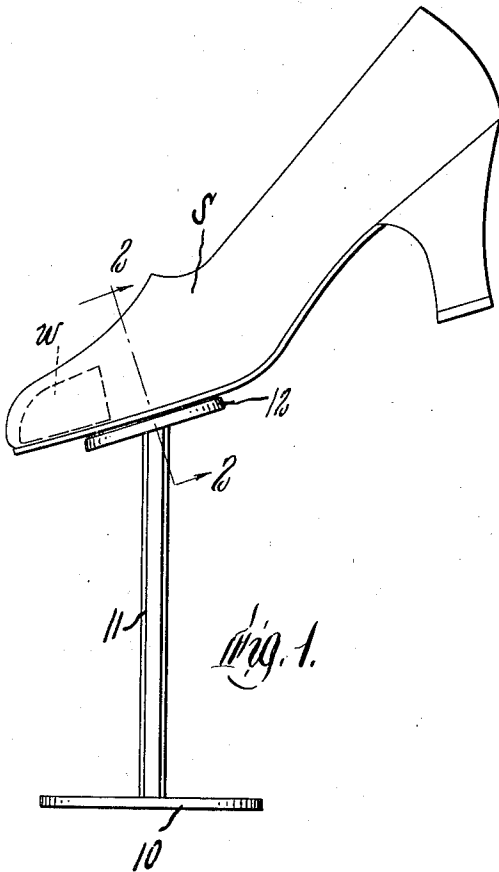
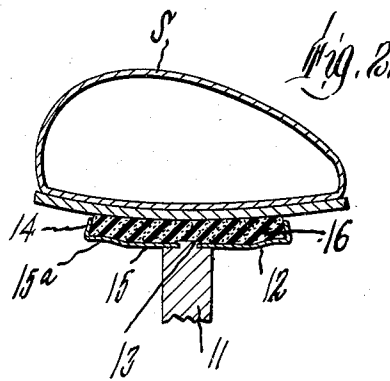
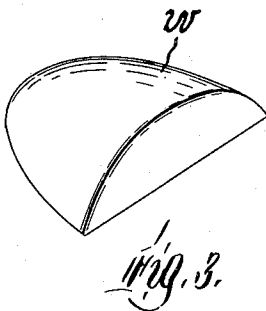
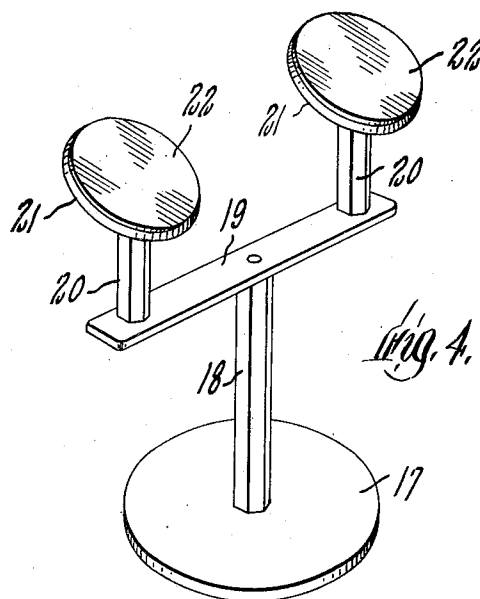


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SHOE-DISPLAY STAND

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SHOE-DISPLAY STAND

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This invention relates to a shoe-display stand such as can be used to good advantage for displaying shoes in a store-window or show-case.

In displaying shoes and more especially women's shoes, it is desirable that the prospective purchaser view the shoe so that the tailored effects or lines, including the bottom and heel lines, be brought into as full perspective as possible. This very desideratum is realized by the display stand of the present invention, which enables stable support of the shoe on an inclined supporting area distinctly smaller than that of the shoe-sole forepart while the shoe is tilted or inclined forwardly at an angle conducive to ample perspective.

Generally stated, the shoe-display stand hereof comprises a pedestal whose upper end portion presents a shoe-supporting surface at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, such surface being of an area distinctly smaller than that of a shoe-sole forepart and being afforded by material of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on such surface. More specifically, the upper end portion of the pedestal may advantageously take the form of a dished member into which is frictionally fitted a substantially flat blank of suitable anti-slip material, such as sponge rubber or its equivalent.

With the foregoing and other features and objects in view, the present invention will now be described with particular reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein,

Fig. 1 represents a side view of a stand embodying the present invention, a shoe being shown stably supported thereon with an appropriate weight inside its toe region.

Fig. 2 is a section through the supporting stand portion and the supported shoe on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 illustrates in perspective the weight to be inserted into the toe region of the shoe before the shoe is placed on the stand.

