No. 837,385. PATENTED DEC. 4, 1906.

R. CHRISTENSEN.

FOOTWEAR.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 20, 1905.

Fig. 1.

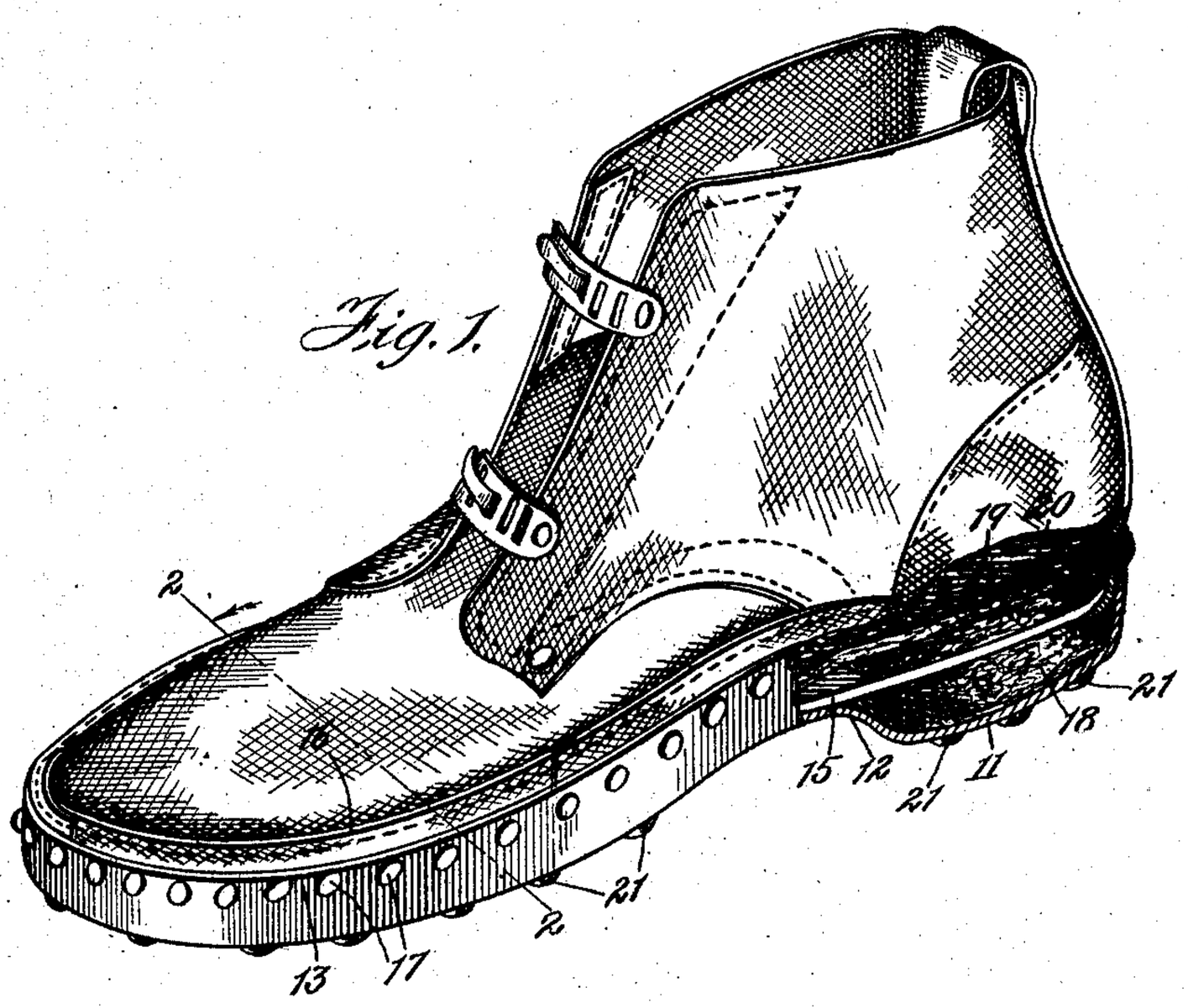


Fig. 2.

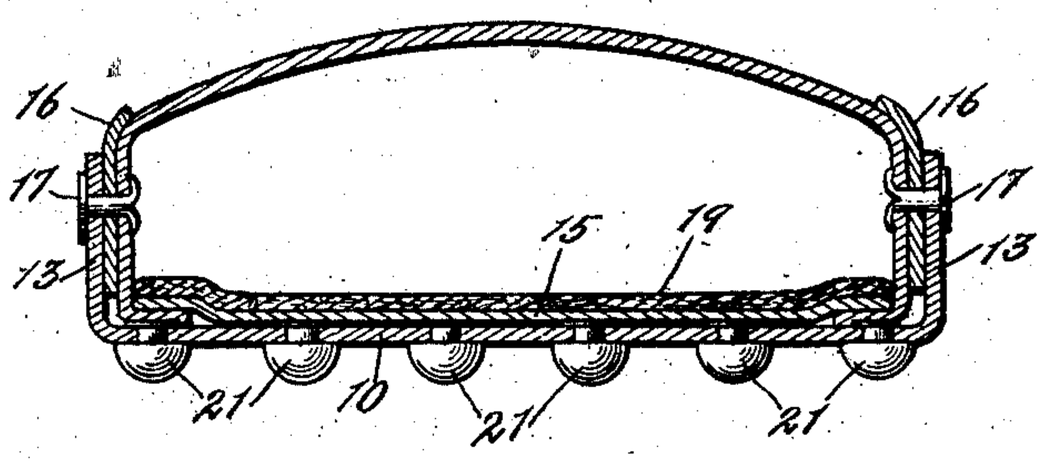


Fig. 4.

