



US 20150196096A9

(19) **United States**
(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Greene et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2015/0196096 A9**
(48) **Pub. Date: Jul. 16, 2015**
CORRECTED PUBLICATION

(54) **REMOVABLE OUTSOLE ELEMENTS FOR ARTICLES OF FOOTWEAR**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/037,567, filed on Mar. 1, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,763,276.

(71) Applicant: **NIKE, Inc.**, Beaverton, OR (US)

(72) Inventors: **Pamela S. Greene**, Portland, OR (US);
Christopher C. Wu, Granada Hills, CA (US); **James E. Goddard**, Portland, OR (US)

(73) Assignee: **NIKE, Inc.**, Beaverton, OR (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **14/277,462**

(22) Filed: **May 14, 2014**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A43C 15/02 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A43C 15/02** (2013.01)

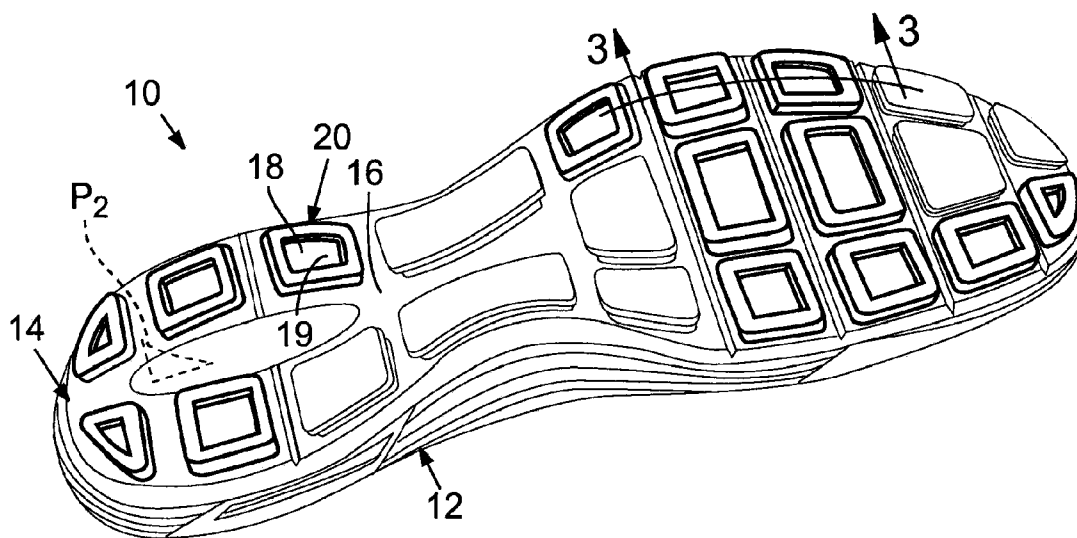
Prior Publication Data

(15) Correction of US 2014/0310991 A1 Oct. 23, 2014
See Claims 15 and 16.

(65) US 2014/0310991 A1 Oct. 23, 2014

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An outsole element for an article of footwear having a base and a lug that extends from the base. The outsole element includes a body and a cavity defined in the body. The cavity receives the lug to removably couple the body to the lug. Also, the cavity includes an internal undercut.



