Feb. 14, 1956 A. H. ANSON 2,734,286

CHIROPODIC SANDAL

Filed April 14, 1953

Fig. 1.

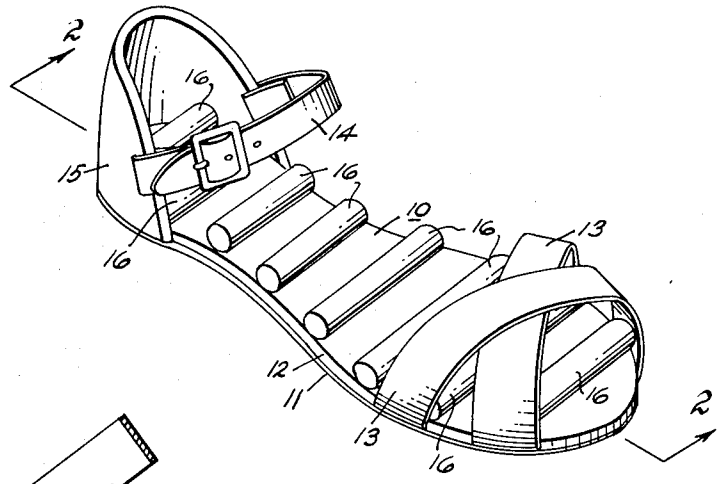
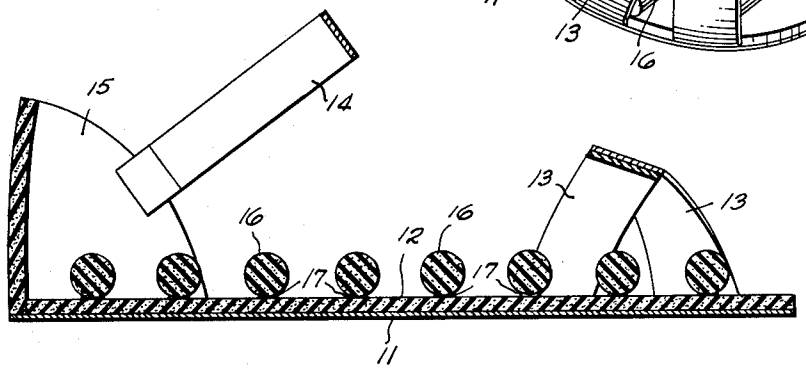


Fig. 2.



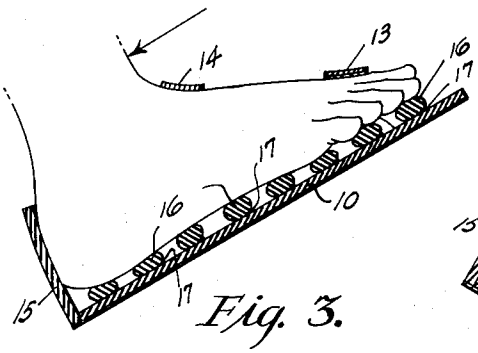


Fig. 3.

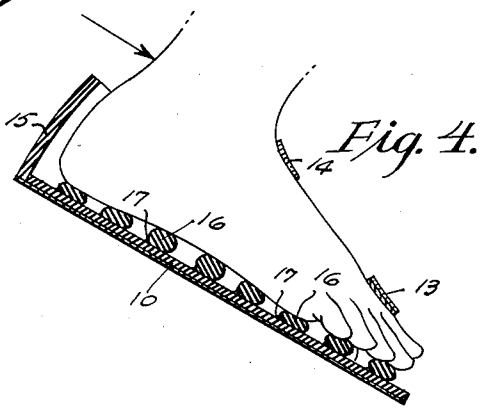


Fig. 4.

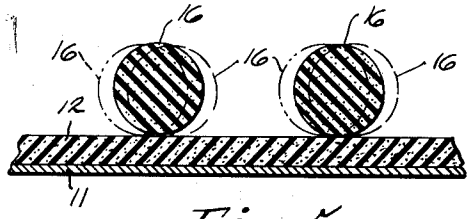


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.
ARTHUR H. ANSON
BY Lear Adelson
ATTORNEY.

United States Patent Office 2,734,286 Patented Feb. 14, 1956

2,734,286

CHIROPODIC SANDAL

Arthur H. Anson, Allentown, Pa.

Application April 14, 1953, Serial No. 348,610

3 Claims. (Cl. 36—8.5)

This invention relates generally to chiropodic devices and is more particularly concerned with such a device in the form of an article of footwear.