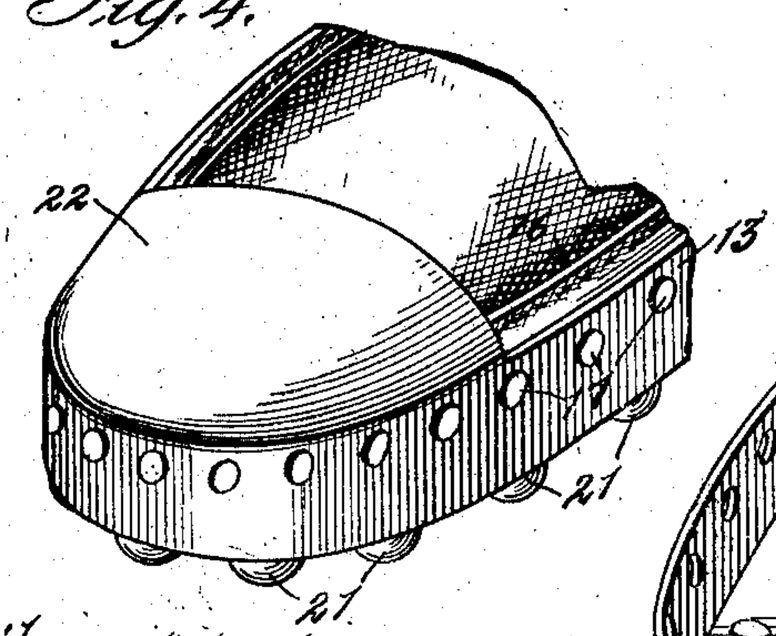
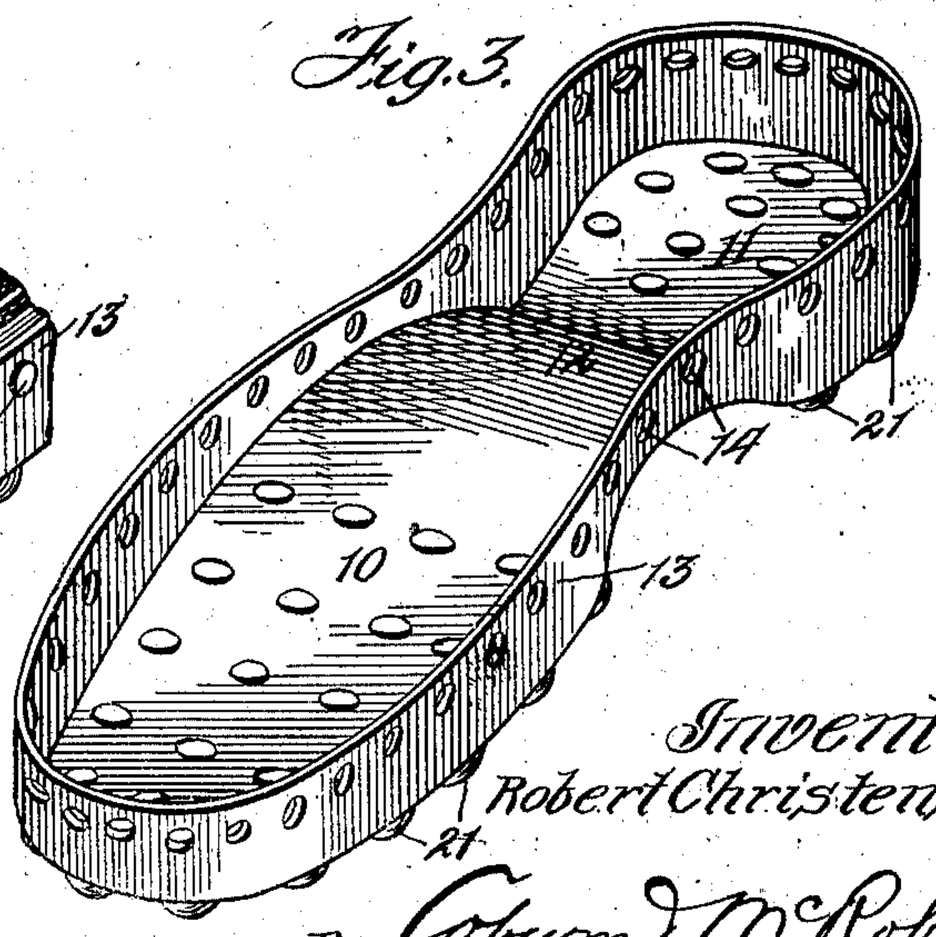


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT CHRISTENSEN, OF RACINE, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNOR TO THE AMERICAN BOOT & SHOE PROTECTOR MANUFACTURING CO., OF RACINE, WISCONSIN, A CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN.