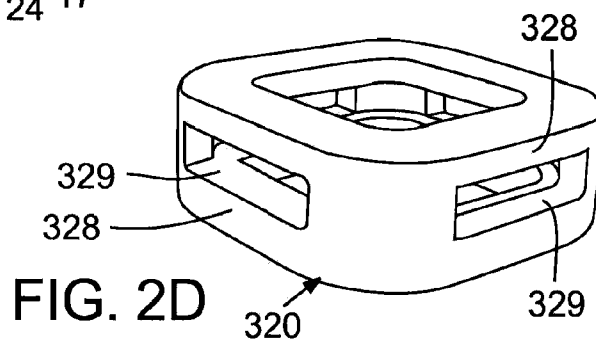
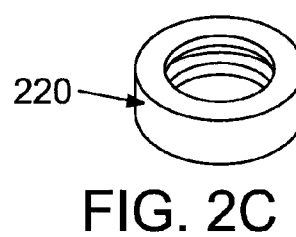
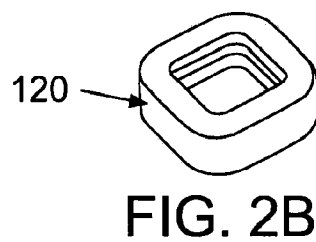
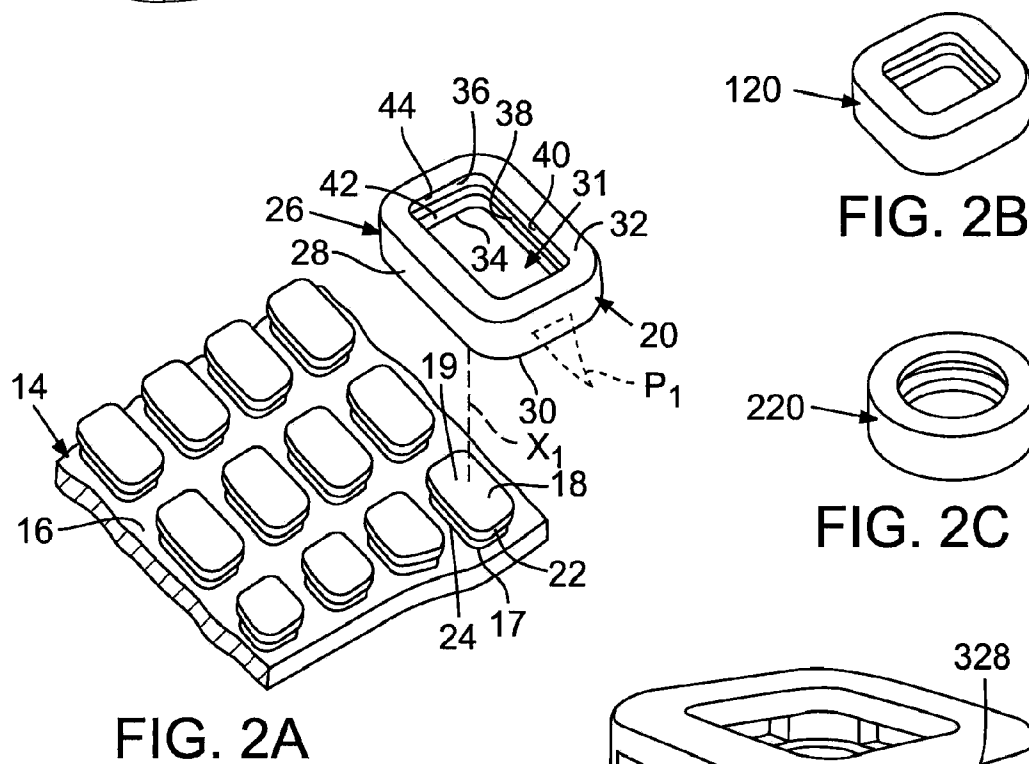
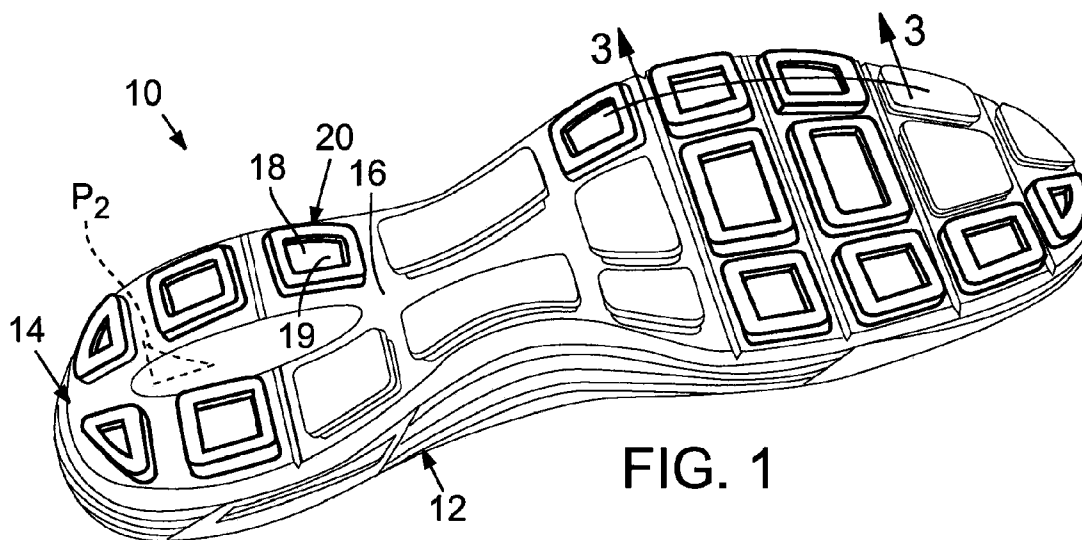


