US 20150040293A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication

(10) Pub. No.: US 2015/0040293 A1

(43) Pub. Date: Feb. 12, 2015

Pitman

(54) **FOOTWEAR INSERT MEMBERS**

(71) Applicant: , Reno, NV (US)

(72) Inventor: **Leander Robert Pitman**, Campbell, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **ALL-GLOBAL BUSINESS LLC**, Reno, NV (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **14/455,138**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 8, 2014**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 61/863,637, filed on Aug. 8, 2013, provisional application No. 61/943,018, filed on Feb. 21, 2014.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
*A43B 23/24* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ..... *A43B 23/24* (2013.01)
USPC ..... **2/245**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure provides advantageous insert member assemblies for footwear. More particularly, the present disclosure provides improved insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user. In exemplary embodiments, the present disclosure provides for insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user, thereby providing comfort and style to the user. In certain embodiments, the insert member assemblies also provide or include a structure/place (e.g., a pocket or the like) to house personal items (e.g., keys, money, etc.) of the user. The disclosed insert member assemblies are capable of use for many user-friendly purposes. In exemplary embodiments, the insert member assemblies are adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable.

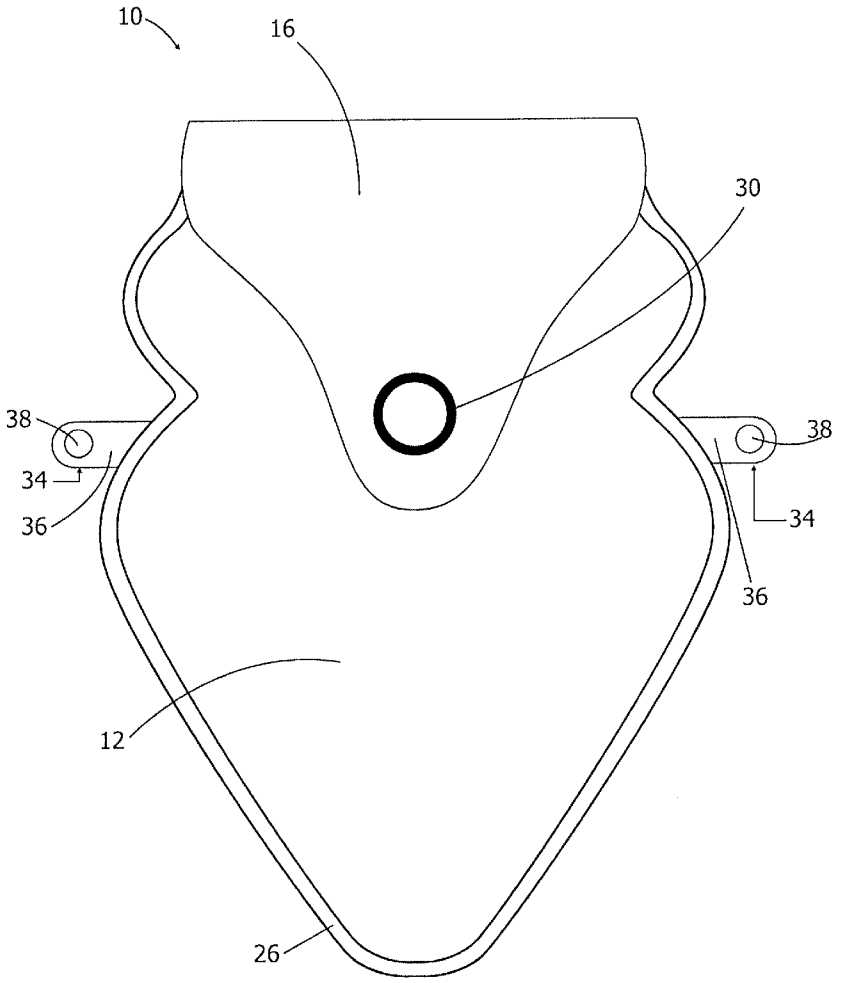


FIG. 1

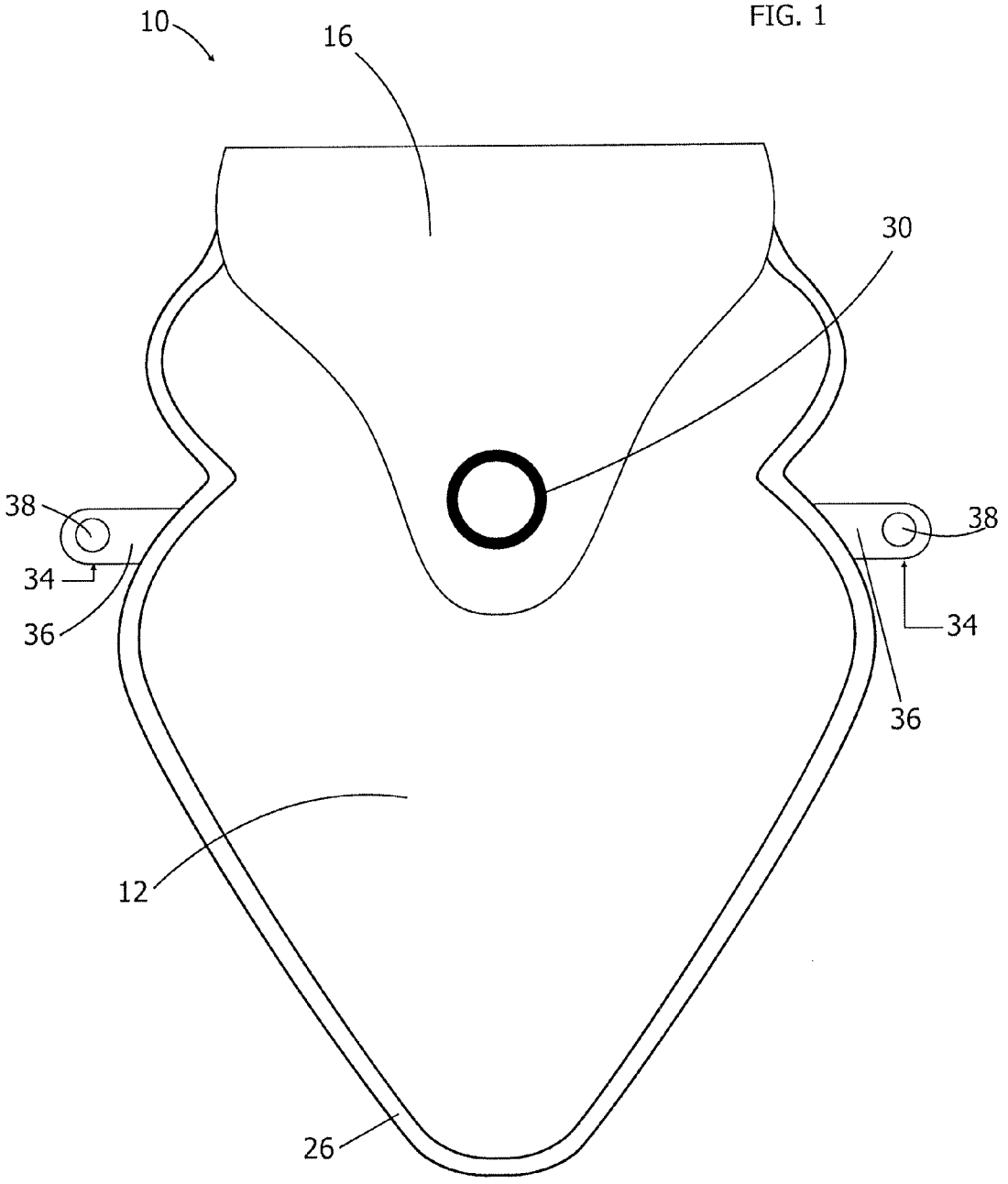
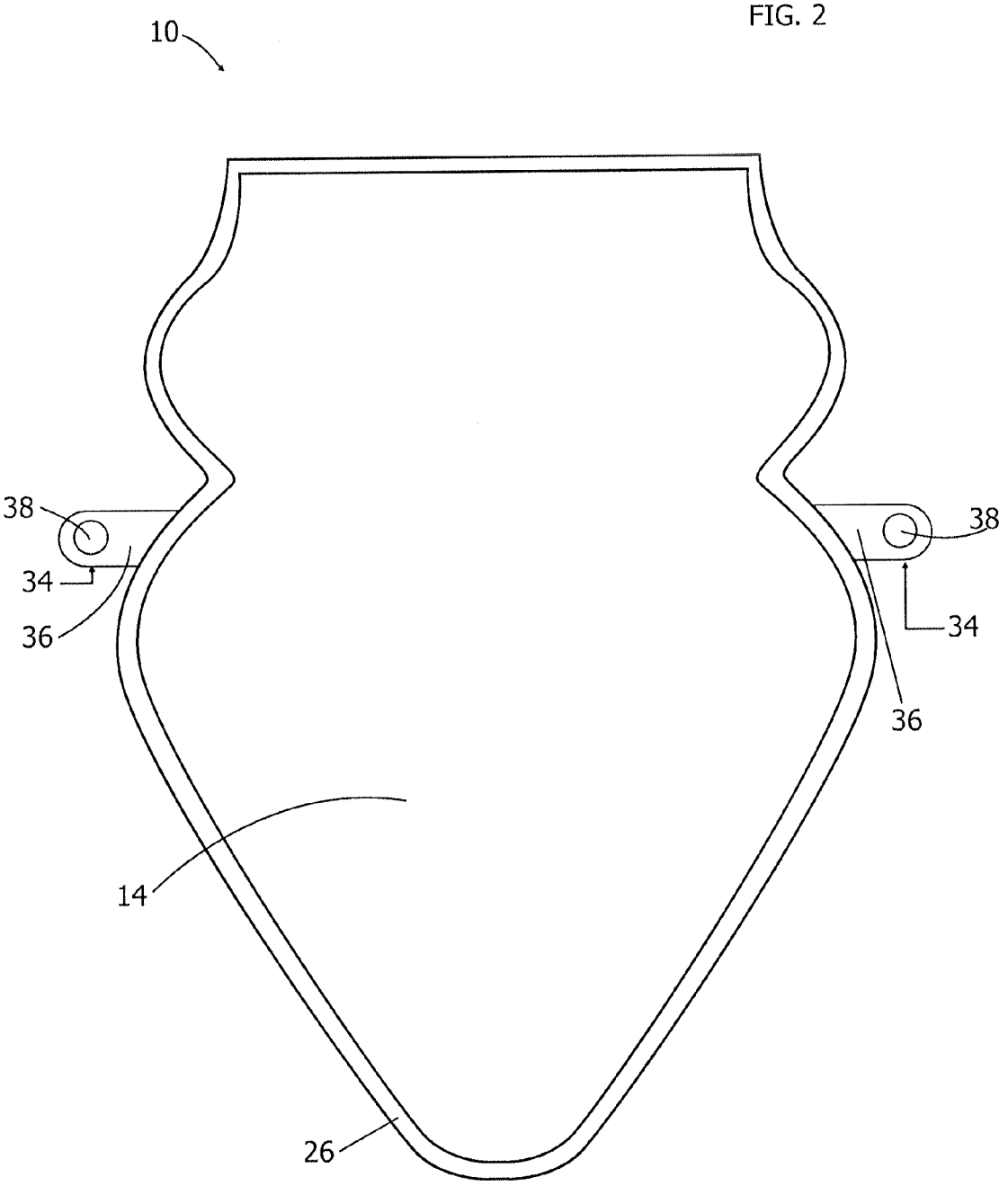


