Jan. 2, 1923. 1,440,678

F. HACHMANN.

METHOD OF PLATING WOODEN ARTICLES.

FILED DEC. 31, 1920.

FIG. 1

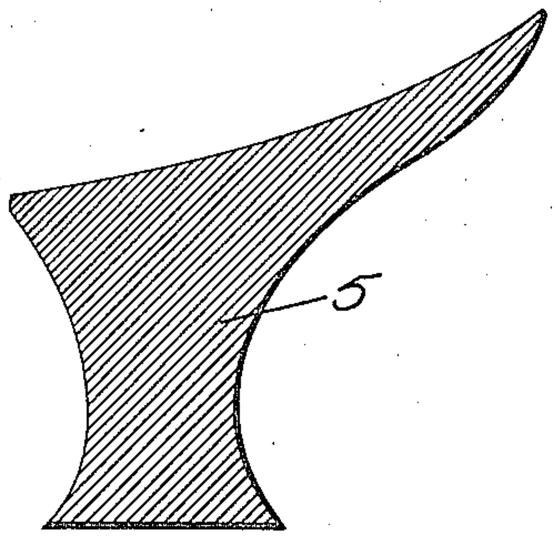


FIG. 2

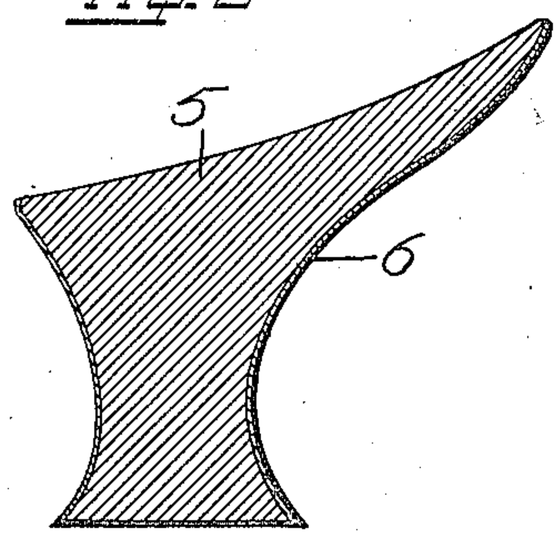


FIG. 3

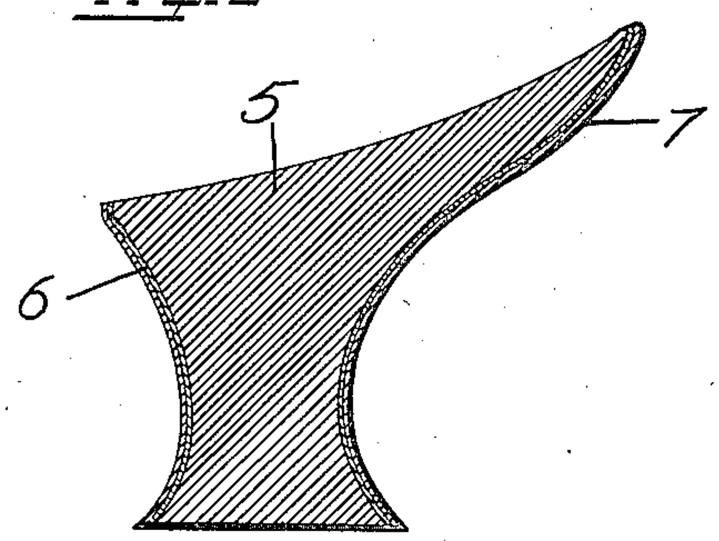
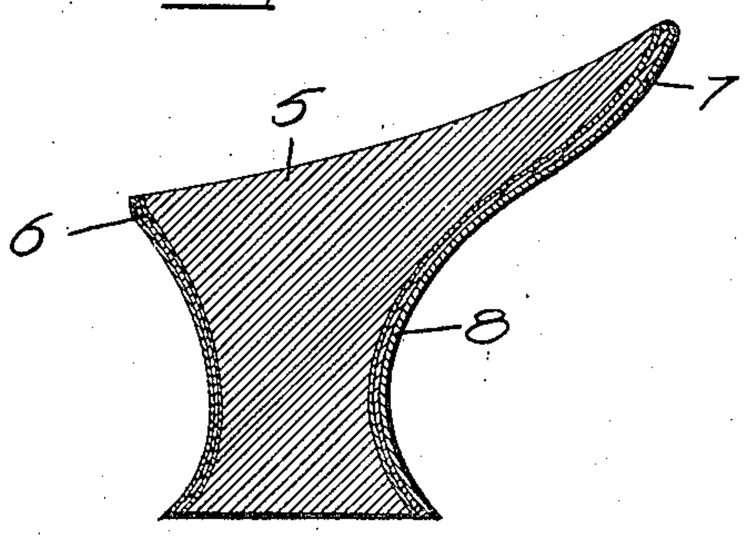


