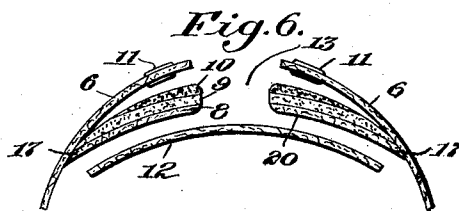
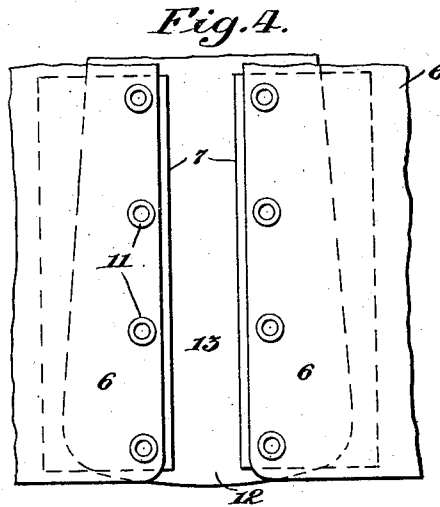
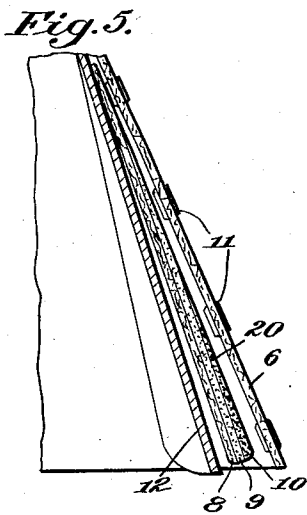
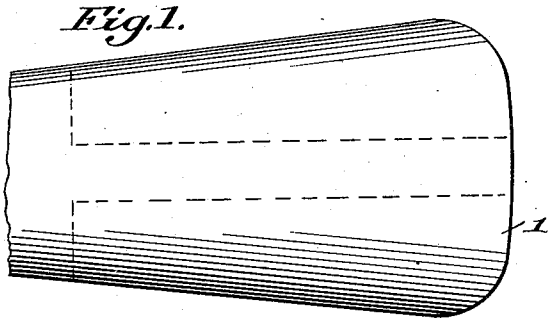


April 8, 1930.

D. MCK. HEPBURN
SHOE WITH INSTEP PADS
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SHOE WITH INSTEP PADS

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An object of the invention is to provide a shoe with soft cushion pads, supported one on each side of the "lacing slit" of the shoe, the pads being longitudinally spaced when the shoe is laced, and to rest on each side of the front bones of the instep, the pads being arranged to hold the lace from exerting pressure on the instep bones when the shoe is laced.

A further object of my invention is to produce a tongue or saddle for a shoe that will be self-supporting for the lace on blucher shoes, so that the heavy pressure of tightening the lace, in order to hold the shoe firmly on the foot, does not directly bear on the bones of the upper foot or bone frame of the foot where the laces necessarily pass over it in order to bring the two pieces of the shoe together.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a front view of the outside of the tongue, showing the outer edges of the cushion pads in dotted lines;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal end view from the lower part of Fig. 1, and the left of Fig. 3;

Fig. 3 is an end view of the outer end of the tongue, showing the laminations of the pads;

Fig. 4 is a front view of a modification, showing the two sides of the upper, with the soft cushion flap pads on the under sides thereof shown in dotted lines, and the end of the tongue of the shoe as a curved line beyond the end of the upper;

Fig. 5 is an edge view of one side of the upper, showing the laminations of the cushion pads, also a section of the usual tongue; and—

Fig. 6 is an end view of the front parts of the upper, showing the laminations of the soft flap cushion pads, and also the usual tongue.

In shoes developed by the present art of shoe manufacturing, the tongue is often made of soft leather and lined with a cloth of soft nature on the under side where it comes in contact with the instep of the foot, in order to cushion the lace and reduce the irritation necessarily aroused by the lace lying tightly drawn on the instep of the foot.

My invention shows a decided improve-

ment over this method of lacing a shoe over the instep.

By referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 of the drawing it will be seen that I form a regular saddle out of the tongue 1 of the shoe, by securing a soft comfortable cushion pad on each side thereof, in spaced relation, leaving an opening 5 between, the pads may be made of layers of soft felt padding, 2, 3, or the layers 2, 3, may be made of other suitable material that will be soft and comfortable to the foot; or layer 2 may be of soft sponge rubber; the layer 4 may be of felt padding or of thin leather, or muslin, such as commonly used in lining shoe uppers. The pads are sufficiently spaced, as shown, in Fig. 3, so that when the shoe is laced, the lace will be raised on each side of the instep, so that when the lace is drawn tightly over the instep, the laces do not bear hardly at all on the bones of the foot, due to the saddle or pads, raising the laces up so that when they are drawn tight the pressure is on the pads of the saddle on each side instead of directly on the instep bones where they cut and irritate. By constructing shoe tongues by this method, the area bearing on the sides of the instep is increased four or five times on each side instead of directly in the center or most irritating point, with the result that the shoe can be laced more tightly on the foot, resulting in increased comfort and more accurate and sure-footedness by the wearer. This is especially desirable on the heavier blucher shoes or golf shoes worn by men and boys.

In the modification shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6, the cushion pads 20 are secured on each side of the upper 6, at a convenient distance from the edges, as shown in Fig. 6, at 17, the pads consisting of layers 8, 9, and 10 of soft felt or other soft material as in Fig. 3, or layer 9 may be soft felt or sponge rubber, and layers 8 and 10 of thin leather, or muslin, such as is commonly used in lining shoe uppers, the tongue of the shoe is shown at 12. In this modification the separate soft flap pads are preferably attached to the sides of the uppers as at 17, the pads being free at their extremities, permitting the laces to be easily inserted through the eyelets 11. The pads are

so disposed that after lacing the shoe, they will be spaced as at 13, resting against the sides of the foot, and holding the lace and edges of the upper out of contact with the bones on the front of the foot.

It will be seen that in both modifications of the invention, the cushion pads are supported one on each side of the "lacing slit" of the shoe, and that after the shoe is laced there is a space between them, the cushion pads resting on each side of the front bones of the instep, and protecting these bones from the pressure of the tightly drawn lace generally experienced in shoes as usually constructed.

I claim:—

1. A shoe comprising a pair of soft cushion pads supported one on each side of the "lacing slit" of the shoe, said pads being thinner at the outer edges than at the edges adjacent the lacing slit, and located so as to be longitudinally spaced when the shoe is laced and to rest on each side of the front bones of the instep, said pads arranged to hold the lace from exerting pressure on said front bones on the instep when the shoe is laced.

2. A tongue for shoes, comprising cushion pads attached to the sides thereof, said pads centrally spaced, and thicker at approaching edges than at the side edges of the tongue.

3. A shoe comprising a tongue having a pair of spaced broad thin cushion pads secured thereto with their thin edges at the side edges of the tongue, said pads having a tapering horizontal cross-section and of considerable width compared to their thickness.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
DONALD McKNIGHT HEPBURN.

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