FOOTWEAR.

No. 837,385. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 4, 1906.

Application filed November 20, 1905. Serial No. 288,152.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT CHRISTENSEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Racine, in the county of Racine and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Footwear, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in boots, shoes, and other footwear, and has particular reference to a protector for boots, shoes, &c., which in use are subjected to unusual or very rough wear.

The invention comprises a protector-plate which provides the sole and heel portions and a continuous marginal upstanding flange through which pass the rivets or other means for securing the protector to the shoe and which may be stamped up from the plate.

The objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the accompanying description.

The invention consists of the combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter particularly described, and then pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe, showing the protector adapted thereto. Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the protector alone, and Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing a modification of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, the boot or shoe protector, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, comprises a sole portion 10, heel 11, and shank 12, the latter being suitably curved, as shown, and an upstanding marginal guard or flange 13. This protector may be made of any suitable metal, such as sheet-steel, and may be suitably shaped and the flange 13 stamped up to a suitable height by means of suitable dies. The guard-flange 13 is provided with openings 14, which are preferably continued throughout the guard-flange, which, as shown, is continuous. The size and outline of the protector will of course correspond with the dimensions and outline of the boot or shoe to which it is adapted and the flange be bent to conform to the contour of that portion of the vamp or upper with which it is in contact.

While the protector may be adapted to boots, shoes, and other footwear of any suitable character, I have shown it in the present instance with a heelless shoe, the sole 15 of which may be made of leather, canvas, or other suitable material, having the upper lasted thereto in the usual or any suitable manner. This shoe is provided with a continuous reinforcing-strip 16, of leather or the like material, which extends at the margin of the vamp from the quarter around the front of the toe, as shown in Fig. 1, and while in the present instance such strip is shown as consisting of a plurality of pieces it will be obvious that it may be made of a single piece. Suitable rivets 17 pass through the openings of the guard-flange, the reinforcing-strip, and shoe-vamp to secure the protector to the shoe. At the heel such rivets pass through the guard-flange and quarter. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the reinforcing-strip extends above the edge of the guard-flange of the protector and not only serves to provide a greater thickness for the attachment of the protector, but also prevents the vamp from wearing or cutting against the edge of the guard-flange, as the vamp is stiffened thereby and held from being crushed over the edge of the guard-flange. Moreover, this strip by holding the vamp in shape avoids crowding of the vamp away from guard-flange, thereby preventing dirt, fine gravel, &c., from entering between the protector and the shoe.

When the protector is employed with a shoe of the character here shown and described, before the shoe is inserted in the protector a suitable pad 18 is placed in the heel-cavity of the protector in order to raise the heel portion of the sole 15. Preferably an insole 19 is employed, and between the heel portion of the insole and the sole 15 a second pad 20 is inserted to raise the heel of the wearer.

The protector at its sole and heel portions is provided with knobs or bosses 21, which may, as shown in the drawings, be riveted to the sole and heel-plate. These bosses are designed not only to avoid slippage, but also to increase the wear of the protector.

The protector, as shown in Fig. 3, may be provided with an integral toe-cap to protect the toe of the shoe. The guard-flange not only affords a means for securing the pro-

tector to the shoe, but in addition serves to protect the edge of the vamp and prevent wear thereof by abrasion.

The invention provides a protector for boots and shoes and the like which is particularly serviceable for use in rolling-mills and by stoneworkers, miners, well-diggers, railroad-hands, and others engaged in work in which the footwear is subjected to very rough usage. Owing to the provision of the reinforcing-strip, dirt, dust, or fine gravel is prevented from entering between the protector and the shoe and danger of the shoe-vamp wearing out or being cut by the edge of the protector-flange is avoided. The protector is exceedingly simple, consisting of but one piece, and may be readily stamped up from a single sheet of metal.

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

1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a shoe and the like, of a protector made of metal and comprising sole and heel portions and an integral continuous upstanding flange, a leather reinforce between the flange and shoe-vamp, and means passing through the flange, vamp and reinforce for securing the protector in place.

2. A device of the class described, the combination with a shoe and the like, of a protector comprising a single plate of sheet metal providing a sole and heel, a continuous upstanding flange integral with and stamped up from the plate, a reinforcing-strip of the same material as the shoe-upper interposed between the flange and shoe-vamp and extending above the edge of the flange, and means, such as rivets, passing through the flange, reinforcing-strip and shoe-vamp to secure the said parts together.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT CHRISTENSEN.

Witnesses:
H. C. CASE,
N. M. RUTTESTEIN.