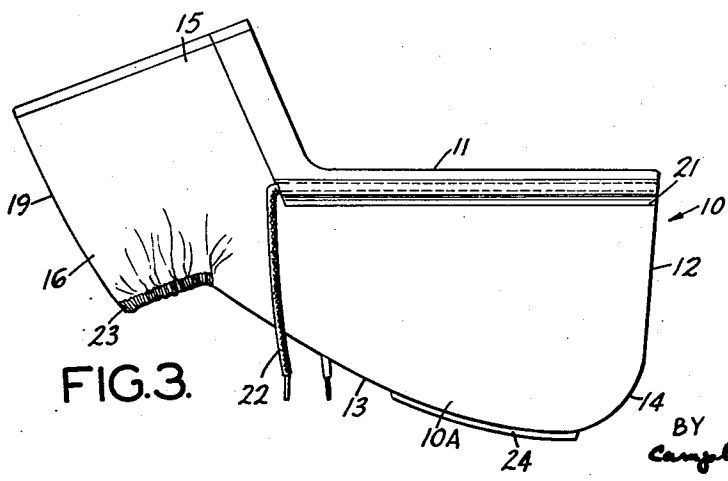
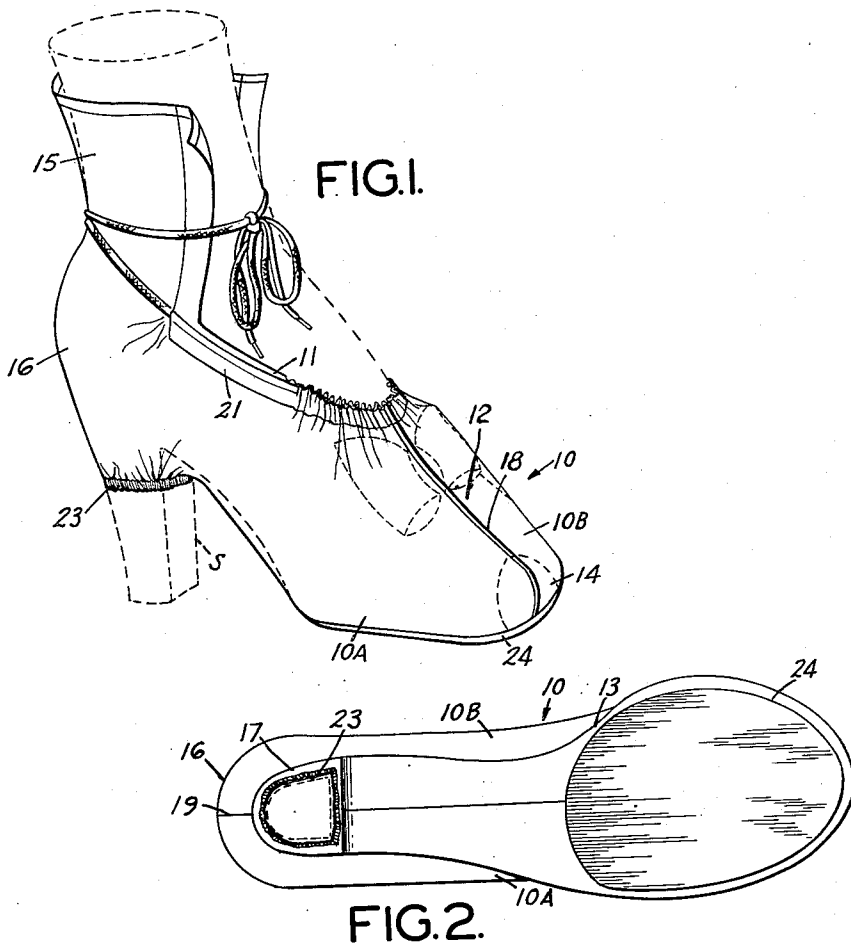


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SHOE PROTECTOR
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SHOE PROTECTOR

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This invention relates to a protective device to be worn over the shoes and it relates particularly to a protector for footwear and hosiery.

Since the advent of the pliable and relatively inexpensive plastic films, it has been common to make various types of rainwear, such as raincoats, hats, hoods and the like from such material, because they can be folded into a small package, thereby making them convenient to carry.

The present invention has as its principal object the provision of an inexpensive and lightweight covering for footwear or overshoe which can be carried conveniently for emergency use.

In accordance with the present invention, we have provided a pouch-like member formed of a thin film of plastic material, such as, for example, a vinyl resin, or other similar pliable and waterproof material. The pouch-like member, in the preferred form of the invention, has an open top, into which the shoe can be inserted and an inclined bottom which is adapted to be disposed under the sole and shank portion of the shoe. The end of the pouch-like member does not fit the toe of the shoe closely but it is constructed so that it can be drawn down tightly over the toe of the shoe by means of a draw-string passing through a hem or loop around the open edge of the member.

The opposite end of the pouch-like member may be provided with an upwardly extending flap which is adapted to cover the back of the ankle and thereby protect the hosiery and the back of the shoe from splattering.

The bottom of the pouch may be provided with an opening through which the heel of the shoe extends. Also, the shoe protector may be provided with a thin strip of leather or other material forming the tread portion that comes in contact with the ground. This tread portion reinforces the thin material from which the protector is made and greatly increases its life.

Inasmuch as the protector is formed of thin and pliable material, a pair of such protectors may be readily folded into a small package and carried in the handbag or pocket so that it is available for use in emergencies.

