

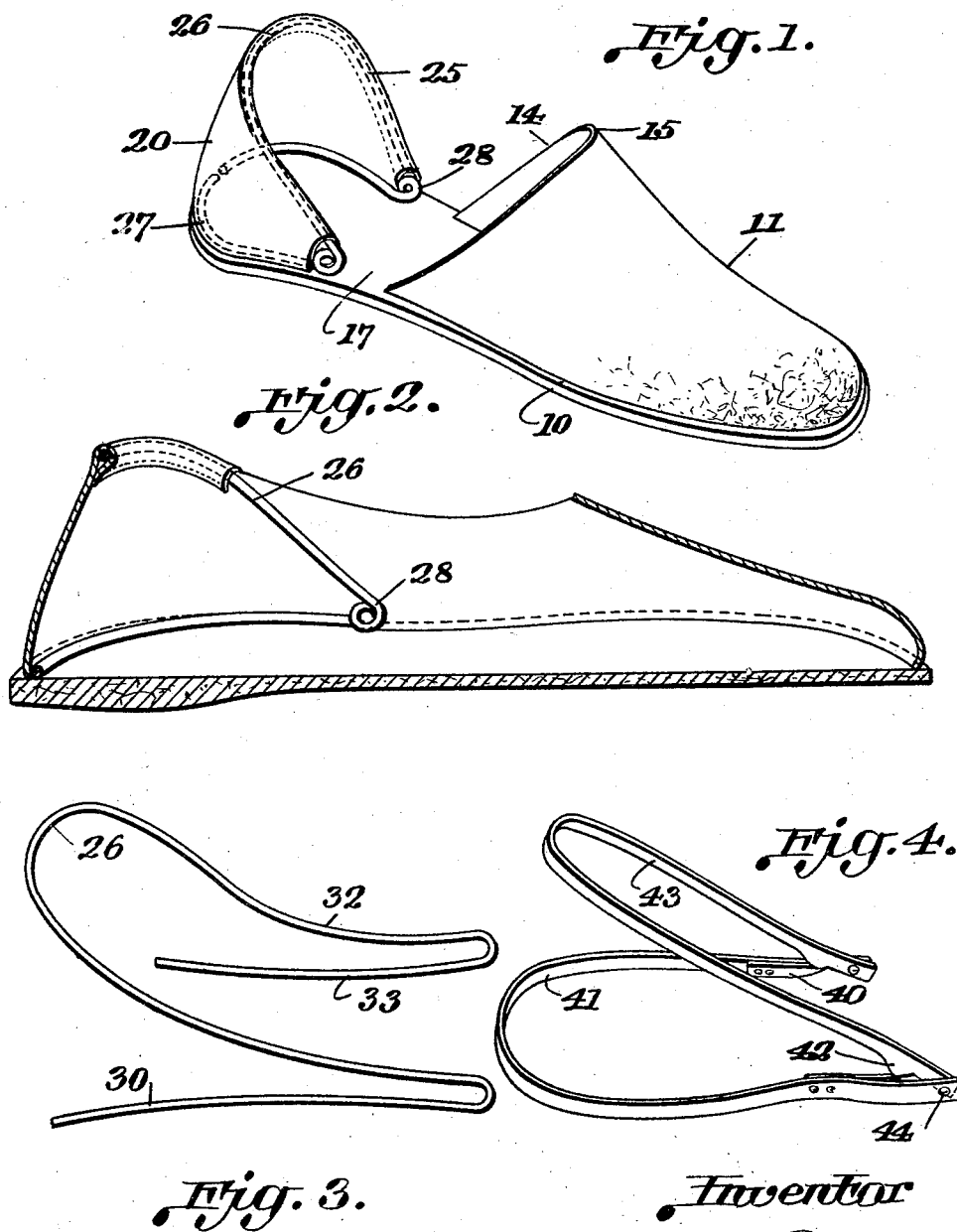
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FOOTWEAR RETAINER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOOTWEAR RETAINER.

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This invention relates to footwear retainers of general applicability, but has its special field of usefulness as applied to use as an easily yieldable counter restorer. The primary object of the present invention is to provide a retainer or counter restorer of such nature that when applied to an article of footwear it will permit the user to insert his foot in the slipper or other device with a minimum of trouble and yet with assurance of the retention on the foot of the article.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bath slipper with a rear counter together with means for holding the counter erect while permitting it to yield downward against a very slight force but having sufficient power to retain its shape as soon as the heel passes forward in the slipper.

In the drawings:
Figure 1 is a perspective of a bath slipper embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a half section in perspective showing a similar spring but illustrating a slightly different type of upper.

Figures 3 and 4 are perspectives of still further modifications of the spring to hold the counter collapsibly and yieldably erect.

