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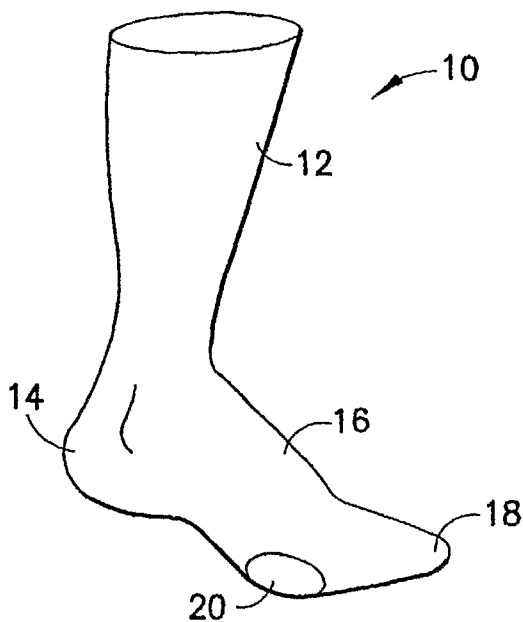
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(54) Title: SKI SOCK



(57) Abstract: A sock (10) has a leg portion, a heel portion (12), an instep portion (16), a toe portion (18), a pair of lateral metatarsal joint portions (20) where the instep portion (16) meets the toe portion (18). The sock (10) has a first material thickness at the instep portion (16) and the toe portion (18), and a second material thickness at at least one of the lateral metatarsal joint portions (20) wherein the second material thickness is less than the first material thickness.



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AMENDED CLAIMS**received by the International Bureau on 08 June 2007(08.06.2007)**

1. A sock comprising a leg portion, a heel portion, an instep portion, a toe portion, and a pair of lateral metatarsal joint portions where the instep portion meets the toe portion, each said metatarsal joint portion covering a corresponding metatarsal joint of a foot, and being limited to an area immediately surrounding said joint, when the sock is worn, wherein the sock has a first material thickness at the instep portion and the toe portion, and a second material thickness at at least one of said lateral metatarsal joint portions, wherein the second material thickness is less than the first material thickness, and wherein the second material thickness is confined to said at least one metatarsal joint portion.

2. The sock of claim 1 wherein the sock has said second material thickness at only one of said lateral metatarsal joint portions.

3. A pair of socks as recited in claim 2, wherein one of the socks is designed for the left foot and the other sock is designed for the right foot.

4. The sock of claim 1 wherein the sock has said second material thickness at both of said lateral metatarsal joint portions.

5. A sock as recited in claim 1 wherein said sock is a composite sock comprising a liner sock part and an outer sock part, one of said sock parts having a uniform thickness, the other of said sock parts having a hole at at least one of said lateral metatarsal joint portions.

6. The composite sock of claim 5 wherein the outer sock part has said hole.

7. The composite sock of claim 5 wherein said liner sock part is made of synthetic material.

8. The sock of claim 7 wherein the liner sock part is made of nylon.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

9. The sock of claim 1 wherein the sock is woven to form said first material thickness and said second material thickness.

10. The sock of claim 1 wherein the sock is made of a first material having said first material thickness, provided with a hole at at least one of said lateral metatarsal joint portions, and provided with a patch of material having said second material thickness in each said hole.

11. The sock of claim 4 wherein the sock is symmetrically designed for either a left foot or a right foot.

12. (new) The sock of claim 4 wherein the sock is asymmetrically designed for one of a left foot and a right foot.

13. A pair of socks as recited in claim 12, wherein one of the socks is designed for the left foot and the other sock is designed for the right foot.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)