March 18, 1930. A. BLAIN 1,751,069

FOOTWEAR

Filed Feb. 19, 1927

Fig. 1.

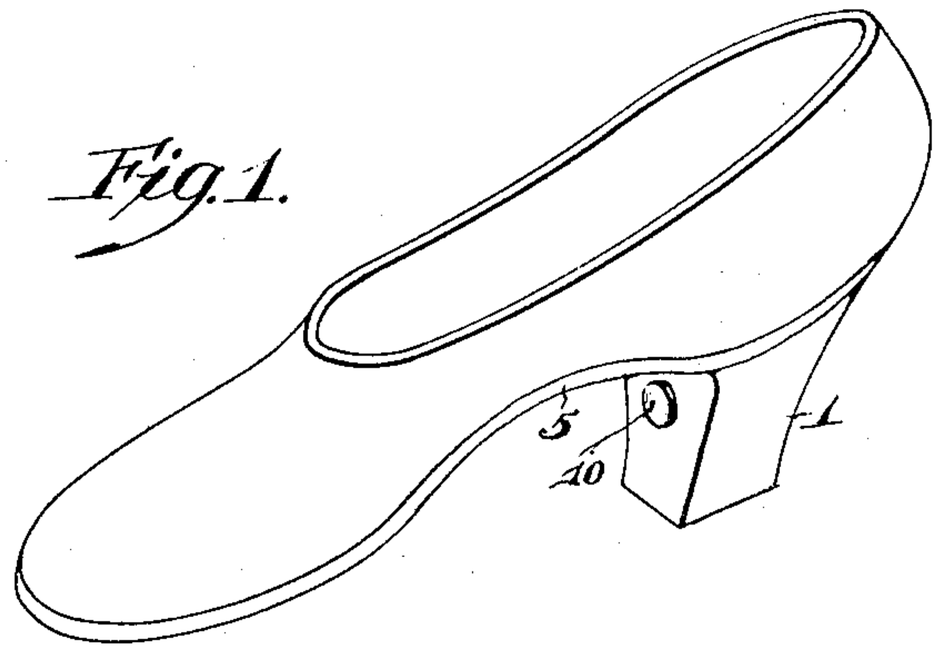


Fig. 2.

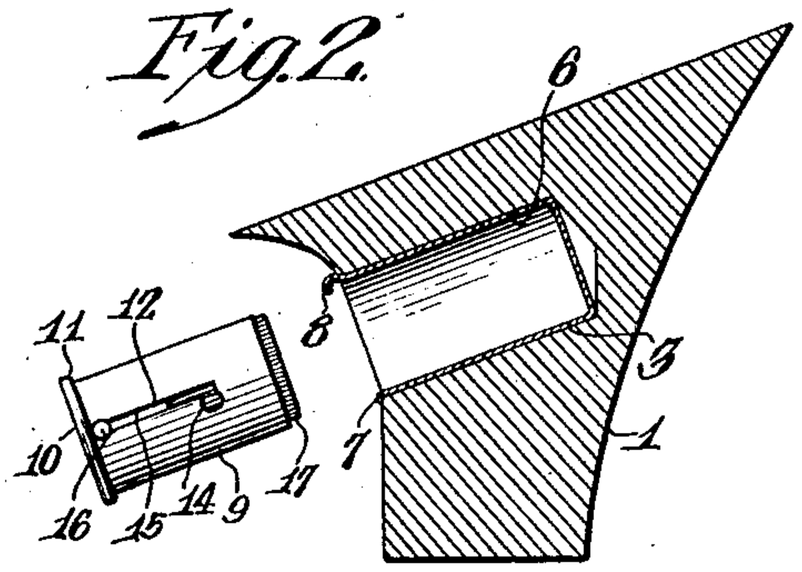


Fig. 3.

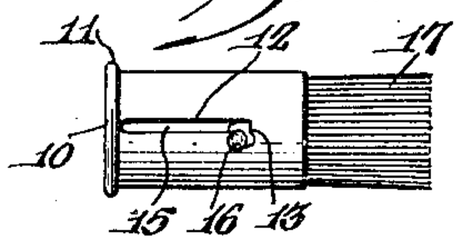


Fig. 4.