FIG. 2



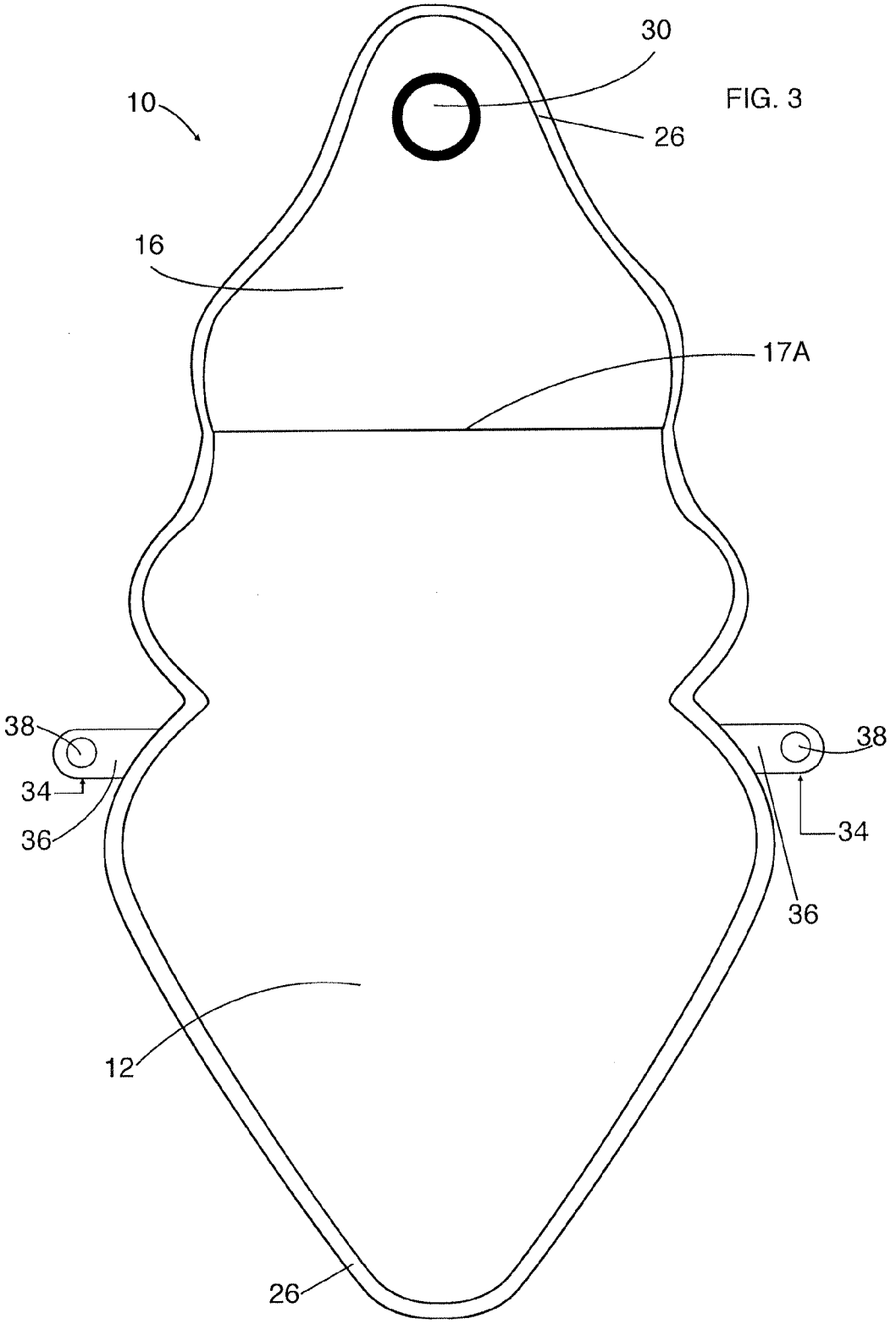



FIG. 3

FIG. 4

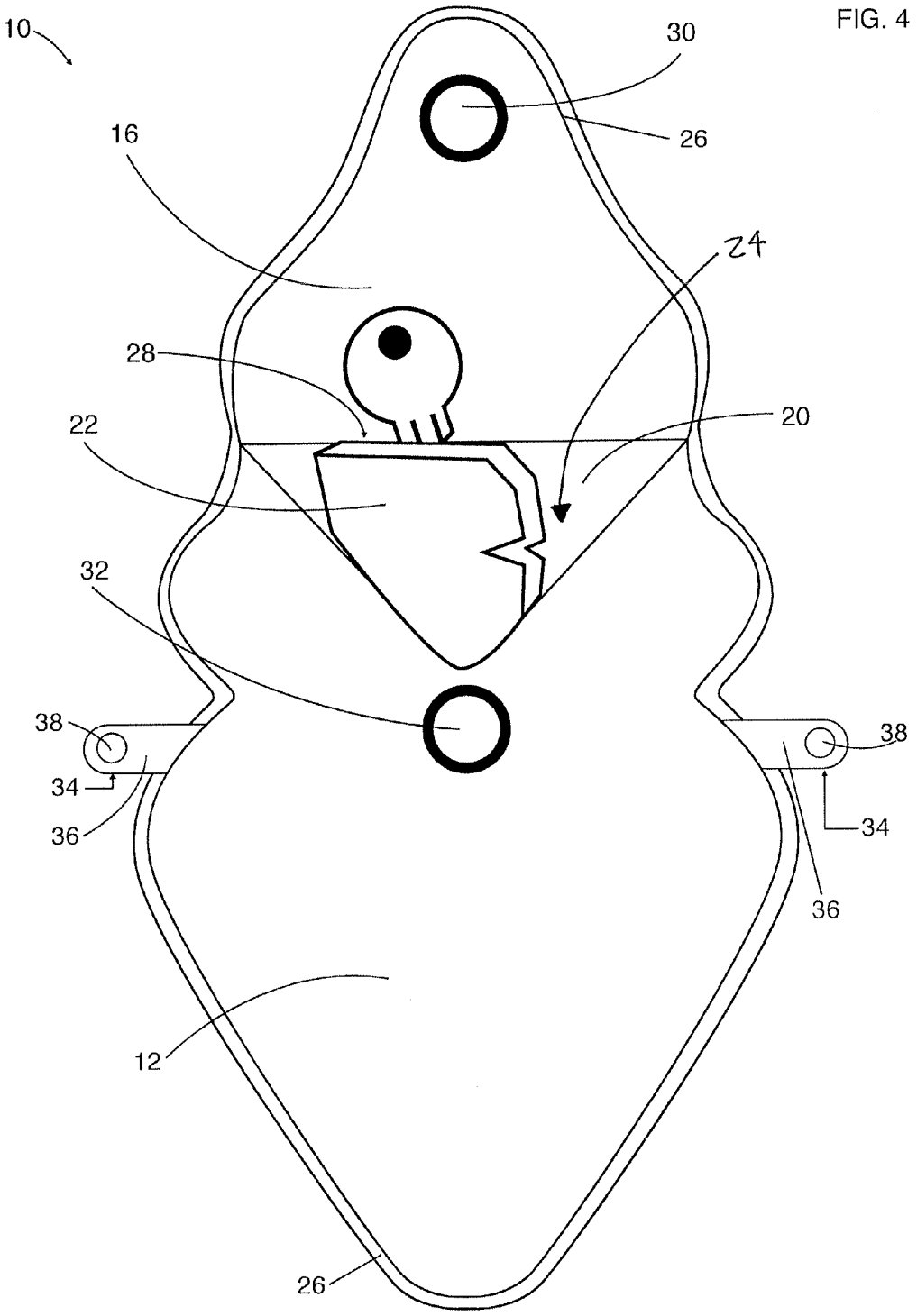


FIG. 5

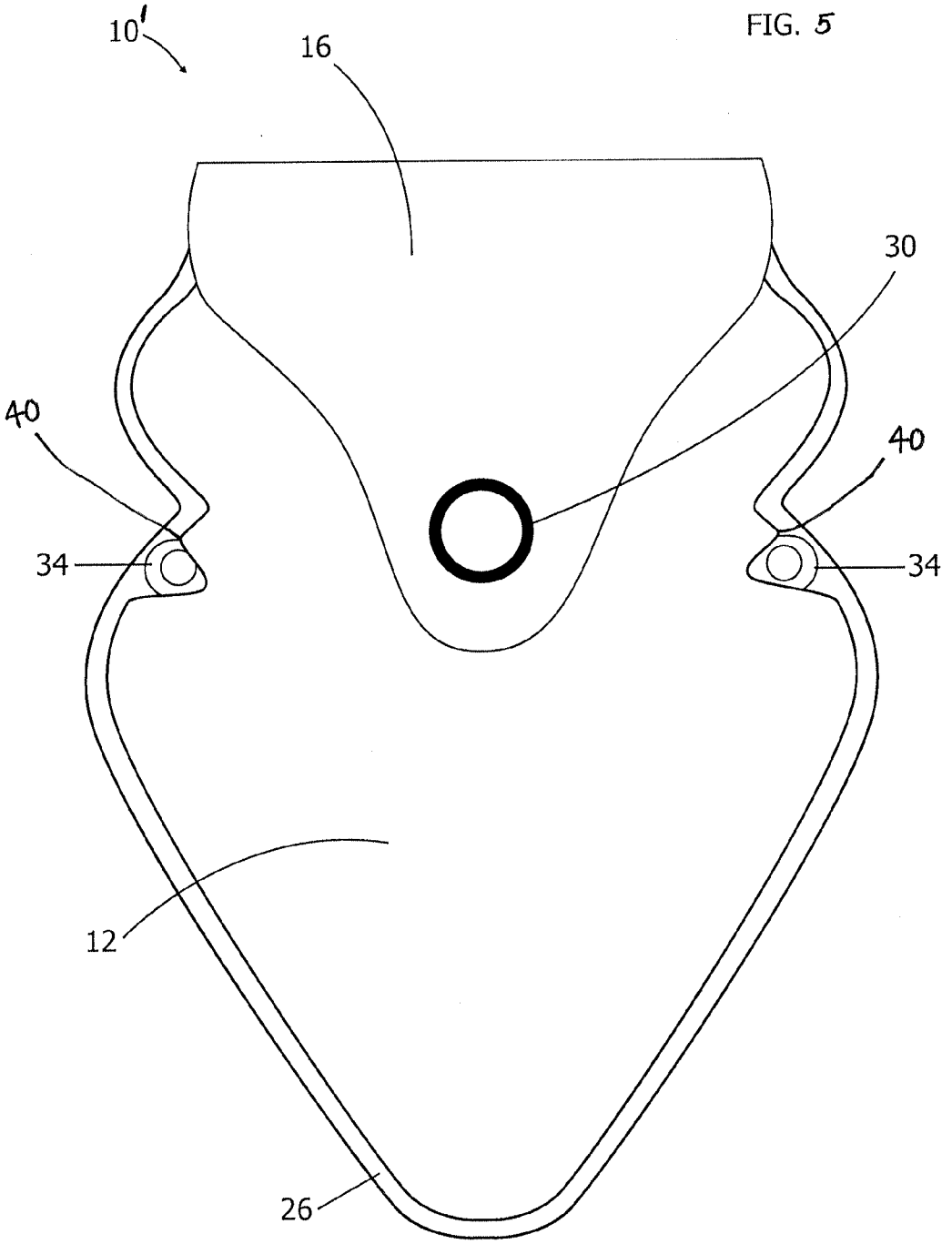


FIG. 6

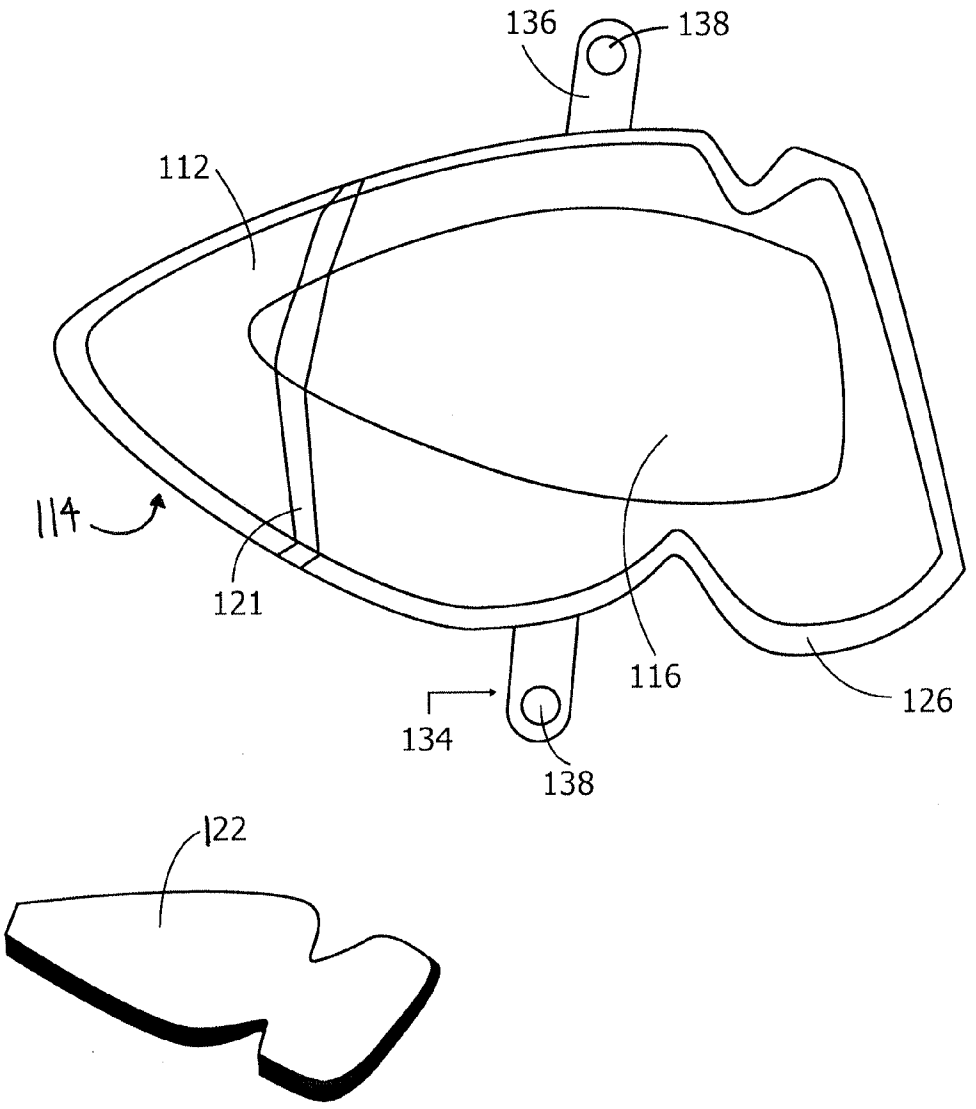


FIG. 7

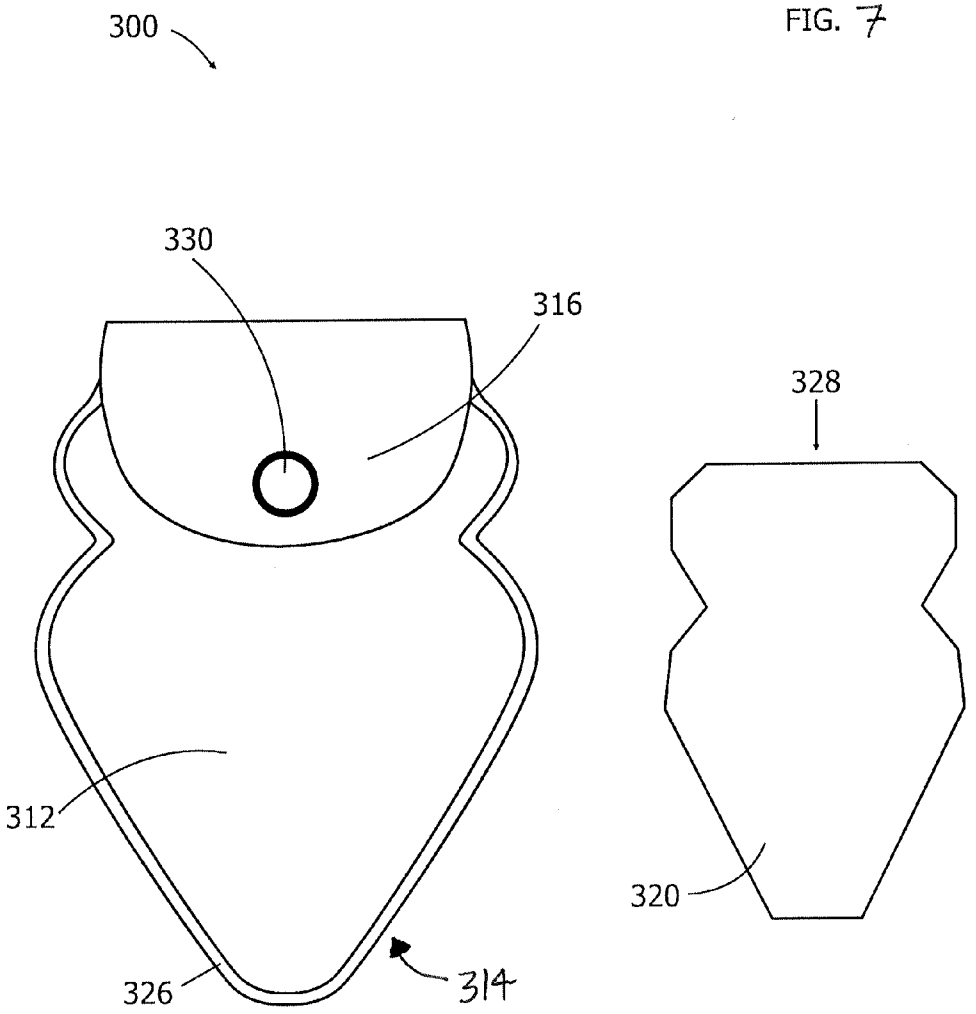


FIG. 8

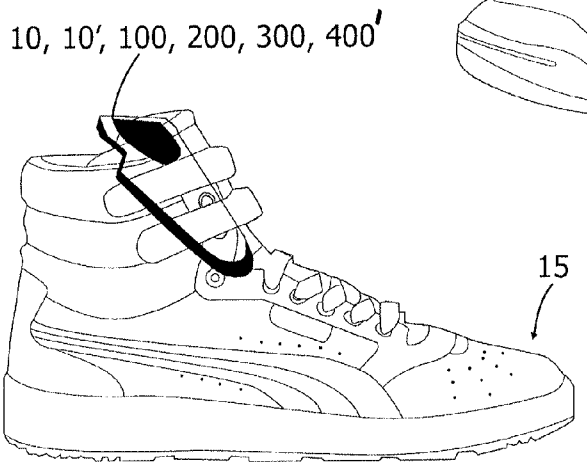



FIG. 9

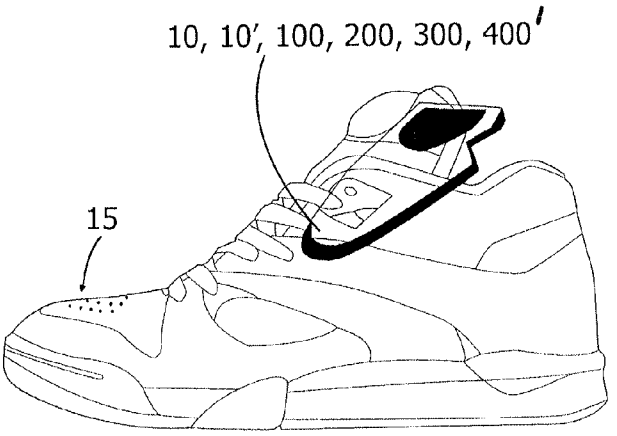


FIG. 10

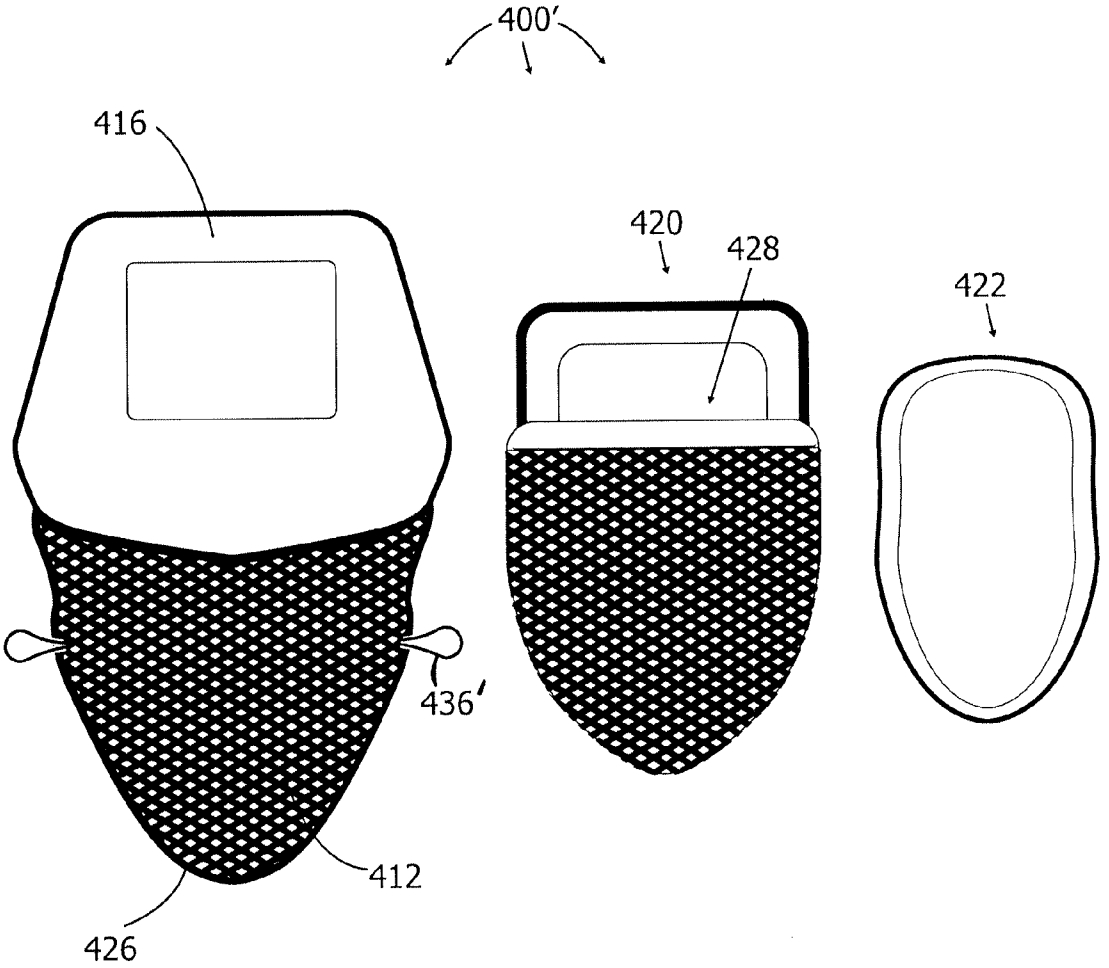


FIG. 11

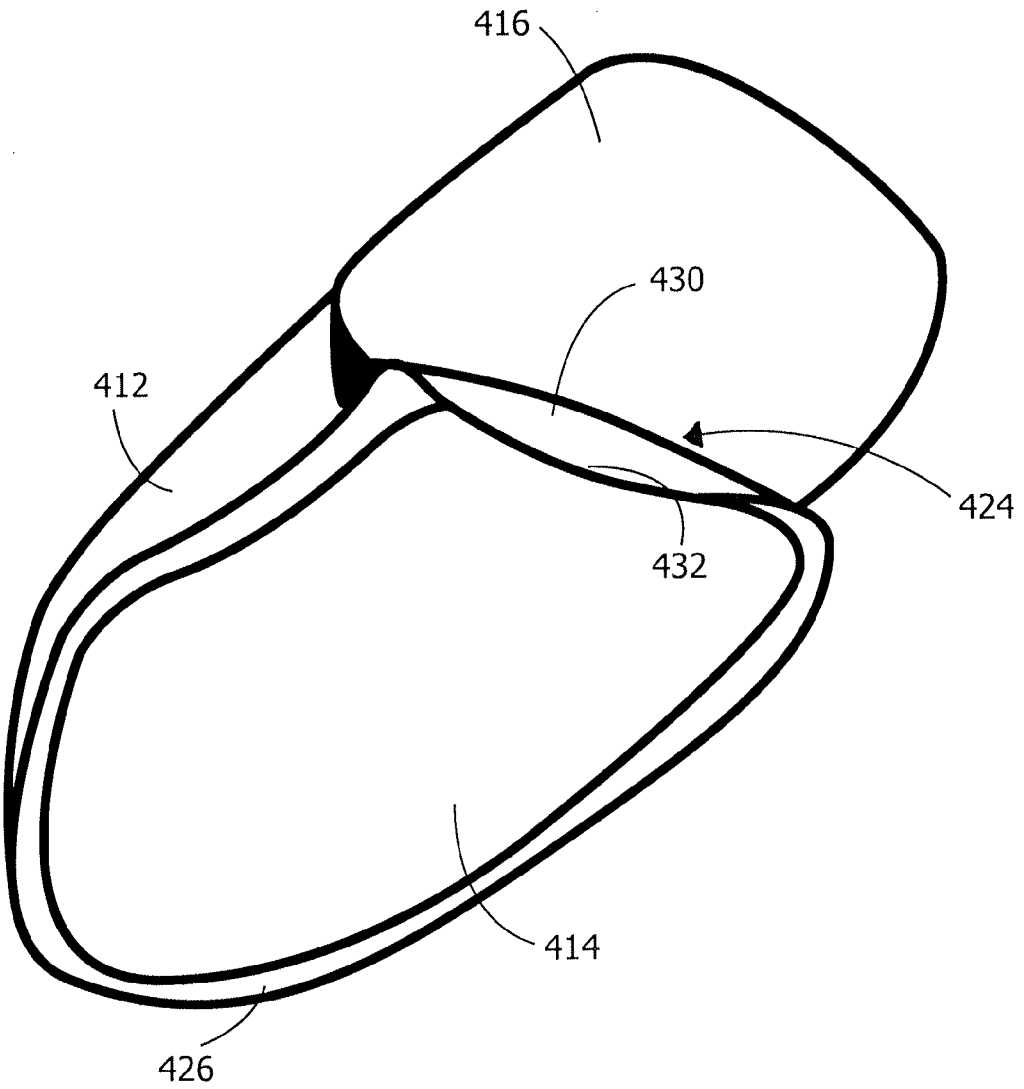


FIG. 12

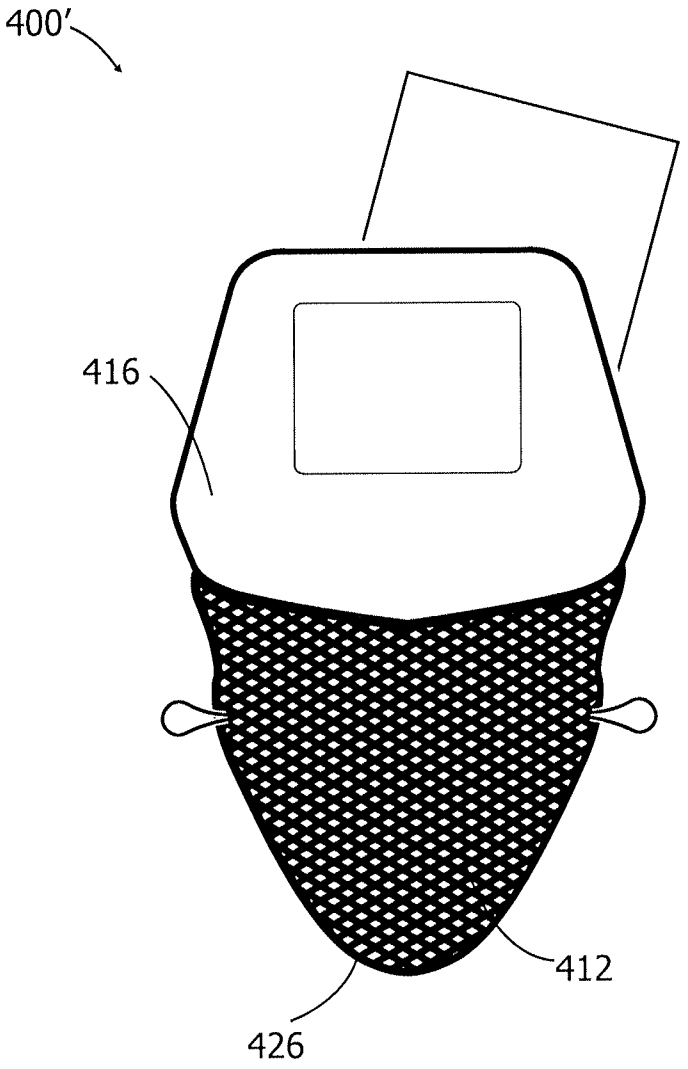


FIG. 13

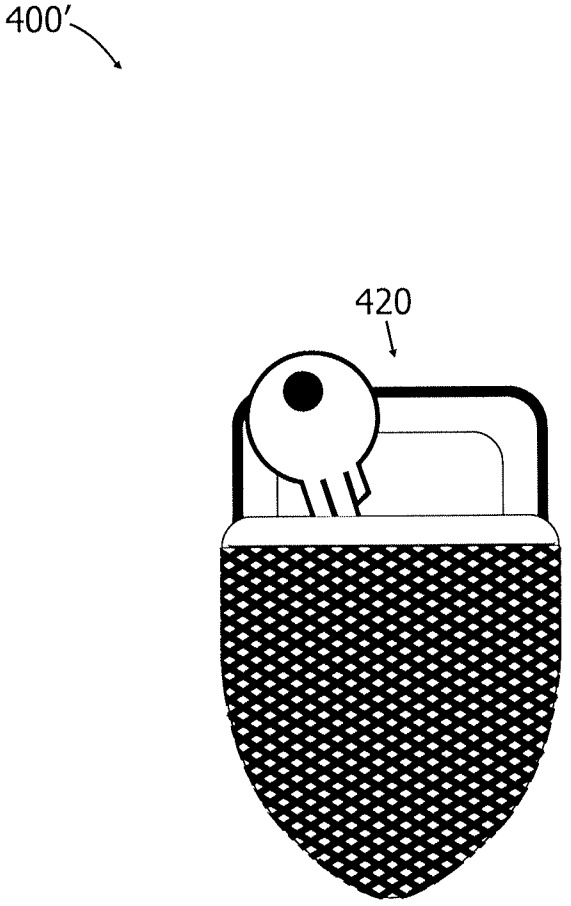


FIG. 14

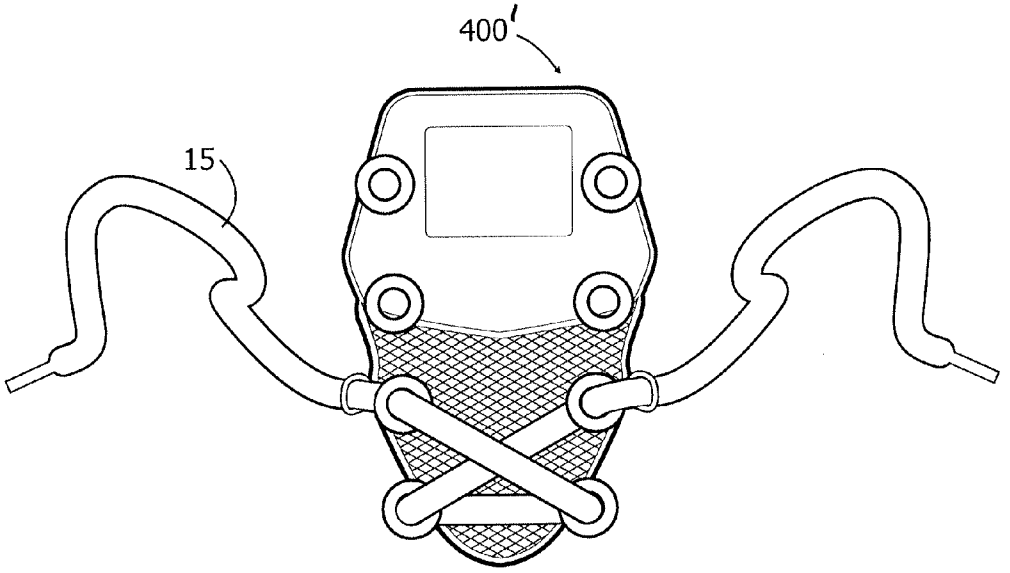
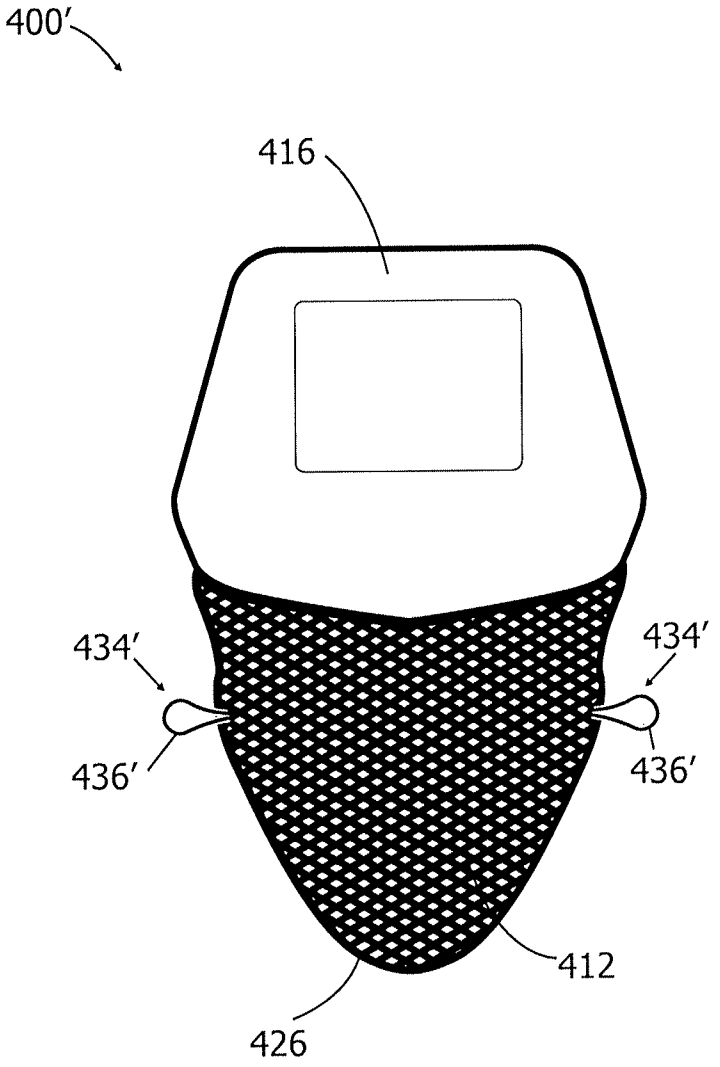


FIG. 15



# FOOTWEAR INSERT MEMBERS

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional App. Ser. No. 61/863,637, filed Aug. 8, 2013, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional App. Ser. No. 61/943,018, filed Feb. 21, 2014, the entire contents of both being herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

