

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK IORNS GIBBS AND WILLIAM WRIGHT, OF BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

ROLLER-SKATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 578,082, dated March 2, 1897.

Application filed August 12, 1895. Serial No. 559,066. (No model.) Patented in England December 11, 1894, No. 24,038.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANK IORNS GIBBS and WILLIAM WRIGHT, subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Roller-Skates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has been patented in Great Britain December 11, 1894, No. 24,038.

This invention has reference to those roller-skates which are made with two rollers under the foot-plate or tread; and the object of this invention is to provide the said skates with a pneumatic or air-inflated tread-plate to absorb vibration and enable the wheels or rollers to be made with non-inflatable tires.

Our said invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation, Fig. 2 is a plan, and Fig. 3 is a cross-section, of the foot-plate part of a roller-skate, illustrating the method which we employ of making the said foot-plate pneumatic or air-inflated.

The foot-plate is shown at A, and two of the depending horns at B² C², these extending downwardly to support the rollers. (Not shown.) A toe-cap N is provided having lace-holes n. The heel part is provided with ankle-supports o² o³.

The foot-plate A is provided with an inflatable india-rubber or air-tight pad or cushion,

(marked L,) which is secured to the foot-plate by metal cross-bars a⁵, fixed to the upwardly-turned edges a⁶ of the foot-plate. The foot-plate A may be and by preference is formed with cross-corrugations a⁷ for the purpose of strengthening the same. The said air-tight pad or cushion L is molded or otherwise formed with raised ribs, as shown, which stand up between cross-bars a⁵, so that when the india-rubber pad or cushion is inflated, as shown, it will stand up above the level of the cross-bars a⁵ and thus form a soft and non-vibratable tread.

The part lettered l' is the ordinary valve for connecting the inflator.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a roller-skate of the kind herein referred to, the combination with the metallic tread-plate A made with cross-bars a⁵ of the inflatable india-rubber pad or cushion L fitting in said tread-plate under between and above the cross-bars to form a pneumatic tread substantially as hereinbefore described.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK IORNS GIBBS.
WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

CHARLES BOSWORTH KELLEY,
HERBERT WHITEHOUSE.