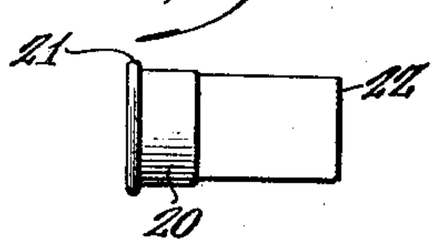
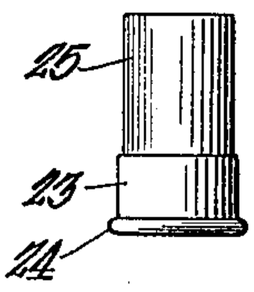
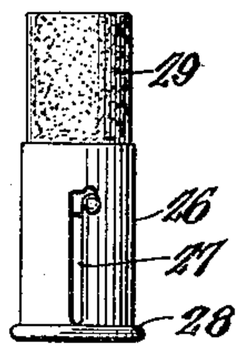


Fig. 5.





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ALBERT BLAIN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

FOOTWEAR

Application filed February 19, 1927. Serial No. 169,433.

The object of the invention is to provide improvements in shoes, sandals, slippers, and the like, and more particularly in the heels thereof.

Another object is more specifically to provide a construction whereby it is possible for one to, at all times, carry in the heels of each pair of shoes means to restore the texture, color, finish, etc., of shoes to their original state.

For instance, suede shoes have a certain type of surface finish, independent of their color, which is destroyed by the shoes rubbing or knocking against one another, the original dullness becoming smooth and shiny. This condition can be remedied and the original appearance restored by rubbing or scratching the smooth surface with a course bristled or wire brush or the like.

Kid shoes and slippers having variously colored surfaces lose their true colors through wear, but it is possible to restore the desired color by applying a liquid or wax dye to the kid. The trouble has always been, however, that only a shoe repairman or professional polisher could do such work, with consequent delay and expense. Similarly, white buckskin and canvas shoes and slippers, so much worn during the summer months especially while engaged in the pursuit of sports, lose their original white freshness of appearance and have to be restored by the use of either dry or wet chalk mixtures and the like.

Consequently, this invention is to be considered in its broadest scope as anticipating the use of any form of surface restoring means for boots, sandals, shoes, slippers, etc., carried wholly or in part in the heel of such an article of apparel, or in the two heels of a pair jointly, in which case the actual article, device, or means within one heel may be supplementary to and even dependent upon the article, device, or means, in the other heel of the pair.

A still further object is to provide in a heel a recess, cavity, aperture, or chamber, either lined or unlined, and in combination with restoring means, and a holder for same when necessary or advisable, together with means to yieldingly secure said means within the heel, and thus prevent loss or even loosening of said restoring means when not in use, as when the footwear is being employed for its intended purpose of protecting the feet of the wearer while walking or running.

Again, it is to be understood that the recess in the heel may extend thereinto in any desired direction, as for instance beneath the instep, or laterally inwardly from an exposed outer surface in which case it can be covered by suitable ornamentation or camouflage such as is used upon evening slippers.

With these and other objects in mind, the invention comprises further details of construction and operation fully brought out in the following description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a slipper, representing any desired type of footwear, provided with one embodiment of the invention; Fig. 2 is a central vertical section through the heel portion of the slipper shown in Fig. 1, and showing also the capsule removed from the aperture in said heel; Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the capsule per se with the brush in extended position; Fig. 4 shows a modified form of capsule embodying a piece of chalk, colored wax, or the like; and Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a pair of elements intended to represent the capsules carried by the respective heels of a pair of slippers or the like, one of which comprises a pencil or stick of polish, and the other a suitable buffer of fibrous or other material.

Referring to the drawings, the heel 1 of a slipper is illustrated as being operatively attached to an upper 2, which represents any type of upper portion of any article of footwear which is made of any of the well-known materials, the appearance of which changes

through constant wear, such for instance as buckskin, vici-kid, cloth, velvet, satin, suede, etc.

Within the heel 1, as shown in Fig. 2, a chamber 3 is provided by any suitable means such for instance as by drilling directly into the heel, either through the forward surface beneath the instep 5 of the slipper, through one of the other lateral surfaces thereof, or even through the uppermost surface within the slipper and against which the heel of the wearer's foot presses when the slipper is in use.

