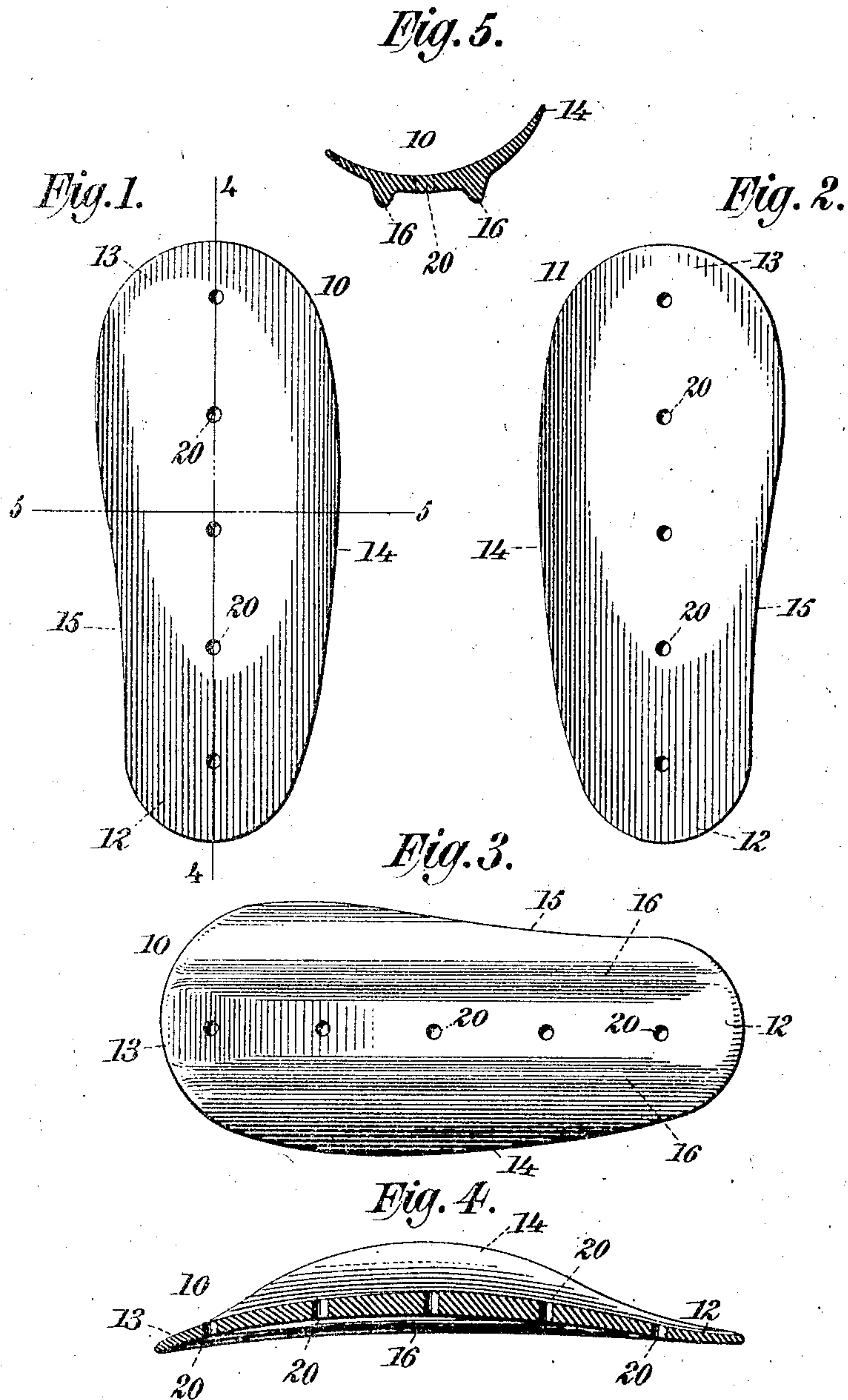


G. P. KATO, SR.
 ARCH PROP FOR USE IN BOOTS AND SHOES.
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 2, 1906.

916,715.

