July 29, 1930. K. L. VALENTINE ET AL 1,771,726

OVERSHOE

Filed March 16, 1927

Fig. 1.

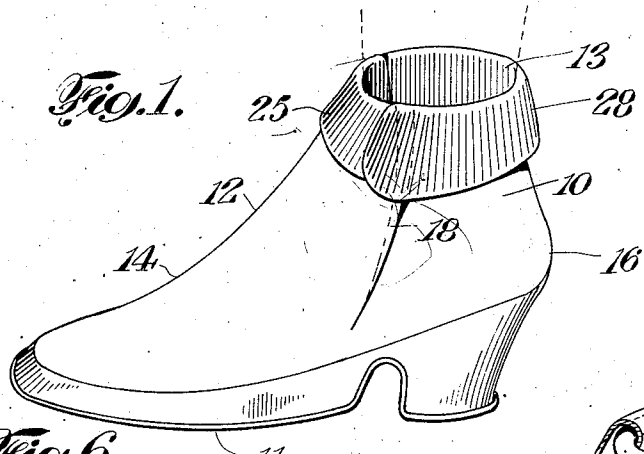



Fig. 3.

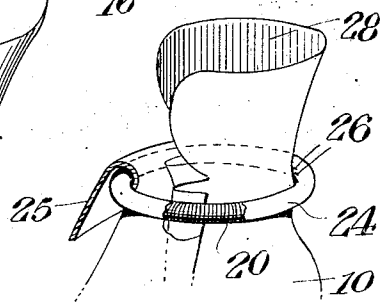



Fig. 6.

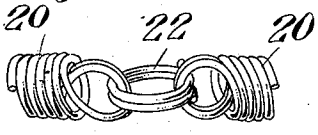



Fig. 2.




Fig. 4.

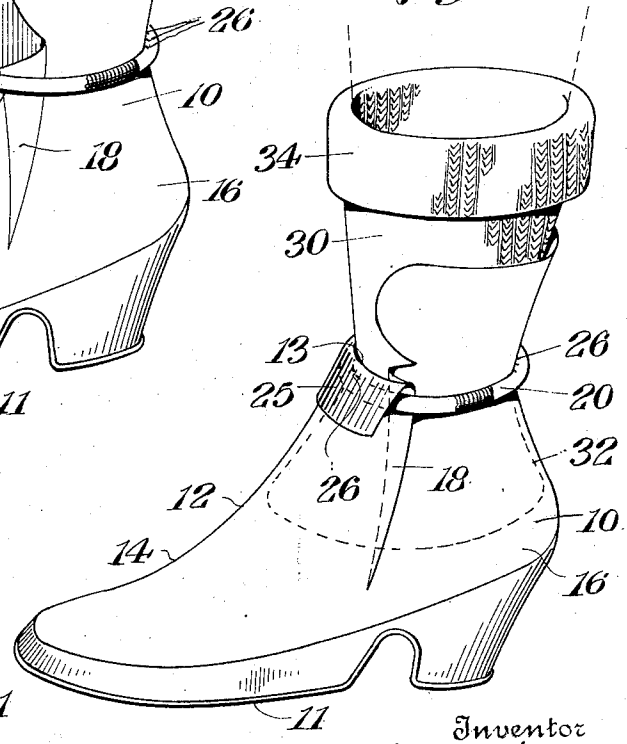
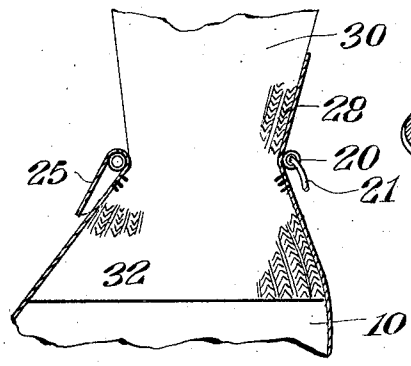



Fig. 5.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## OVERSHOE

Application filed March 16, 1927. Serial No. 175,854.

Our invention relates to overshoes having a sole portion and an inelastic shoe and inserted foot covering portion secured to said sole portion.

