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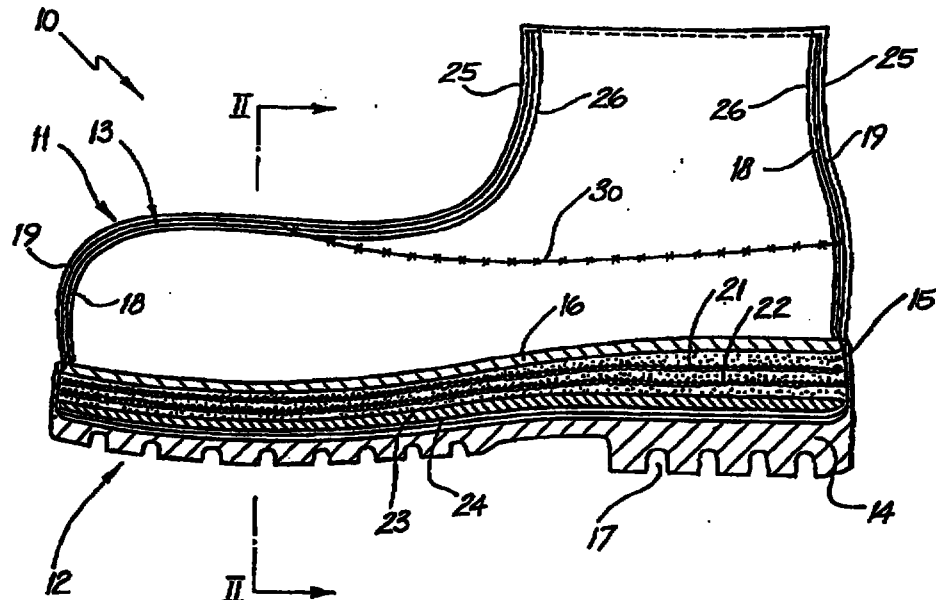
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(54) Title: IMPROVED BLAST RESISTANT FOOTWEAR



(57) Abstract

A boot (10) adapted to provide an improved level of protection against explosive blasts is described. In one embodiment, the boot has a sole (12), an upper (11) and a cocoon (13) portion which substantially encloses the foot. The cocoon can be comprised of an aramid weave (21), and/or, a further layer of carbon fibre (22) and/or woven ceramic fibres or ceramic/glass-ceramic woven composite fibres. The sole can incorporate layers of woven aramid and carbon fibres and a deflector plate (23) to provide enhanced protection. In an alternative embodiment, the cocoon can surround the boot and provide a quick and relatively inexpensive means of improving the blast protection to a wearer.