In the drawings, I have shown the invention only in connection with a bath slipper, but this is for the purpose of illustration merely, and the invention should not be considered as limited except as called for in the claims; the following specification being specific only in order that the invention may be the more thoroughly understood. As illustrated, the slipper consists of a leather or carpet sole 10 to which is attached the usual upper 11 of ratine, toweling cloth or any other desired fabric and usually lined as at 14, and having a leather or similar edging 15. The insole is of the customary pasteboard covered with cloth 17.

The counter 20 is preferably made of a soft, flexible material, as for example, a fine quality of leather or soft cotton cloth having fabric loops on both sides. The counter may be attached to the sole directly, but is preferably secured between the insole and the sole, in which case the leather edging 15 may be continued rearward and bind the entire sole of the slipper.

Entirely hidden in the counter and in the edging at the rear of the sole is a jaw spring 25 consisting of two U-shaped loops 26 and 27 converging together in elevation toward the front of the slipper where they are joined

by coils 28 which tend to separate the loops 26 and 27 and to make taut the material of the counter 20. I prefer that the material forming this counter shall be so soft that it would collapse if it were not for the spring, and the spring itself should be of such strength that it will yield to downward pressure with but little resistance.

The slipper shown in Figure 2 is quite similar to the form shown in Figure 1, the principal difference being that the counter and forward section of the upper are in one piece, as is quite customary in slippers, overshoes and so forth. The spring in this modification is identical with that previously described consisting of two similar loops joined by integral coils so that the counter is held erect collapsibly and yieldably, so as to permit ready insertion of the foot and instant erection of the counter after the counter is freed from downward pressure.

The spring 32 of Figure 3 is modified in that the coils 28 are omitted and the free ends of the wire are left taut, as at 30, instead of being bowed as at 27 in Figures 1 and 2. The loop 26 is identical with the form in the preferred type, and the resilience necessary is acquired through the reverse bends at 33.

In Figure 4, I show the erector member as two pivoted loops, each substantially non-yielding but free to move with respect to one another, except for the action of the spring 40 riveted or otherwise secured to the metal loop 41 and engaging a lug 42 on the upper loop 43 at a point near the pivot 44. While one such spring would do the work properly, I much prefer to use two such springs 40, as shown.

In order to put on the slipper, it is merely necessary to insert the toes in the upper and push somewhat forward, then by bearing down on the counter or heel portion, the spring 25, 32, or 40, gives down freely, offering practically no resistance to the passage of the foot forwardly into the slipper, but as soon as the heel passes over the rear edge of the upper loop, the latter by virtue of the resilience of the metal and the configuration of the coils 28, bend 33, or spring 40, restores the counter to erect position and secures the slipper firmly on the foot.

What I claim is:

1. An article of footwear in which the rear of the upper is downwardly yieldable characterized by the provision of means secured to

the sole on both sides and located entirely outside of the central area of said rear portion for actively restoring the upper to original position when relieved of downward pressure.

2. In an article of footwear, a spring consisting of two joined loops, one following the contour of the rear of the sole and the other of the same shape following the contour of the rear of the top edge of the upper, and flexible material forming the upper secured to one of said loops and by it yieldably held taut.

3. In an article of footwear having a sole and a flexible upper, spring means secured to the two sides of the rear portion of the upper and to the sole, and yieldingly holding the rear portion of said upper taut while permitting the top edge of the rear of the upper to be brought substantially to the plane of the sole under downward pressure, and to restore it again when said downward pressure is removed.

4. An article of footwear having a sole and a flexible upper, having spring means secured to the sole at the junction of the sole and upper, and extending rearwardly and upwardly toward the margin of the rear of the upper to assist in actively restoring the rear portion of the flexible upper to erect position when collapsed under pressure, said spring means being held under tension by the sole and upper when the article of footwear is not in use.

5. An article of footwear having a sole, a flexible, downwardly yieldable rear upper secured thereto, and means extending along the side edges of the sole, and transversely

along the elevated rear margin of the upper for yieldingly holding taut the heel section of the upper, said means being a single piece of spring metal including two parallel portions sloping rearwardly and upwardly from the sole toward the elevated rear margin of the upper so as to leave the entire vertical centerline of the heel portion of the upper between the sole and the elevated margin free of the metal.

6. In a bath slipper, a sole, a forward upper section having its margin secured to the sole at a distance from the heel portion of the sole, a rear upper section or counter having its margin joining the sole at a point between the heel and front portions of the sole, a single piece of wire consisting of two substantially similar loops joined together at opposite sides of the sole and within the confines of the upper, with coils serving resiliently to separate the two loops, one of said loops following the contour of the rear portion of the sole and said other loop lying within the hem of said counter.

7. In an article of footwear, a sole, an upper secured thereto, which upper can be temporarily deformed by a downward crushing force, and spring means anchored to the sole and extending upwardly and rearwardly from the sole, said means yieldingly deforming with the upper when the upper is crushed and restoring the upper to original position and shape when such crushing force is removed.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

DAVID Y. READ.