Our invention includes the provision of means to make said overshoes readily attachable to the foot. In place of the troublesome snaps, buckles, slide fasteners or other devices at present used to attach overshoes to feet, we so construct the top portion of our overshoe that it may readily expand and insert an elastic member at the upper mouth end thereof to cause contraction of the mouth and also yieldable to permit expansion of the mouth for insertion of the foot, the elastic member preferably being limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic movement by the inelastic extended mouth. It is thus apparent that in order to insert the foot, it is merely necessary to pull the front portion of the top forward, permitting the side, front and back connected portions to expand the mouth into which the foot may then be readily inserted and then to permit the elastic member to contract to firmly retain the mouth and entire overshoe to the foot and lower portion of the leg. In order to take an overshoe off equipped with our invention, it is merely necessary to press down the heel thereof with the other foot and the elastic member in the mouth will expand, permitting the mouth to give to its open expanded position and permitting the overshoe to slide off the foot, an operation similar to that of the present day practice of taking off a rubber.

A further object of our invention is to provide a construction wherein the connecting side portions of the front and top back portions are adapted, when the overshoe is attached to the foot, to form infolded flaps, normally concealed from view by the overlap of said front portion on said back portion. To normally conceal the spiral spring or other elastic member employed, we preferably provide an inelastic covering therefor of a circumference substantially equal to that of the expanded mouth and we provide the front and back portions of the top with separate front and rear flaps attached to the upper edges thereof, adapted, when the overshoe is in an attached position, to be folded outwardly and downwardly over said top to conceal said elastic member and covering.

An alternative form of elastic means to cause contraction of the mouth and to permit expansion thereof comprises an elastic leg covering member, such as an ordinary woolen stocking having the foot portion thereof cut off and the lower edge thereof secured within said top, which normally extends upwardly from said mouth and which may, when not desired to be used as a leg covering, be rolled down to a position surrounding said mouth. We have found that such a normal woolen stocking portion when so attached will have sufficient inherent resiliency to contract the mouth of the overshoe to retain the overshoe to the foot and will expand sufficiently with the expansion of the mouth to permit withdrawal of the foot from the overshoe. If desired, as shown, this may be used in addition to the separate spiral spring or other elastic member normally surrounding the mouth.

These and such other objects of our invention as may hereinafter appear will be best understood from a description of embodiments thereof, such as are shown in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of our invention not employing the elastic leg covering, with the mouth contracted, in attached position on the leg of the wearer showing in dotted lines the inturned flaps formed by the connecting portions of the front and rear top portions.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 with the rear flap upturned and the mouth expanded to open position for insertion or removal of the foot.

Figure 3 is a detailed view of the mouth of the overshoe.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of our invention with the additional elastic leg covering member attached.

Figure 5 is a side elevation in section of the mouth portion of the embodiment shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a detail view of the means we

preferably employ to make the spiral spring adjustable.

In the drawings, wherein like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates an overshoe constructed in accordance with our invention. We preferably construct our improved overshoe with the usual sole portion 11 and the usual top portion 12 secured to said sole and adapted to cover the upper part of the shoe and inserted foot. The top portion 12 terminates in the expansive mouth 13 at the upper end thereof. We preferably construct the top portion with a rear portion 16, a separate front portion 14 and connecting portions 18 for said front and rear portions at each side of said overshoe, adapted when in closed position to form the infolded flaps 18 when attached to the wearer's foot, normally concealed from view by the overlap of said front portion 14 on said back portion 16 and to open up when said front portion is stretched forward, as shown in Figure 2, for insertion or removal of the foot, the entire top functioning in its opening and closing movements somewhat similar to a bellows.

It is thus apparent that if the top portion is so constructed, it will have the expansible mouth 13 at the upper end thereof which, when in closed position on the foot, will assume the position shown in Figure 1, and, when in open position for instance or removal of the foot, will assume the expanded position shown in Figure 2. To normally retain the mouth 13 in closed position when attached to the foot and to firmly retain the overshoe to the foot, we preferably attach the elastic member 20 to said top 12 near the mouth thereof. The tendency of the elastic member 20 to contract causes said mouth 13 when closed to yieldingly retain the overshoe to the foot. As the member 20 is elastic, however, it may readily expand to permit the mouth 13 to assume the position shown in Figure 2 for insertion or removal of the foot. Though any suitable type of elastic member 20 may be employed, we preferably employ the spiral spring 20, shown in detail in Figure 6, and preferably provided with a means 22 to connect the ends of the spring. We also preferably so construct the mouth 13 of the top portion 12 and select a spring of the desired resiliency so that the inelastic expanded mouth will limit the stretching movement of the elastic member 20 to less than its elastic limit so that the spring 20 will never be normally stretched beyond its elastic limit and will last a relatively long time in use to firmly retain the mouth 13 enclosed around the foot. If desired other means may be employed, to prevent the extension of said spring beyond its elastic limit, (such as the cord 21 inserted within the spiral spring 20).