A principal object of the present invention is to provide an article of footwear having as a component part thereof means effective to massage the bottom of the foot during normal use of the article.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such an article which affords the massage by permitting shifting movement of the foot over the means aforementioned.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide such an article which is exceedingly simple in design and construction and which is comparatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear more fully hereinafter, it being understood that said invention consists substantially in the combination, construction, location and general arrangement of parts, all as described in detail in the following specification, as shown in the accompanying drawing and as fully pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing, which is illustrative of a preferred construction embodying the principles of the present invention:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sandal embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figures 3 and 4 are sectional elevations of the sandal shown in use, the former showing the foot of the wearer shifted rearwardly in the sandal and the latter showing the foot of the wearer shifted forwardly in the sandal; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged portion of Figure 2 illustrating by broken lines the movement of the tubular elements as a consequence of shifting movement of the wearer's foot thereover.

For purposes of illustration, the present invention is embodied in a sandal having a sole member **10**, means for securing the sandal to the wearer's foot and means on the sole member **10** effective to massage the wearer's foot during normal use of the sandal.

The solepiece **10** may be a flat flexible member which is conventional in outline and which comprises an outsole **11** and an insole **12** secured together by an adhesive agent.

The means for securing the sandal to the wearer's foot may be a pair of crossed straps **13**—**13** at the front of the sandal each having opposite end portions suitably secured to the member **10** and a buckled strap **14** at the rear of the sandal having opposite end portions suitably secured to a heelpiece **15**, the latter being adhesively secured along its lower edge to the member **10**.

The means for massaging the wearer's foot comprise a series of parallel, transversely extending longitudinally spaced elements **16**, each made from rubber-like stock which is resilient and which is preferably solid and round in transverse cross section. Each element **16** is

permanently united, preferably by an adhesive agent **17** to the insole **12** along its longitudinally extending surface portion proximate the insole **12**. The insole **12**, heelpiece **15** and elements **16** may be made of the same rubber-like material, for example, foam rubber, sponge rubber or foamed plastisol.

Referring particularly to Figure 3, when a foot wearing the sandal engages the floor after taking a forward step, the foot shifts rearwardly in the sandal and so rocks the element **16** rearwardly, the latter being in a more or less flattened condition due to the pressure of the foot thereon. As the person moves forward, the foot is positioned flatly on the floor and shifts forward in the sandal. The elements **16**, flattened by the pressure of the foot thereon but maintaining the same in space cushioned relation to the insole **12**, are rocked forwardly to their initial positions by the shifting movement just mentioned. When the foot is about to be lifted from the floor just prior to the next forward step, it again shifts in the sandal and so rocks the elements **16**, the latter being in more or less flattened condition due to the pressure of the foot thereon. When the foot is lifted from the floor for the next forward step, the foot once again shifts in the sandal and so rocks the elements **16**, perhaps in slightly flattened condition, to their initial positions. Thus, in the act of walking the foot shifts fore and aft in the sandal over the elements **16**. As a consequence, the foot is effectively massaged during normal use, as if by a series of rollers applied thereto with short strokes. In addition, it will be noted that even when not walking, the wearer may, if he so desires, shift his foot fore and aft in the sandal and thereby massage it, as illustrated in Figure 4 and by the broken lines in Figure 5. It will be understood, of course, that the sole **10** and the means for securing the sandal to the foot are adapted to permit the aforementioned fore and aft shifting movement of the foot in the sandal.

It will be understood, of course, that the sandal as herein shown and described is susceptible of various changes and modifications which may be made from time to time without any departure from the general principles or real spirit of the present invention. For example, the elements **16** could be of hollow form or even be made of inflatable tubing, and instead of being of elongated rod-like form as shown, they could be shaped as nodules suitably secured to the upper surface of the insole **12** and arranged thereon in any desired more or less closely spaced relation. In fact, the resilient elements **16** could be arranged to form any desired geometric pattern upon the insole **12**. Of course, instead of forming the elements **16** as separate members which are adhesively united to the insole **12**, in certain instances it may be disirable to mold the entire slipper, including the resilient elements **16**, in one piece. Accordingly, it is intended to claim the present invention broadly, as well as specifically, as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed as new and useful is:

1. In an article of footwear, in combination, a sole member, a series of members fixedly anchored to said sole member and extending upwardly thereabove in spaced relation to one another, said series of members being distributed over the upper surface of said sole member for direct engagement with the sole of the wearer's foot and for maintaining the latter in superposed spaced relation to said sole member, said foot engaging members being pliant for movement thereof with a rolling motion within limits determined by their fixed anchorage and the degree of pliability, and means for securing said article to the foot while permitting the foot to shift fore and aft in said article for having the sole thereof massaged by said foot engaging members.

2. In an article of footwear, the combination as defined

in claim 1 wherein the series of foot engaging members are each an elongated member extending crosswise of the sole member, the underside of said elongated member being permanently secured to the upper surface of said sole member.

3. In an article of footwear, the combination as defined in claim 2 wherein the series of foot engaging members are disposed in laterally spaced parallel relation, each being cylindrical in transverse cross section and of a length

sufficient for extending substantially fully across the sole member.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,050,807	Chamberlain	Jan. 21, 1913
1,517,610	Bayless	Dec. 2, 1924
2,100,492	Sindler	Nov. 30, 1937