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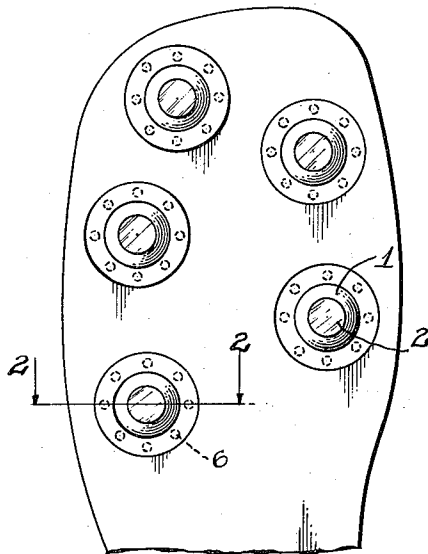
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J. R. RICHARDS

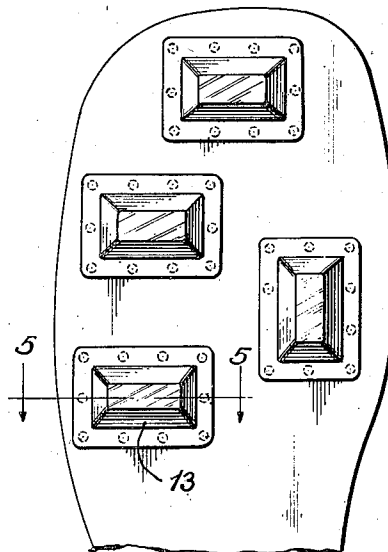
CLEAT FOR ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR

Filed Feb. 7, 1921

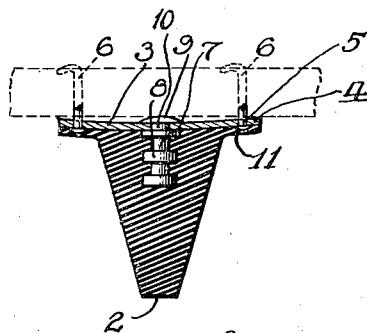
*Fig. 1*



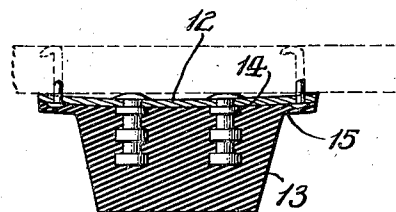
*Fig. 4*



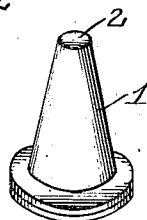
*Fig. 2.*



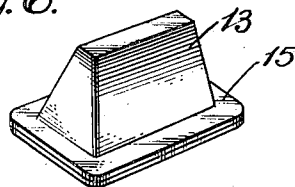
*Fig. 5*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 6.*



*Inventor:*  
*John R. Richards*  
*By Arthur W. Adams Atty.*

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN R. RICHARDS, OF DALLAS, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GEORGE OSCAR BERG, OF MADISON, WISCONSIN.

## CLEAT FOR ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR.

Application filed February 7, 1921. Serial No. 443,125.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN R. RICHARDS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Dallas, county of Dallas, and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cleats for Athletic Footwear, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates generally to cleats for athletic footwear, but relates more particularly to cleats for attachment to shoes for use in playing football.

In playing the game of football the tractive effort which can be exerted by the player is of great importance and it is necessary to further this end as much as possible. In a game where the teams are quite evenly matched the ability of one team to exert slightly greater tractive effort than the other may be the determining factor in deciding the contest. Thus it is the practice to provide football shoes having cleats thereon that are best adapted to the character of the field on which the game is to be played. For a wet, muddy field cleats of conical form are provided and for a dry field elongated cleats are usually provided. These cleats, as heretofore constructed have been built up of several layers of leather, the cobbler or shoemaker usually nailing the successive layers as they are applied and after the building up of the several layers, cuts or shapes the cleat to desired form. This is a slow laborious and tedious operation; is one which shoemakers dislike to attend to and results in making a very expensive shoe. As the cleats become worn or destroyed new ones must be applied and the same laborious task is encountered. The element of time is often an important factor because it may be necessary to change cleats upon short notice or else to use the shoe with a missing or inefficiently cleated bottom.

While it is desirable to have a cleat which will be strong and durable it should be one which will not absorb moisture and become heavy and also one to which mud will not cling or adhere. The cleat heretofore universally used is defective in these respects as it both absorbs moisture and holds to a considerable degree mud or soil into which it projects and thus reduces the effectiveness of the player in several ways. As by increasing weight of the shoe, thus hindering locomotion and by providing a flatter bottom

thus minimizing the tractive effort that can be exerted without slipping.

The general object of my invention is to provide a cleat for athletic footwear which can be very quickly and easily attached to and removed from the shoe.

I aim also to provide a cleat which shall be light in weight; durable in character; one which shall be preferably non-absorbing and hence having the capacity to maintain its initial lightness; one to which mud shall not readily adhere; and one which at the same time shall meet the rules and regulations applicable to football paraphernalia.