FIG. 4C

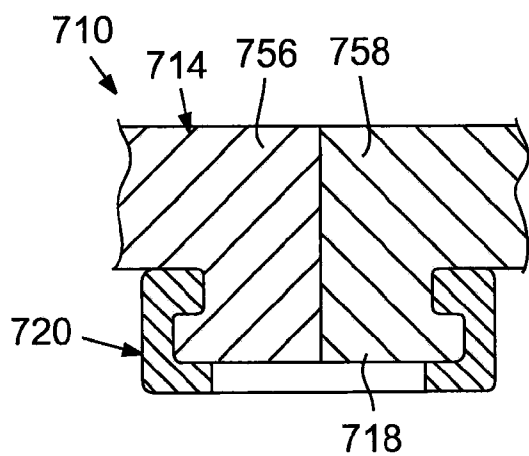


FIG. 5

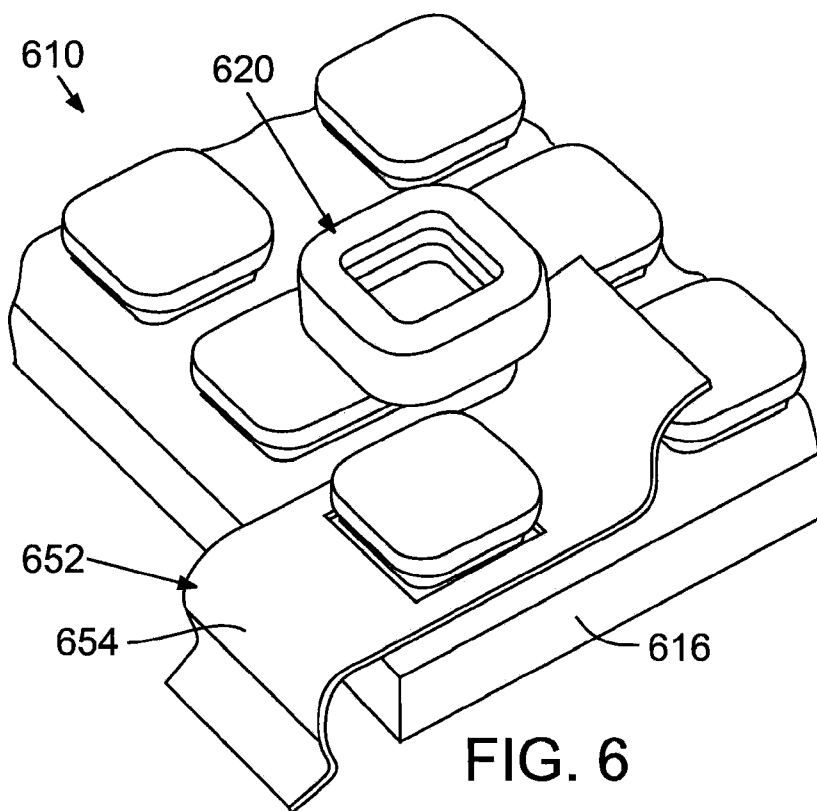


FIG. 6

