United States Patent [19]

Haselden

[11] **3,821,858**

[45] **July 2, 1974**

[54] **PROTECTOR FOR ATHLETIC SHOES**

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[22] Filed: **Sept. 12, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **396,496**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **36/2.5 AN**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A43b 00/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 36/2.5 R, 1, 7.7, 7.5, 36/7.1 R, 7.3, 2.5 AN

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A protector for athletic shoes having spikes projecting from the sole thereof. The protector is adapted to receive the shoe and includes an upper, a sole carried by said upper having an outer portion, an inner portion in which the spikes are adapted to be embedded, a hard toe plate and a hard heel plate which plates are positioned between the outer and inner sole portions.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

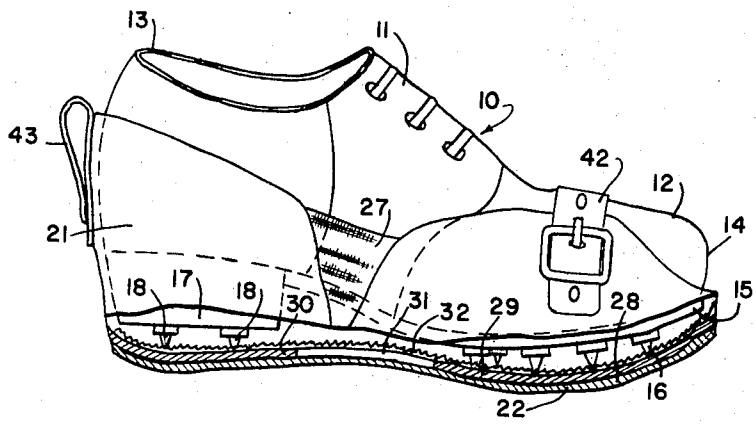


FIG. 1

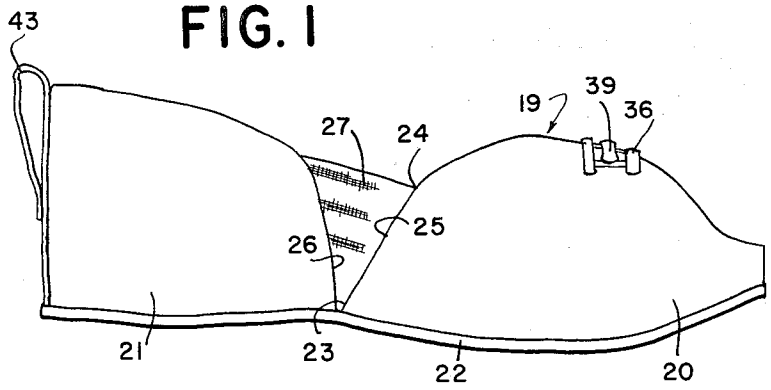
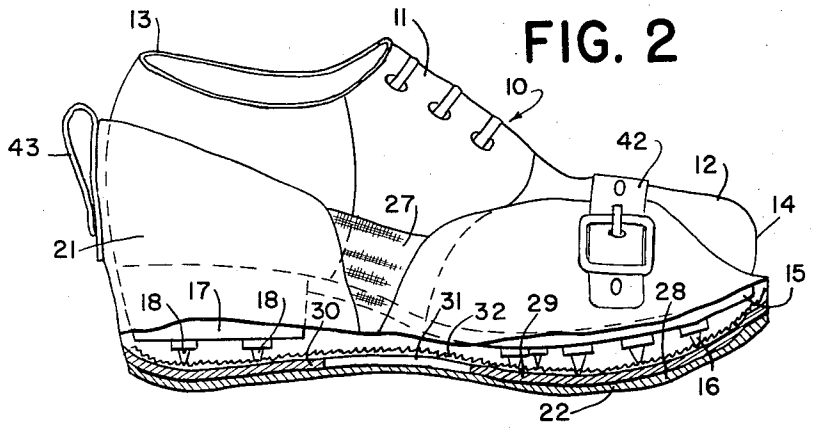


