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DANCE SHOE PROTECTOR

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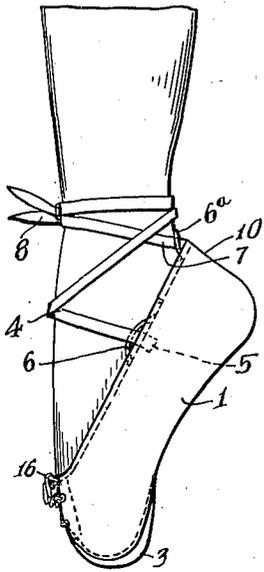


Fig. 1

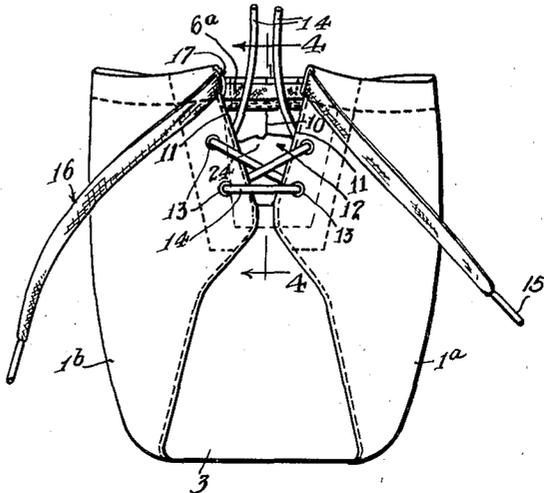


Fig. 2

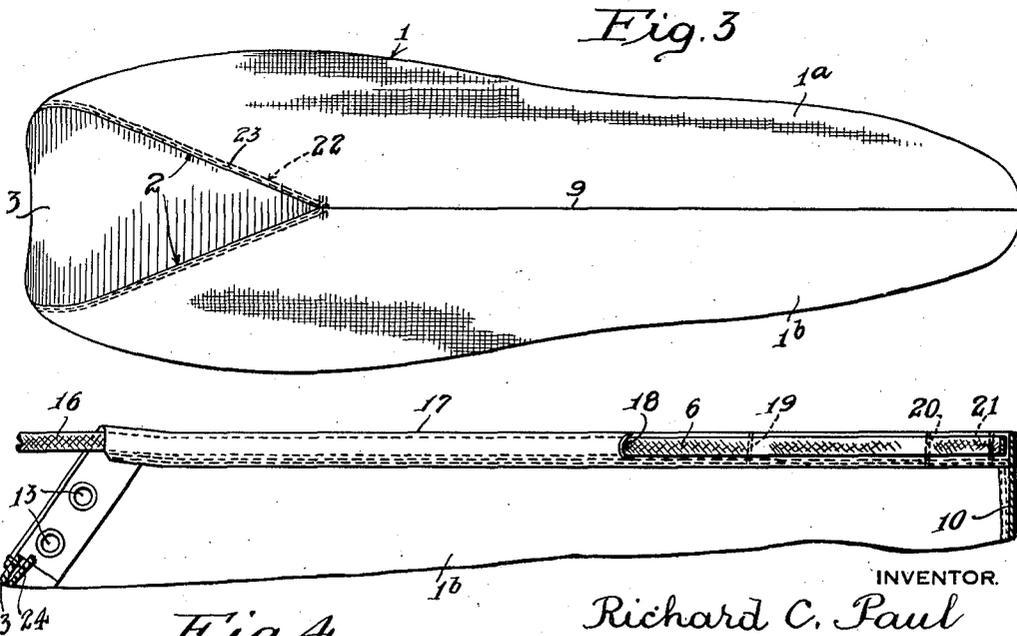


Fig. 3

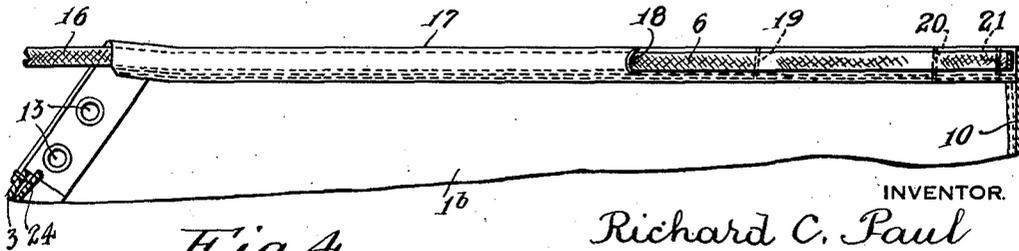


Fig. 4

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## DANCE SHOE PROTECTOR

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6 Claims. (Cl. 36-8.3)