This chamber 3 may be provided with any desired form of lining 6, such for instance as that provided by the use of a cylindrical brass tube or the like, the outer edge portion of which may be flared at 7 to provide a pleasing appearance from the outside. The uppermost wall of this lining may, if desired, be extended so as to provide a yieldingly positioned resilient extension to form a latch or catch 8, adapted to engage and retain the cleaning or other element within the heel cavity 3.

For purpose of illustration, there is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, a cleaner element particularly adapted for use with suede shoes or slippers, in which a cylindrical member 9 is closed at its outer end 10 and provided with a radially extending flange 11, adapted to be normally engaged by the latch 8 to retain the element within the cavity 3. The member 9 is furthermore provided with an L-shaped slot 12, the shorter angular leg 13 of which is provided with a reversely extending relatively shallow off-set 14. Within said element a tubular member 15 is slidably positioned and is provided with a pin 16 slidable within the slot 12, said last-named tubular member 15 supporting one end of brush, the bristles 17 of which are retracted within the cylindrical member 9 when the member 15 is in its innermost position. However, when the member 15 is extended outwardly and rotated so that the pin 16 enters the shorter leg 13 of the slot, the bristles 17 are in the extended position shown in Fig. 3, and as the outer container capsule or cylinder 9 is used as a handle to scrape or rub the brush over the suede leather surface of the shoe upper 2, the pin 16 enters the off-set 14 of the slot and thus prevents the brush from accidentally becoming withdrawn into the collapsed position shown in Fig. 2. After the suede has been brushed until it regains its original surface appearance and texture, the brush, of course, can be retracted within the outer capsule 9 by just rotating the brush supporting element 15 so that the pin 16 leaves the off-set 14 and shorter leg 13 and enters and assumes its original position in the innermost end of the longer leg of the slot 12 as shown in Fig. 2. Thereafter, the cleaning or rejuvenating device as a unit is returned to the cavity 3 of the heel until the flange 11 is caught and held by the latch 8.

In Fig. 4, a holder 20 is shown as being provided with a flange 21 for engagement with the latch 8, as previously described, while extending freely from said holder is a pencil or stick 22 of chalk, colored wax, or the like. Such an element would obviously be used if carrying chalk with white fabric or white buckskin slippers, while colored wax or the like would be employed for use with shoes and slippers having uppers of various colors and of such surface characteristics as could be restored by the use of such materials.

Referring to Fig. 5, there is here represented the case in which more than one element is necessary for use in restoring the appearance of a given piece of footwear. For instance, a container 23, having a flange 24, may be provided with a pencil 25 of black or other form of polish, such as that which is used for most types of men's black leather shoes, this element being normally positioned within the heel of one shoe, while a second and different element is normally positioned within the heel of the other shoe of a pair. The other element in this instance, also shown in Fig. 5, may comprise a cylindrical casing 26, having an L-shaped slot 27, similar to the slot 12 of Fig. 2, and a flange 28, likewise for engagement with the latch 8 before described, while within said casing there may be slidably positioned any suitable form of fibrous polisher element 29 for use in finishing the surface of the shoe after the polish carried by the element 23 has first been applied thereto.

Thus this invention can be applied to any type of footwear whatsoever and it is not essential that the latch 8 comprise an extension of the lining member 6, but may be separate therefrom. On the other hand, if it is desired to omit the lining 6, a separate spring latch may be secured within the wall surface of the recess 3, but in any case the freely extending portion of the latch being substantially, if not entirely, visible, while the shoe or slipper equipped with the device is in use, yet freely engageable and readily operable manually to release the cleansing or rejuvenating element whenever such is desired and operating to perform its function of retaining said element within the heel cavity readily upon inserting said element therein and pressing it inwardly as far as it will go.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. The combination of an article of footwear comprising a heel and an upper, a chamber in said heel, a tubular member forming a handle, an element of renewing material slidable within said member, means to temporarily maintain said element in extended relation with respect to said member and adapted to permit said element to be withdrawn

at will into and to be shielded by said member, and means to normally maintain said member and said element as a unit in said chamber.

2. The combination of an article of footwear, comprising a heel and an upper, and having a chamber within said heel, with a sub-caliber member slidable within said chamber, an element of renewing material slidable within said member, and means to normally maintain said member and said element within said chamber.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

ALBERT BLAIN.