FIG. 2



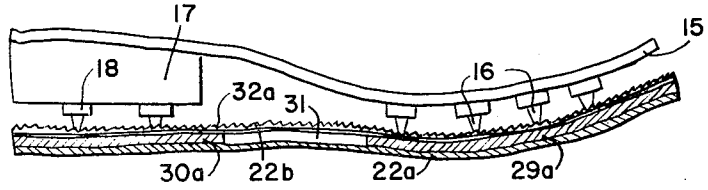
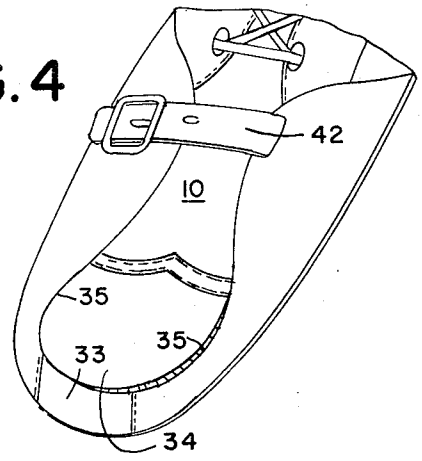


FIG. 5

FIG. 4



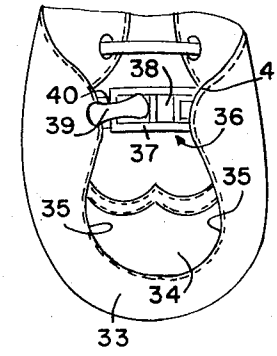


FIG. 3

PROTECTOR FOR ATHLETIC SHOES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally appertains to a protector for athletic shoes of all types having cleats or spikes projecting from the sole thereof. Said protector being adapted to receive the spiked shoe therein so that the spikes will be prevented from damaging floors or other surfaces needing protection when the wearer of the spiked shoe is walking elsewhere than on the playing field, such as a golf course or other athletic field.

2. State of the Prior Art

There are many and varied known types of such spiked shoe protectors but they suffer from various disadvantages in that in some instances the leading spike of the athletic shoe must be guided by groove or the like into position in the protector. Other known protectors require that sockets or depressions must be formed in the protector to accommodate the spikes of the athletic shoe in which event the protector could only be used for a particular arrangement of the spikes. Other known types of spiked shoe protectors are of such a construction that they interfere or hinder the natural walking of the wearer of such protectors since no provision is made for the flexing of the protector sole to accommodate the natural steps of the wearer thereof.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a protector for athletic shoes such as golf shoes having various arrangements of the spikes or cleats and a protector into which the wearer of the spiked shoe can insert the spiked shoe into the protector without the necessity of a relative sliding movement of the spiked shoe into the protector.

In one of its broadest aspects, the present invention provides a protector for spiked shoes adapted to receive the athletic shoe therein and comprising an upper, a sole carried by said upper and including an outer portion, an inner portion adapted to have the spikes embedded therein, a hard toe portion plate and a hard heel portion plate, said plates constituting a middle portion of the sole and being positioned between the outer and inner sole portions.

More specifically the present invention contemplates the provision of a protector for athletic shoes wherein the upper includes toe and heel parts which are spaced apart at the middle or vamp part of the upper, the toe and heel plates are spaced apart at the middle or vamp part of the upper and the adjacent portions of the upper are connected on each side of the upper by an elastic member which cooperates with the space between the toe and heel plates to permit flexing of the protector to assist in the relative flexing of the toe and heel parts of the upper as well as the sole part of the protector.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the elastic member permits the heel part of the upper to be pulled rearwardly to facilitate the insertion of the spiked shoe into the protector and after the spiked shoe has been completely inserted in the protector the elastic member will automatically pull the heel portion of the upper into snug engagement with the heel portion of the athletic shoe.

