April 26, 1927. 1,626,426

J. B. PIOTROWSKI

BOOT OR SHOE

Filed Feb. 18, 1926

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

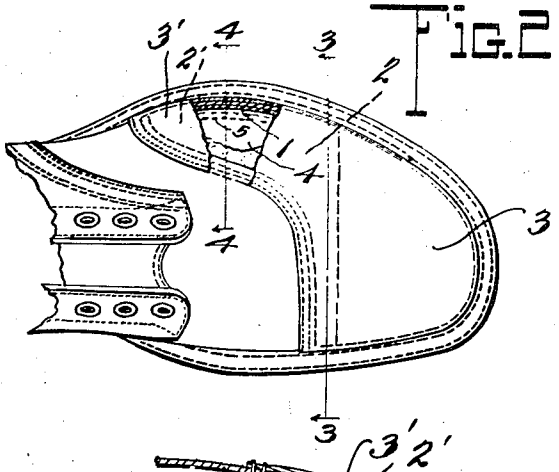


Fig. 3.

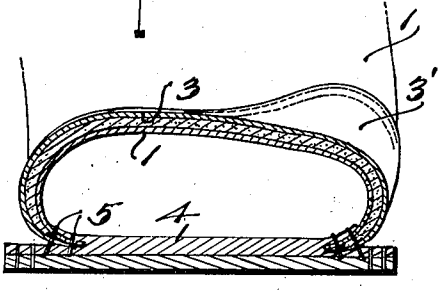
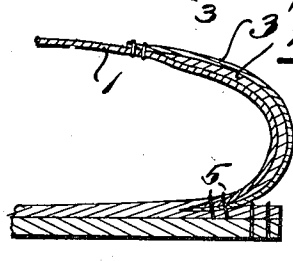


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. PIOTROWSKI, OF CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN.

BOOT OR SHOE.

Application filed February 18, 1926. Serial No. 89,123.

The present invention relates to improvements in boot or shoe constructions and it has for its primary object to provide a novel form of toe box and cap, so shaped and arranged as to constitute an efficient protection against injury to the toes when worn by those engaged in such hazardous employment as mining and steel or quarry works.

I am aware that it has been proposed heretofore to employ metal guards which are applied to the exterior of the shoe as protectors, but these have decided disadvantages; first, they destroy the normal appearance of the footwear and make it difficult to give to the shoe a proper or comfortable shape; and, secondly, they are lacking in the resilience which is desirable to permit the portion which receives a blow or impact to resume its normal shape.

My aim therefore has been to provide a special toe box which extends completely around the region of the toes by virtue of the formation of a wing extension for the outer side of the shoe but without materially interfering with the flexure of the shoe or destroying the natural appearance thereof, and incorporating this in the shoe construction in the usual manner. By the use of material in this box having a certain degree of resiliency, very heavy impacts may be withstood without breaking down the shape, while at the same time affording adequate protection for the toes of the wearer.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter set forth and the novel features thereof defined by the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe embodying my invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary plan view thereof;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

I have shown this invention as applied to the blucher type of shoe, but it is to be clearly understood that the construction is equally applicable to other types of footwear.

In the illustration, 1 designates the vamp, 2 the toe box, and 3 the cap. These are attached to the insole 4 in the well known manner by the stitching 5. The box, and the cap preferably, are provided with wing extensions 2′ and 3′, respectively, for the outside of the shoe only. That is to say, the box and cap extend from a point in advance of the base of the toe at the inside to or slightly beyond the little toe at the outside. The complete zone of the toes, substantially speaking, is therefore given a rigid protector without destroying the general appearance of the shoe or interfering to any great extent with the flexing of the shoe during walking.

I consider it of importance to employ heavy leather as the material for this box, because of its ability to withstand heavy impacts and the desirable characteristic tendency to resume its normal shape after receiving such. Of course I may employ other materials which have these advantages and I do not wish, therefore, to be unnecessarily restricted as regards this feature.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A shoe of the class described comprising a toe box composed of resilient material of sufficient rigidity to withstand substantial impacts and extending across the top of the shoe above the region of the toes at the toe portion of the shoe in substantially spaced relation to the foot opening thereof so as to leave an intermediate free flexing zone for the toes, said box having a rearward extension toward the shank covering the top and sides of the toes at the outside of the foot.

2. A shoe of the class described comprising an approximately rigid toe box extending from a point proximate the base of the great toe at the inside transversely of the top of the shoe to substantially its mid-width and thence rearwardly to a point beyond the base of the little toe at the outside of and above said toe, and a toe cap conforming to the shape of the toe box so as to cover the same.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN B. PIOTROWSKI.