

July 7, 1931.

S. CAPEZIO

1,813,561

BALLET SLIPPER

Filed March 1, 1929

Fig. 1.

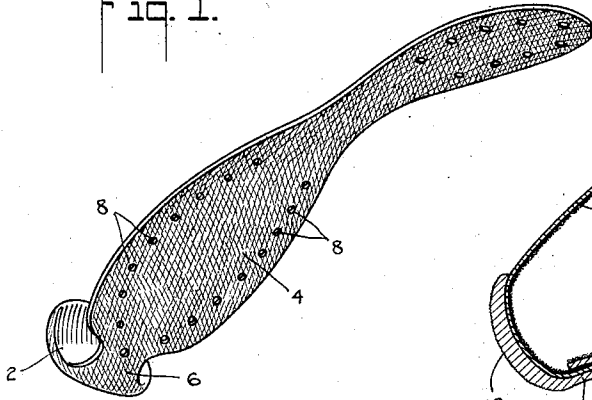


Fig. 4.

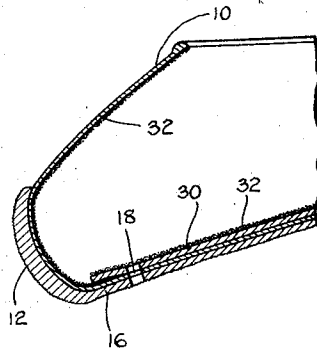


Fig. 2.

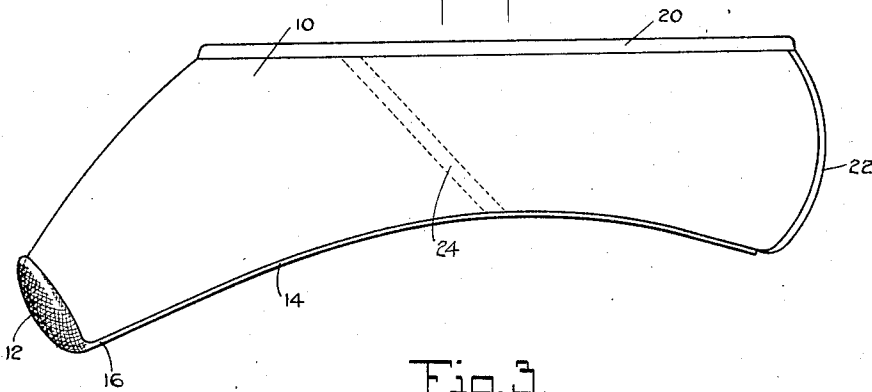
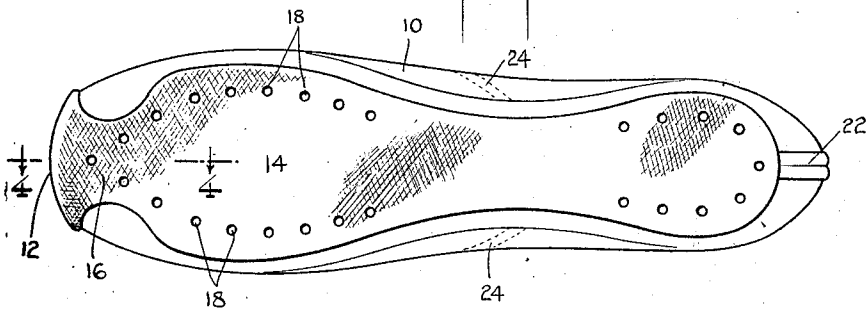


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR
Salvatore Capezio

BY
Caravaggio & Jones
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

SALVATORE CAPEZIO, OF EAST PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

BALLET SLIPPER

Application filed March 1, 1929. Serial No. 343,671.

This invention relates to ballet slippers, and more particularly to means permitting such slippers to be used for the dancing on polished floors.

5 A popular form of modern entertainment is either a solo or a synchronized ballet, in which modern dance steps are performed as toe dance steps. These exhibitions are often given on highly polished dance floors, and
10 cause great difficulty in the tendency of the ballet slipper to lose its grip and skid on the smooth floor. The primary object of my invention is to add to the comfort and safety of the dancer by obviating this difficulty, to
15 which end I have devised a molded rubber toe guard of especially desirable form.

