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J. M. BRADY

1,746,459

FOOT MUFF

Filed Oct. 18, 1928

Fig. 1.

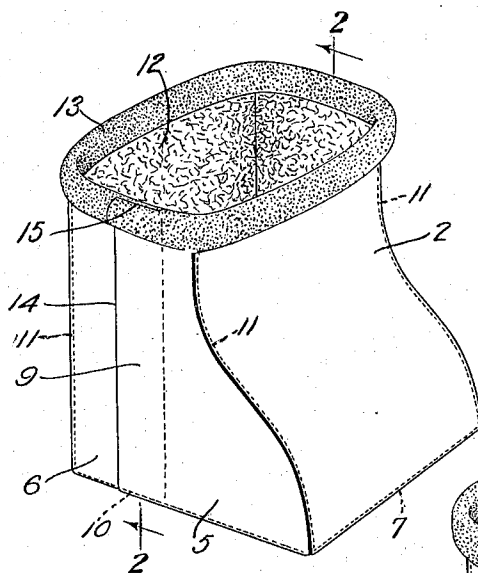


Fig. 2.

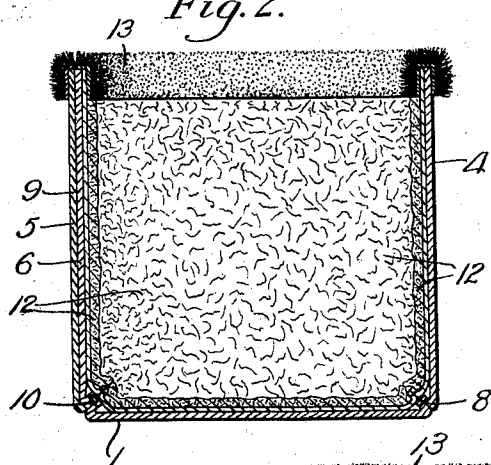


Fig. 4.

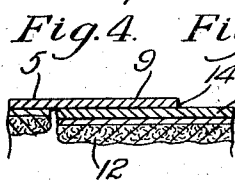


Fig. 3.

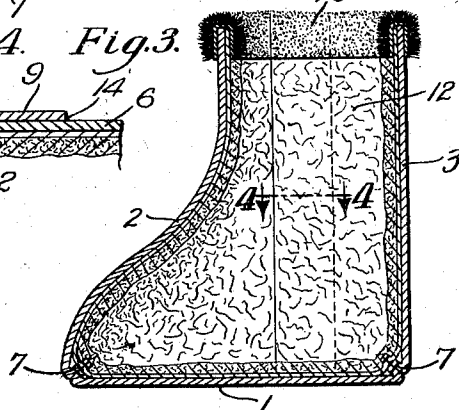


Fig. 5.

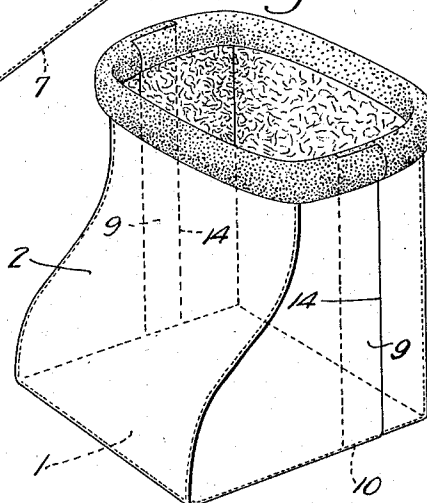
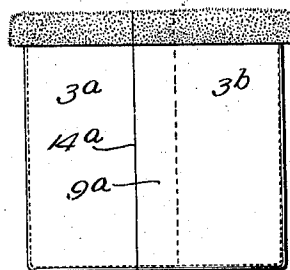


Fig. 6.



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FOOT MUFF

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This invention relates to foot muffs of the type formed to accommodate both feet of the wearer and to enclose and protect the feet and ankles from the cold. Such muffs are worn in automobiles or other vehicles, and in stadiums.

An important object of the invention is to provide an improved foot muff designed to facilitate the insertion and withdrawal of the feet and avoid the necessity of stooping to an uncomfortable posture and manually opening and closing the muff, the improvement to be effected without any sacrifice of protection to the feet and ankles.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of my improved foot muff;

Fig. 2 a vertical transverse section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 a vertical fore and aft section taken through the muff;

Fig. 4 a detail section upon a larger scale, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 a perspective view of a modified form of muff; and

Fig. 6 a rear view of still another form of muff.

The structure of the form of muff shown in Figs. 1 to 4 includes a sole 1 formed of a flat sheet rectangular in shape, and an upper structure secured to the sole. The upper structure is formed by a front sheet 2, a rear sheet 3, both substantially rectangular, and sides, one of which is formed of a single sheet 4 and the other of two sheets 5 and 6. The sides are co-extensive with the sole at their lower edges and taper upwardly to conform to the foot and ankle. The sole 1 and the sheets 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are preferably formed of leather which possesses considerable stiffness and is springy under flexure. Other suitable material may, however, be used.