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of one form of shoe protector embodying the invention, applied over the shoe and to the foot and ankle of a wearer;

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Figure 2 is a view looking toward the bottom of the shoe with the protector applied thereto;

Figure 3 is a view in side elevation of the protector removed from the shoe.

The form of the invention chosen for purposes of illustration is designed to cooperate with and fit over a high-heeled slipper, but it will be understood that the protector may be modified for use with low-heeled or flat-heeled slippers or shoes, platform or wedge-type shoes or for any other desired type of footwear.

The shoe protector 10 preferably is formed of a transparent plastic material such as vinyl resin or the like although it may also be formed of translucent, opaque or colored resinous or rubbery materials. The shoe protector 10 is of a generally pouch-like form having a substantially straight upper edge portion 11 extending around the open top of the protector, a front end portion 12 arranged at substantially a right angle to the upper edge portion 11 and an inclined lower edge or bottom portion 13 which is adapted to fit under the sole and shank of the slipper S.

The junction 14 of the end portion 12 and the bottom 13 of the protector 10 may be rounded as illustrated in order to conform generally to the contour of the toe of the slipper S.

A flap 15 projects upwardly from the rear of the upper edge 11 and is adapted to be positioned around the ankle in order to protect the back of the hosiery, and the pouch is completed by an end portion 16 that covers the heel of the shoe S.

The bottom 13 of the pouch-like member 10 is provided with an opening 17 of such dimensions as to receive the heel of the slipper so that the heel may extend downwardly in contact with the ground without having the sheath interposed between the heel and the ground.

The above described protector 10 may be formed of two sheets or blanks 10A and 10B of the above-mentioned plastic material, which are joined at their edges by means of the seam 18 which extends from the edge of 11 down along the edges 12 and 14 and along the bottom 13, terminating at the inner edge of the opening 17. Another seam 19 extends from the outer edge of the opening 17 to the upper edge of the flap 15. The seams 18 and 19 may be formed by cementing the edges of the blanks 10A and 10B together with a suitable adhesive or by sealing them with heat and pressure when the blanks are made of thermo-plastic resins.

The above-described protector 10 does not fit any shoe perfectly, as it is not shaped like a shoe.

Therefore, means are provided for assuring a satisfactory fit over the shoe by providing a hem 21 extending around the edge portion 11 of the protector 10 for receiving a drawstring 22. When the protector 10 is slipped over the shoe, the drawstring 22 may be drawn up, thereby wrinkling the hem portion and drawing the edge 11 of the protector over the instep to cover the shoe. The drawstring may then be wrapped around the flap 15 and around the ankle to hold the flap 15 in protecting position. A tight fit around the heel of the slipper may be assured by placing a strip of rubber or other elastic material 23 around the opening so as to accommodate heels of various width.

The wear-resisting properties of the protector 10 may be improved by securing a thin strip or piece of wear-resisting material 24, such as leather or thicker plastic or rubbery material, to the bottom 13 of the protector to form its tread or sole portion. This piece 24 conforms generally to the shape of the tread or sole portion of the slipper or shoe S and preferably is made so as to permit the sheath to be used with shoes of different sizes and shapes so that the number of sizes of the sheaths may be reduced to a minimum.

As indicated above, the sheath is susceptible to considerable modification in the type of material used in its manufacture, and also in its design and shape. Thus, the flap 15 can be provided with suitable ornamentation, for example, its edges may be curved or scalloped or otherwise formed in order to produce a desired appearance. The hem 21, for example, may be integral with the blanks 10A and 10B or may be formed of a separate strip of material having a different color or design thereon than the remainder of the protector. The protector may be reinforced in places wherein severe strains or wear might occur and ornamented as desired. Also, if desired, the flap portion 15 may be omitted completely, and in the simplest form, even the heel-covering portion 16 may be omitted in order to provide a protector which merely covers the toe and instep portion of the shoe and foot.

From the preceding description, it will be apparent, therefore, that shoe protectors of the type embodying the present invention are susceptible to considerable modification, and therefore the form of invention described above should be considered as illustrative, only.

We claim:

1. A shoe and hosiery protector comprising a pouch-like member having an open top portion,

closed opposite end portions and a closed bottom inclined to fit beneath the tread and shank portions of a shoe and having an opening adjacent to one end through which the heel of a shoe can extend, said member having a portion extending upwardly from said top portion and around said one end to cover the ankle of the wearer, and a drawstring extending around the other end of said pouch-like member adjacent to said open top portion for securing said member around said shoe.

2. A shoe and hosiery protector comprising a pouch-like member having an open top portion, closed end portions and a closed bottom inclined with respect to said top portion having an opening adjacent one end for receiving the heel of a shoe, a flap extending upwardly from said top portion and around said one end, resilient means around said opening for fitting said opening to said heel, and a drawstring extending around the other end of said pouch-like member adjacent to said open top portion for securing said member around said shoe.

3. A shoe and hosiery protector comprising a pouch-like member having an open top portion, closed end portions and a closed bottom inclined with respect to said top portion having an opening adjacent one end for receiving the heel of a shoe, a flap extending upwardly from said top portion and around said one end, resilient means around said opening for fitting said opening to said heel, a wear-resisting member secured to said closed bottom adapted to underlie the tread portion of said shoe, and a drawstring extending around the other end of said pouch-like member adjacent to said open top portion for securing said member around said shoe.

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