The dancer is apt to slip not only when on her toes, but also, for example, when kicking while resting on the sole of one foot, and to
20 prevent this happening, and at the same time to strengthen and simplify the attachment of the guard to the slipper, are further objects of my invention, which I fulfill, generally speaking, by providing a sole portion
25 with the toe portion of the guard. It then is a further object of my invention to insure flexibility between the molded toe portion and sole of the guard.

Ballet slippers are usually costly, and to
30 permanently attach a guard, such as I have so far described, to a ballet slipper tends to spoil the slipper for ordinary use. Furthermore, different colored slippers are worn with different costumes, and it is desirable, if possible, to avoid the necessity of providing so
35 many slippers, and the further necessity of permanently attaching rubber guards to all of these slippers. To economize in the use of both the slippers and the guards, and to make them readily separable and interchangeable, and to lengthen the wear and life of the slippers, are all further objects of my invention. These objects I attain, broadly, by providing
40 with the guard an elastic cover adapted to be pulled over and to tightly fit the ballet slipper. Further objects of my invention are to aid ventilation of the feet, and to protect the fabric of the slipper over which the cover is worn.

50 To the accomplishment of the foregoing

and such other objects as will hereinafter appear, my invention consists in the toe guard, the sole guard, their relation one to the other, and the elastic cover fitted with such guards, as hereinafter are more particularly described and sought to be defined in the
55 claims; reference being had to the accompanying drawings which show the preferred embodiments of my invention, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a guard constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of an elastic cover and guard;

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the cover shown in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a section taken in the plane of the line 4—4 in Fig. 3.

In one aspect my invention consists in the provision of a molded rubber toe guard, such as the toe portion numbered 2 in Fig. 1 of
70 the drawings. This guard is convexly formed to fit the toe of a ballet dancer's toe slipper, and is affixed thereto either by being cemented or stitched thereto, or both. I consider it especially advantageous to mold the
75 guard, rather than to attempt to cut it from a flat or calendered sheet of rubber, because the sheet rubber cannot be properly fitted to the toe of the slipper unless it is slitted and patterned properly into shape.

To prevent the dancer from slipping when resting on the ball or sole of her foot rather than on the toe, I provide a sole portion, as well as a toe portion, for the guard, and this is indicated generally by the numeral 4 in
85 Fig. 1. To insure that the guard will take the wear, the rubber of which it is composed is a moderately soft rubber sufficiently hard to wear well yet soft enough to be yielding and flexible and comfortable to the wearer.
90 In order to increase the flexibility of the connection between the toe and sole portions of the guard the interconnecting portion 6 thereof is contracted or narrowed, as is clearly indicated in the drawings. The addition of the sole portion serves not only to prevent slipping, but also facilitates and strengthens the attachment of the complete guard to the ballet slipper. The sole may, if desired,
95 be perforated with ventilating holes 8. The 100

entire outer surface of the toe guard and outsole is preferably finely knurled, milled, or dimpled in order to increase its grip on the dance floor.

8 I have already mentioned the desirability of making the guard removable and interchangeable, and for this purpose I have devised an elastic cover, illustrated in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Referring to these figures it will
10 be seen that the cover comprises a main body or upper 10, which is made of relatively thin and soft and highly elastic rubber, and which is so sized and shaped that it may be pulled over a ballet slipper and grip it tightly. In
15 order to increase the wear a guard, such as has already been described, and comprising a toe portion 12, a sole portion 14, and an interconnecting portion 16, is vulcanized to the cover. The cover may also be provided with
20 a rubber insole 30, which also is vulcanized to the upper 10 and outside 14, and which serves to shape and strengthen the cover.

As was already mentioned in connection with the guard shown in Fig. 1, the toe and
25 outsole portions are made of extra thickness of moderately soft rubber, and their outer surface is knurled, milled, dimpled, or otherwise roughened, to improve its grip on the floor. Ventilating holes 18 are provided,
30 which pass through both the insole and outsole.

The upper or body of the cover, and the top surface of the insole thereof, are preferably lined with a soft fabric lining or net, indicated at 32, the fabric of which is selected
35 with a view to preventing injury to the material and finish of the satin or silk ballet slipper over which the cover is worn.