FIG. 4



INVENTOR
FREDERICK HACHMANN
BY Edward E Longan
ATTY.

Patented Jan. 2, 1923. 1,440,678

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK HACHMANN, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO HENRY W. GELLER, ONE-EIGHTH TO HARRY A. PRUDOT, AND ONE-EIGHTH TO LAURENCE J. HORAN, ALL OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

METHOD OF PLATING WOODEN ARTICLES.

Application filed December 31, 1920. Serial No. 434,348.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK HACHMANN, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Plating Wooden Articles, of which the following is a specification containing a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention relates to improvements in the method of plating wooden articles and has for its primary object the coating of wooden articles such as ladies' French heels, and the like, with a metallic substance so that the finished article will appear to be made out of metal and will also be waterproof.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a vertical sectional view of a heel.

Fig. 2 is a similar view after the same has gone through the first step of my method.

Fig. 3 is a similar view illustrating the second step.

Fig. 4 is a similar view illustrating the finished article.

In carrying out my method I make use of a wooden article such as a heel, or the like, which is designated by the numeral 5, that portion of the heel which is to be plated is covered with a layer 6. This layer is a conductor of electricity and is preferably formed of a mixture of lacquer, that is, varnish formed from shellac dissolved in alcohol, powdered graphite and powdered bronze. This mixture may be either sprayed or painted on the article, or on that portion which is desired to be plated, or the article may be dipped therein. After the coating 6 has been applied, the article is baked so as to completely dry the coating, after which the article is inserted in an electroplating bath and a layer 7 of copper is deposited on the coating 6. After this layer has been deposited the article is inserted in the finishing bath and the final layer 8 deposited. This layer may be any metal which can be deposited by the electroplating method. After this final or finishing deposit has been given the article it is then polished and the plated article has the appearance of being formed entirely of metal without having the objectionable weight which accompanies metal.

My method is extremely useful in preparing French heels as there are a number of heels on the market at the present time which are constructed of metal, and aside from adding to the weight of the shoe, have the objection of being extremely difficult to attach to the shoe and also to have the leather lift attached to their bottom. By my mehod of electroplating these heels the same can be attached as readily and easily as any of the wooden French heels which are covered with leather.

While I have shown my method as applied to heels for ladies' shoes, it is obvious that the same can be applied to any other wooden article; the article can be entirely covered with plating, or only portions thereof be covered, the extent of the coating 6 limiting the extent of the surface to be plated.

The mixture I use for coating the wooden article preparatory to plating it consists of one part of lacquer, one part powdered graphite and one part powdered bronze,—these three are mixed together in equal quantities and then applied to the article to be plated.

The lacquer which I preferably employ is a varnish composed of shellac dissolved in alcohol.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim is:

The method of electroplating wooden articles, which consists in covering the surface of the article to be plated with a relatively thin layer of a mixture of lacquer, a varnish composed of shellac dissolved in alcohol, powdered graphite and powdered bronze of equal proportions, baking the article with said layer applied thereto until the layer is completely dried, electrodepositing on the hard coating, a layer of copper, electrodepositing on the layer of copper, a finishing coating, and lastly, polishing said finishing coating.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

FREDERICK HACHMANN.