The present invention further comtemplates a protector for use with an athletic shoe having spikes projecting from the sole thereof, the upper of the protector generally conforming to the shape of the athletic shoe and having a toe part provided with a forward portion adapted to have the forward portion of the athletic shoe abut against the inner face of the forward portion of the upper, said forward portion of the upper terminating below the forward portion of the toe part of the athletic shoe and said toe part of the upper being cut away so that the protector is adapted to receive athletic shoes having toe parts of varying widths and an adjustable fastening element is provided for bringing the toe part of the upper into snug engagement with the sides of the toe part of the shoe when the athletic shoe is fully inserted into the protector.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of the protector constructed in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a side elevational view of the protector with the athletic shoe inserted therein and with parts broken away to show particularly the sole portion of the protector.

FIG. **3** is a fragmentary top plan view of the protector with the athletic shoe inserted therein and showing the fastening element of FIG. **1.**

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary front elevational view of the shoe and protector looking in the direction of the arrow of FIG. **3,** and

FIG. **5** is similar to FIG. **2** but shows a modified form of the sole of the protector.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings and initially to FIG. **2** thereof, the reference numeral **10** generally designates the athletic shoe having an upper generally designated at **11** comprising a toe portion **12** and the heel portion **13.** The toe portion **12** includes a toe part **14** and a sole generally indicated at **15.** The shoe **10** has a sole **15** carried by the upper **11** and from which protrude downwardly spikes or cleats **16.** The shoe **10** also has a heel **17** from which depends spikes or cleats **18.** The shoe **10** may be an athletic shoe of any type having spikes but in the present instant it is illustrated as a shoe to be worn by golfers.

Turning now more particularly to FIG. **1** of the drawing, **19** generally indicates the protector constructed in accordance with the present invention. The protector comprises an upper having a toe part **20** and a heel part **21** which carries a sole **22.** It will be noted from FIG. **1** particularly that the toe and heel parts are spaced apart from one another at the medium or vamp part of the upper and that the space therebetween defines a triangle having the apex thereof indicated at **23** adjacent the sole **22** of the protector and the base thereof **24** disposed adjacent the upper edges of the toe and heel parts of the protector.

The spacing of the toe and heel parts of the protector apart provides adjacent edges **25** and **26** respectively. The toe and heel parts of the protector are joined together by a triangularly shaped elastic member **27** which is secured in any appropriate manner to the adjacent edges **25** and **26** of the toe and heel parts of the protector. It will be noted from FIG. **1** of the drawings that the apex of the elastic member is received by the apex **23** of the space between the toe and heel parts of

the protector and the base portion of the member **27** is received by the base **24** of the space between the toe and heel parts of the protector.

The sole **22** of the protector comprises an outer portion **28** which may be made of leather, rubber or some hard material such as fiber glass or plexiglass which is pliable enough to permit easy walking and yet durable enough to hold the protector in shape. The outer portion **28** of the sole **22** is carried by the upper of the protector and may be secured thereto in any well known manner.

The sole **22** of the protector also includes two metal plates one of which is indicated at **29** and is located in the toe portion of the sole **22** and a second metal plate **30** located in the heel portion of the sole **22.** The metal plates may be made of thin metal or some hard material, such as fiber glass or plexiglass so that the spikes of the athletic shoe **10** cannot penetrate the plates **29** and **30.** It will be noted that the plates **29** and **30** are spaced apart as indicated at **31** at the medium or vamp portion of the protector and the space **31** is located adjacent the apex **23** of the space between the toe and heel parts of the protector and extends forwardly and rearwardly under the adjacent parts of the toe part **20** and the heel part **21** of the protector and beneath the elastic member **27.** These plates **29** and **30** may be secured to the inner surface of the outer portion **28** of the sole **22** of the metal plates may be embedded in the outer portion **28** of the sole **22.** The purpose in leaving the space **31** between the metal plates and having such space located at the medium or vamp portion of the protector and the elastic member **27** is that these parts cooperate to permit and augment the flexing of the outer portion **28** of the sole **22** and the relative flexing of the toe part **20** and the heel part **21** of the protector so that wearer of the device may walk in comfort.