Fig. 4 depicts in perspective a modified form of stand equipped with two shoe-supporting structures embodying the present invention.

The stand of Fig. 1 comprises a horizontal or flat base 10 and a vertically upstanding rod 11, which together constitute the pedestal. Suitably affixed to the upper end of the rod 11 is a dished member 12, which occurs at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, for instance, an angle of approximately 30°. It might be noted that the parts of the stand thus far described may

be made of any suitable metal, such as stainless steel, bronze, or aluminum, or be made of steel suitably electro-plated with chromium or other lustrous and protective metal finish. While it is possible to fashion the parts from a single piece of metal, it has been found more economical in actual practice to start with three separate parts and to fix them suitably to one another, as by threading the lower end portion of the rod 11 into a correspondingly threaded aperture in the center of the base 10 and as by creating a tongue or rivet element 13 at the upper end portion of the rod 11 and heading it over the margins of an aperture through the central bottom portion of the dished member 12 (see Fig. 2).

The dished member 12 is defined by an upstanding annular rim 14 and a bottom whose main body portion 15 is preferably offset slightly downwardly from its portion 15a adjacent to the rim 14. By imparting to the dished member 12 the particular shape indicated, such member serves well its intended role as a holder or retainer for a substantially flat disk of compressible, anti-slip material, for instance, sponge rubber, on which the shoe-sole forepart is to rest. A disk 16 of sponge rubber is shown in Fig. 2 as being fitted into the dished member 12 with its edges frictionally engaging the internal wall of the rim 14 and with its upper surface projecting sufficiently above the upper edge of such rim to present the desired inclined shoe-supporting surface whose area is much smaller than that of a shoe-sole forepart.

As is apparent from Figs. 1 and 2, which show a woman's shoe S supported on such disk 16, not only is the diameter of such disk considerably shorter than the length of the shoe-sole forepart from the front shank line forwardly but it is distinctly shorter than the width of the ball-zone of the sole, at which zone the shoe rests on or makes contact with the disk. It might be noted that the diameter of the disk may, pursuant to the present invention, be of such relatively small length that the foregoing statement applies to women's shoes of various sizes, including even the smallest-size woman's shoe standard on the market. Because of the slightly downwardly offset bottom portion 15 of the dished member 12, the upper surface of the disk 16 tends normally to assume a slight downward concavity on its upper or supporting surface, especially under the weight of the weighted shoe S. This concavity is desirable in that it promotes frictional contact between substantially the entire upper surface

of the disk 16 and the ball zone of the sole surface, which, in the case of a newly-manufactured shoe, has a slight downward convexity at the ball zone. By ensuring contact between the ball zone of the sole surface and substantially all the upper surface of the disk 16, it becomes possible to stabilize or balance the shoe readily at numerous positions of placement of the ball zone of the sole on the upper surface of the disk 16.

Stabilization or balancing of the shoe with its shoe-sole forepart resting on the upper surface of the disk 16 is realized by inserting into the toe portion of the shoe an iron or other weight *w* predetermined to shift the center of gravity of the shoe sufficiently frontwardly thereof to prevent the shoe from falling backwardly off the stand but insufficient to overcome the frictional drag or force exerted by the inclined upper surface of the disk 16 on the shoe sole and tending to hold the shoe on such surface. In other words, the toe-weight is so chosen that the shoe is in equilibrium or stably supported on the upper surface of the disk 16 even when the shoe is moved so that various zones of the shoe-sole forepart area make contact with the inclined upper or supporting surface of the disk. Unless the disk 16 were of appropriate anti-slip or frictional quality, the shoe would tend to slide or move downwardly off the stand, for the weight *w* shifts the center of gravity of the shoe sufficiently frontwardly to create, under the angle of forward inclination of the sole-supporting surface of the disk, a component of downward slide or motion tending to cause the shoe to fall off a substantially flat surface of low anti-slip or frictional quality, particularly one of small area, and/or rendering impossible stable support on such latter surface of the shoe over the desired comparatively large shoe-sole forepart area, as is true in the case of the display stand hereof. The display stand hereof is further advantageous in that the shoe is so stably supported thereon as not to be dislodged by such vibration, air-eddies, and other influences as normally prevail in a store-window or show-case.