The lower edges of the front and rear sheets or pieces 2 and 3 are stitched to the sole 1 as indicated at 7, and the side piece 4 is stitched to the sole as at 8. The two sections 5 and 6 forming the opposite side have straight vertical inner edges whose margins overlap as at 9. Both sections have their lower edges secured to the sole by stitching

10, and this stitching extends through both overlapping margins and holds them securely together. Stitching 11 secures the sides to the front and back pieces.

The muff is proportioned to accommodate both feet of the wearer side by side and extends well above the ankles to afford maximum protection and warmth. A soft, comfortable lining 12, preferably of sheepskin, covers the inner surface of the muff, and the upper edge thereof is trimmed with a fur bead 13. The overlapped margins of the side sections are left unsecured from the sole clear to the upper edge of the muff, and define a slit 14 extending along their length. This slit is normally closed by the overlapped margins and the overlap is of material width to ensure a good closure, and also to obtain a good stitched attachment of the lower edges of the overlapped portions of the side pieces and increase the spring of the muff structure, for a purpose which will appear presently. The lining 12 is also slit and covers only one of the overlapped margins, and the fur bead 13 is split and rabbeted as at 15 to permit the margins to come close together.

In the use of the muff each foot is readily inserted by merely prying open the slit 14 with the toe and inserting the foot between the side margins and into the muff. The slit will be then automatically closed by the natural spring of the leather, the form of the muff and the additional spring imparted to the overlapped margins or flaps by their stitching 10 to each other and to the sole. The muff structure is designed to give it the maximum spring for returning the flaps to fully closed position. To remove the feet they are merely forced out by expanding apart the overlapped margins of the side pieces. A muff so designed relieves the wearer of all necessity of stooping and reaching down to manually open and close the muff and work it upon the feet. No manual operation is required for opening and closing the muff and inserting and removing the feet.

In Fig. 5 is shown another form of my foot muff provided with slits 14 and overlapping closure margins or flaps 9 upon both

sides. The structure of the muff is otherwise the same as that just described.

Still another modification of the muff is shown in Fig. 6. Here the rear piece of the muff is formed of two sections 3^a and 3^b which overlap at the center of the back of the muff and define a slit 14^a and closure margins 9^a stitched to each other and to the sole and forming a self-closing entrance similar to that shown in Fig. 1 except for its location at the rear of the muff.

While I have shown and described several very desirable forms of my invention, I do not wish to be limited strictly to this disclosure but reserve the right to make such changes as will lie within the scope of the claims. For example, a muff embodying my invention may be proportioned to receive only one foot instead of both feet. In that case a pair of muffs would be worn and the feet would be free for movement independently of each other. This would enable the wearer to drive an automobile and operate the foot levers.

A muff constructed in accordance with my invention may be made much higher than it is customary to make foot muffs at present, so that it will afford adequate leg protection. Muffs requiring fastening means are usually made lower than is really desirable in order to avoid the annoyance of manipulating a number of fastening elements. My self-closing muff is free from this limitation and may be made as high as desired.

What I claim is:

1. A foot muff comprising a sole; and a springy leather upper structure stitched to the sole, formed to enclose the feet and ankles, and formed with a side slit extending downwardly from its upper edge to the sole to permit the insertion of the feet into the muff, the margins along the slit being overlapped and the overlapped portions being stitched to the sole along their lower edges, whereby the slit will be self-closing.

2. A foot muff formed of springy material and comprising a sole; and an upper structure secured to the sole, formed to enclose the feet and ankles, and formed with a slit extending downwardly from its upper edge to the sole to permit the insertion of the feet into the muff, the margins of the slit being overlapped and the overlapped portions being secured to the sole along their lower edges, whereby the slit will be self-closing.

3. A foot muff formed of springy material and comprising a sole; an upper structure secured to the sole, formed to enclose the feet and ankles, and formed with a pair of slits at opposite sides thereof extending downward from its upper edge to the sole for the insertion of the feet into the muff, the margins along the slits being overlapped and the overlapped portions being secured along their lower edges to the sole.

4. A foot muff comprising a sole; and an upper structure of springy material secured to the sole, the two sides thereof being formed with slits extending downward from their upper edges to the sole to permit of the insertion of a foot into the muff through the side openings, the marginal portions of the sides along the slits being overlapped and secured along their lower edges to the sole.

5. A foot muff comprising a sole; and a stiff, high upper structure secured to the sole and including a receding front wall conforming substantially to the front contour of the foot and ankle, an upstanding rear wall and a pair of upstanding side walls, each of said upstanding side walls being formed with an unobstructed, normally closed long slit, extending downward from its upper edge, the free edges of said slits being yieldable inwardly and outwardly under lateral pressure to permit a foot to be passed through either slit directly into and out of the muff merely by lateral movement, and the slitted walls being springy to maintain them normally upright and render said slits self-closing.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JESSICA M. BRADY.