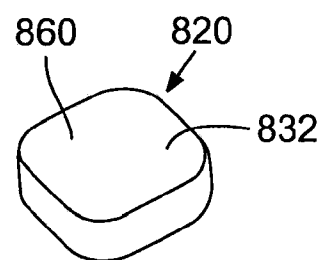
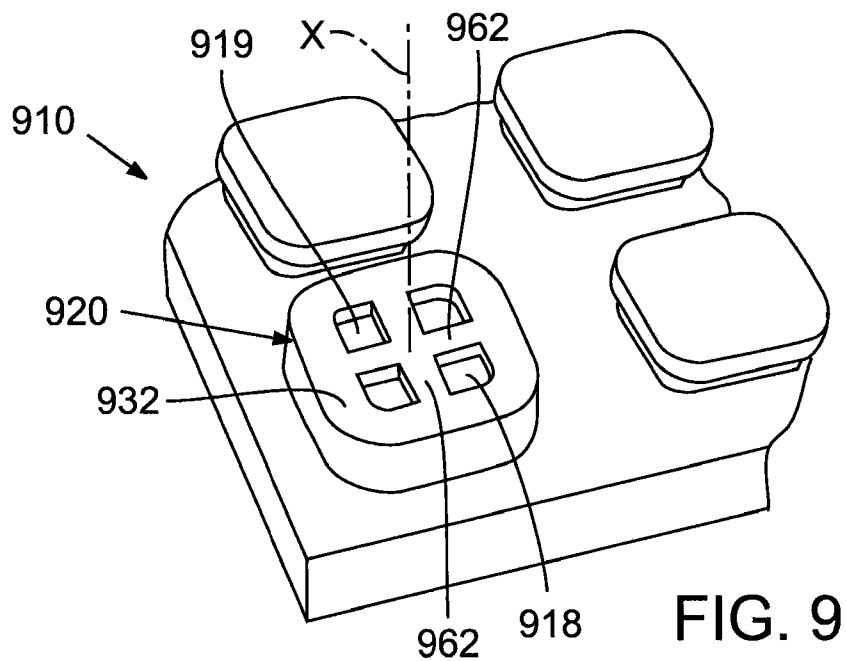
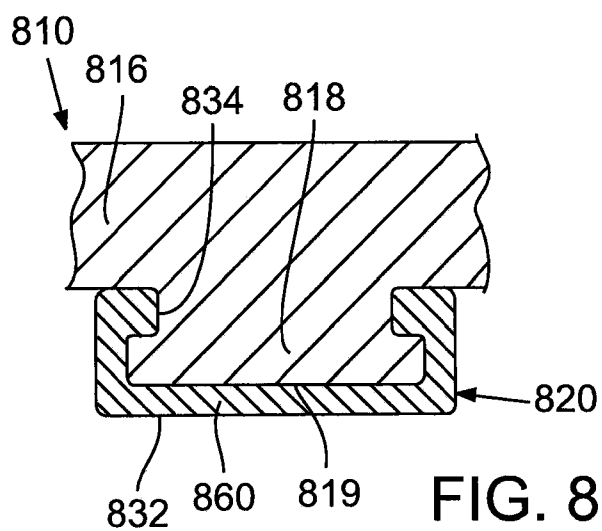