## BACKGROUND

**[0002]** 1. Technical Field

**[0003]** The present disclosure relates to insert member assemblies for footwear and, more particularly, to adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user.

**[0004]** 2. Background Art

**[0005]** In general, footwear/shoes and related accessories or the like are known. Some exemplary shoes and related accessories or the like are described and disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,802,380; 6,408,542; D663,941; and D499,877; and U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2002/0139009 and 2002/0029494; and Canadian Patent No. 1,217,631, and DE20-2005015954, the entire contents of each being hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

**[0006]** A constant need exists among footwear manufacturers to develop footwear and related accessories that are cost-effective and/or include improved features/structures.

**[0007]** Thus, an interest exists for advantageous insert members/assemblies for footwear. These and other inefficiencies and opportunities for improvement are addressed and/or overcome by the assemblies, systems and methods of the present disclosure.

## SUMMARY

**[0008]** The present disclosure provides advantageous insert member assemblies for footwear. More particularly, the present disclosure provides advantageous insert member assemblies (e.g., adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assemblies) that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user.

**[0009]** In exemplary embodiments, the present disclosure provides for insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user, thereby providing comfort and style to the user. In certain embodiments, the insert member assemblies also provide or include a structure/place (e.g., a pocket or the like) to house personal items (e.g., keys, money, etc.) of the user.

