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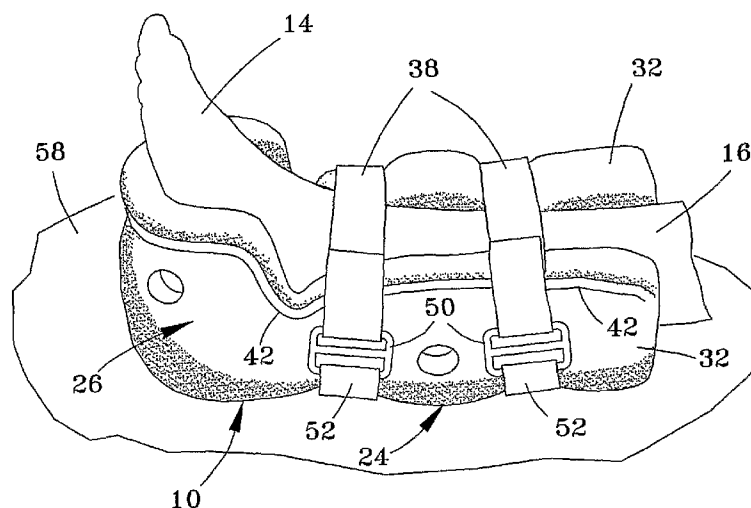
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(54) Title: HEEL-SUPPORTING PROTECTIVE BOOT



(57) Abstract: A heel-supporting boot (10) capable of supporting a leg (16) of a person in a supine reclining position, such as a bedridden patient, to reduce the risk of bed sores, foot drop, etc. The boot (10) includes a flexible and compressible body (12) having leg and forefoot portions (24,26), a continuous cavity (34) within the leg and forefoot portions (24,26), an anterior opening (36) to permit a patient's foot (14) and leg (16) to pass therethrough into the cavity (34), oppositely-disposed lateral regions (32) defined by the leg portion (24) and separated by the anterior opening (36), and an adjustable closing feature (38,50) for closing the anterior opening (36) with the lateral regions (32). A stitch pattern (42) is disposed along at least the forefoot rim, and preferably also the lateral rims, bounding the anterior opening (36). The stitch pattern (42) is sufficiently close to the forefoot rim and optionally the lateral rims to structurally reinforce the forefoot rim and inhibit elastic and plastic deformation of the forefoot portion (26).