Nov. 21, 1939. A. T. PREWITT 2,180,996

TOE AND VAMP LINER FOR SHOES

Original Filed April 23, 1938

FIG. 1.

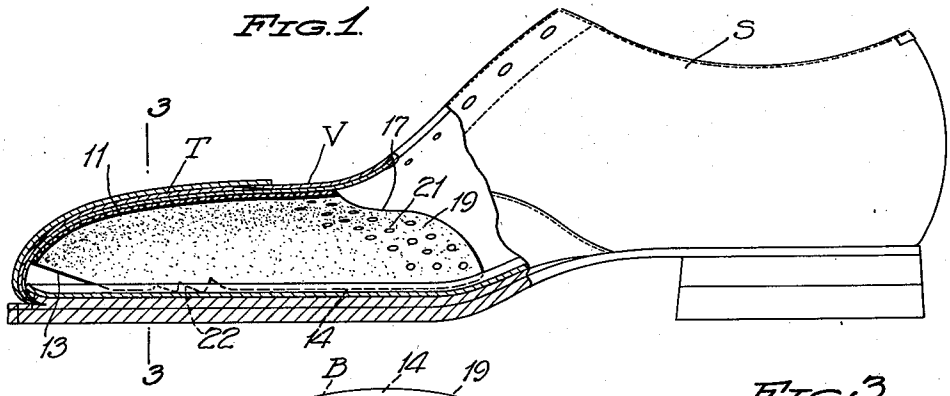


FIG. 2.

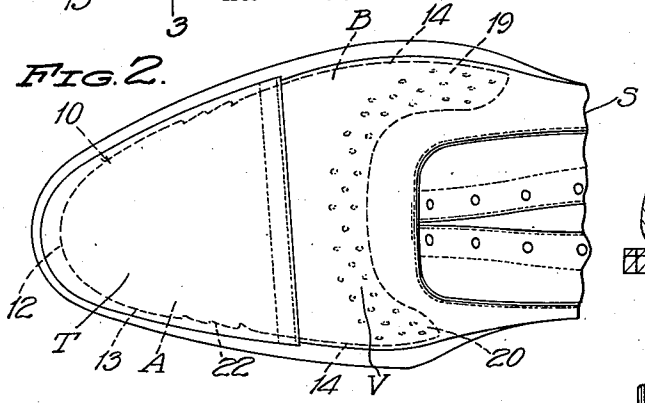


FIG. 3.

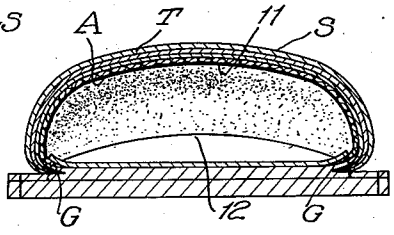


FIG. 6.

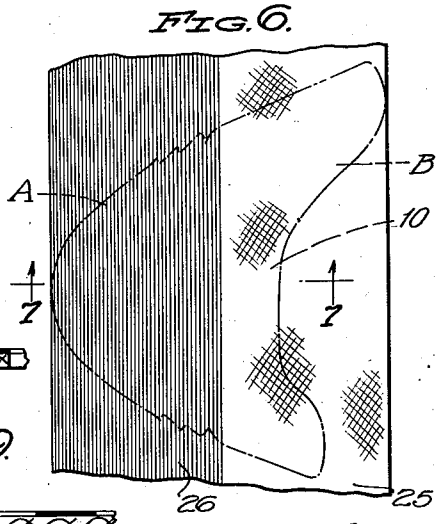


FIG. 4.

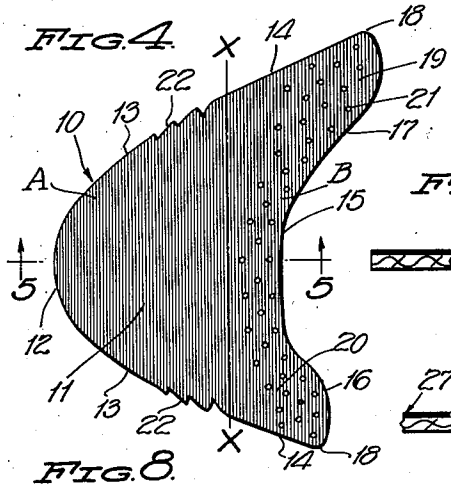


FIG. 5.

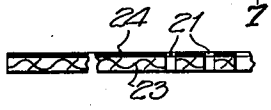


FIG. 9.

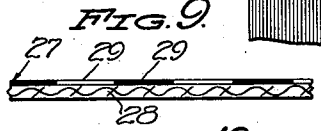


FIG. 7.

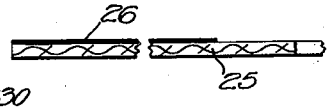


FIG. 8.

