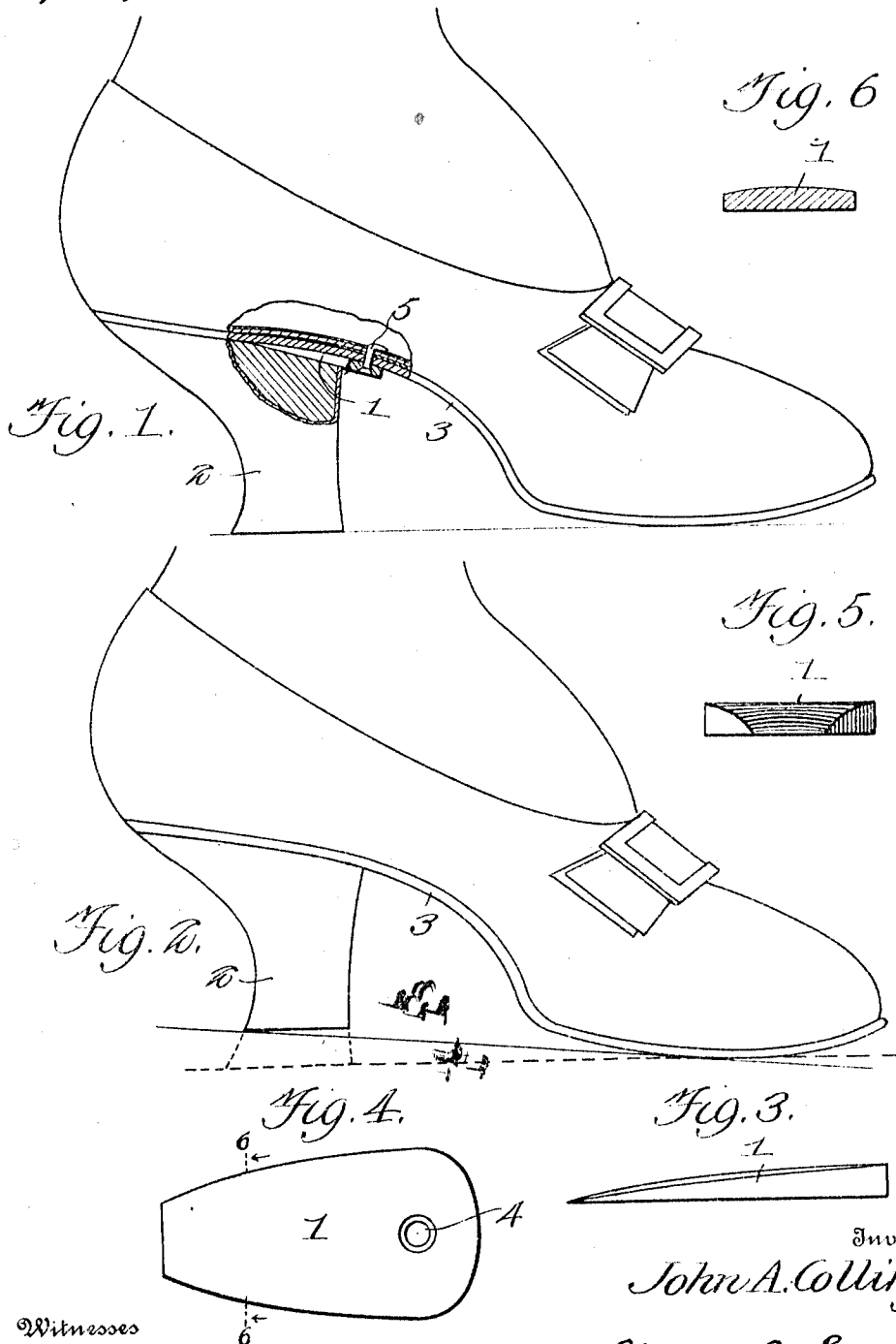


J. A. COLLING.
 COMBINED HEEL LEVELER AND SHANK STIFFENER.
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 24, 1912.

1,063,856

Patented June 3, 1913.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. COLLING, OF MISSOULA, MONTANA.

COMBINED HEEL-LEVELER AND SHANK-STIFFENER.

