Jan. 29, 1929. 1,700,499

W. C. HUNTINGTON

MUD GUARD FOR SHOE HEELS

Filed Jan. 21, 1928

Fig. 1.

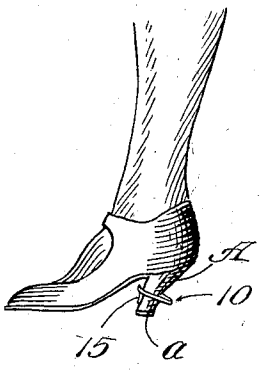


Fig. 2.

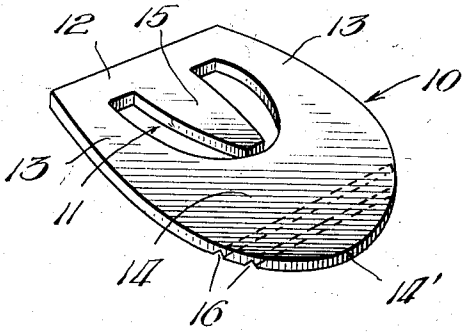


Fig. 3.

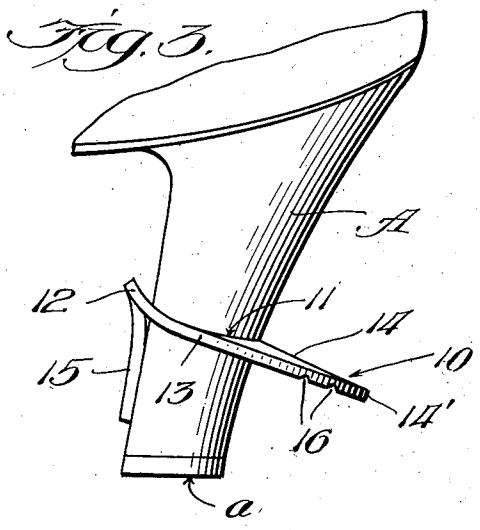


Fig. 4.

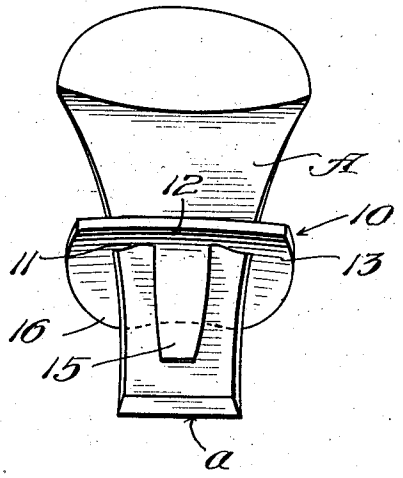
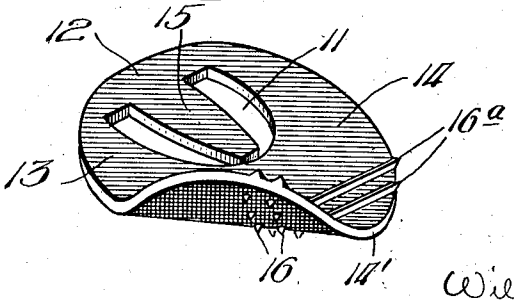


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. HUNTINGTON, OF HINSDALE, ILLINOIS.

MUD GUARD FOR SHOE HEELS.

Application filed January 21, 1928. Serial No. 248,311.

My invention relates to mud-guards for shoe heels and has for its general object to provide a simple, effective and convenient guard, readily applicable to the shoe heel and removable therefrom, as occasion suggests, for protecting the shoes and stockings and other clothing of the wearer from being splashed with mud and moisture that tends to be flicked up from the bottom of the shoe heel in walking on a wet surface. More particular objects of my invention will become apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and my invention consists in the features of construction and arrangements of parts hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a side elevation showing the guard in use on a woman's shoe;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a guard detached;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged side elevation of the form of guard shown in Fig. 2 applied to a woman's shoe heel;

Fig. 4 is an elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 3, looking from the left; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of guard, partly folded to show portions of both surfaces.

In the drawings I have shown a guard of construction especially designed for the heels of women's shoes, since women's apparel is particularly subject to damage by mud-splashing, and the tall, slender heels characteristic of their shoes are particularly suited to receive the guard and are particularly apt to flick moisture upward and from the tread surface of the heel as the wearer walks, owing partly to the small radius of curvature of the back portion of the heel-tread.