Sponge rubber has been found to be an excellent and economical material for furnishing such anti-slip quality as is desired in the disk 16. Again, a sponge-rubber disk may be easily and appropriately fit into the dished member 12 without the need of adhesive or other extraneous fastening agency, for such disk may be cut to a slightly larger diameter than that of the annular rim 14 and then readily compressed or crowded into such member so as to engage frictionally the internal wall of the rim so as to have no tendency whatever to disassociate itself from such member or fall out when the stand is permitted to tip or fall, as during handling. When such disk 16 is fitted into the dished member 12, its upper surface tends to assume the desired slight downward concavity for substantially complete contact with the slightly downward convex ball zone of the sole surface. In lieu of sponge rubber, it is possible to use other anti-slip and preferably also resiliently compressible materials, for instance, the spongy, resilient, cellulose material now being sold for bathroom use by Du Pont Company, various rubber substitutes now available on the market, and such other materials as exhibit a coefficient of friction and preferably also resilient compressibility in the same order of magnitude as those of soft-vulcanized rubber, especially sponge rubber.

Rather than being equipped with but a single, inclined, shoe-supporting surface, the display stand hereof may be built with a number of such surfaces in suitably spaced relationship. Thus, according to another embodiment of the present invention appearing in Fig. 4, a main pedestal, inclusive of a horizontal base 17 and a vertically upstanding rod 18, carries suitably affixed to the upper end portion of such rod a horizontal cross-arm 19 to whose end portions vertically upstanding rods 20 are suitably secured. To the upper end portion of each rod 20 is suitably fixed at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal a dished member 21 constituting a holder for a sponge rubber disk 22. The structure of each dished member 21 and the relationship thereto of its sponge-rubber disk 22 may be similar to that of the dished member 12 and the relationship thereto of its sponge-rubber disk 16. The horizontal cross-arm 19 and its two associated vertically upstanding rods 20 may hence be considered as a duplex super-pedestal supported by one lower main pedestal.

Other changes and modifications of the shoe-display stand hereof being possible, it is to be understood that the appended claims for such stand are to be given the broadest construction permissible in the light of the prior art.

I claim:

1. A shoe-display stand comprising a pedestal whose upper end portion presents a shoe-supporting surface at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said surface being of an area distinctly smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart and being afforded by material of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface, the span of said surface in a lengthwise direction being considerably shorter than the length of the shoe-sole forepart from the front shank line forwardly and in a crosswise direction being distinctly shorter than the width of the ball-zone of the sole.

2. A shoe-display stand comprising a pedestal whose upper end portion presents a shoe-supporting surface at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said surface being of an area distinctly smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart and being afforded by resiliently compressible material of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart on said surface, the span of said surface in a lengthwise direction being considerably shorter than the length of the shoe-sole forepart from the front shank line forwardly and in a crosswise direction being distinctly shorter than the width of the ball-zone of the sole.

3. A shoe-display stand comprising a pedestal whose upper end portion presents a shoe-supporting surface at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said surface being of an area distinctly smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart and being afforded by sponge rubber of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface, the span of said surface in a lengthwise direction being considerably shorter than the length of the shoe-sole forepart from the front shank line forwardly and in a crosswise direction being distinctly shorter than the width of the ball-zone of the sole.

4. In a shoe-display stand, a pedestal, a dished member fixed to the upper end of said pedestal at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, and a substantially flat blank of anti-slip material fitted into said member and presenting an inclined shoe-supporting surface whose area is much smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart, said material being of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface.

5. In a shoe-display stand, a pedestal, a round dish fixed to the upper end of said pedestal at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said dish being defined by an upstanding annular rim and a bottom, and a disk of resiliently compressible anti-slip material fitted into said dish and presenting an inclined shoe-supporting surface whose area is much smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart, said material being of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface.

6. In a shoe-display stand, a pedestal, a round dish fixed to the upper end of said pedestal at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said dish being defined by an upstanding annular rim and a bottom having a main body portion slightly downwardly offset from its por-

tion adjacent to said rim, and a substantially flat disk of resiliently compressible anti-slip material fitted into said dish with its edges frictionally engaging the internal wall of said rim and with its upper surface projecting above the upper edge of said rim to present an inclined shoe-supporting surface whose area is much smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart, said material being of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface.

7. In a shoe-display stand, a pedestal, a round dish fixed to the upper end of said pedestal at a substantial angle of inclination to the horizontal, said dish being defined by an upstanding annular rim and a bottom having a main body portion slightly downwardly offset from its portion adjacent to said rim, and a substantially flat disk of sponge rubber fitted into said dish with its edges frictionally engaging the internal wall of said rim and with its upper surface projecting above the upper edge of said rim to present an inclined shoe-supporting surface whose area is much smaller than that of a woman's shoe-sole forepart, said material being of such anti-slip quality as to support stably thereon a shoe internally weighted at its toe and resting only at its shoe-sole forepart area on said surface.

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