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CUSHION SOLE

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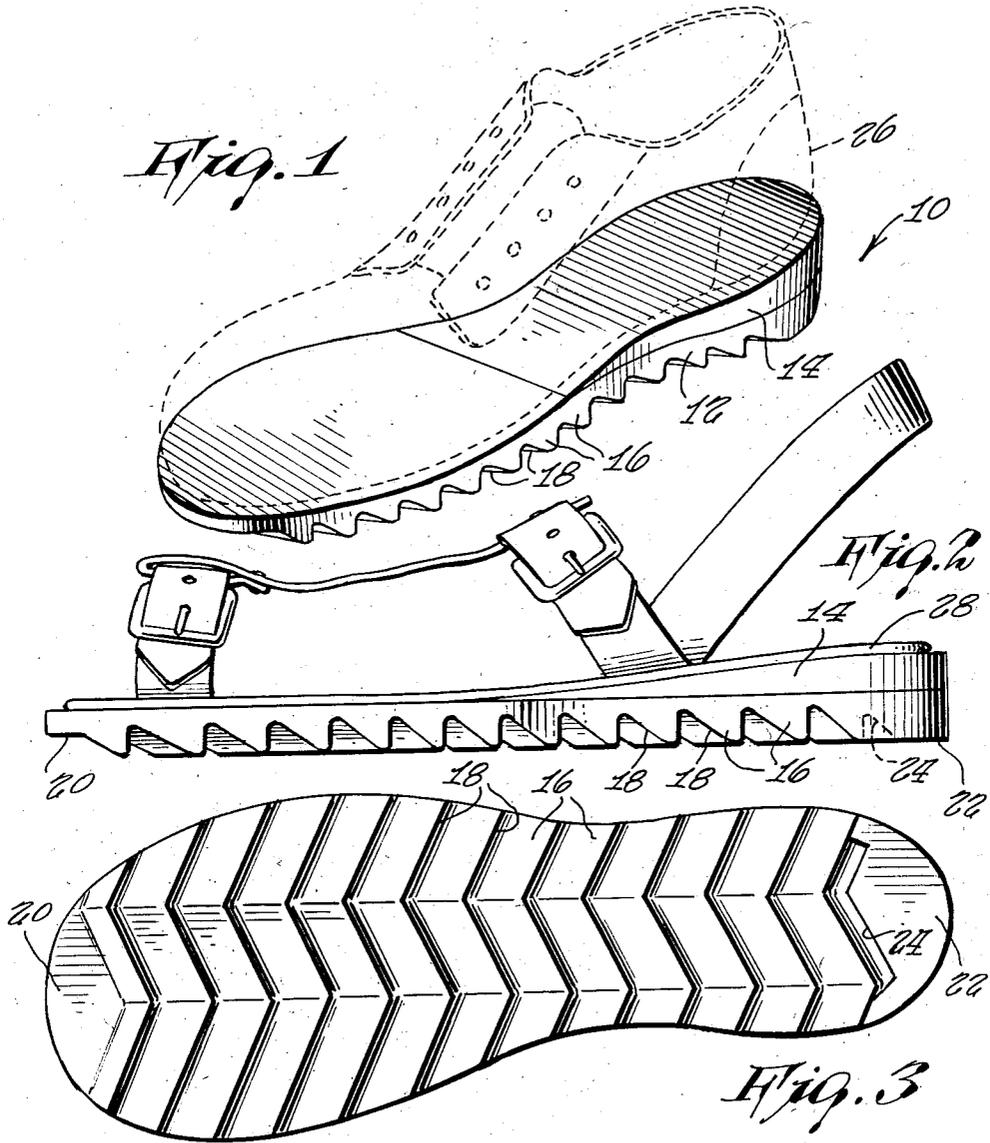


Fig. 4

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2,928,192

CUSHION SOLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36—32)

This invention relates to footwear, and more particularly, to a cushion sole therefor.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a cushion sole for various types of footwear that is extremely comfortable, provides a self contained heel wedge, and which actually makes walking easier.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a sole for various types of footwear that has anti-skid, anti-slip, and weight relieving characteristics which cooperate to provide a comfortable support for the foot.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a sole for footwear of the type described which can be conveniently used for various types of athletic, walking, and dress shoes.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specifications, taken with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sole made in accordance with the present invention, showing the application thereof to a dress shoe;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of a sandal embodying a sole made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of a sole made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of a lace-type boot having a sole made in accordance with the present invention mounted thereon.

Referring now to the drawing and more particularly to Figures 1 and 3 thereof, a sole 10 made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a substantially resilient and flexible outsole 12 having an outline configuration conforming generally to the outline of a shoe. A heel wedge 14 integral with the upper side of and adjacent to the rear end of the outsole 12 provides an arch support when the unit is attached to the article of footwear, such as the dress shoe 26.

The traction side of the resilient flexible outsole 12 is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart and downwardly projecting wedge shaped ribs 16, each of which is of generally Z-shape, having terminal portions directed rearwardly toward the outboard edge of the outsole, and an angularly related intermediate portion directed rearwardly toward the inboard edge of the out-

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sole. Each such wedge shaped rib 16 is of generally triangular cross sectional configuration having a substantially vertical rearwardly facing surface. Thus, the vertical rear surface of each rib defines a gripping shoulder 5 that serves to provide sufficient traction on soft ground, while the upwardly and forwardly inclined forward surface of each rib enables the rib to flex rearwardly and upwardly as weight is placed upon the pad during ordinary walking steps. This deformation provides a certain degree of springiness, which actually aids in walking. Also, the particular angular relationship between the terminal and central portions of the Z-shaped ribs eliminates side slipping and improves traction.

The outsole 12 is also provided with a substantially flat portion 22 at the heel end, which portion includes a hollow recess 24 that serves as a suction device when the outsole is used upon a flat slippery surface, such as ice, glass, or the like. This further provides additional traction and prevents slippage during use. The opposite front end of the outsole is also provided with a substantially flat terminal portion 20 that is spaced above the level of the flat portion 22 at the rear end of the outsole.

It will now be recognized that this sole may be readily attached to any type of footwear, such as the dress shoe 26, the sandal 28, or an outdoor boot or work shoe 30.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the construction shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claim appended hereto.

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

A sole for an article of footwear comprising, in combination, a resilient flexible outsole having an outline conforming to the outline of the shoe, a heel wedge integral with one side of said outsole adjacent to one rear end thereof, the opposite side of said outsole having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart wedge-shaped ribs, each said rib being of Z-shaped configuration having parallel terminal portions directed rearwardly toward the output edge of said outsole, a central portion intermediate said terminal portions directed toward said rear end thereof and toward one inboard edge of said outsole, each portion of said rib being of wedge-shaped cross sectional configuration having a substantially vertical surface facing toward said rear end of said outsole and having an inclined front surface facing the end of said outsole opposite said rear end thereof, a first flat terminal portion adjacent to said rear end of said outsole, and said first flat terminal portion having a centrally located pocket.

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