To normally conceal the elastic member 20 at the mouth of the top, we preferably surround said mouth 13 with a hollow inelastic elastic member covering 24 of a circumference substantially that of the expanded mouth. The elastic member 20 is normally enclosed within said covering 24 which is secured around said mouth 13 by the stitches or other means 26. To further conceal said elastic member 20 and covering 24, we preferably provide the front and rear portions 14 and 16, respectively, with front and rear flaps 25 and 28, respectively, separately attached to the upper edges thereof. Said front and rear flaps 25 and 28, as shown in Figure 1, are adapted when the overshoe 10 is in attached position on the foot, to be folded outwardly and downwardly to conceal said elastic member 20 and covering 24.

As stated, our invention broadly comprises any type of elastic member attached to said top, normally adapted to retain said mouth closed to yieldingly retain the overshoe to the shoe and inserted foot and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot. In place of the spiral spring 20, we may attach other types of elastic members which may, in addition, if desired, perform additional functions. In Figures 4 and 5, we have shown an elastic member of this type which comprises the elastic leg covering member 30 having its lower edge 32 secured within said top 12 and normally extending upwards through said mouth 13. In the embodiment shown, said elastic leg covering member comprises a resilient woolen stocking having the foot portion thereof cut off and the lower edge 32 thereof stitched within the inside of said top 12 and the upper portion 34 thereof projecting upwardly through said mouth and adapted to be extended, if desired, to the wearer's knees to form a leg covering integrally attached to said overshoe. In Figure 4, we have shown the leg covering 30 in intermediate position, in other words, partially rolled. If desired, it may be entirely rolled down in a cylindrical fold and surround the mouth when not desired as a leg covering. It is apparent that if an ordinary woolen stocking be employed as the separate leg covering 30, it will have sufficient inherent resiliency to normally retain the mouth portion 13 closed around the foot to retain the overshoe to the foot and sufficient inherent expansibility to expand with the expansion of the mouth to permit insertion and withdrawal of the foot. Said leg covering member may be used alternatively with or in addition to the elastic member 20 as in the embodiment shown in Figure 4.

It is apparent that we have provided a novel type of overshoe very easily attached to the foot and have eliminated the troublesome snaps, slide fasteners, buckles or other types of devices formerly employed to secure the overshoe thereto. To attach, it is merely necessary to pull the front portion 14 forward

or rear portion 16 backward, the member under tension 20 and/or leg covering member 30 readily expanding to their extreme position as shown in Figure 2, their expanding movement being limited by the circumference of the expanded inelastic mouth 13, when the foot and attached shoe may be readily inserted or withdrawn from the overshoe. To detach, it is merely necessary to put the toe of the opposite foot against the heel and push down on the heel thereof, when the elastic members 20 and 30 will expand, permitting the mouth 13 to open up to expanded position to permit the overshoe to slide off the foot. If desired, however, in taking off the overshoe, the front portion 14 may be pulled forward to expand the mouth, as is normally done in putting on the overshoe.

It is apparent that the spiral spring or other elastic means employed must be so adjusted as not to unduly bind the wearer's foot in use to stop circulation therein. As a coil spring ceases to be under tension when not extended, we employ one as our preferred form of elastic means. The top portion 12 may extend upwards beyond the foot and cover a certain portion of the leg, depending on the height of the foot covering employed. Though in the claims we merely refer to the foot, it is obvious that if a high foot covering is employed, it may in actual practice also cover a part of the leg.

Our invention is adapted for use in any type of overshoe such as galosh, legging, spat or otherwise, preferably one which is waterproof, and we therefore in the claims employ the word "overshoe" to mean any separate covering for the foot that would be worn over a shoe, pump, slipper or other normal type of foot covering, and when in this application we employ the words "attached to the foot" etc. we refer to the foot as being covered with a suitable inner foot covering such as a shoe.

It is understood that our invention is not limited to the specific embodiments shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole, said leg portion having a rear portion, a front portion and connecting portions therefor at each side thereof adapted to form infolded flaps concealed by the overlap of said front portion on said rear portion, an elastic member attached to said leg portion near the top thereof to retain said mouth closed and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot, said member being limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit by the expanded top, a hollow inelastic covering for said member, front and rear flaps attached to the upper edges of said front and rear portions adapted to be folded outwardly and downwardly to conceal said elastic member and covering, and an elastic leg covering member having its lower edge secured within the top of said leg portion and extending upwardly from the top and adapted to be rolled down when not used to a position adjacent said top.

2. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof, elastic means attached to said leg near the mouth thereof adapted to retain said mouth closed to yieldingly retain the overshoe to the foot and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot, but limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit, and a hollow inelastic covering for said means, said covering being secured to said leg and having a length substantially equal to that of the expanded circumference of said mouth.

3. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof, comprising a rear portion, a front portion and connecting portions therefor at each side thereof adapted to form infolded flaps concealed by the overlap of said front portion on said back portion, an elastic member attached to said leg near the mouth thereof adapted to retain said mouth closed and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot, but limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit by the expanded mouth formed by the upper edges of said front, rear and expanded connecting portions, and front and rear flaps attached to the upper edges of said front and rear portions adapted to be folded outwardly and downwardly over said leg to conceal said elastic member.

4. An overshoe, comprising a sole and an inelastic leg secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof comprising a rear portion, a front portion and connecting portions therefor at each side thereof adapted to form infolded flaps concealed by the overlap of said front portion on said rear portion, a spiral spring attached to said leg near the mouth thereof adapted to retain said mouth closed and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot, but limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit by the expanded mouth, a hollow inelastic covering for said spring, said covering being secured to said leg, front and rear flaps attached to the upper edges of said front and rear portions adapted to be folded outwardly and downwardly to conceal said spring and covering, and an elastic leg covering member having its lower edge secured within said leg and extending upwardly from said leg and adapted to be rolled down to a position adjacent said top.

5. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof comprising a rear portion, a front portion and connecting portions therefor at each side thereof adapted to form infolded flaps concealed by the overlap of said front portion on said rear portion, and resilient means attached to said leg and extending around said mouth adapted to retain said mouth closed and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot but limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit by the expanded mouth formed by the upper edges of said front, rear and expanded connecting leg portions.

6. An overshoe comprising a sole and an inelastic leg secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof, comprising a front portion, a rear portion and connecting portions therefor at each side thereof adapted to form infolded flaps concealed by the overlap of said front portion on said rear portion, resilient means attached to the top of said leg and extending across said connecting portions adapted to retain said mouth closed and to expand for insertion or removal of the foot but limited in its stretching movement to less than its elastic limit by the expanded mouth formed by the upper edges of said front, rear and expanded connecting leg portions, and a hollow inelastic covering loosely enclosing said resilient means attached to said leg across said connecting portion.

7. An overshoe of the class described comprising an expansible upper portion, elastic means secured to said upper portion to retain said portion in contracted position, and a flexible member secured to the upper edge of said portion adapted to be folded downwardly against said portion to conceal said elastic means.

8. An overshoe of the class described comprising an expansible upper portion having inelastic front and rear sections, a flexible insert connecting said sections, said front section and insert being adapted to move rearwardly to lie over said rear section so that the front section overlaps the rear section with the insert between the overlapping portions of the sections, and elastic means secured to one of said sections to retain said sections in contiguous relation.

9. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof comprising a rear portion, a front portion adapted to normally overlap the exterior of the rear portion at each side of the overshoe, connecting members between said portions at the overlap and normally lying in a plane between said portions and substantially parallel thereto, and means acting to retain said mouth closed and said front portion overlapping said rear portion and permitting said mouth to be opened by separation of the front and rear portions.

10. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion, and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof comprising a rear portion and a front portion adapted for relative separable movement, a resilient member surrounding said front portion near the top thereof and cooperating with the rear portion to normally retain said mouth closed while permitting said mouth to be opened by separation of the front and rear portions, and a flexible member extending from the top of the front portion and folded down to conceal said resilient member.

11. An overshoe, comprising a sole portion, and an inelastic leg portion secured to said sole and terminating in an expansible mouth at the upper end thereof comprising a rear portion and a front portion adapted for relative separable movement, a resilient member surrounding said rear portion near the top thereof and cooperating with the front portion to normally retain said mouth closed while permitting said mouth to be opened by separation of the front and rear portions, and a flexible member extending from the top of the rear portion and folded down to conceal said resilient member.

In testimony whereof, we have signed our names to this specification this 10th day of March, 1927.

KATHRYN L. VALENTINE.
GEORGE RAMSEY.