**[0010]** Any combination or permutation of embodiments is envisioned. Additional advantageous features, functions and applications of the disclosed systems and methods of the present disclosure will be apparent from the description which follows, particularly when read in conjunction with the appended figures. All references listed in this disclosure are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0011]** Features and aspects of embodiments are described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which elements are not necessarily depicted to scale.

**[0012]** Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are further described with reference to the appended figures. It is to be noted that the various features, steps and combinations of features/steps described below and illustrated in the figures can be arranged and organized differently to result in embodiments which are still within the scope of the present disclosure. To assist those of ordinary skill in the art in making and using the disclosed systems, assemblies and methods, reference is made to the appended figures, wherein:

**[0013]** FIG. **1** is a front view of an exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure;

**[0014]** FIGS. **2-3** are rear views of the insert member assembly of FIG. **1**;

**[0015]** FIG. **4** is a front view of the insert member assembly of FIG. **1**;

**[0016]** FIG. **5** is a front view of another exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure;

**[0017]** FIG. **6** is a front view of another exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure;

**[0018]** FIG. **7** is a front view of another exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure;

**[0019]** FIGS. **8-9** are side views depicting exemplary insert member assemblies positioned within shoes of a user;

**[0020]** FIG. **10** is a front view of an exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure;

**[0021]** FIG. **11** is a partial rear view of the assembly of FIG. **10**;

**[0022]** FIG. **12** is a front view of the assembly of FIG. **10**;

**[0023]** FIG. **13** is a front view of the inner member of the assembly of FIG. **10**;

**[0024]** FIG. **14** is a front view of the insert member assembly of FIG. **10**, with the assembly positioned within shoelaces of a user; and

**[0025]** FIG. **15** is a front view of an exemplary insert member assembly according to the present disclosure.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**[0026]** The exemplary embodiments disclosed herein are illustrative of advantageous insert member assemblies for footwear, and systems of the present disclosure and methods/techniques thereof. It should be understood, however, that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the present disclosure, which may be embodied in various forms. Therefore, details disclosed herein with reference to exemplary insert members/fabrication methods and associated processes/techniques of assembly and use are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as the basis for teaching one skilled in the art how to make and use the advantageous insert members/systems and/or alternative insert members of the present disclosure.

**[0027]** The present disclosure provides advantageous insert member assemblies for footwear. More particularly, the present disclosure provides improved insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe worn by a user. In exemplary embodiments, the insert member assemblies are adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable.

**[0028]** Current practice provides that some users prefer to leave their shoe laces untied or loosely laced/tied (e.g., so that they do not have to tie or tightly tie their laces). Moreover, with such looks/configurations of having the shoe laces untied or loosely laced/tied, some users fold their socks a few times (e.g., two or three times) to cause the shoe tongue of each shoe to bulge out away from the user's foot/leg. How-

ever, such efforts, practices and/or methods are inefficient, time-consuming, short-lived, non-adjustable and/or non-reproducible over time.

**[0029]** In exemplary embodiments, the present disclosure provides for improved and user-selected (e.g., customized) insert member assemblies that are configured and dimensioned to be inserted in footwear (e.g., shoes) worn by a user and which provide comfort and style to the user, thereby providing a significant operational, commercial and/or manufacturing advantage as a result. In certain embodiments, the insert member assemblies also advantageously provide or include a structure/place (e.g., a pocket or the like) to house personal items (e.g., keys, money, etc.) of the user. Moreover, the insert member assemblies of the present disclosure advantageously allow users to achieve multiple shoe style looks and/or create a platform where users can accessorize as desired (e.g., with insert members/assemblies having their favorite or complementary colors, etc.). In exemplary embodiments, the insert member assemblies of the present disclosure allow for more cushion space between the top of the user's foot and the tongue of the user's shoe, and/or provide the user's shoe with a stress-free look with substantially no or few crease marks caused by tightly tied lace string. The extra cushion space advantageously allows for the use of less shoelace string, thereby enabling the user to achieve various styling looks (e.g., the knotted-tie look, or the laced-out styling look, as discussed further below). In certain embodiments, the insert member assemblies of the present disclosure provide a comfortable and proportionate look and feel as the user ties a bow tie with their laces (or with the user leaving the laces untied or loosely tied). The insert member assemblies of the present disclosure advantageously add extra thickness between the shoe tongue and the user's foot, thereby providing for more cushion which minimizes creases in the shoe tongue as well as helps alleviate or provide for the extra or undesired length of the shoe laces.

**[0030]** Referring now to the drawings, like parts are marked throughout the specification and drawings with the same reference numerals, respectively. Drawing figures are not necessarily to scale and in certain views, parts may have been exaggerated for purposes of clarity.

**[0031]** With reference to FIGS. **1-4**, there is illustrated an embodiment of an insert member assembly **10** according to the present disclosure. In general, insert member assembly **10** is configured and dimensioned to be inserted or positioned, at least in part, within a shoe **15** or piece of footwear **15** utilized by a user (e.g., FIGS. **8-9**).

**[0032]** Exemplary insert member assembly **10** is an adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assembly that is configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe **15** worn by a user (e.g., FIGS. **8-9**), although the present disclosure is not limited thereto. Rather, insert member assembly **10** can take a variety of forms/shapes/configurations, and can be utilized for a variety of purposes/uses. In exemplary embodiments and as discussed further below, insert member assembly **10** is fabricated from one or more materials (e.g., neoprene and/or cross-linked polyethylene foam), and can be utilized as a shoe insert and/or fashion accessory or the like.

**[0033]** In certain embodiments, insert member assembly **10** includes a front (outer) housing member **12** and a rear (outer) housing member **14**. Housing members **12**, **14** can be fabricated from a variety of materials, such as, for example, from neoprene or the like (e.g., 1/16" open-cell spg neoprene), although the present disclosure is not limited thereto. Rather, it is noted that housing members **12**, **14** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials (e.g., plastic material, polymer material, clothing/cloth material, synthetic material, natural material, plant-based material, rubber, foam, flexible material, etc.). A benefit of using neoprene or the like for members **12**, **14** is to ensure that the assembly **10** absorbs substantially no moisture during use, and the textured surface of the neoprene facilitates with the positioning of the assembly **10** between the shoe tongue and the user's foot, as discussed further below.

**[0034]** Exemplary insert member assembly **10** can also include inner base member **20** (FIG. **4**). Inner base member **20** can be fabricated from a variety of materials, such as, for example, from cross-linked polyethylene foam or the like (e.g., 3/8" cross-linked polyethylene foam), although the present disclosure is not limited thereto. Rather, it is noted that inner base member **20** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials (e.g., plastic material, polymer material, clothing/cloth material, synthetic material, natural material, plant-based material, rubber, neoprene, flexible material, etc.).

**[0035]** In certain embodiments, during fabrication of insert member assembly **10**, the inner base member **20** is machined/cut to the desired shape, and then at least a portion of the rear side of the inner base member **20** is positioned or mounted with respect to (e.g., glued or adhered or the like) to at least a portion of the front or inner side of the rear housing member **14**. The rear or inner side of the front housing member **12** is then positioned over at least a portion of the base member **20**. In certain embodiments, it is noted that two members **12** can be positioned over at least a portion of the base member **20**. However and as further discussed below, it is noted that assembly **10** need not include inner base member **20**, and/or inner base member **20** can be a separate and independent member that is not mounted to rear housing member **14**, but instead is optionally insertable/removable to/from members **12**, **14**.

**[0036]** At least a portion of the outer edges of the front housing member **12** and the rear housing member **14** are then secured or mounted with respect to one another (e.g., via stitching or the like) to form a recess or cavity **24** (FIG. **4**) between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **12** and the front side of the inner base member **20** (and the front side of member **14**). Stated another way, the inner base member **20** is sandwiched between the housing members **12**, **14**, and portions of the outer edges of the base members **12**, **14** are secured together (e.g., stitched together) around a portion of the perimeter of the inner base member **20** to form a recess or cavity **24** between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **12** and the front side of the inner base member **20**. It is noted that the outer edges of members **12**, **14** can be secured or mounted with respect to one another via a variety of securement or mounting techniques (e.g., stitching, sewing, bonding, adhering, gluing, etc.).

**[0037]** In the embodiments where two members **12** are positioned over at least a portion of the base member **20**, the inner base member **20** is sandwiched between: (i) the two housing members **12**, and (ii) member **14**, and portions of the outer edges of the base members **12**, **14** are secured together around a portion of the perimeter of the inner base member **20** to form two cavities **24**—one cavity **24** between the rear/inner side of the first housing member **12** and the front side of the

inner base member **20**, and a second cavity between front side of the first housing member **12** and the rear side of the second housing member **12**.

**[0038]** In exemplary embodiments, at least a portion of the left side, right side and bottom side of the outer edges of the members **12**, **14** are secured/stitched together to form recess/cavity **24**. In certain embodiments, at least a portion of the outer edges of the top side of members **12**, **14** are also secured/stitched together to form recess/cavity **24**.

**[0039]** In certain embodiments, after the members **12**, **14** are secured together to form cavity **24**, an outer trim portion **26** (or portions **26**) is mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) the outer edges of members **12**, **14** to provide a finished look to assembly **10**, and to reinforce the mounted/stitched outer perimeter of the assembly **10**. In exemplary embodiments, outer trim portion **26** is fabricated from neoprene or the like, although the present disclosure is not limited thereto. Rather, outer trim portion **26** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials.

**[0040]** As shown in FIGS. **1-4**, insert member assembly **10** can include a flap or cover member **16**. Similar to members **12**, **14**, flap member **16** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., neoprene). In exemplary embodiments, flap member **16** is configured and dimensioned to cover, at least in part, the opening to recess/cavity **24** of assembly **10**, when flap member **16** is in the closed position (FIG. **1**). When flap member **16** is in the open position (FIG. **4**), the opening to recess/cavity **24** is accessible to a user (e.g., to insert items in a pocket **28** of assembly **10**, and/or to insert an inner insert member **22** into cavity **24**, as discussed further below).

**[0041]** In certain embodiments and as shown in FIGS. **1-4**, during fabrication of assembly **10**, at least a portion of the bottom side of the front/inner portion of the flap member **16** is positioned or mounted with respect to (e.g., glued to) the top side of the rear portion of the inner base member **20**. It is noted that the bottom side of the flap member **16** can be positioned/secured with respect to the rear portion of member **20** before or after the rear side of the inner base member **20** is positioned or mounted with respect to a portion of the front/inner side of the rear housing member **14**, and before or after the rear/inner side of the front housing member **12** is positioned over at least a portion of the base member **20**.

**[0042]** The flap member **16** can then be mounted with respect to members **12**, **14** at various positions. For example, at least a portion of the outer edge of the flap member **16** can be mounted with respect to at least a portion of the outer edges of members **12**, **14** (e.g., via stitching). Additionally, outer trim portion **26** (or portions **26**) can be mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) the outer edges of flap member **16** (and members **12**, **14**) to provide a finished look to assembly **10**, and to reinforce the outer perimeter of flap member **16**. As shown in FIG. **3**, after flap member **16** is mounted with respect to members **12**, **14** and/or **20**, the line **17**A in FIG. **3** depicts where the flap member hinges/bends to close over the top side of the inner base member **20** when the flap member **16** is in the closed position (FIG. **1**). The line **17**A in FIG. **3** indicates where the line of flap member **16** is positioned underneath rear housing member **14**, after flap member **16** is mounted with respect to members **12**, **14** and **20** (and indicates where member **16** is mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) member **14**). It is noted that flap member **16** could be a continuous section and/or integral with member **14**.

**[0043]** In exemplary embodiments, flap member **16** includes a fastener member **30** (e.g., positioned at a distal end of flap member **16**), and the outer portion of front housing member **12** includes a corresponding fastener member **32**. Fastener members **30**, **32** can be buttons or clips or the like, or any other suitable fastener members (e.g., Velcro, strap, clips, knobs/recesses, etc.). Fastener members **30**, **32** allow a user to releasably fasten or secure flap member **16** to member **12** and to at least partially enclose cavity **24** (FIG. **1**), when desired by the user.

**[0044]** Secured flap member **16** also facilitates assembly **10** to house/contain inner insert member **22** (when desired) within cavity **24**, and/or provides a cover or closure over pocket **28** (and over the contents contained/housed within pocket **28**).