FIG. 7



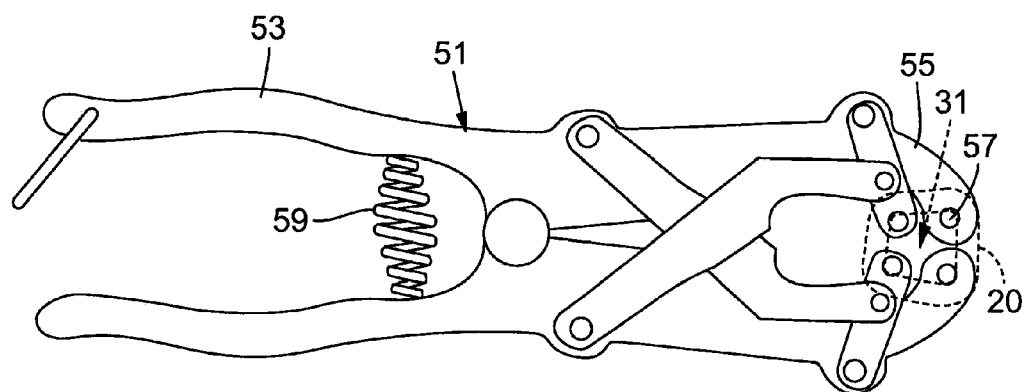


FIG. 10

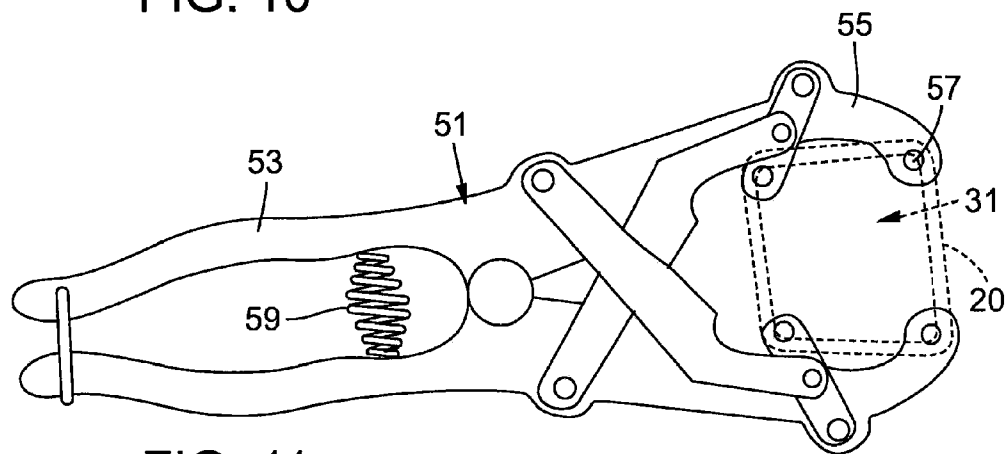


FIG. 11

REMOVABLE OUTSOLE ELEMENTS FOR ARTICLES OF FOOTWEAR

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The following is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/037,567, filed Mar. 1, 2011, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] This section provides background information related to the present disclosure which is not necessarily prior art.

[0003] Articles of footwear usually include an upper, a midsole, and an outsole. The outsole is typically a unitary piece of relatively high-friction material that includes various projections, grooves, undercuts, and other features. Also, the outsole is most often permanently fixed to the midsole.

[0004] Although conventional outsoles for articles of footwear have been adequate for the intended purposes, they do suffer from certain disadvantages. For instance, outsoles are often permanently bonded to the midsole using primers, adhesives, and other chemicals that can be environmentally harmful.

[0005] Also the wearer has less ability to customize the article of footwear because of the fixed outsole. More specifically, the wearer might need the footwear to provide a certain degree of traction depending on the terrain, weather, or other condition. However, because the outsole is permanently fixed, the wearer would likely have to change the entire article of footwear to satisfy these needs.