The cover is thickened or ridged slightly
40 along its upper edge 20, and at the heel 22, in order to strengthen it against tearing, and to improve its appearance. The ridge may be made by vulcanizing a rubber strip or tape to the elastic upper. Lines of imitation
45 stitching are provided at 24, so that the cover will more closely resemble a regular ballet slipper.

Modern processes in the working of rubber make it possible to make these covers in
50 various colors, and to give the rubber a lustrous and ornate or decorative finish which closely resembles the appearance of the true satin fabric or silk fabric slipper. The shape of the cover is made such that it completely
55 and accurately covers the slipper, so that it is only with difficulty that the fact that a cover is worn can be discerned. This permits covers of different color to be worn over a
60 single ballet slipper regardless of the color of the latter.

It will thus be appreciated that my cover has numerous advantages, in addition to preventing slipping on polished dance floors, such as the ease with which it may be attached and detached from the slipper; its

interchangeability with any of a number of slippers; the fact that it may be worn upon and will grip a slipper even over small variations in slipper size; the fact that wearing the guard does not spoil the slipper over which
70 it is worn; on the contrary, it actually serves to preserve the slipper and to keep it clean, and may be worn for this express purpose during rehearsals and the like; and finally, the fact that there is no loss in attractiveness of appearance because of the colorful and lustrous finish given to the elastic cover; so much
75 so that the cover may be worn over old slippers, resulting in the appearance of new ones. It may also be mentioned that the use of my invention eliminates noise and cushions the
80 step of the dancer.

It is evident that in carrying out the present invention any of the well-known manufacturing practices in the rubber footwear
85 industry may be followed, so far as they may be applicable and practical.

It will also be apparent that while I have shown and described my invention in the preferred forms, many changes and modifications may be made in the structures disclosed without departing from the spirit of the invention, defined in the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising a molded rubber guard having a toe portion convexly formed to fit the toe of the slipper, a sole portion, and an interconnecting portion therebetween, said interconnecting portion being contracted
95 in dimension in order to promote flexibility between the toe and sole portions.

2. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising a molded rubber guard having a toe portion convexly
100 formed to fit the toe of the slipper, a sole portion, and a contracted interconnecting portion therebetween, all made integrally, the outer face of the guard being provided with a finely knurled surface in order to prevent
105 slipping on a polished floor.

3. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed
110 therewith on the toe thereof a wearing surface of extra thickness of rubber.

4. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed
120 therewith a wearing surface of molded rubber of extra thickness on the toe and sole thereof.

5. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber
125 cover adapted to be pulled over and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed therewith a wearing portion of molded rubber of extra thickness on the toe and sole thereof, the outer surface of the wearing portion being
130

finely knurled in order to prevent slipping on a polished floor.

5 6. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed therewith a wearing portion of knurled rubber of extra thickness on the toe and under-
10 neath the sole thereof in order to prevent slipping on a polished floor, the wearing portion being contracted between the toe and sole in order to increase the flexibility of the cover.

15 7. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed therewith a wearing portion of molded and knurled rubber of extra thickness on the toe and underneath the sole thereof in order to
20 prevent slipping on a polished floor, the sole of said cover being provided with ventilating perforations.

25 8. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and to completely cover and tightly fit the slipper, and having integrally formed therewith a wearing portion of molded and knurled rubber of extra thickness on the toe and underneath the
30 sole thereof in order to prevent slipping on a polished floor, the sole of said cover being provided with ventilating perforations, and the body of said cover being suitably finished to resemble the usual fabric slipper.

35 9. A protective device for ballet dancers' toe slippers comprising an elastic rubber cover adapted to be pulled over and to completely cover and tightly fit the slipper, a wearing portion of rubber of extra thickness
40 integrally formed therewith on the toe and underneath the sole thereof, an insole therefor, and a fabric lining for the insole and the cover in order to prevent damage to the slipper on which it is worn, the cover being provided with ventilating perforations which
45 pierce both the sole and the insole of the cover.

Signed at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 27th day of February, A. D. 1929.

50 SALVATORE CAPEZIO.

55

60

65