This invention relates to a protecting cover for the shoes of a toe-dancer. The shoes of toe-dancers must be danced in for a time, in order to break them in. These shoes are quite  
 5 costly, and are finished on the outside in satin, or other suitable material of different colors. In using these shoes in rehearsals, and in breaking them in, the satin covering such shoes may become so worn and soiled that new shoes must be  
 10 substituted for the act. For this reason the expense for toe-dancing shoes, and the loss due to such wear and tear in rehearsals, is relatively great.

In toe-dancing, frequently the sides of the shoe come in contact with the floor, and the dancer's foot may be moved across the floor in that position. This makes it very difficult to retain a protecting cover on a dance shoe. The contact with the floor also soils the satin sides of the  
 15 shoe.

The general object of this invention is to provide a cover of simple construction, which a toe-dancer can readily apply over her dancing shoes, and which will operate to protect the shoe while  
 20 the said shoes are being broken in, or used in rehearsals.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a cover of this type having a special construction, which will facilitate its ready attachment to a dance shoe, and which will insure  
 25 that the cover will be securely held in place on the shoe.

A further object of the invention is to provide a protector for the shoe of a toe dancer, having means for effectively securing the cover to the shoe at its sides; also to construct the protector so that it can cooperate with the tie tapes or ribbons of the shoe, to retain the protector on the dancing shoe.

Further objects of the invention will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in its novel parts and combination of parts to be described hereinafter, all of which contribute to produce an efficient cover for a toe-dancer's shoe.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in the following specification, while the broad scope of the invention is pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective illustrating a cover embodying my invention, and representing the same as applied over the shoe of a toe-dancer. This  
 55 view also illustrates the means whereby the tying

band of the inner shoe cooperates with the shoe cover to hold the shoe cover in position.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the protector removed from the shoe, and partially open at the front.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan of the protector.

Fig. 4 is a section taken about on the line 4-4 of Fig. 2, with the lower portion broken away, and particularly illustrating the preferred arrangement of a tie that may cooperate with the  
 10 tying tapes, or ribbons of the dancer's shoe to retain the protector on the shoe.

Before proceeding to a detailed description of the invention, it should be stated that I am aware that covers have been used heretofore, but to the best of my knowledge such covers have not been constructed so as to insure their maintaining themselves properly in place on the dance shoe, and hence the same have not been found satisfactory.

In accordance with my invention, the cover 1 has a body preferably constructed of a stout fabric, and at the forward end the material of the cover is cut away or formed so that two divergent edges 2 result, forming an angle in  
 25 which I attach an insert, gore or segment 3, which preferably consists of a resistant material such as light leather. This segment preferably consists of chromium tanned horse hide. It must be flexible, washable, and capable of stretching  
 30 sufficiently to conform substantially to the shape of the toe of the dancer's shoe. This insert constitutes a segment that protects the toe of the dancing shoe when the dancer is dancing on her toes. The segment should be attached with its  
 35 smooth side outermost, and its rough side in contact with the satin surface of the shoe. This is important because the rough inner face assists in preventing the segment from shifting out of its proper position on the toe of the shoe.

This cover is provided with means for securing the same at the sides of the dance shoe, or at the back, and preferably at both of these points. Any suitable means may be employed for this purpose, but in practice I prefer to utilize the  
 45 usual ankle tapes or ribbons 4, that are usually provided on such dance shoes. There are generally two of these ribbons or tie tapes 4 that are secured to the dance shoe at the side points 5, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1. Adjacent the points 5 the cover 1 is preferably provided with loops 6, and the tapes or ribbons 4 are threaded through these loops and then tied around the foot in the usual manner. If desired, the cover may also be provided with a loop 6a 55

at the heel, and if desired one of the wraps, such as the wrap 7 of the tape or ribbon 4, may be passed through this loop 6. This will insure that the heel portion of the cover will not sag down. These tapes 4 may be tied together at the front in the usual manner to form a bow 8.