[0006] Additionally, the footwear's aesthetics cannot be easily changed due to the permanently fixed outsole. For instance, the wearer may grow tired of the footwear over time and desire to change the color or pattern of the outsole. However, because of the fixed outsole, the wearer has less ability to make these changes.

[0007] In addition, the outsole can wear quickly in comparison to the other portions of the article of footwear. Specifically, localized areas of wear and/or holes can develop which can degrade the ability of the outsole to provide adequate traction. Thus, the usable life of the shoe can be limited by the durability of the outsole.

[0008] Moreover, components of footwear can be recycled for various uses. Outsoles, for instance, can be reduced and used to form resilient ground surfaces on playgrounds, running tracks and the like. However, because the outsoles are fixed to the midsole, recycling efforts can be energy intensive.

[0009] Furthermore, the marketability of the footwear can be limited by the fixed outsole. For instance, certain outsoles may only be useful to a relatively small number of customers, and because of the fixed outsole, the footwear may be less profitable.

SUMMARY

[0010] Accordingly, despite the known footwear described above, there remains a need for an article of footwear that has a variable outsole. In addition to other benefits that will become apparent in the following disclosure, the device of the present disclosure fulfils these needs.

[0011] An outsole element is disclosed for an article of footwear having a base and a lug that extends from the base. The outsole element includes a body and a cavity defined in

the body. The cavity receives the lug to removably couple the body to the lug. Also, the cavity includes an internal undercut.

[0012] In another aspect, an article of footwear having a base is disclosed. The article of footwear includes a lug that extends from the base. The article of footwear also includes an outsole element having a body and a cavity defined in the body. The cavity receives the lug to removably couple the body to the lug. Also, the cavity includes an internal undercut.

[0013] In an additional aspect, a system for modifying an article of footwear having a midsole with a base and a lug that extends from the base is disclosed. The system includes a plurality of outsole elements, each having a body and a cavity defined in the body. The cavity receives the lug to removably couple the body to the lug. The cavity includes an internal undercut, and at least one of the plurality of outsole elements is resiliently flexible. Also, the system includes a tool and method for selectively resiliently flexing the outsole element to removably couple the outsole element to the lug.

[0014] In still another aspect, an article of footwear is disclosed. The article of footwear includes a midsole that includes a base and a plurality of lugs disposed in spaced relationship relative to each other. The lugs extend from the base, and each includes a terminal end with a flange and an undercut disposed between the respective flange and the base. The article of footwear also includes a plurality of separate continuous, ring-shaped outsole elements, each defining an axis. Each of the outsole elements has a body and a cavity defined in the body. The cavity includes a continuous, ring-shaped internal undercut. Each of the outsole elements also includes a plurality of side walls. The outsole elements each include a rim that extends from the side walls toward the respective axis. Also, the outsole elements each include a second end. Furthermore, the outsole elements each include a first aperture defined in the respective rim. The first aperture receives a corresponding one of the lugs to removably couple the respective outsole element to the respective lug. As such, the rim is disposed in the undercut of the lug between the respective flange and the base. Also, the flange is received in the internal undercut, and the second end at least partially covers the terminal end of the lug.

[0015] This section provides a general summary of the disclosure, and is not a comprehensive disclosure of its full scope or all of its features. Further areas of applicability will become apparent from the description provided herein. The description and specific examples in this summary are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

DRAWINGS

[0016] The drawings described herein are for illustrative purposes only of selected embodiments and not all possible implementations, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

[0017] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an article of footwear with various exemplary embodiments of outsole elements according to the present disclosure;

[0018] FIG. 2A is a perspective exploded view of a portion of an article of footwear and an exemplary embodiment of the outsole element according to the present disclosure;

[0019] FIGS. 2B-2D are other exemplary embodiments of the outsole element according to the present disclosure;

[0020] FIG. 3 is a sectional view of the article of footwear taken along the line 3-3 of FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 4A is an exploded perspective view of an article of footwear according to various alternative embodiments of the present disclosure;

