COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The Patents Act 1990

PATENT REQUEST: CONVENTION PATENT

We, ROCES S.R.L., being the person identified below as the Applicant, request the grant of a patent to the person identified below as the Nominated Person, for an invention described in the accompanying standard complete specification.

Full application details follow:

Applicant: ROCES S.R.L.
Address: Via G. Ferraris 36, 31044 - Montebelluna (Treviso), Italy
Nominated Person: ROCES S.R.L.
Address: Via G. Ferraris 36, 31044 - Montebelluna (Treviso), Italy
Invention Title: SPORTS SHOE WITH IMPROVED SAFETY
Name of actual Inventor: Gino Conte
Address for service in Australia: CALLINAN LAWRIE, 278 High Street, Kew 3101, Victoria, Australia
Attorney Code: CL

Concession Details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Application Number</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Date of Application</th>
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<td>MI94U000418</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>9 June 1994</td>
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Drawing number recommended to accompany the abstract - Fig. 2.

DATED this 16th day of May, 1995.

ROCES S.R.L.

By their Patent Attorneys:

CALLINAN LAWRIE
NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

We ROCES S.R.L.

of, Via G. Ferraris 36 - 31044 MONTEBELLUNA (Treviso) Italy

being the applicant in respect of Application No. ______

state the following:

The inventor(s) of the invention are as follows:

CONTE Gino
Via Rossini 4
31031 - CAERANO S. MARCO (Treviso) Italy

The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent:

(i) is/are the actual inventor(s)

(ii) has/have entitlement from the actual inventor(s) by virtue of an assignment.

(iii) is/are the applicant(s) of the basic application(s)

(iv) has/have entitlement from the applicant(s) of the basic application(s) listed on the patent request form by virtue of

The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent:

(i) is/are the applicant(s) of the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT

(ii) has/have entitlement from the inventor(s) and/or the applicant(s) of the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT by virtue of

The basic application(s) listed:

(i) on the request form

(ii) in the declaration made under Article 8 of the PCT

is/are the first application(s) made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

ROCES S.R.L.

Signature: ________________________________

Date: April 28, 1995

Cavasin Giuseppe
Sports shoe with improved safety, including closure levers (13), arranged centrally with respect to either one of the upper metatarsal region (7) and the foot instep region (8) and the front tibial region. The levers are arranged transversely and centrally and any portion protruding from the gear is arranged only at the central region of the shoe.
TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Name of Applicant: ROCES S.R.L.
Actual Inventor: Gino Conte
Address for Service: CALLINAN LAWRIE, 278 High Street, Kew, 3101, Victoria, Australia

Invention Title: "SPORTS SHOE WITH IMPROVED SAFETY"

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to us:-
SPORTS SHOE WITH IMPROVED SAFETY

The present invention relates to a sports shoe with improved safety, for roller skates, ice skates, ski boots and the like.

Conventional sports shoes are generally constituted by a quarter articulated to a shell. In roller skates, for example, a generally U-shaped frame is associated below the shell and in-line wheels are pivoted between the wings of the frame.

One of the problems that currently arises in the use of these boots or skates is that the quarter and the shell are secured by levers that protrude laterally with respect to the shoe.

These levers are in fact usually constituted by a lever arm which is articulated to a first base associated with one of the flaps to be joined and has a toothed region. A pivot is associated with a second base, that is rigidly coupled to the other flap, and engages the toothed region.

These conventional levers have a lever arm that necessarily protrudes with respect to the base and is arranged at the lateral region of the foot or of the tibia of the user.

The protruding lever is a potential danger for the user wearing a skate, a ski boot, or any other sports shoe, because the lever may accidentally collide, during sports practice, with the snow-covered surface or with any obstacle, such as, for example when skating, a curb or a
pole. The user may in fact lose his/her balance and the lever may be easily damaged.

Furthermore, the lever may be damaged every time the user falls.

The aim of the present invention is to obviate the described technical problems by providing a sports shoe, such as ice skates, roller skates, or ski boots, wherein the closure levers are not affected by accidental impacts during sports practice.

An object is to provide a sports shoe wherein the levers are not affected by impacts if the user falls during sports practice.

Another object is to provide a sports shoe which can be used for any type of sports and at the same time ensures optimum securing of the flaps to be joined.

Another object is to provide a sports shoe having low manufacturing costs.

Another object is to provide a structurally simple sports shoe wherein the levers may be easily operated.

This aim, these objects, and others which will become apparent from the description that follows are achieved by a sports shoe as claimed in the appended claims.

These and other objects will become apparent during the description that follows, which must be considered together
with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate by way of non-limitative example a particular embodiment in which:

Figure 1 is a side perspective view of an in-line skate according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the skate of Fig. 1;

Figure 3 is a side partial view of one of the components of the lever of the shoe according to the invention;

Figure 4 is a side partial view, similar to the preceding one, of the other components of the lever.

With reference to the above figures, the numeral 1 designates a skate including a shoe 2 comprising a shell 3, a quarter 4 and a tongue 5. The tongue affects the toe region 6, the upper metatarsal region 7, the foot instep region 8, and the front tibial region 9.

A U-shaped frame 10 is associated below the shell 3 and a plurality of aligned wheels 11 are pivoted between the wings of the frame.

A set of levers 13 are adapted to secure the flaps 12a, 12b of the quarter 4, the tongue 5, and the shell 3. Each lever 13 comprises a lever arm 14 that is articulated, at one end, to a first base 15. First base 15 is associated with one of the flaps to be joined, or with the shell, and has a toothed region 16. A pivot 17 selectively interacts with the toothed region 16 and is transversely associated with a second base 18. Second base 18 is associated with the other flap to be
joined, or with the shell 3 again.

The characteristic of these levers 13 is that they are located transversely and centrally with respect to the upper metatarsal region 7 and/or to the foot instep region 8 and to the front tibial region 9, so that their protruding parts, such as the lever arm 14, the pairs of shoulders 19 to which the arm is transversely pivoted, any tabs 20 for connecting the lever arm to the first base 15, and any wings 21 for connecting the pivot 17 and the second base 18, are located exclusively at the central region of the shoe without thus affecting its lateral regions.

The sports shoe according to the invention therefore achieves the intended aim and objects. The particular position of the lever makes it safe from accidental impacts during sports practice.

The materials of which the individual components of the lever are made, as well as the number of levers used and the shoe with which they are associated, may of course vary according to the specific requirements.

Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the scope of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.
The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. Sports shoe with improved safety, comprising at least one closure lever (13), characterized in that said closure lever is arranged centrally with respect to either one of the upper metatarsal region (7) and the foot instep region (8) and the front tibial region (9).

2. Sports shoe, according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a shell (3), a quarter (4) and a tongue (5), said quarter and tongue affecting either one of the toe region (6) and the upper metatarsal region (7) and the foot instep region (8) and the front tibial region (9), parts of said lever protruding from said shoe being arranged only at the central region of said shoe.

3. Sports shoe, according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it comprises a lever arm (14) articulated at one end to a first base (15), said first base (15) being provided with a toothed region (16), a pivot (17) selectively interacting with said toothed region (16) and being associated with a second base (18).

4. Sports shoe substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

ROCES S.R.L.

By their Patent Attorneys:

CALLINAN LAWRIE

[Signature]
ABSTRACT

Sports shoe with improved safety, including closure levers (13), arranged centrally with respect to either one of the upper metatarsal region (7) and the foot instep region (8) and the front tibial region. The levers are arranged transversely and centrally and any portion protruding from the gear is arranged only at the central region of the shoe.

(Ref. Fig. 2)