The innermost portion of the sole **22** of the protector may be formed of fabric or cloth similar to carpet as indicated at **32** such as indoor-outdoor carpet or some other fibrous material so that the spikes **16** and **18** of the athletic shoe **10** will push the fibers apart and become embedded in the fabric **32** to prevent cutting of the fabric and so that the spikes will become embedded in the fabric when the athletic shoe is within the protector to prevent sliding or slipping of the athletic shoe within the protector to facilitate natural walking.

The carpet **32** may be removable from the protector so that when it becomes soiled or worn a fresh fabric **32** may be inserted in the protector or the fabric **32** may be permanently attached to the plates **29** and **30** in any appropriate manner such as by eproxy glue or other adhesive.

It will be noted from FIGS. **3** and **4** of the drawings particularly that the upper of the protector generally conforms to the shape of the athletic shoe **10** and the toe part **20** of the protector has a forward portion **33** of the toe part **20** of the protector against which the forward portion of the sole **15** of the shoe **10** abuts and that the forward portion **33** of the toe part **20** terminates below the forward portion of the toe **12** of the shoe **10.** It will also be noted from FIGS. **3** and **4** of the drawings that each side of the toe part **20** of the protector is cut away as indicated at **35** and that rearwardly of cut away portion **35** the toe part **20** of the protector is provided with a fastening element **36.** The provision of the forward portion of the toe part **20** and the cut away **35** of the part **20** of the protector will permit the protector to accommodate athletic shoe **10** of varying widths and the provision of the fastening element **36** will permit the wearer to pull the cut away portions **35** into snug engagement with the adjacent parts of the athletic shoe **10** so as to hold firmly the protector on the shoe **10.**

The fastening element **36** comprises a substantially arcuate shaped plate **37** provided with a series of spaced apart slots or openings **38** adapted to selectively receive a tongue **39** which is carried by the strap **40** which in turn is secured to the upper edge of the toe portion **20** of the protector. The plate **37** is carried by a strap **41** which in turn is secured to the upper edge of the toe part **20** of the protector.

In FIG. **2** of the drawings the fastening element takes the form of a conventional buckle type **42** which is secured in any conventional manner to the toe part **20** of the protector.

A pull loop **43** is secured to the heel part **21** of the protector in any suitable manner for facilitating the stretching backwardly of the heel part **21** when the athletic shoe **10** is being inserted into the protector.

FIG. **5** of the drawing shows a modified form of the sole of the protector in which the toe and heel plates **29^a** and **30^a** are embedded in the sole **22^a** of the protector. The sole **22^a** includes an inner layer **22^b** which overlies the plates **29^a** and **30^a.** An inner sole **32^a** similar to inner sole **32** of FIG. **2** overlies the inner layer **22^b** of the outer sole **22^a** and may be secured to the inner layer **22^b** or removable therefrom.

USE OF THE DEVICE

Assuming that the wearer of a spiked athletic shoe wishes to enter the clubhouse where it would be necessary for him to walk on a wooden floor or the like, he would unfasten the fastening element **36** or **42** of the protector and insert his spiked shoe into the protector by a substantially wholly vertical downward movement of his foot and by pulling on the loop **43** against the force of the elastic member **27** to move the heel portion **21** of the protector rearwardly to facilitate the entrance of the shoe into the protector. The sole **15** of the shoe will engage the inner face of the forward portion of the toe part **20** of the protector and the cut away part **35** of the upper of the protector will accommodate shoes having toe portions of varying widths. The fastening element **36** or **42** will then be secured to bring the cut away parts **35** of the protector upper into snug engagement with the adjacent parts of the shoe while the release of the pulling force on the pull loop **43** will permit the elastic member **27** to bring the heel portion **21** of the protector into snug engagement with the adjacent parts of the heel part **13** of the shoe. At the same time the spikes will embed themselves in the inner sole **32** of the protector by forcing the fibers of **32** apart without cutting the fibers of the inner sole **32** or **32^a** so that slipping or sliding of the shoe in the protector will be prevented.

