Jan. 17, 1950 L. ROME 2,494,964

WATERPROOF SKI BOOT

Filed April 21, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

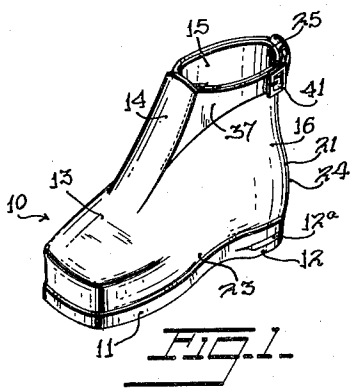


FIG. 1.

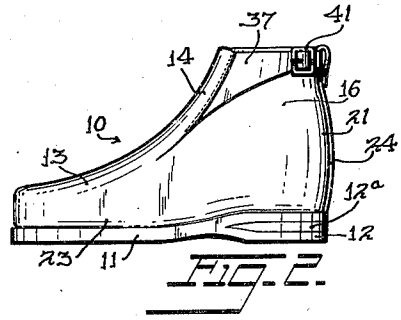


FIG. 2.

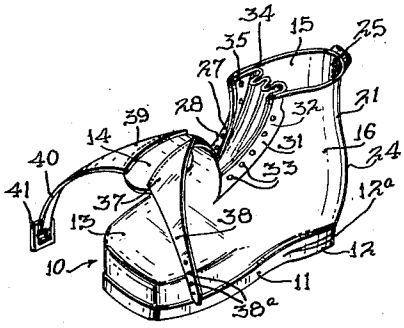


FIG. 3.

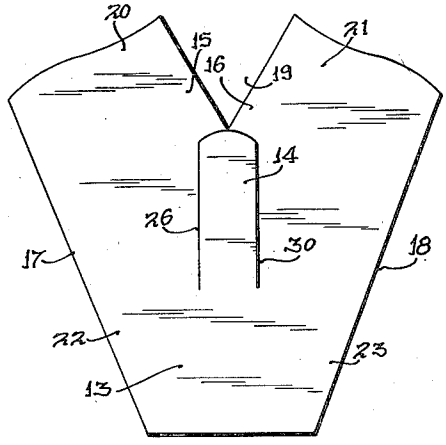


FIG. 4.

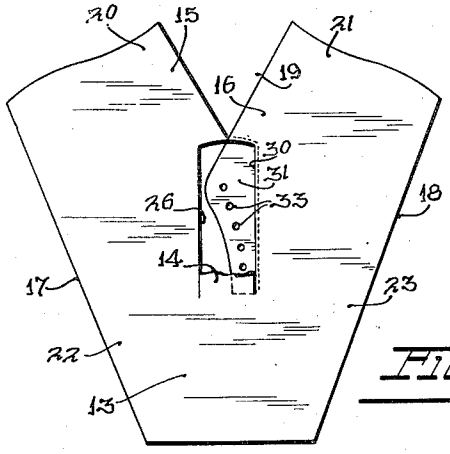


FIG. 5.

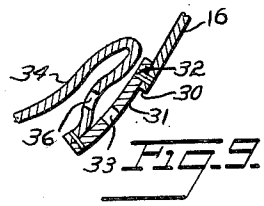


FIG. 9.

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Jan. 17, 1950 L. ROME 2,494,964

WATERPROOF SKI BOOT

Filed April 21, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

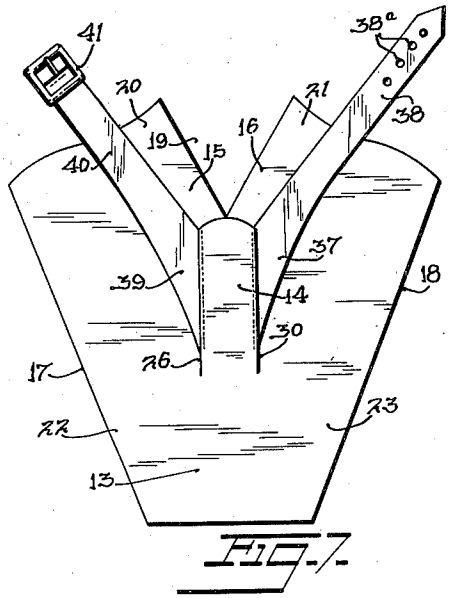


FIG. 7.

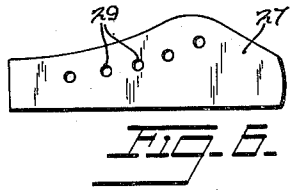


FIG. 6.

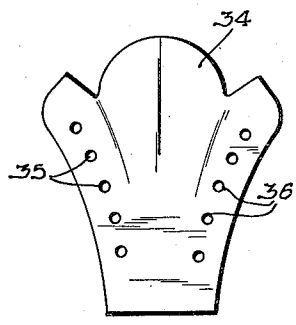


FIG. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,494,964

WATERPROOF SKI BOOT

Leon Rome, New York, N. Y.