Other objects of my invention are to provide a cleat for athletic footwear which can be quickly and easily manufactured at low cost and which shall be very durable in use.

My invention consists generally in a cleat construction whereby the above named objects, together with others that will appear hereinafter, are attainable; and my invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings which illustrate what I consider at the present time to be the preferred embodiment thereof.

In said drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view of the sole of a shoe, bottom side up, equipped with conical cleats, embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the conical cleats.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, illustrating, however, an elongated cleat.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view upon an enlarged scale taken substantially along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the elongated cleat shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 3, I have therein shown my cleat construction as designed for use when the game is to be played upon a muddy field. A number of cleats are shown in Fig. 1, but inasmuch as they are or may be all alike, a description of one will suffice for all. The main or body portion 1 of the cleat is conical in form being truncated, however, to provide a flat end surface 2. As here shown, the conical body portion 1 is mounted upon a metallic base portion 3 which is slightly larger in size than the bottom of the main part of the body portion 1, thus providing marginal

portions 4, which, in turn, are provided with holes 5 to receive the nails or fastening devices indicated by means of dotted lines in Fig. 2, and to which the reference character 6 is applied. The body portion 1 may be formed of material of different kinds, but is preferably a material which is susceptible of being molded, such for example as rubber or fibre. When fibre is used it is preferably treated so as to be substantially non-absorbing and hence capable of retaining its original, desired characteristic of lightness in weight. While the body portion 1, which may be referred to as a non-metallic device, may be fastened to the metallic base 3 in various ways, I prefer to attach or secure it by embedding therein, a stud 7 which is preferably provided with annular projections 8 for the purpose of more securely anchoring it in place. The stud 7 is preferably a metallic stud of such construction that the outer end 9 thereof can be hammered or formed over the opening 10 in the base plate 3, thereby firmly riveting or securing the respective parts together. The metallic base plate 3 is preferably curved or cambered so that sufficient space is provided for the accommodation of the rivet portion 9 of the stud and so that it shall have no tendency to buckle or distort the sole of the shoe.

One of the rules with respect to the game of football, as played amongst regulated bodies or organizations, provides that no metal parts of the player's paraphernalia or equipment shall be exposed and for this reason I prefer to cover the marginal portions of the base plate 3 by means of a non-metallic covering. This covering may be formed in various ways, but as here shown, it is formed by providing flanged integrally formed portions 11 at the base of the member 1. Holes may be provided in the flanged portion 11 for alignment with the holes 5 in the base plate 6, if desired, to accommodate the heads of the nails or other devices 6 whereby the cleat, as a whole, is fastened to the sole of the shoe, but it is not thought that the rule against exposed metallic parts would apply as an inhibition against exposing merely the heads of the fastening devices in a cleat of the construction which I have devised.

It is not thought necessary to describe in detail the cleat shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6 inasmuch as the construction there shown is quite similar to that already described, the only difference being that the base 15 is of elongated rectangular form and the body portion 13 of the cleat is also of elongated form, though still of tapering construction. Two fastening devices 14 are provided for the purpose of securing the body portion 13 to the base portion 12.

I have referred to the base portion as

a metallic member and this is the form that it preferably takes, but it may be formed of some other material which is light in weight and yet of sufficient rigidity to receive and distribute the pressure throughout a considerable area of the sole of the shoe as this is necessary in order that maximum of comfort to the wearer may result.

The many advantages of my easily attachable and detachable cleat will be apparent to those skilled in this art without further comment, but inasmuch as this disclosure will suggest to others modified constructions whereby the substantial objects and purposes of my invention may be attained, I do not wish to be limited to the specific construction herein shown and described except only as may be necessary by limitations in the hereunto appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A detachable cleat for athletic footwear, said cleat being formed of a non-metallic body portion and a cambered metallic base.

2. A detachable cleat for athletic footwear, said cleat being formed of a non-metallic body portion and a metallic base, said base being of greater diameter than the body so as to form an extension around the same and having therein a plurality of holes to receive fastening devices and a non-metallic covering for the extension.

3. A detachable cleat for athletic footwear, said cleat being formed of a non-metallic body portion and a metallic base, said base being of greater diameter than the body and having therein a plurality of holes to receive fastening devices, and a non-metallic covering on the outer side of the base portion extending beyond the body of the cleat.

4. A cleat for athletic footwear embodying therein a non-metallic body portion, a cambered metallic base portion, and a rivet member securing the parts together, said rivet having a head portion contacting one side of the metal base and having an annular flange abutting the other side the rivet head being disposed in the recess in the base formed by the camber.

5. A cleat for athletic footwear, the said cleat being formed of a non-metallic body portion and a metallic base portion, said base portion being enlarged and cambered, a stud like rivet secured to the metallic base around which the non-metallic portion is molded, said non-metallic portion being tapered downwardly from the base, the non-metallic portion being provided with an annular flange for completely covering the metallic base and means for securing the cleat in position.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 29th day of January, 1921.

JOHN R. RICHARDS.