

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 November 2007 (01.11.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/123688 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
A43B 7/16 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/007920
- (22) International Filing Date: 30 March 2007 (30.03.2007)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/787,606 30 March 2006 (30.03.2006) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

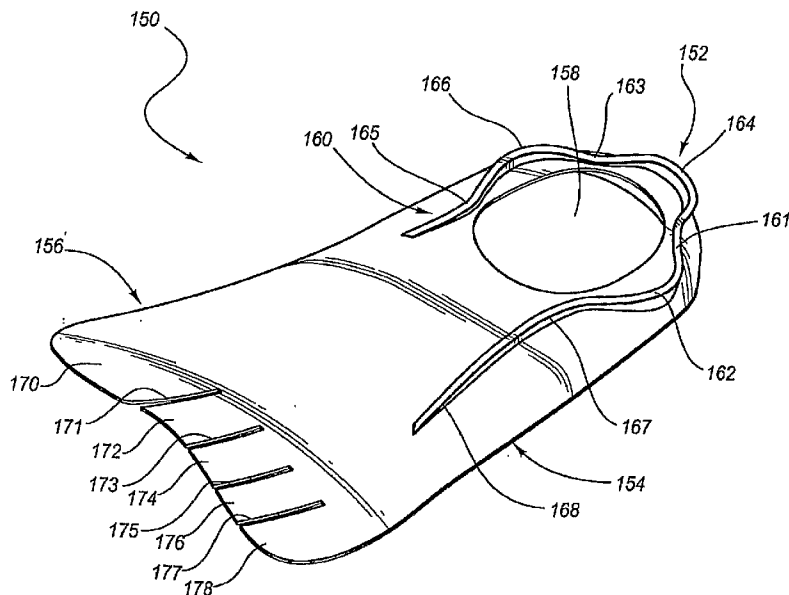
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SHOE STABILITY LAYER APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An apparatus comprising a stability layer dimensioned to be positioned within a shoe. The apparatus may comprise a stability wall extending downward from a heel portion of the stability layer. The stability wall may comprise a back section dimensioned to curve around a back side of the heel portion. The stability wall may also comprise at least one of a lateral side section and/or a medial side section. The lateral side section may extend along a lateral side of the heel portion and the medial side section may extend along a medial side of the heel portion. A method may comprise providing a stability layer and a midsole layer. The method may also comprise positioning the stability layer on the midsole layer.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
14 February 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/07920

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - A43B 7/16 (2007.10)
 USPC - 36/173
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 USPC: 36/173

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 USPC: 36/82, 140, 145 (text search - see terms below)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); Google Scholar, Google Patents
 Search Terms: shoe, layer, stability, lateral, medial, wall, heel, region, portion, midsole, outsole, counter, stiffening, shank, opening, slits

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,858,341 A (Rosen) 22 August 1989 (22.08.1989), entire document especially fig 2, 3 and col 5, ln 8-17	1-6 and 8 ----- 7 and 9-20
Y	US 6,769,202 B1 (Luthi et al.) 03 August 2004 (03.08.2004), fig 6, 12 and col 4, ln 66-68 to col 5, ln 1-4, col 5, ln 51-52, col 6, ln 11-15	9-19
Y	US 5,220,737 A (Edington) 22 June 1993 (22.06.1993), col 4, ln 20-21, ln 38-40, and ln 55-57	7, 16 and 20
Y	US 2004/0231195 A1 (Meschan) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004), fig 2 and para [0039] and [0044]	7, 10, 13, 15 and 18
Y	US 4,736,530 A (Lacic et al.) 12 April 1988 (12.04.1988), fig 1, col 3, ln 5-9	17
Y	US 6,050,001 A (Ditrtrich) 18 April 2000 (18.04.2000), col 2, ln 14-16	19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 October 2007 (07.10.2007)	Date of mailing of the international search report 03 DEC 2007
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774
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