The guard shown in Figs. 1 to 4 comprises a unitary body 10, preferably of rubber for repeated use, although flexible, non-absorbent paper board or fiber board may be used where it is desired that the guards be used only once and then thrown away, and the body is molded or stamped out to the form shown. This form provides a heel-receptive opening 11 of half-oval shape and of suitable size substantially to conform to the horizontal cross-section of a shoe heel A taken at a point somewhat above the tread-surface *a* of the heel, the opening being bounded by the front bar 12, side parts 13 and guard-extension 14 of the unitary body. Projecting from the middle of the front bar 12 into the opening 11 is a tongue 15, unitary with the front bar and free at its tip. The exact size of the portions of the structure may be varied, of course, but the tongue should be quite wide at its base and the guard-extension 14 should be sufficiently long and wide so that, when in position on the shoe heel, it will intercept drops cast tangentially from the back and side curves of tread-surface *a* in walking. The horseshoe-shaped outline of the body 10 shown in Fig. 2 gives about the maximum effectiveness with the minimum of material, but the more nearly circular outline illustrated in Fig. 5 is desirable when the guards are to be packed in circular "vanity case" containers.

I prefer that the rear portion of the guard-extension 14 shall have provision on its under side tending to prevent accumulation of moisture drops on the rear under-edge 14′ of the extension. Such provision may take form as one or more transverse grooves 16 formed in the under surface of the guard extension as shown in Figs. 2 to 4, or as projecting ribs, shown at 16^a in Fig. 5, or rows of small projections as shown at 16^b in Fig. 5, such forms of transversely extending interruptions of the otherwise-plane surface of the extension serving the stated purpose.

The guard is applied to the heel in the manner shown, its opening 11 being forced over the bottom of the heel so that its tongue 15 is bent downwardly, and the clutching action of the heel-contacting portions of the guard very effectively maintain it firmly in intended position, while at the same time giving to the flexible guard a curvature that is advantageous to its functioning. Thus, as the tongue 15 is depressed, it tends to throw upwardly the middle of the front-bar 12, arching said bar slightly, with consequent pull upon the sides 13, resulting in a slight cupping of the guard about a longitudinal axis with its concave side downward and also giving the guard a distinct downward inclination from front to rear, accompanied by a clutching of the bottom edges of opening 11 against the rear and side surfaces of the shoe heel. The tongue 15, making rather extensive friction contact with the front of the shoe heel, and pressed against it by its own resiliency reinforced by the tendency of the other portions of the guard to spring back to plane position, makes the structure notably capable of self-retention in intended position; especially so if the body material

be stretchably elastic as in the preferred use of rubber, but very adequately so even when the body material is non-stretchable, although bendably elastic, as in the use of fiber board.

If desired, the guard may be made with different colorations on its opposite surfaces and may be provided on both sides with interruptions of the plane surfaces of the guard-extension 14, as shown in Fig. 5, for reversibility in use.

While I have shown my invention in two particular embodiments, indicating that changes in details may be made in the construction, it will be understood that further changes in details may be made without departure from the spirit of my invention within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A heel-guard comprising a flexible body having a completely-surrounded heel-receptive opening therein and a flexible tongue projecting into said opening from the front portion of the guard.

2. A heel-guard comprising a unitary body of flexible material shaped to provide a front bar, side portions and a rear extension completely surrounding a heel-receptive aperture, and a tongue, free at its rear end and integral with the front bar at its front end, projecting into said opening.

3. A heel-guard comprising a rubber body of normally-plane form providing a front bar, side portions and a rear guard extension surrounding a heel-fitting, square-edge opening and a tongue projecting into said opening from the middle of the front bar.

4. A heel-guard comprising a unitary body of flexible material having a front bar, side portions and a rear guard-extension surrounding a heel-fitting opening, and a tongue extending into said opening from the middle of the front bar, said parts lying normally in substantially a common plane and said guard-extension having transversely arranged provision near its rear end interrupting the plane surface thereof to minimize drop-formation on the rear edge of the guard extension.

In testimony whereof, I have subscribed my name.

WILLIAM C. HUNTINGTON.