1,063,856.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 3, 1913.

Application filed January 24, 1912. Serial No. 673,059.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. COLLING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Missoula, in the county of Missoula and State of Montana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Combined Heel-Levelers and Shank-Stiffeners, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention has relation to foot covering of the type embodying an upper, a sole and a heel, the purpose being to stiffen the shank and to level or bring the lower tread side of the heel into the plane of the sole so that when the weight of the wearer is received upon the shoe the same is distributed throughout the extent of the heel and the ball portion of the sole.

It frequently happens that ladies or misses require the heel to be lowered in order to secure ease and comfort in walking and when one or more of the lifts of the heel are removed the level is disturbed to such an extent that when the shoe is worn the weight is received upon the rear portion of the heel and that part of the sole opposite the ball of the foot. This results in discomfort and disturbs the ease and grace of walking.

The present invention provides means whereby the forward portion of the heel of a shoe may be lowered when required to cause the entire surface of the heel from front to back to touch the surface when the weight of the person is placed upon the shoe when standing or walking.

The invention consists of a shoe having a wedge introduced between the forward portion of the heel and the shank portion of the sole, said wedge serving to stiffen and reinforce the shank of the sole and to lower the forward portion of the heel, whereby the latter is brought to a level so as to touch the surface throughout its extent when sustaining the weight of the person wearing the shoe.

The invention consists of the novel features, details of construction and combination of parts, which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and pointed out in the appended claim.

Referring to the drawing, forming a part of the specification, Figure 1 is a side view of a shoe embodying the invention, a portion being broken away to show more clearly the application of the device. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, the dotted lines show-

ing the full height of the heel and the full lines showing the depth of the heel after one or more of the lifts have been removed. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the combined heel leveler and shank stiffener. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the device as seen from the lower side. Fig. 5 is an end view. Fig. 6 is a transverse section on the line C—C of Fig. 4.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description, and indicated in all the views of the drawing, by the same reference characters.

The combined heel leveler and shank stiffener is indicated at 1 and is constructed of metal, being approximately of wedge form throughout its length and preferably tapering so as to be driven home between the heel and the sole of the shoe with comparative ease and despatch. As indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 2 the lower or tread side of the heel 2 is level with that part of the sole opposite the ball of the foot. Should it be required to remove one or more lifts of the heel in order to reduce the height, as indicated by the full lines in Fig. 2, the level of the heel is disturbed, that is the front portion of the heel is elevated. In order to level the heel it is necessary to lower the front portion thereof and in accordance with this invention the part 1 is introduced between the breast or front portion of the heel and the shank 3 of the sole of the shoe and is driven home, thereby forcing the forward portion of the heel downwardly with the result of leveling the heel, as indicated in Fig. 1. An opening 4 is formed in the butt or thickened portion of the device and is adapted to receive a nail 5 or like fastening, thereby preventing the loosening or displacement of the device when the shoe is in service. It is observed that the device 1 not only acts to level the heel but also serves to stiffen the shank 3.

The device 1 has its sides slightly convexed between the ends thereof, the degree of convexity being greatest near the point of the device and gradually decreasing toward the butt thereof. This formation adapts the device more nearly to the specific use for which designed because the surfaces of the heel and counter portion of the shoe which are in contact curve transversely. The lower face of the device is in a straight plane, whereas the upper face is slightly convex from point to butt, this formation also fit-

ting the device for the special purpose intended.

5 The device may have any outline and may be constructed of steel, iron, brass or other metal suitable for the purpose, which will sustain the blows of a hammer when driving the device home between the heel and sole portion of the shoe.

10 The term shoe is employed to designate any foot covering embodying an upper, a sole and a heel irrespective of the type or make of boot or shoe.

15 From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I
20 now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that

the device shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claim
25 appended hereto.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new, is:—

In a shoe of the type provided with a heel, a wedge shaped body of oblong form
30 tapering in width and thickness and having its upper face longitudinally and transversely curved, said body having its pointed end driven between the heel and sole of the shoe and having its butt portion projecting
35 a short distance in front of the heel to come beneath the shank portion of the sole to which it is secured.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN A. COLLING.

Witnesses:

MATHIAS BACKES,
FRANK PATTERSON.