Application April 21, 1947, Serial No. 742,848

1 Claim. (Cl. 36—2.5)

1

This invention relates to an improved shoe or boot for use in skiing, and particularly to a construction developed to safely exclude snow, ice, mud and water from entering the shoe or boot.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a boot or shoe for use by skiers, having externally and internally guarded or protected lacing strips, which close all openings formed by the lacing holes or otherwise, and provide the necessary compression control for the upper to fit the shoe or boot on the foot of the wearer.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shoe upper with an integral tang cut from the pattern blank which forms the upper, binding flaps united to the sides of this tang, and an inner sealing gusset united to the sides formed by the cut-out tang, thereby providing three layers to guard the shoe or boot opening.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a shoe or boot having an upper pattern blank cut to form an outer tang, binding flaps united to the sides of this tang and provided with strap ends which can be tightened about the ankle of the foot of the wearer, lacing strips attached to the sides formed by the cut-out tang and provided with lace receiving holes, and an inner gusset united to the sides of the upper and provided with lacing holes matching those of the lacing strips, all so arranged that the shoe or boot is made virtually watertight or safe from penetration by snow and ice.

For further comprehension of the invention and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claim, in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved shoe or boot, showing the frontal opening completely closed for active service use of the shoe or boot.

Fig. 2 is a side view thereof, showing the heel wedge.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view, showing the inner gusset, the lacing side strips and the integral frontal or outer tang forwardly displaced, to separate the parts.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the pattern blank of the upper.

Fig. 5 is a similar view of the same pattern blank, showing the lacing strips added to the sides of the blank having a portion of the outer tang broken away.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of one of the lacing strips.

2

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but with the binding strips added.

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the inside tongue.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view taken through one of the lacing strips.

Referring to the drawings, which illustrate the practical embodiment of the invention, 10 designates a shoe or boot having a sole 11, heel 12, and an upper 13.

The upper is made from a blank or pattern, shown in Fig. 4, which is centrally cut to provide an integral frontal or outer tang 14, and right and left wings 15 and 16. The pattern is cut to provide divergent side edges 17 and 18, a V-shaped opening or recess 19, and the frontal or outer tang 14. The apex of the V-shaped opening or recess 19 is centered midway of the sides of the tang 14, so that a triangular area 20 extends from the end of the tang 14 at one side thereof, and another triangular area 21 extends from the end of the tang 14 at the other side thereof, looking at the pattern blank in its initial flat condition.

The outer edges of the pattern blank for the upper are united by the usual seam stitching to the sole, so that the side wings 22 and 23 form the sides of the upper. A back strap 24 is secured at the vertical seam 25 established between the meeting rear edges of the pattern blank, and the lower end of this back strap is secured under the upper against the upper side of the heel 12.

To the right side or edge 26 of the upper a lacing strip 27 is secured by edge stitching 28, and this lacing strip is provided with lacing holes 29. To the opposite or left side or edge 30 of the upper another lacing strip 31 is secured by the edge stitching 32, and this lacing strip is formed with lacing holes 33.

The gap established by the space between the side edges 26 and 30 is bridged by an internal gusset or tongue 34, which is united by edge stitching to the sides 26 and 30, but against the inner surfaces of the upper. This internal gusset or tongue is made of flexible leather or other acceptable material, so that the central portion thereof can be gathered into folds.

This inner gusset or tongue is formed with edge lacing holes 35 on one side thereof, adapted to match the holes 29 of the lacing strip 27, and on the other side with edge lacing holes 36, adapted to match the holes 33 of the lacing strip 31.

A binding strip 37 is attached to one side of the frontal or outer tang 14, and this strip is formed with or provided with a flexible strap extention 38, and another binding strip 39 is at-

tached to the other side of the tang 14, and this binding strip is formed with or provided with a strap extension 40, having a buckle 41 or other form of a connector, which is engaged by the perforated end portion 38a of the strap extension 38.

After the shoe or boot has been mounted on the foot of the user, the lacing is completed, with the outer tang 14 displaced forwardly so as to allow complete freedom in lacing the shoe or boot. This lacing operation will tighten the upper about the ankle of the wearer, and thereby move the sides 26 and 30 toward each other.

The outer tang 14 is then placed over the lacing strips 27 and 31, and the binding strips 37 and 39 which are attached to the side edges of the outer tang 14 widen the effective width of the front or outer tang, so that it adequately covers the gap between the side edges 26 and 30 of the upper.

By tightening the strap ends or extensions 38 and 40 about the ankle of the foot of the user, the outer tang 14 will be compressed under tension against the lacing strips 27 and 31, and the gap or opening of the upper will be effectively guarded outside and inside, and snow, ice, water and mud will be effectively excluded, so that the foot of the user will be safely protected.

The front of the shoe or boot therefore comprises three successive layers, arranged in a form to provide an effective cushion for the forward part of the foot arch, and tightly secured to exclude all foreign matter.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is understood that I do not limit myself to the present showing or precise construction disclosed, and the right is hereby reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claim.

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

In a ski boot having a one-piece upper, an outer tang cut from the front of the upper leaving a front opening as wide as the width of said outer tang, lacing strips attached to the inner faces of the edge portions of the material of the upper defining said front opening, said lacing strips being extended toward each other and formed with lacing holes, a one-piece internal gusset extended across said front opening and having its side edges secured to the inner faces of the edge portions of the lacing strips, said internal gusset being formed with lacing holes aligned with the lacing holes of said lacing strips, and means for securing said outer tang in position over said internal gusset and said lacing strips, said securing means comprising flexible straps attached to the sides of said outer tang and extendable about the shoe upper to have their adjacent ends secured together behind the shoe upper.

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