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(54) **An applicator for footwear**

(57) An applicator for footwear, comprising a deposit (1) containing the cleaning product and/or polish, longitudinally having a flat face to which a part (2) is adapted, the support for at least one product delivery valve (8), fitted in a protruding cylindrical shape (21), introduced

in a hole located in a protruding knob (11) of the package base (1), in this way establishing the joint between both parts; whilst on the outside, said part (2) has at least one sponge plate or block (3-4) with a suitable texture and stiffness.

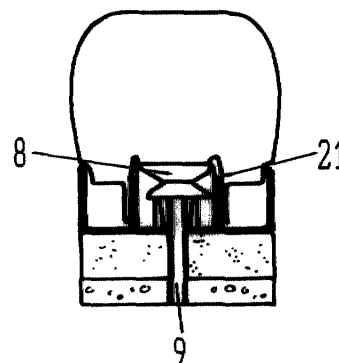
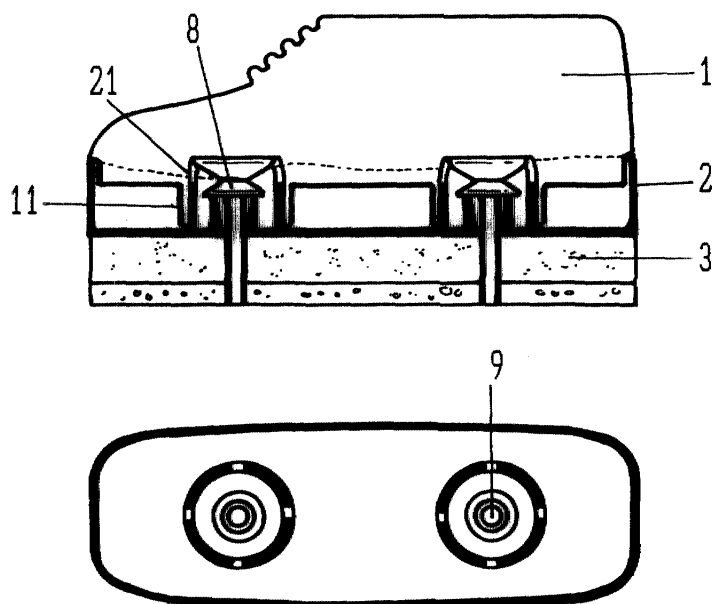


Fig. 2

EP 1 129 660 A1

Description

[0001] The present invention refers to an applicator for cleaning and/or polishing footwear, comprising a deposit containing the product, and some cleaning means attached to said deposit on a flat surface, consisting of sponges or equivalent products which, on passing over the footwear cleans it and optionally impregnates the cleaning or polishing product contained in the deposit.

[0002] Applicators of similar characteristics are common in the market. Generally, in all cases it is necessary to squeeze the flexible deposit to empty part of its contents in the cleaning component. Also, another component is known which includes a sponge generally impregnated with a polishing product and lacking an attached deposit, which is used only for occasional cleaning since the duration of the polish is very limited.

[0003] The applicator mentioned here has a body defining a flat surface to which a cover is coupled across a protruding cylindrical shape incorporating a valve and which fits in a hole in an equivalent shape defined in the deposit. Said valve has a pin which emerges through the product exit hole which on being pressed matches with the applicator over the footwear, simultaneously permitting product exit.

[0004] When sports footwear is considered, the cleaning means have an internal spongy surface and outside, a harder and rougher surface like a swab allowing deeper cleaning to be made.

[0005] Likewise, on the outside this applier has a cover which in turn has a sponge similarly applicable to the cleaning and polishing of the footwear. In turn, this cover is also provided with a lid which covers the mentioned complementary sponge.

[0006] The object of the present invention will be understood better by means of the following specification based on a practical example of an embodiment. This description is made on the basis of the attached plan drawings, where:

Figure 1 shows two side views of the applier for footwear, object of this model.

Figure 2 shows sectioned elevation, profile and plan views.

[0007] This applicator comprises a product containing pack (1) which longitudinally has a flat face to which a part (2) is adapted, supporting at least one product delivery valve (8) fitted on a protruding cylindrical shape (21) which is introduced in a hole located in a matching protruding knob (11) of the package base (1), in this way establishing the joint between both parts.

[0008] Said part (2) has on its outside face, some cleaning means (3) and (4) consisting of, especially when used for cleaning sports footwear, a spongy internal surface (3) and others (4) above the latter, which are harder, with a constitution similar to a swab.

[0009] The applicator has a cover (5) which in turn has, on the opposite surface or that of closing, a sponge (6) likewise applicable to the cleaning and polishing of footwear. In this case, it in turn has a lid (7) which covers the complementary sponge (6).

[0010] Regarding the means permitting the controlled emptying of the deposit (1) contents in the cleaning components (3) and (4), these are observed in greater detail in the sectioned views of figure 3, consisting of some valves (8) fitted in the cavities (21) in the cover (2), which due to their shape close towards the inside of the pack forming a kind of spring tending to keep the valve head blocking the exit conduit through which a pin (9) emerges. On pressing the applicator over the surface to be cleaned, said pin (9) is pushed upwards permitting the exit of the product through the corresponding conduit.