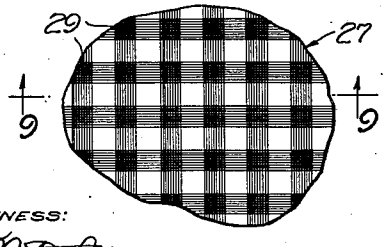
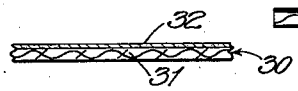


FIG. 10.



ARTHUR T. PREWITT.
INVENTOR

BY Ely & Pattison.
ATTORNEYS.

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TOE AND VAMP LINER FOR SHOES

Arthur T. Prewitt, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Application April 23, 1938, Serial No. 203,786
Renewed October 10, 1939

4 Claims. (Cl. 36—55)

This invention relates to improvements in shoe attachments and has particular reference to a toe and vamp liner for shoes.

In my prior U. S. Letters Patent 1,965,431 granted July 3, 1934 in which I am joint inventor with William J. Prewitt, the invention related to a toe liner for shoes which only fitted into the toe box of a shoe to provide a smooth inner surface therein when the original lining becomes worn. I have since discovered that by providing pronounced rearwardly extending side wing portions on a toe liner of the shape set forth in my prior patent to provide a combined toe and vamp liner, that such a liner may be fitted into new shoes as well as those in which the lining has become worn, to eliminate "toe bites" caused by the inward breaking of the shoe just rearward of the toe-box.

Another feature of the invention is the provision of a toe and vamp liner which is constructed of waterproof fabric to prevent the moisture caused by perspiration of the foot from staining and weakening the leather of a shoe in the region of the toe box and vamp portion thereof, which weakening of the leather eventually results in cracking and breaking of the leather.

Another feature of the invention is the provision of a combined toe and vamp liner for shoes which is constructed of a treated fabric material having sufficient resiliency to assume an arched position when inserted into position within a shoe to snugly conform to the inner surfaces thereof and to lockingly engage with the edges of the inner sole of the shoe to prevent accidental rearward shifting of the liner when withdrawing the foot from the shoe.

A further feature of the invention is the provision of a combined toe and vamp liner for shoes which is constructed of a specially treated fabric material having the desired characteristics which is inexpensive and from which the liner may be die cut in "rights" and "lefts".

A still further feature of the invention is the provision of a combined toe and vamp liner which may be correctly positioned within the shoe by one unskilled in shoe repair, whereby the user may himself from time to time, replace a worn or soiled liner by a new one without expense other than the cost of the liner.

Other features of the invention will be apparent as the following specification is read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a right shoe of the Oxford type with the forward portion shown in vertical section and illustrating my combined toe and vamp liner in position therein.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary top plan view showing the liner in dotted lines.

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the toe and vamp liner in normal flat position.

Figure 5 is an enlarged vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of a modified form of material from which the toe and vamp liner may be constructed.

Figure 7 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary plan view of a modified form of material from which the liner may be constructed.

Figure 9 is an enlarged vertical sectional view on the line 9—9 of Figure 8.

Figure 10 is an enlarged detail vertical sectional view of a further modified form of material from which the liner may be constructed.

Referring to the drawing by reference characters, the numeral 10 designates the combined toe and vamp liner in its entirety which is constructed of a single blank of relatively thin stiff but flexible material and includes a main body portion 11 having a front rounded edge 12, curved forward side edges 13, and straight rearwardly disposed side edges 14. The body 11 has a centrally disposed straight rear edge 15, and rearwardly extending outwardly diverging curved edges 16 and 17 which meet the side edges 14 at corners 18. The liner 10 illustrated in the drawing is intended for insertion into a "right" shoe, it being understood that the liners are made in "rights" and "lefts". The edge 17 is longer than the edge 16 to provide an outer wing extension 19 while the shorter edge 16 forms a short inner wing extension 20.

The length of the body 11 from the front edge 12 to the rear edge 15 is such as to extend from the forward part of the toe-box of a shoe to the point rearward of the toe box or just short of the rise of the shoe upper, whereas the wing extension 19 extends rearward in a shoe to a point beyond the little toe of a wearer. The short wing extension extends rearward within a shoe beyond the large toe of a wearer.

In Figure 4 of the drawing, I have illustrated a dotted line x—x drawn transversely through the body 11 to show the dividing line between the forward toe-box liner portion which is referred to by the letter A and the rearwardly extending

vamp liner portion designated B. The vamp portion B is preferably porous and in Figure 4, the same is shown with small perforations 21. If desired, the body 11 may be provided with notches 22 in the side edges to provide sharp corners which may act to more securely hold the liner in a shoe as will be hereinafter explained.

The material from which the liner 10 is constructed includes a starched fabric base 23, having its upper side coated with a layer of lacquer 24. The lacquer 24 imparts the desired stiffness and flexibility to the fabric base 23 necessary to support the liner in an arched position snug against the inner walls of a shoe. The lacquer also renders the fabric moisture proof for a purpose to be explained.