**[0045]** In certain embodiments and as shown in FIG. **4**, the top side of inner base member **20** includes a pocket or slit **28** or the like. In general, pocket **28** is configured and dimensioned to at least partially house and/or contain items of the user (e.g., money, keys, personal items, etc.). In exemplary embodiments, when flap member **16** is secured to member **12** (e.g., via fastener members **30**, **32**), the secured flap member **16** advantageously covers, conceals and/or hides pocket **28** (and its contents) from view.

**[0046]** In some embodiments and as discussed further below, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **22** in cavity **24** of assembly (e.g., to provide the user with extra cushion or space via assembly **10** that includes member(s) **22**, and/or to provide the user with different looks/styles via assembly **10** that includes member(s) **22**). In exemplary embodiments, when flap member **16** is secured to member **12** (e.g., via fastener members **30**, **32**), the secured flap member **16** advantageously at least partially covers/houses/contains/conceals the inner insert member(s) **22** (when desired) within cavity **24**. Similar to inner base member **20**, each inner insert member **22** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., cross-linked polyethylene foam), and each can be shaped/sized in various different sizes, dimensions, widths, depths, lengths, etc.

**[0047]** In some embodiments and as shown in FIGS. **1-4**, assembly **10** includes at least one eyelet tab member **34**. In exemplary embodiments, assembly **10** includes two eyelet tab members **34**, each member **34** secured or mounted with respect to each side (e.g., the left and right sides) of assembly **10** (e.g., mounted with respect to members **12**, **14** and/or portion **26**). In certain embodiments, each member **34** includes a protruding section **36** that protrudes or extends from the outer edge of the assembly, and an aperture or eyelet **38** positioned proximal to the distal end of the protruding section **36**. Each member can be positioned a pre-determined distance from the top side of the inner base member **20** (e.g., about 2" down from the top side of member **20**). In exemplary embodiments, each protruding section of each member **34** is fabricated from fabric or the like (e.g., ¾" inch long lace fabric), and each aperture **38** is fabricated from a metal eyelet or the like (e.g., ¼" metal eyelets).

**[0048]** In use, some advantageous reasons for using assembly **10** in each shoe **15** is to provide shoes with improved comfort and style, and/or as a place to house/hold the user's items (e.g., house key, money, credit cards, personal items, etc.). As noted above, some users prefer to leave their shoe laces untied or loosely laced/tied so that they do not have to tie (or tightly tie) their laces. The advantageous assemblies **10** of the present disclosure allow users to do this by adding extra thickness between the shoe tongue and the user's foot,

thereby creating more cushion which minimizes creases in the shoe tongue as well as helps alleviate the extra (undesired) length of the shoe laces.

**[0049]** In exemplary embodiments, the assemblies **10** (in conjunction with shoes **15**) provide users with multiple styling looks (e.g., bow-tie, knotted-tie, laced-out, etc.). One of the ways users can style their shoe **15** is by simply sliding in the assembly **10** within the shoe **15** (assembly **10** with or without member(s) **22** positioned therein), and positioning the assembly **10** between the top of the foot and underneath the tongue of the shoe **15**.

**[0050]** While lacing up the shoes **15**, the user can also further secure the assembly **10** by lacing the shoelaces of the shoe **15** in/through the eyelets **38** of the eyelet tab members **34** at the desired placement relative to the shoe **15** and/or on the top part of the foot. Once the assemblies **10** are in the desired place/position, the user can adjust and style their shoelaces accordingly. The use of assembly **10** provides the shoe **15** a stress free look with zero to few crease marks that can be caused by tightly tied shoelace string. They also provide a comfortable and proportionate look and feel as the user ties a bow tie with their laces, if desired.

**[0051]** Some other styling options the assemblies **10** offer is through the use of the inner insert members **22**. As noted, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **22** in cavity **24** of assembly (e.g., to provide the user with extra cushion or space via assembly **10** that includes member(s) **22**, and/or to provide the user with different looks/styles via assembly **10** that includes member(s) **22**). In general, each user-selected (and optional/removable) inner insert member **22** is configured and dimensioned to be inserted into/within assembly **10** (e.g., into/within cavity **24** of assembly **10**).

**[0052]** In general, each inner insert member **22** slides into the cavity **24** from the top side. The inner insert members **22** allow for even more cushion space between the top of the user's foot and the tongue of the shoe **15**. For example, the extra space can allow for the use of less shoelace string, thereby enabling the user to achieve the knotted-tie or laced-out styling looks. Some advantages for utilizing assemblies **10** is to achieve multiple shoe style looks, and/or to create a platform where users/consumers can accessorize with their favorite or complementary colors.

**[0053]** In another embodiment and as shown in FIG. **5**, assembly **10'** is similar to assembly **10** discussed above, except that assembly **10'** includes a slit or opening **40** for each eyelet tab member **34**. In exemplary embodiments, each slit **40** is configured and dimensioned to house or contain (when desired) at least a portion of the eyelet **38** and/or the protruding section **36** of its respective eyelet tab member **34**. For example, each slit **40** can be advantageously utilized when assembly **10** is utilized in conjunction with a shoe **15** that does not include shoelaces. The user could then tuck at least a portion of the eyelet **38** and/or the protruding section **36** of the eyelet tab member **34** into each slit **40**, thereby substantially eliminating any potential discomfort caused by the un-housed eyelet tab members **34** and shoe **15**.

**[0054]** Turning now to FIG. **6**, there is illustrated another embodiment of an insert member assembly **100** according to the present disclosure. The insert member assembly **100** may be structurally and functionally similar to the assembly **10** discussed above with reference to FIGS. **1-4**, with some differences.

**[0055]** Similar to assembly **10**, exemplary insert member assembly **100** is an adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assembly that is configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe **15** worn by a user (e.g., FIGS. **8-9**). It is noted that insert member assembly **100** can take a variety of forms/shapes/configurations, and can be utilized for a variety of purposes/uses. In exemplary embodiments and as discussed further below, insert member assembly **100** is fabricated from one or more materials (e.g., neoprene and/or cross-linked polyethylene foam), and can be utilized as a shoe insert and/or fashion accessory or the like.

**[0056]** In general, insert member assembly **100** includes a front (outer) housing member **112** and a rear (outer) housing member **114**. Housing members **112**, **114** can be fabricated from a variety of materials, such as, for example, from neoprene or the like (e.g., 1/16" open-cell spg neoprene). It is noted that housing members **112**, **114** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials. As noted above, a benefit of using neoprene or the like for members **112**, **114** is to ensure that the assembly **100** absorbs substantially no moisture during use, and the textured surface of the neoprene facilitates with the positioning of the assembly **100** between the shoe tongue and the user's foot.

**[0057]** Insert member assembly **100** also includes inner base member (obscured—similar to member **20**). Inner base member can be fabricated from a variety of materials, such as, for example, from cross-linked polyethylene foam or the like (e.g., 3/8" cross-linked polyethylene foam). It is noted that inner base member can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials.

**[0058]** In exemplary embodiments, during fabrication of insert member assembly **100**, the inner base member is machined/cut to the desired shape, and then at least a portion of the rear side of the inner base member is positioned or mounted with respect to (e.g., glued or adhered or the like) to at least a portion of the front/inner side of the rear housing member **114**. The rear/inner side of the front housing member **112** is then positioned over at least a portion of the base member.

**[0059]** At least a portion of the outer edges of the front housing member **112** and the rear housing member **114** are then secured or mounted with respect to one another (e.g., via stitching or the like) to form a recess or cavity (similar to cavity **24**) between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **112** and the front side of the inner base member (and the front side of member **114**). As such, the inner base member is sandwiched between the housing members **112**, **114**, and portions of the outer edges of the base members **112**, **114** are secured together (e.g., stitched together) around a portion of the perimeter of the inner base member to form a recess or cavity between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **112** and the front side of the inner base member. It is noted that the outer edges of members **112**, **114** can be secured or mounted with respect to one another via a variety of securement or mounting techniques (e.g., stitching, sewing, bonding, adhering, gluing, etc.).

**[0060]** At least a portion of the left side, right side and bottom side of the outer edges of the members **112**, **114** are secured/stitched together to form the recess/cavity. In certain embodiments, at least a portion of the outer edges of the top side of members **112**, **114** are also secured/stitched together to form the recess/cavity.

**[0061]** In certain embodiments, after the members **112**, **114** are secured together to form the cavity, an outer trim portion

**126** (or portions **126**) is mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) the outer edges of members **112**, **114** to provide a finished look to assembly **100**, and to reinforce the mounted/stitched outer perimeter of the assembly **100**. In exemplary embodiments, outer trim portion **126** is fabricated from neoprene or the like.

**[0062]** In certain embodiments, an opening can be provided/machined through front housing member **112** to provide access to the cavity. Insert member assembly **100** can include a flap or cover member **116**. Similar to members **112**, **114**, flap member **116** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., neoprene). In exemplary embodiments, flap member **116** is configured and dimensioned to cover, at least in part, the opening to the recess/cavity of assembly **100**, when flap member **116** is in the closed position. When flap member **116** is in the open position, the opening to the recess/cavity is accessible to a user (e.g., to insert an inner insert member **122** into the cavity). In exemplary embodiments, flap member **116** is mounted with respect to the front side of member **112**. It is noted, however, that flap member **116** can be mounted with respect to assembly at a variety of suitable positions (e.g., to member **114**, **112**, etc.).

**[0063]** In exemplary embodiments, member **112** includes a strap member **121** mounted with respect to member **112** (e.g., and/or to trim portion **126**). Strap member **121** allows a user to releasably fasten or secure flap member **116** to member **112** and to at least partially enclose the cavity (and the cover opening), when desired by the user. It is noted that in lieu of, or in addition to strap member **121**, assembly **100** could also include fastener members or the like on members **112**, **116** to allow a user to releasably fasten or secure flap member **116** to member **112**. Secured flap member **116** also facilitates assembly **100** to house/contain inner insert member **122** (when desired) within the cavity.

**[0064]** In certain embodiments, the top side of the inner base member includes a pocket or slit or the like. In general, the pocket is configured and dimensioned to at least partially house and/or contain items of the user. In exemplary embodiments, the top portions of members **112** and/or **114** include an opening or slit that is configured and dimensioned to be releasably secured together (e.g., via velcro or fastener members or the like) to cover, conceal and/or hide the pocket from view when secured together (and to allow user access to the pocket when un-secured or opened).

**[0065]** In some embodiments, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **122** in the cavity of assembly **100** (e.g., to provide the user with extra cushion or space via assembly **100** that includes member(s) **122**, and/or to provide the user with different looks/styles via assembly **100** that includes member(s) **122**). When flap member **116** is secured to member **112**, the secured flap member **116** at least partially covers/houses/contains/conceals the inner insert member(s) **122** (when desired) within the cavity. Similar to the inner base member, each inner insert member **122** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., cross-linked polyethylene foam), and each can be shaped/sized in various different sizes, dimensions, widths, depths, lengths, etc.

**[0066]** In certain embodiments, assembly **100** includes at least one eyelet tab member **134**. In exemplary embodiments, assembly **100** includes two eyelet tab members **134**, each member **134** secured or mounted with respect to each side (e.g., the left and right sides) of assembly **100** (e.g., mounted with respect to members **112**, **114** and/or portion **126**). In certain embodiments, each member **134** includes a protruding section **136** that protrudes or extends from the outer edge of the assembly, and an aperture or eyelet **138** positioned proximal to the distal end of the protruding section **136**. Each member can be positioned a pre-determined distance from the top side of the inner base member **120**. In exemplary embodiments, each protruding section **136** of each member **134** is fabricated from fabric or the like, and each aperture **138** is fabricated from a metal eyelet or the like.

**[0067]** In use, some advantageous reasons for using assembly **100** in each shoe **15** is to provide shoes with improved comfort and style, and/or as a place to house/hold the user's items. As noted above, some users prefer to leave their shoe laces untied or loosely laced/tied so that they do not have to tie (or tightly tie) their laces. The advantageous assemblies **100** of the present disclosure allow users to do this by adding extra thickness between the shoe tongue and the user's foot, thereby creating more cushion which minimizes creases in the shoe tongue as well as helps alleviate the extra (undesired) length of the shoe laces.