Patented Mar. 30, 1909.



WITNESSES:

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GEORGE PHILIP KATO, SR., OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

ARCH PROP FOR USE IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 916,715.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 30, 1909.

Application filed October 2, 1905. Serial No. 280,938.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE PHILIP KATO, Sr., a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Arch-Props for Use in Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in arch props to be placed in shoes and boots for supporting the arch of the foot, and consists in the novel features hereinafter described and claimed.

The object of my invention is to produce a light, simple, durable and effective arch prop which will be comfortable to the wearer and may be produced at comparatively small expense, and which will lack complications of parts and may be cleansed from time to time as required and thus kept in proper condition.

In carrying out my invention I form my arch prop in one integral piece of hard-rubber, pressed into shape and so conform the same that it may find a firm bearing in the shoe and comfortably receive and support the arch portion of the foot.

The invention will be fully understood from the detailed description hereinafter presented, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top view of an arch prop embodying my invention and of a form adapted for the left foot; Fig. 2 is a like view of a similar arch prop adapted for the right foot; Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the left foot prop; Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of same on the dotted line 4—4 of Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a transverse section of same on the dotted line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

In the drawings, 10 designates the arch prop for the left foot, and 11 the arch prop for the right foot. Each arch prop is in one integral piece of hard-rubber and is formed in a die or mold. The arch prop of my invention has a longitudinally arched upper surface and at said surface is concave transversely considered, and said prop broadens from the heel portion 12 toward the front portion 13. At its inner side edge the prop turns upwardly, as at 14, to conform to and support the foot, this upwardly turned portion forming what may for convenience be termed a flange which is greatest in extent along about the middle portion of the edge

of the prop and thence narrows or becomes of less extent toward the ends of the prop. At its outer side edge the prop, along said edge, is made concave, as at 15, beyond the heel portion 12, whence said edge extends outwardly and forwardly toward the front end of the prop.

The lower surface of the prop is arched longitudinally and is convex along its side portions transversely considered. Extending longitudinally of the lower surface of the prop are the parallel ribs 16, which are deepest at their middle portions and thence decrease in depth toward the ends of the prop. The ribs 16 bear upon the sole of the shoe and take much of the weight exerted upon the prop.

The prop of the general form and construction shown has proven to be comfortable and efficient in use; it is in one piece of material and may be readily applied to and removed from the shoe, and it has a smooth surface and does not require to be covered with leather or the like, for which reason the prop will not become ragged in appearance and may be washed with soap and water as occasion may require.

The prop being of hard rubber is light in weight and may be readily given an accurate initial shape, and thereafter the prop may be conformed to the special shape or width of the foot, so as to fit the same snugly, by first subjecting the same to the proper degree of heat, then pressing the same to suit and then plunging the same in cold water to set the prop to the new shape.

A further desirable feature of the prop is that it presents no parts subject to a corroding action or which are injurious to the wearer.

The arch prop is provided with vertical openings 20 disposed between the vertical planes of the ribs 16, between which an air chamber is formed, whereby the region about the prop may have proper ventilation.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is:—

The arch prop hereinbefore described in one integral piece of molded hard rubber, said prop having a hard smooth upper surface which is longitudinally upwardly arched throughout substantially its entire length and transversely concaved throughout substantially its entire length, the side edges of said prop being extended upwardly, and the

lower surface of the same being formed with
integral ribs which decrease in depth toward
the ends of the prop to engage the sole of the
shoe and afford a durable support for the
5 main body of the prop above said sole; sub-
stantially as set forth.

Signed at New York city, in the county of

New York and State of New York this 30th
day of September A. D. 1905.

GEORGE PHILIP KATO, Sr.

Witnesses:

CHAS. C. GILL,
ARTHUR MARION.