In Figures 1 to 3 of the drawing, I have illustrated the toe and vamp liner 10 inserted in a shoe S of Oxford style. The normally flat liner 10 is flexed transversely by the fingers of an operator and pushed forward ino the toe box T, whereupon the edges 13 and 14 fit into the side grooves G formed between the sides of the insole and the adjacent portion of the walls of the shoe. When the liner is thus inserted, the vamp portion B extends rearward of the toe-box T to underlie the walls of the vamp region V of the shoe. By reason of the resiliency and flexibility of the material from which the liner is constructed, the same will snugly fit against the inner walls of the shoe, the body portion 11 bridging the inside of the shoe in an arched position as clearly illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawing. Whereas the edges of the liner when seated in the side grooves G of the shoe act to prevent rearward shifting of the liner when removing the foot from the shoe, the pointed edges of the notches 22 may cooperate therewith to more securely connect the liner and shoe.

The vamp portion B of the liner underlies that portion of the forward portion of a shoe where "shoe bites" are likely to occur and acts to relieve the pressure upon the foot of a wearer caused by such condition. The waterproof feature of the liner prevents acid moisture from perspiring feet penetrating to the leather of the shoe and which results in weakening of the leather and the eventual cracking and breaking of the same at the point of natural bend of the shoe upper. The perforations 21 in the vamp portion V provide ventilation and a cooler liner in the vamp region of the shoe.

In Figures 6 and 7 of the drawing I have shown a modified form of material from which the liner 10 may be constructed. Instead of constructing the liner of a single piece of relatively stiff but flexible material having the same characteristics throughout its entire surface, I cut the liner from a strip of starched fabric 25 having its top portion coated with lacquer 26 in strip form. The width of the lacquered portion of the strip is approximately equal to the length of the toe box of the shoe to provide a waterproof toe box liner portion A, while the unlacquered porous surface of the fabric strip forms the vamp portion B. The outline of the liner 10 is dotted in Figure 6 to clearly indicate the manner in which the liner may be cut from the strip to form the relatively stiff but flexible waterproof toe box portion A and the porous vamp portion B.

Figures 8 and 9 of the drawing illustrate a further modified form of stiff but flexible material 27 from which the liner 10 may be constructed. The material 27 consists of a thin starched fabric base 28 having its top surface coated with crossed strips of lacquer 29 which produces a checker board design. The lacquered strips impart sufficient resiliency to the fabric to impart to it the stiff flexible characteristics necessary to render the fabric self sustaining when flexed to arched position.

In Figure 10 of the drawing, I have shown a further modified form of material 30 which includes a starched fabric base 31 having its top surface coated with a combined waterproof and adhesive substance 32. The substance 32 imparts the necessary characteristics to the fabric and further causes the liner to adhesively adhere to the inside of a shoe when inserted into position therein.

While I have shown and described various materials from which my combined toe box and vamp liner 10 may be constructed, I do not wish to be limited thereto, for any other material having the same characteristics may be used with satisfactory results.

By reason of the thinness and texture of the material from which the liner 10 is constructed, the wearer of a shoe with the liner inserted therein will experience no uncomfortable feeling. Also, the liner may be inserted in new shoes as well as old shoes in which the toe lining has become worn, to relieve the pain of "toe bites" which are quite common in new shoes.

The toe and vamp liner 10 will be made in different sizes to fit into various size shoes. Should a liner be inserted into a shoe near the size for which it is constructed, the same may be readily adjusted by moving the liner forward or rearward within the shoe until the proper fit is obtained.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

1. A removable liner for insertion into the toe-box of a finished shoe comprising a thin relatively stiff but flexible body having a waterproof forward toe box portion adapted to be inserted into and snugly fit into the toe box of a shoe with the side edges thereof braced against the inner side of the shoe, and a porous vamp portion rearwardly of said toe box portion and adapted to line the vamp region of the inner surface of a shoe when the toe box portion is in position therein.

2. A removable liner for shoes comprising a shaped body constructed of a single blank of relatively stiff but flexible fabric material having a waterproof forward portion adapted to be inserted into the toe-box of a finished shoe and a rear porous portion of greater flexibility than said waterproof forward portion adapted to underlie the top and side walls of a shoe in the vamp region thereof.

3. A removable liner for shoes comprising a shaped body adapted to be inserted into a finished shoe to line the inner walls of the toe-box and vamp region thereof, said body being constructed of a normally flat relatively stiff but flexible fabric material, whereby the flat body may be flexed and inserted into a shoe with the side edges thereof seated against the walls of the shoe and adjacent edges of the insole to cause the body to assume a transversely arched position substantially flat against the arched lined inner walls of the shoe.

4. A removable liner for insertion into the toe-box of a finished shoe comprising a shaped body of relatively stiff but flexible fabric material, said

body having a front toe-box portion and a rear vamp portion and provided with curved side and forward edges, said body adapted to be flexed into arched position when manually inserted into the toe box of a shoe to line the walls of the toe-box and vamp thereof, the rear vamp portion including inner and outer wing portions at the juncture of the rear edge of said body and the curved side edges and extending rearwardly for a distance to line the walls of the inner and outer sides of the vamp theroef, said vamp portion being more flexible than the toe box portion of said body.

ARTHUR T. PREWITT.