**[0068]** The assemblies **100** provide users with multiple styling looks (e.g., bow-tie, knotted-tie, laced-out, etc.). One of the ways users can style their shoe **15** is by simply sliding in the assembly **100** within the shoe **15** (assembly **100** with or without member(s) **122** positioned therein), and positioning the assembly **100** between the top of the foot and underneath the tongue of the shoe **15**.

**[0069]** While lacing up the shoes **15**, the user can also further secure the assembly **100** by lacing the shoelaces of the shoe **15** in/through the eyelets **138** of the eyelet tab members **134** at the desired placement relative to the shoe **15** and/or on the top part of the foot. Once the assemblies **100** are in the desired place/position, the user can adjust and style their shoelaces accordingly. The use of assembly **100** provides the shoe **15** a stress free look with zero to few crease marks that can be caused by tightly tied shoelace string. They also provide a comfortable and proportionate look and feel as the user ties a bow tie with their laces, if desired.

**[0070]** Some other styling options the assemblies **100** offer is through the use of the inner insert members **122**. As noted, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **122** in the cavity of assembly **100** (e.g., to provide the user with extra cushion or space via assembly **100** that includes member(s) **122**, and/or to provide the user with different looks/styles via assembly **100** that includes member(s) **122**). In general, each user-selected (and optional/removable) inner insert member **122** is configured and dimensioned to be inserted into/within assembly **100** (e.g., into/within the cavity of assembly **100**).

**[0071]** In general, each inner insert member **122** slides into the cavity from a position proximal to the top side of member **112** (e.g., via the opening). The inner insert members **122** allow for even more cushion space between the top of the user's foot and the tongue of the shoe **15**. For example, the extra space can allow for the use of less shoelace string, thereby enabling the user to achieve the knotted-tie or laced-out styling looks. Some advantages for utilizing assemblies **100** is to achieve multiple shoe style looks, and/or to create a platform where users/consumers can accessorize with their favorite or complementary colors.

**[0072]** In another embodiment, an assembly can be similar to assembly **100** discussed above, except that the assembly **100** includes the distal portion of member **112** and **114** folded upwards toward the top side of assembly **100**, and mounted with respect to member **112**.

**[0073]** Turning now to FIG. **7**, there is illustrated another embodiment of an insert member assembly **300** according to the present disclosure. The insert member assembly **300** may be structurally and functionally similar to the assembly **10** and/or **100**/**200** discussed above, with some differences.

**[0074]** Similar to assembly **10** and **100**/**200**, exemplary insert member assembly **300** is an adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assembly that is configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe **15** worn by a user. In general, insert member assembly **300** includes a front (outer) housing member **312** and a rear (outer) housing member **314**. Housing members **312**, **314** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., neoprene). Insert member assembly **300** also includes inner base member **320**. Inner base member **320** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., cross-linked polyethylene foam).

**[0075]** In exemplary embodiments, during fabrication of insert member assembly **300**, the inner base member **320** is machined/cut to the desired shape, and then at least a portion of the rear side of the inner base member **320** is positioned or mounted with respect to at least a portion of the front/inner side of the rear housing member **314**. The rear/inner side of the front housing member **312** is then positioned over at least a portion of the base member **320**.

**[0076]** At least a portion of the outer edges of the front housing member **312** and the rear housing member **314** are then secured or mounted with respect to one another to form a recess or cavity (obscured—similar to cavity **24**) between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **312** and the front side of the inner base member **320**. As such, the inner base member **320** is sandwiched between the housing members **312**, **314**, and portions of the outer edges of the base members **312**, **314** are secured together around a portion of the perimeter of the inner base member **320** to form a recess or cavity between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **312** and the front side of the inner base member **320**. At least a portion of the left side, right side and bottom side of the outer edges of the members **312**, **314** are secured/stitched together to form the recess/cavity. In certain embodiments, at least a portion of the outer edges of the top side of members **312**, **314** are also secured/stitched together to form the recess/cavity. After the members **312**, **314** are secured together to form the cavity, an outer trim portion **326** is mounted with respect to the outer edges of members **312**, **314** to provide a finished look to assembly **300**, and to reinforce the mounted/stitched outer perimeter of the assembly **300**.

**[0077]** An opening can be provided/machined through front housing member **312** to provide access to the cavity. Insert member assembly **300** can include a flap or cover member **316**. Flap member **316** is configured and dimensioned to cover, at least in part, the opening to the recess/cavity of assembly **300**, when flap member **316** is in the closed position. When flap member **316** is in the open position, the opening to the recess/cavity is accessible to a user (e.g., to insert an inner insert member into the cavity). In exemplary embodiments, flap member **316** is mounted with respect to the front side of member **312**. It is noted that flap member **316** can be mounted with respect to assembly **300** at a variety of suitable positions. In some embodiments, flap member **316** is configured to be releasably fastened to member **312** via fastener member **330**.

**[0078]** In certain embodiments, the top side of inner base member **320** includes a pocket or slit **328** or the like. In general, pocket **328** is configured and dimensioned to at least partially house and/or contain items of the user. In exemplary embodiments, flap member **316** is configured to cover, conceal and/or hide pocket **328** from view when secured to member **312**.

**[0079]** In some embodiments, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member (e.g., similar to member **22**, **122** or **222**) in the cavity of assembly **300**. When flap member **316** is secured to/positioned against member **312**, the flap member **316** at least partially covers/houses/contains/conceals the inner insert member(s) within the cavity.

**[0080]** In use, some advantageous reasons for using assembly **300** in each shoe **15** is to provide shoes with improved comfort and style, and/or as a place to house/hold the user's items, as similarly discussed above.

**[0081]** Turning now to FIGS. **10**-**15**, there is illustrated another embodiment of an insert member assembly **400'** according to the present disclosure. The insert member assembly **400'** may be structurally and functionally similar to the assembly **10** and/or **100**/**200**/**300** discussed above, with some differences.

**[0082]** Similar to assembly **10**, exemplary insert member assembly **400'** is an adjustable, interchangeable and/or removable insert member assembly that is configured and dimensioned to be inserted in a shoe **15** worn by a user (e.g., FIGS. **8**-**9**). It is noted that insert member assembly **400'** can take a variety of forms/shapes/configurations, and can be utilized for a variety of purposes/uses. In exemplary embodiments and as discussed further below, insert member assembly **400'** is fabricated from one or more materials (e.g., neoprene, polyester, polyester mesh, thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), and/or ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA)), and can be utilized as a shoe insert and/or fashion accessory or the like.

**[0083]** In certain embodiments, insert member assembly **400'** includes a front housing member **412** and a rear housing member **414**. As further discussed below, housing members **412**, **414** can be fabricated from a variety of materials. For example, it is noted that housing members **412**, **414** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials (e.g., plastic material, polymer material, clothing/cloth material, synthetic material, natural material, plant-based material, rubber, foam, flexible material, etc.).

**[0084]** Exemplary insert member assembly **400'** can also include inner member **420**. As discussed below, inner member **420** can be fabricated from a variety of materials, such as, for example, from ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), polyester mesh and/or polyester or the like, although the present disclosure is not limited thereto. Rather, it is noted that inner member **420** can be fabricated from a variety of suitable materials or combinations of materials (e.g., plastic material, polymer material, clothing/cloth material, synthetic material, natural material, plant-based material, rubber, neoprene, flexible material, etc.). As discussed further below, it is noted that assembly **400'** need not include inner member **420**, and/or inner member **420** can be a separate and independent member that is optionally insertable/removable to/from members **412**, **414** (e.g., cavity **424**).

**[0085]** In certain embodiments, during fabrication of insert member assembly **400'**, the rear/inner side of the front housing member **412** is positioned over at least a portion of the rear housing member **414**.

**[0086]** At least a portion of the outer edges of the front housing member **412** and the rear housing member **414** are then secured or mounted with respect to one another (e.g., via

stitching or the like) to form a recess or cavity **424** between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **412** and the front side of the rear housing member **414**. Stated another way, portions of the outer edges of the housing members **412**, **414** are secured together (e.g., stitched together) to form a recess or cavity **424** between the rear/inner side of the front housing member **412** and the front side of the rear housing member **414**. It is noted that the outer edges of members **412**, **414** can be secured or mounted with respect to one another via a variety of securement or mounting techniques (e.g., stitching, sewing, bonding, adhering, gluing, etc.).

**[0087]** In exemplary embodiments, at least a portion of the left side, right side and bottom side of the outer edges of the members **412**, **414** are secured/stitched together to form recess/cavity **424**.

**[0088]** In certain embodiments, after the members **412**, **414** are secured together to form cavity **424**, an outer trim portion **426** (or portions **426**) is mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) the outer edges of members **412**, **414** to provide a finished look to assembly **400'**, and to reinforce the mounted/stitched outer perimeter of the assembly **400'**. In exemplary embodiments, outer trim portion **426** is fabricated from neoprene or the like, although the present disclosure is not limited thereto.

**[0089]** As shown in FIG. **10**, insert member assembly **400'** can include a flap or cover member **416**. Flap member **416** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., thermoplastic polyurethane). In exemplary embodiments, flap member **416** is configured and dimensioned to cover, at least in part, the opening to recess/cavity **424** of assembly **400'**, when flap member **416** and/or member **414** is in the closed position. When flap member **416** and/or member **414** is in the open position, the opening to recess/cavity **424** is accessible to a user (e.g., to insert items in cavity **424**, and/or to insert an inner insert member **422** into cavity **424**, as discussed further below).

**[0090]** In certain embodiments, during fabrication of assembly **400'**, at least a portion of the bottom side of the flap member **416** is positioned or mounted with respect to the top side of the front housing member **412**.

**[0091]** The flap member **16** can be mounted with respect to members **412**, **414** at various positions. For example, at least a portion of the outer edge of the flap member **416** can be mounted with respect to at least a portion of the outer edges of members **412**, **414** (e.g., via stitching). Additionally, outer trim portion **426** can be mounted with respect to (e.g., stitched to) the outer edges of flap member **416** (and members **412**, **414**) to provide a finished look to assembly **400'**, and to reinforce the outer perimeter of flap member **416**. It is noted that flap member **416** could be a continuous section and/or integral with member **414**.

**[0092]** In exemplary embodiments, flap member **416** includes a fastener member **430** (e.g., positioned on the rear side of flap member **416**), and the outer portion of rear housing member **414** includes a corresponding fastener member **432** (FIG. **11**). Fastener members **430**, **432** can be Velcro (e.g., hook and loop fasterners), or buttons or clips or the like, or zippers, or any other suitable fastener members (e.g., strap, knobs/recesses, etc.). Fastener members **430**, **432** allow a user to releasably fasten or secure flap member **416** to member **414** and to at least partially enclose cavity **424** (FIG. **11**), when desired by the user.

**[0093]** Secured flap member **416** with member **414** also facilitates assembly **400'** to house/contain inner member **420** and/or inner insert member **422** (when desired) within cavity **424**.

**[0094]** In certain embodiments, the front side (or rear side) of inner member **420** includes a pocket or slit **428** or the like. In general, pocket **428** is configured and dimensioned to at least partially house and/or contain items of the user (e.g., money, keys, personal items, etc.). In exemplary embodiments, when flap member **416** is secured to member **414** (e.g., via fastener members **430**, **432**), the secured flap member **416** advantageously covers, conceals and/or hides the inserted inner member **420** and its pocket **428** (and its contents) from view (e.g., within cavity **424**).

**[0095]** In some embodiments, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **422** (in addition to and/or in lieu of inner member **420**) in cavity **424** of assembly **400'** (e.g., to provide the user with extra cushion or space via assembly **400'** that includes member(s) **422**, and/or to provide the user with different looks/styles via assembly **400'** that includes member(s) **422**). In exemplary embodiments, when flap member **416** is secured to member **414** (e.g., via fastener members **430**, **432**), the secured flap member **416** advantageously at least partially covers/houses/contains/conceals the inner insert member(s) **422** (when desired) within cavity **424**. Similar to inner member **420**, each inner insert member **422** can be fabricated from a variety of materials (e.g., EVA and/or polyester), and each can be shaped/sized in various different sizes, dimensions, widths, depths, lengths, etc.

