1,171,906

PATENT SPECIFICATION 1,171,906

DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

Date of filing Complete Specification (under Section 3(3) of the Patents Act, 1949): 30 Nov., 1966.

Application Date: 2 Dec., 1965. No. 51199/65.

Application Date: 29 March, 1966. No. 13866/66.

Complete Specification Published: 26 Nov., 1969

Index at acceptance:—A3 B41.

International Classification:—A 43 d 3/14.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Shoe Tree.

We, ANTHONY FREDERICK MERRIAM, of 5 Church Road, Abbotsleigh, near Bristol, a British subject, VICTOR RAYMOND WILTSHIRE, of 29 Great Brockeridge, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, a British subject, and DONALD RAYMOND INGLIS, of 296 Canford Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, a British subject, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to shoe trees.

A shoe tree made according to this invention comprises a substantially T-shaped blank of resilient material having a pair of arms and a leg extending therefrom, the arms being bendable towards each other to form an arch to bear on the inside of the front part of a shoe, and the said leg being bendable within its length. The free end of the leg can be made to engage the heel of the upper of the shoe or the leg of the T may be bent underneath the arch formed by the arms of the T.

Two forms of shoe tree made according to this invention the illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe tree.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the shoe tree in use.

Fig. 3 is a modified form of shoe tree.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the shoe tree shown in Fig. 3 in use.

Referring to the drawings, a T-shaped blank shown in Fig. 1 is cut from a sheet of polystyrene and comprises a leg 2 and arms 3. The leg 2 is tapered slightly towards the rounded free end 4 and the arms 3 are also rounded at their free ends. The arms 3 merge into the leg 2 through the curved portions 5.

In use, the arms 3 are bent towards each other into an arch which is placed inside the shoe and is held in the shape of an arch by the forward part of the upper. The leg 2 is then flexed to form an arch in the length of the leg so that the free end 4 bears on the back of the heel portion of the upper. The pressure exerted by the tree tending to return to its original position holds the upper of the shoe in a wrinkle free condition. When removed from the shoe the tree returns to a substantially flat condition. If desired the leg bears a message for advertising purposes.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4 the leg 2 of the T is shorter than that shown in Fig. 1, otherwise it is of substantially the same profile. In the example described the thickness of the sheet material is 0.025" but thinner or thicker material can be used.

In use, the arms 3 of the T are bent into an arch and the leg 2 is bent so that the free end portion lies under the arch formed by the arms 3. Arranged in this manner the tree is pressed into the front part of the shoe with the end of the leg pointing towards the heel. The arch bears on the inside of the upper as before described and the tendency of the leg 2 to straighten out urges the arch formed by the arms 3 against the material of the upper and keeps it free from wrinkles. If desired, the ends of the arms of the T can be serrated for gripping the inside of the upper.

It must be understood that the shoe trees made according to this invention can be produced in various different sizes to suit the size of shoe. One advantage of the shoe tree is that for packing and storage the device takes up very little room.

Instead of being made of polystyrene, other plastics material, for example cellulose acetate, can be used. Other flat materials may be suitable provided there is a proper degree of flexibility and resilience in the ma-

[*Price* 4*s*. 6*d*.]

terial to bend into the desired shape without cracking. Examples of other material which can be used are cardboard or metal. Instead of being cut from a sheet the tree can be moulded.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Shoe tree comprising a substantially T-shaped blank of resilient material having a pair of arms and a leg extending therefrom, the arms being bendable towards each other to form an arch to bear on the inside of the front part of a shoe, and the said leg being bendable within its length.

2. Shoe tree according to claim 1 wherein the said arms merge into the said leg through curved portions.

3. Shoe tree according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the said leg tapers towards the free end.

4. Shoe tree according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the extremities of the said arms and leg are rounded.

5. Shoe tree according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the edges of the outer ends of the arms are serrated for the purpose of grippin the inside of the upper of the shoe.

6. Method of supporting the upper of a shoe in a substantially wrinkle free condition with a shoe tree made according to claim 1 which consists in placing the said arch inside the front part of the shoe and placing the end of the said leg so as to bear on the inside of the heel of the upper of the shoe.

7. Method of supporting the upper of a shoe in a substantially wrinkle free condition with a tree according to claim 1 which consists in placing the said arch inside the front part of the shoe with the free end portion of the said leg lying under the said arch and pointing towards the heel of the shoe.

8. Shoe tree substantially as described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2 or Figs. 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.

MEWBURN ELLIS & CO.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
70 & 72 Chancery Lane,
London, W.C.2.
Agents for the Applicants.

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Burgess & Son (Abingdon), Ltd.—1969.
Published at The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2,
from which copies may be obtained.

terial to bend into the desired shape without cracking. Examples of other material which can be used are cardboard or metal. Instead of being cut from a sheet the tree can be moulded.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Shoe tree comprising a substantially T-shaped blank of resilient material having a pair of arms and a leg extending therefrom, the arms being bendable towards each other to form an arch to bear on the inside of the front part of a shoe, and the said leg being bendable within its length.

2. Shoe tree according to claim 1 wherein the said arms merge into the said leg through curved portions.

3. Shoe tree according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the said leg tapers towards the free end.

4. Shoe tree according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the extremities of the said arms and leg are rounded.

5. Shoe tree according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the edges of the outer ends of the arms are serrated for the purpose of grippin the inside of the upper of the shoe.

6. Method of supporting the upper of a shoe in a substantially wrinkle free condition with a shoe tree made according to claim 1 which consists in placing the said arch inside the front part of the shoe and placing the end of the said leg so as to bear on the inside of the heel of the upper of the shoe.

7. Method of supporting the upper of a shoe in a substantially wrinkle free condition with a tree according to claim 1 which consists in placing the said arch inside the front part of the shoe with the free end portion of the said leg lying under the said arch and pointing towards the heel of the shoe.

8. Shoe tree substantially as described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2 or Figs. 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.

MEWBURN ELLIS & CO.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
70 & 72 Chancery Lane,
London, W.C.2.
Agents for the Applicants.

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Burgess & Son (Abingdon), Ltd.—1969.
Published at The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2,
from which copies may be obtained.