The space between the metal plates **29** and **30** will cooperate with the elastic **27** to permit flexing of the sole of the protector and relative flexing movement of the toe part **20** and the heel part **21** of the protector to permit the wearer to walk naturally without any hindrance.

Of course, while the best known forms of the present invention have been described herein and shown in the drawings, it is obvious that changes can be made

therein so that the inventive concept is only restricted by the spirit and terms of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A protector for athletic shoes having cleats or spikes projecting from the sole thereof adapted to receive said shoe therein comprising an upper, a sole carried by said upper and including an outer portion, an inner portion adapted to have the spikes embedded therein, a hard toe portion plate and a hard heel portion plate, said plates constituting a middle portion of the sole and being positioned between the outer and inner sole portions, said plates being spaced apart at the vamp portion of the protector to permit flexing of the upper and the sole of the protector.

2. A protector as claimed in claim **1,** wherein the outer portion of the sole comprises toe and heel portions and is secured to said upper, said toe portion plate is secured to the inner surface of the toe portion of the outer sole portion, said heel portion plate is secured to the inner surface of the heel portion of the outer sole portion and the inner portion of the sole is secured to said plates.

3. A protector as claimed in claim **1,** wherein said plates are embedded in the outer sole portion.

4. A protector as claimed in claim **1,** wherein said outer portion of the sole of the protector comprises an outer and an inner layer and the toe and heel portion plates are embedded between the two layers.

5. A protector for athletic shoes having cleats or spikes projecting from the sole thereof adapted to receive said shoe therein comprising an upper, a sole carried by said upper and including an outer portion, an inner portion adapted to have the spikes embedded therein, a hard toe portion plate and a hard heel portion plate, said plates constituting a middle portion of the sole and being positioned between the outer and inner sole portions, said inner portion of the sole being removable.

6. A protector for athletic shoes having cleats or spikes projecting from the sole thereof adapted to receive said shoe therein comprising an upper, a sole carried by said upper and including an outer portion, an inner portion adapted to have the spikes embedded therein, a hard toe portion plate and a hard heel portion plate, said plates constituting a middle portion of the sole and being positioned between the outer and inner sole portions, said upper including toe and heel parts, said toe and heel plates being spaced apart at the middle or vamp part of the upper to permit relative flexing of the toe and heel parts of the upper to allow the wearer of the athletic shoe and protector to walk naturally.

7. A protector as claimed in claim **6,** wherein the toe and heel parts of the upper are spaced apart at the middle or vamp part of the upper and the adjacent portions of the spaced apart toe and heel parts are connected on each side of the upper by an elastic member which cooperates with the space between the toe and heel plates to assist in the relative flexing of the toe and heel parts of the upper.

8. A protector as claimed in claim **7,** wherein said elastic member is of substantially triangular shape with the apex of the triangle being located adjacent the space between the toe and heel plates and the base of the triangle is disposed at the upper edges of the toe and heel parts of the upper to permit stretching of the heel part of the upper rearwardly to facilitate the insertion of the athletic shoe into the protector and to automatically cause the heel part of the upper to fit snugly against the heel portion of the shoe when the shoe has been fully inserted into the protector.

9. A protector as claimed in claim **7,** wherein the heel part of the upper has a looped element secured thereto to facilitate the stretching of the heel part of the upper when the wearer is inserting the shoe into the protector.

10. For use with an athletic shoe having a sole and an upper spaced above the sole and spikes projection from the sole thereof, a protector adapted to receive said shoe comprising an upper generally conforming to the shape of said shoe, said upper having a toe part provided with a forward portion adapted to have the forward portion of the sole of the shoe abut against the inner face of the forward portion of the upper, said forward portion of the upper terminating below the forward portion of the toe part of the upper of the shoe and said toe part of the upper being cut away so that the protector is adapted to receive shoes having toe parts of varying widths, and an adjustable fastening element for bringing the toe part of the upper into snug engagement with the sides of the toe part of the shoe when the shoe is fully inserted into the protector.

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