**[0096]** In some embodiments, assembly **400'** includes at least one eyelet tab member (e.g., similar to member **34**). In exemplary embodiments, assembly **400'** includes two eyelet tab members, each eyelet tab member secured or mounted with respect to each side (e.g., the left and right sides) of assembly **400'** (e.g., mounted with respect to members **412**, **414** and/or portion **426**). In certain embodiments, each eyelet tab member includes a protruding section that protrudes or extends from the outer edge of the assembly **400'**, and an aperture or eyelet positioned proximal to the distal end of the protruding section. In exemplary embodiments, each protruding section of each eyelet tab member is fabricated from fabric or the like, and each aperture/eyelet is fabricated from a metal eyelet or the like. Assembly **400'** may also include a slit/opening for each eyelet tab member, as similarly discussed above (e.g., similar to opening **40**).

**[0097]** Some options the assemblies **400'** offer is through the use of the optional inner members **420** and/or inner insert members **422**. As noted, a user may wish to insert/position one or more inner insert member **422** (in addition to and/or in lieu of inner member **420**) in cavity **424** of assembly **400'**. In general, each user-selected (and optional/removable) inner insert member **422** (and the optional/removable inner member **420**) is configured and dimensioned to be inserted into/within assembly **400'** (e.g., into/within cavity **424** of assembly **400'**).

**[0098]** In general, each inner insert member **422** slides into the cavity **424** from the top side. The inner insert members **422** allow for even more cushion space between the top of the user's foot and the tongue of the shoe **15**. For example, the extra space can allow for the use of less shoelace string, thereby enabling the user to achieve the knotted-tie or laced-out styling looks. Some advantages for utilizing assemblies **400'** is to achieve multiple shoe style looks, and/or to create a

platform where users/consumers can accessorize with their favorite or complementary colors.

**[0099]** In an embodiment and as depicted in FIG. **15**, in lieu of eyelet tab members, assembly **400'** may include eyelet tab members **434'** having protruding sections **436'** that protrude/extend from the outer edge of the assembly **400'**. In exemplary embodiments, each protruding section **436'** is fabricated from beading cord elastic or the like. This material has low visibility to the user and is stretchable. Thus, it can stretch to accommodate a wide range of shoe/foot widths when assembly **400'** is secured to a shoe **15**. In general, each member **434'** is secured or mounted with respect to each side (e.g., the left and right sides) of assembly **400'** (e.g., mounted with respect to members **412**, **414** and/or portion **426**).

**[0100]** In use, some advantageous reasons for using assembly **400'** in each shoe **15** is to provide shoes with improved comfort and style, and/or as a place to house/hold the user's items, as similarly discussed above.

**[0101]** Still referring to FIGS. **10-15**, the assembly **400'** can be constructed by a bottom layer of neoprene **414** and a top layer **412**, which includes a TPU (**416**) and polyester mesh material (**412**). The polyester mesh (**412**) can be stitched to the TPU material (**416**), constructing the top layer (**412** and **416**) of the assembly **400'**. The top **412** and bottom layer **414** are held together by a neoprene material **426**, which is used as trim, covering the outer edges. Once the assembly **400'** is formed, Velcro **432** is glued and/or stitched on the outer top of the neoprene material **414**. The corresponding piece of Velcro **430** is then glued/stitched on the inner bottom of the TPU material **416**. The Velcro **430**, **432** is used to secure the neoprene flap **414** closed. Also, two small tabs composed of synthetic fibers are stitched on each side near the middle (under the neoprene trim **426**). At the end of each tab, a metal eyelet is placed. The eyelet is used to position and lace the assembly **400'** securely to the shoe **15**.

**[0102]** The pocket insert pad **420** (inner member **420**) is constructed with an EVA material used as a base. The EVA material is then enclosed in polyester. On the topside of **420** is a layer of polyester mesh covering about ⅔rds of the pocket insert pad **420**. This layer of polyester mesh constructs a pocket/pouch **428** used to store small personal items. A final phase to completing the pocket insert pad **420** is to cover the polyester and polyester mesh outer edges with a neoprene trim **426**.

**[0103]** The small insert pad **422** (inner insert member **422**) is constructed with an EVA material used as a base. The EVA material is then enclosed in a polyester material. The outer edges of the polyester material is then covered with a neoprene trim **426**.

**[0104]** Assemblies **400'** provide style, and also many benefits, including comfort and function-ability.

**[0105]** Style—The use of assembly **400'** minimizes the stress creases around the shoes **15**, especially on the top of the shoe near the eye-let holes. The extra cushion provided by utilized assembly **400'** also gives the option to lace and tie the shoelaces with at least three different styles: (i) laced-out, (ii) knotted-tie and (iii) classic bow tie. Also, by adjusting what eyelet the user chooses to position the assembly **400'** in the shoe **15**, the user has the option to style and coordinate the laces and the style of the shoe tongue.

**[0106]** Comfort—Having an extra cushion (e.g., assembly **400'**) on top of the users shoes **15** decreases the pressure point caused by tightly tied shoelaces. Also, while wearing shoes without socks, assembly **400'** reduces the pressure points above the toes of the user. This creates less irritation and friction near the top of the toes.

**[0107]** Function—Assembly **400'** also provides a secure location to store or hide small personal items such as keys, money, USB flash drive, driver's license/credit card, small jewelry, etc. The user has the option to store or hide your small items either in the pocket insert pads **420** or cavity **424** (FIGS. **12-13**).

**[0108]** In general, there is not a wrong way to wear assembly **400'**. A user can wear/utilize assembly **400'** based on the user's desired fashion style and accessories, which is encouraged. The user has the option to lace the assembly **400'** in using the eyelet tabs **434'**, or the user can simply tuck in the eyelet tabs inside the housing for a quick fit after placing the assembly **400'** on top of the foot and under the shoe tongue. The pocket insert **420** and small insert **422** provide the ability to achieve a desired thickness, based on style and comfort.

**[0109]** The pocket insert pad **420** provides a pocket/pouch **428** to store or hide small personal items securely. Also, pad **420** provides extra cushion to adjust the comfort and style options.

**[0110]** The small insert pads **422** provide additional ability to adjust the thickness inside the assembly **400'**. The extra cushion gives multiple options to achieve different shoelace styling looks.

**[0111]** The eyelet tabs **434'** secure the assembly **400'** in the desired position inside the shoe **15**.

**[0112]** The eyelet housing can store the eyelet tabs inside the assembly **400'** to eliminate any discomfort (e.g., while wearing shoes **15** that come with straps instead of shoelaces).

**[0113]** Whereas the disclosure has been described principally in connection with insert member insert member assemblies for footwear (e.g., shoes), such description has been utilized only for purposes of disclosure and is not intended as limiting the disclosure. To the contrary, it is to be recognized that the disclosed insert members/assemblies are capable of use for many other user-friendly purposes (e.g., inserted into pockets or the like, utilized as a wallet or hand-held carrier or the like, etc.).

**[0114]** Although the systems and methods of the present disclosure have been described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, the present disclosure is not limited to such exemplary embodiments and/or implementations. Rather, the systems and methods of the present disclosure are susceptible to many implementations and applications, as will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the art from the disclosure hereof. The present disclosure expressly encompasses such modifications, enhancements and/or variations of the disclosed embodiments. Since many changes could be made in the above construction and many widely different embodiments of this disclosure could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the drawings and specification shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. Additional modifications, changes, and substitutions are intended in the foregoing disclosure. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A footwear insert member assembly comprising:

a first housing member, at least a portion of the first housing member mounted with respect to a flap member; and

a second housing member, a front side of the second housing member positioned over a portion of a rear side of the

first housing member, with a portion of the outer edges of the first and second housing members mounted with respect to one another to form a cavity between the rear side of the first housing member and the front side of the second housing member;

wherein the first and second housing members are configured and dimensioned to be positioned, at least in part, within a piece of footwear utilized by a user.

**2**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **1**, wherein a rear side of the flap member is configured and dimensioned to be releasably secured to the second housing member to releasably cover the cavity.

**3**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **1**, wherein a rear side of the flap member is configured and dimensioned to be releasably secured to a rear side of the second housing member to releasably cover the cavity.

**4**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **3**, wherein the rear side of the flap member includes a first fastener member;

wherein the rear side of the second housing member includes a second fastener member; and

wherein the first and second fastener members allow the user to releasably secure the flap member to the second housing to releasably cover the cavity.

**5**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **1** further comprising an inner member that is configured and dimensioned to be releasably inserted within the cavity.

**6**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **5**, wherein the inner member includes a pocket, the pocket configured and dimensioned to house items of the user.

**7**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **5** further comprising an inner insert member that is configured and dimensioned to be releasably inserted within the cavity.

**8**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **1** further comprising an inner member and an inner insert member, the inner member and the inner insert member configured and dimensioned to be releasably inserted within the cavity;

wherein the inner member includes a pocket, the pocket configured and dimensioned to house items of the user;

wherein a rear side of the flap member is configured and dimensioned to be releasably secured to the second housing member to releasably cover the cavity;

wherein after the inner member and the inner insert member are inserted within the cavity, the user can releasably secure the flap member to the second housing member to releasably cover the cavity and conceal the inner member and the inner insert member within the cavity.

**9**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **1** further comprising one or more eyelet tab members mounted with respect to the first or second housing member, each eyelet tab member configured and dimensioned to house at least a portion of a lace of the piece of footwear to releasably secure the footwear insert member assembly to the piece of footwear.

**10**. A footwear insert member assembly comprising:

a first housing member, at least a portion of the first housing member mounted with respect to a flap member;

a second housing member, a front side of the second housing member positioned over a portion of a rear side of the first housing member, with a portion of the outer edges of the first and second housing members mounted with respect to one another to form a cavity between the rear side of the first housing member and the front side of the second housing member; and

an inner member and an inner insert member, the inner member and the inner insert member configured and dimensioned to be releasably inserted within the cavity;

wherein the first and second housing members are configured and dimensioned to be positioned, at least in part, within a piece of footwear utilized by a user;

wherein one or more eyelet tab members are mounted with respect to the first or second housing member, each eyelet tab member configured and dimensioned to house at least a portion of a lace of the piece of footwear to releasably secure the footwear insert member assembly to the piece of footwear;

wherein the inner member includes a pocket, the pocket configured and dimensioned to house items of the user;

wherein a rear side of the flap member includes a first fastener member;

wherein a rear side of the second housing member includes a second fastener member;

wherein the first and second fastener members allow the user to releasably secure the flap member to the second housing to releasably cover the cavity; and

wherein after the inner member and the inner insert member are inserted within the cavity, the user can releasably secure the flap member to the second housing member to releasably cover the cavity and conceal the inner member and the inner insert member within the cavity.

**11**. A footwear insert member assembly comprising:

an inner base member, at least a portion of a rear side of the inner base member mounted with respect to at least a portion of a front side of a first housing member; and

a second housing member, a rear side of the second housing member positioned over a portion of a front side of the inner base member, with a portion of the outer edges of the first and second housing members mounted with respect to one another to form a cavity between the rear side of the second housing member and the front side of the inner base member;

wherein the inner base member and the first and second housing members are configured and dimensioned to be positioned, at least in part, within a piece of footwear utilized by a user.

**12**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11**, wherein the first and second housing members are fabricated from neoprene.

**13**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11**, wherein the inner base member is fabricated from cross-linked polyethylene foam.

**14**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11**, wherein the second housing member includes an opening to allow the user to have access to the cavity.

**15**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11** further comprising a flap member that is configured and dimensioned to releasably cover the cavity.

**16**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11** further comprising an inner insert member that is configured and dimensioned to be removably inserted within the cavity.

**17**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **16**, wherein the inner insert member is fabricated from cross-linked polyethylene foam.

**18**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11**, wherein the inner base member includes a pocket.

**19**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **18** further comprising a flap member that is configured and dimensioned to releasably cover the pocket.

**20**. The footwear insert member assembly of claim **11** further comprising one or more eyelet tab members mounted with respect to the first or second housing member, each eyelet tab member configured and dimensioned to house at least a portion of a lace of the piece of footwear to releasably secure the footwear insert member assembly to the piece of footwear.

* * * * *