Claims

1. An applicator for footwear, comprising a deposit (1) containing the cleaning and/or polishing product and some cleaning means (3) and/or (4) provided with a cover (5), **characterised in that** said pack (1) containing the product has in a longitudinal direction a flat face on which a part (2) adapts, supporting at least one product delivery valve (8), fitted in a protruding cylindrical shape (21), which is introduced in a hole located in a corresponding protruding knob (11) of the pack (1) base, in this way establishing the joint between both parts; whilst on the outside, said part (2) has at least one sponge plate or block (3-4) with a suitable texture and stiffness.
2. An applicator according to the previous claim, **characterised in that** said valve (8) consists of a pin emerging outside the cover (2), being integrated in the sponge (3-4), incorporating an internal head to the shape (21) which surrounds it tending to maintain the exit conduit located around said pin blocked, except when the latter is pressed inwards when applying the tool against the footwear.
3. An applicator for footwear according to the previous claim, **characterised in that** said cleaning means, when dealing with sports footwear, have an internal spongy surface (3) and beyond the latter a harder and rougher surface (4) like a swab.
4. An applicator for footwear according to the previous claims, **characterised in that** the cover (5) of the applicator itself externally has a sponge (6) likewise applicable to the cleaning and/or polishing of footwear and in that, in turn, this cover is provided with a lid (7) which covers this complementary sponge (6).

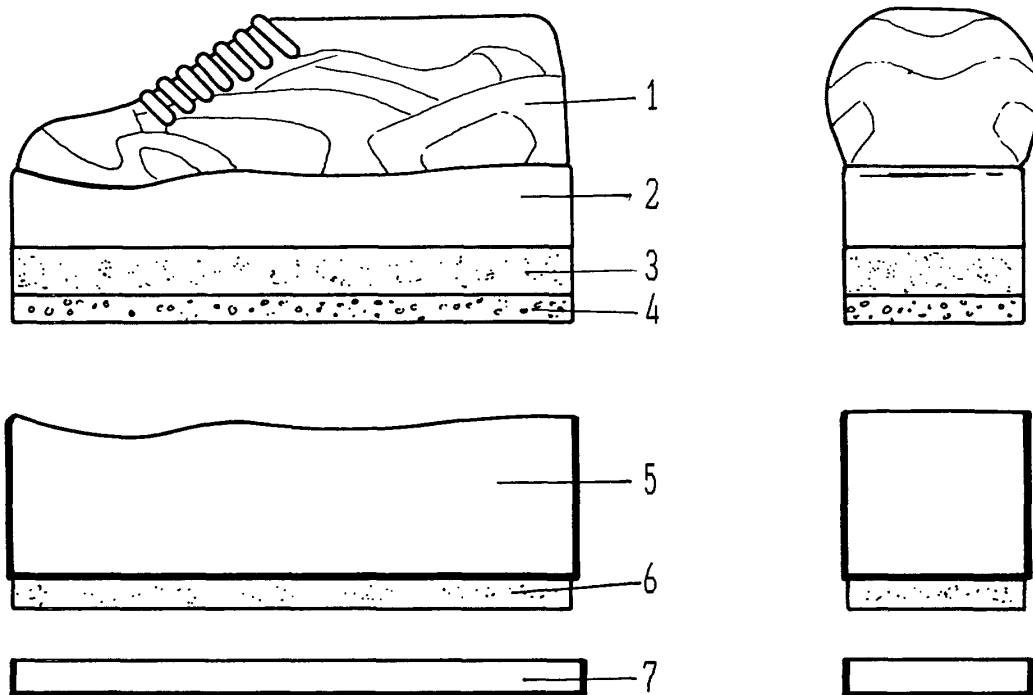


Fig. 1

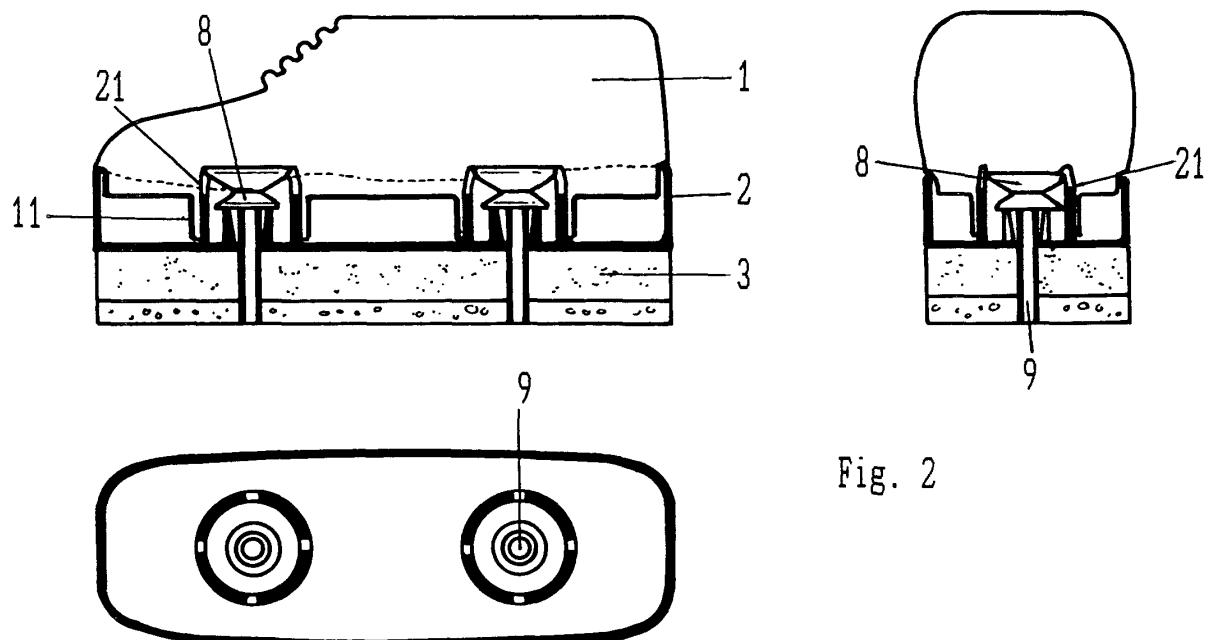


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 50 0173

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 July 2001	Examiner Cabral Matos, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 00 50 0173

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82