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P. PLISKOFF ET AL

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SHOE

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Fig. 1.

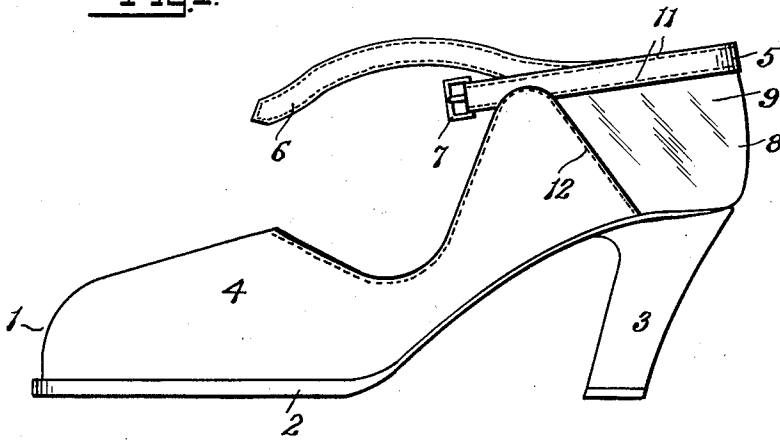
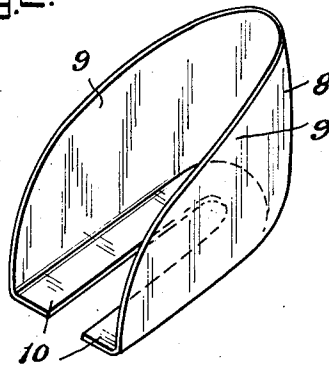


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR.
Philip Pliskoff & Dave Weisberger

BY

Harry R. Zinsky

ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SHOE

Philip Pliskoff and Dave Weisberger,
New York, N. Y.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 36—2.5)

This invention relates to shoes and has for its object the provision of means by which shoes of the so-called "backless" type may be rendered more comfortable to wear; which will afford greater protection for certain portions of the foot and in which the appearance of the shoe will be improved.

More particularly, the invention contemplates the provision of a shoe of the so-called "backless" type wherein the greater portion of the back of the shoe is composed of a molded and preferably, although not necessarily, transparent material. We are aware that prior to this invention efforts have been made to provide certain portions of the shoe of transparent material. However, such transparent portions were usually located in the toe portion of the shoe, the purpose of which, in such prior inventions, was to enable the position of the toes in the shoe to be seen to determine whether or not a proper fit of the shoe was had. We therefore make no claim to such disposition of the transparent material, since that employed, according to the present invention, is not only located in an entirely different location in the shoe, but is used for an entirely different purpose.

In the accompanying drawing wherein an embodiment of the invention is shown, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a shoe constructed in accordance with the invention, and Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the rear or counter portion of the shoe separated from the shoe to disclose its construction.

In the drawing, 1 indicates a shoe of generally known construction, the same having the sole 2, heel 3 and upper 4, all of these parts being constructed in the conventional manner and composed of leather, cloth or some similar opaque material. The shoe disclosed is of the well-known open-back or "backless" construction, as is in vogue at the present time, and in which a single strap 5 of leather, fabric or some similar opaque material, extends along the top of the shoe and around the back of the foot and is united at the front by means of the tongue and buckle connection 6, 7 or some other similar fastening means.

In the ordinary type of "backless" shoe, the strap 5 constitutes a single means extending around the back of the foot for holding the rear portion of the shoe to the foot and in this type of shoe, when walking there is a tendency for the heel to fall away from the foot due to the fact that the narrow strap 5 encircling the rear of the foot does not provide sufficient frictional resistance to hold the heel portion snugly to the bottom of the foot when the foot is raised. In

our improved construction, we provide a shoe back or counter portion 8, shown in Fig. 2, composed of a relatively stiff, molded plastic material of substantial thickness; the same having the upstanding side walls or counters 9 to embrace the sides of the foot in the conventional manner in which the ordinary counter does in shoes of ordinary construction. The counter portion 8 is provided with the integral inturned flange 10 which is secured between the insole and heel portion of the shoe in the conventional way in which an ordinary counter is secured in place.

In the construction of the back or counter 8, any suitable plastic material may be used and the same is preferably, although not necessarily, wholly transparent. When the back of the shoe is composed of such transparent material in the manner described, the heel portion of the wearer's foot is visible through the back or counter portion 8 below strap 5 and the appearance of a "backless" shoe is secured, while at the same time all of the advantages of a backed shoe is obtained, since the portion 8 provides all the support obtained by the conventional type of backed shoe and at the same time since it is transparent, it is more or less invisible and to all appearances a "backless" shoe, now in vogue, is being worn.

Instead of making the back portion of the shoe transparent, however, it may be made of tinted or colored material and in this way many novel effects may be had. It is, as previously explained, preferably molded or otherwise formed from relatively stiff plastic material and being made in one piece, it is smooth and completely unbroken around the heel portion of the foot, thereby having no vertical seams or other interruption in its continuity. The top of the back portion 8 may be attached to the encircling strap 5 by means of stitching 11 and to the sides of the shoe by means of stitching 12 or in any other suitable way.

From the foregoing, it will be obvious that with the rear portion of the shoe formed of the material mentioned and of either transparent or tinted material, many novel effects may be obtained and a comfortable well-fitting shoe produced, while at the same time the appearance of a "backless" type shoe will be presented.

While we have herein shown a shoe of a specific design, it will be obvious that the invention is not limited thereto, since the invention may be applied to almost any shoe of the so-called "backless" type regardless of other design features of the shoe.

What we claim is:

1. In a shoe for normal wear in which the ap-

- pearance of a "backless" construction is sought, a foot-encircling strap extending around the back of the wearer's foot, a heel located below the strap and spaced therefrom, and an unlined insert of transparent material located at the back of the shoe and disposed and exposed between the strap and heel and secured thereto whereby the portion of the foot over which said insert extends is visible through the insert.
- 10 2. In a shoe for normal wear and in which the appearance of a so-called "backless" construction is sought, a foot-encircling strap extending around the back of the wearer's foot, a heel lo-

cated below the strap and spaced therefrom, an insert of molded material located at the back of the shoe and exposed to view from both the interior and the exterior of the shoe, the upper edge of the insert being attached to and constituting a support for the strap, the lower end of the insert being attached to the heel, the insert being transparent and unlined and thus rendered substantially invisible or nearly so when the shoe is worn.

PHILIP PLISKOFF.
DAVE WEISBERGER.