The cover 1 is most conveniently formed of two side members 1a and 1b, which have the same form except that one is a "right" and the other a "left." These two side members 1a and 1b are preferably connected together by a sole seam 9 that extends all the way along the sole and up the rear of the heel at 10. At the front the forward edges 11 of the side members 1a and 1b are not permanently secured together, but are left unattached so as to form a gap 12, and at this point I prefer to provide eyelets 13 to receive a lacing or cord 14, the free ends 15 of which may pass upwardly to enable the edges 11 to be drawn together to secure the cover at the front.

The loops 6 may if desired, be part of a drawstring 16, the forward portions of which run freely in a hem 17 formed at the upper edge of the protector and forwardly on the same. A short distance back of the rear end 18 of this hem 17, the drawstring 16 is secured by stitches 19 (see Fig. 4) so that the portion of the string between this stitching and the rear end 18 of the hem 17, forms the loop 6. From this point the drawstring extends back to the heel 10, being secured near the heel if desired, by stitches 20 and 21.

It will be evident that when the lacing at the front of the protector is loosened up, the toe of the dancing shoe can be readily applied within the toe of the cover, and the cover can then be readily slipped over the remainder of the dancing shoe. The lacings at the gap 12 can then be tightened up and the tie tapes 4 or ribbons passed through the loops 6 and 6a, and then wrapped around the dancer's ankle and tied in the bow 8.

In order to prevent forming a projecting edge at the margins of the segment 3, I prefer to have the edges 22 of the segment lie on the inner faces of the side pieces (see Fig. 3). These edges are secured by stitches 23.

If desired, at the gap 12 I may provide the cover with a tongue 24 such as is usually employed under lacings, and attached at one of its side edges to the cover.

What I claim is:

1. A protector for a toe-dancer's shoe, comprising a cover formed of fabric for enveloping the shoe and conforming to the same, said cover being non-elastic adjacent the toe and having a segment of resistant material attached directly to the same for covering the toe of the shoe, said segment having a smooth outer surface, and a rough inner surface to come into contact with

the shoe, operating to prevent the cover from shifting on the shoe, said cover having means at the side for supporting the cover on said shoe.

2. A protector for a toe-dancer's shoe, comprising a cover formed of fabric enveloping the shoe and conforming to the same, said cover being non-elastic adjacent the toe and having a segment of resistant material attached directly to the same for covering the toe of the shoe, said segment having a smooth outer surface, and a rough inner surface in contact with the shoe, operating to prevent the cover from shifting on the shoe, said cover having a loop adjacent the heel for supporting the cover on the shoe.

3. A protector for a toe-dancer's shoe having ankle tapes at the sides thereof, comprising a cover formed of fabric for enveloping the shoe and conforming to the same, said cover being non-elastic adjacent the toe and having a segment of resistant material covering the toe of the shoe, having a smooth outer surface, and a rough inner surface to come into contact with the shoe, said cover having means for receiving the ankle tapes of the dancer's shoe for supporting the cover on the shoe.

4. Protecting means for the toe of a toe-dancer's shoe having tying tapes, consisting of a cover formed of fabric for enveloping the shoe and conforming to the same, said cover having a segment of resistant material attached directly to the same for covering the toe of the shoe, the inner face of the segment being in contact with the shoe, said cover having a gap at the front above the toe of the shoe with means for tightening the cover on the shoe at the gap, and loops on the cover receiving said tapes for supporting the cover on the shoe.

5. Protecting means for the toe of a toe-dancer's shoe having tying tapes, consisting of a cover formed of fabric for enveloping the shoe and conforming to the same, said cover having a segment of resistant material attached directly to the same for covering the toe of the shoe, the inner face of the segment being rough and placed so as to come into contact with the shoe, said cover having a gap at the front over the toe of the shoe, with cords for tightening the cover at said gap, said cords extending rearwardly at the sides of the cover and forming loops at the sides, to receive the tying tapes and support the cover on the shoe.

6. In protecting means for a toe-dancer's shoe, a cover conforming to the shoe and having a gap with a lacing at the front and over the toe, said cover having loops at the side to receive the ankle tying tapes of the shoe to secure the cover on the shoe.

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