[0022] FIGS. 4B and 4C are a sectional views of the article of footwear of FIG. 4A;

[0023] FIG. 5 is a sectional view of an article of footwear according to various alternative embodiments of the present disclosure;

[0024] FIG. 6 is an exploded sectional view of an article of footwear according to various alternative embodiments of the present disclosure;

[0025] FIG. 7 is a perspective view of an outsole element according to various other embodiments of the present disclosure;

[0026] FIG. 8 is a sectional view of the outsole element of FIG. 7 coupled to a midsole of an article of footwear;

[0027] FIG. 9 is a perspective view of an article of footwear with an outsole element according to various alternative embodiments of the present disclosure;

[0028] FIG. 10 is a side view of an exemplary tool for selectively and resiliently flexing and expanding an outsole element, wherein the tool holds the outsole element at a reduced width; and

[0029] FIG. 11 is a side view of the tool of FIG. 10, wherein the outsole element is held by the tool at an increased width.

[0030] Corresponding reference numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings. Corresponding parts of different embodiments are indicated by corresponding reference numerals of multiples of 100.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0031] Example embodiments will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0032] Referring initially to FIG. 1, an exemplary embodiment of an article of footwear 10 is illustrated. The footwear 10 generally includes an upper 12, a midsole 14, and a plurality of outsole elements 20.

[0033] As shown in FIGS. 1, 2A, and 3, the midsole 14 generally includes a base 16 and a plurality of lugs 18. The lugs 18 can be integrally coupled to the base 16 at a base end 17. The lugs 18 extend away from the base 16, and each defines a terminal end 19 that is opposite the base end 17. In some embodiments, the lugs 18 each include a flange 22 adjacent the terminal end 19 and an undercut 24 (i.e., an external undercut) between the flange 22 and the base 16. The undercut 24 can be continuous and ring-shaped so as to extend continuously about the entirety of the lug 18. It will be appreciated that the lugs 18 could be of any size or shape, such as a rectangular, square, triangular, or other shape. Also, in some embodiments, the base 16 and the lugs 18 are made of a resiliently flexible material, such as foam cushioning material. Furthermore, the base 16 and lugs 18 can be manufactured using any suitable method. In some embodiments, for instance, the base 16 and the lugs 18 are monolithic and are made using an injection phylon, a laser sintering, or other manufacturing method.

[0034] The outsole elements 20 are removably coupled to corresponding lugs 18, as will be discussed in greater detail below. The outsole elements 20 generally provide traction for the footwear 10. Also, because they are removable coupled to the lugs 18, the outsole elements 20 provide a greater degree of variability for the footwear 10.

[0035] The outsole elements 20 can be of any suitable shape. Also, the shape of the outsole elements 20 can vary,

depending on the position on the footwear 10. For instance, in some embodiments represented in FIGS. 2A and 3, the outsole element 20 is generally rectangular, continuous, and ring-shaped. As such, the outsole element 20 defines a body 26 with a sidewall 28 that extends continuously around the periphery of the outsole element 20. The body 26 defines a first end 30 and a second end 32 that are opposite each other. A cavity 31 is also defined within the body 26. Furthermore, a first aperture 34 is defined in the first end 30, and a second aperture 36 is defined in the second end 32. The first aperture 34 and the second aperture 36 each provide access into the cavity 31. Moreover, as shown in FIG. 2A, the body 26 defines an axis X that extends generally perpendicular to the first and second ends 30, 32. The apertures 34, 36 are substantially centered on the respective ends 30, 32 such that the axis X extends through each aperture 34, 36. Additionally, the cavity 31 includes (is partially defined by) an internal undercut 38 on an inner surface 40 of the body 26. The internal undercut 38 is ring-shaped and extends continuously about the entire inner surface 40 so as to circumvent the body 26, and the internal undercut 38 extends in from the inner surface 40 in a direction traverse to the axis X. As such, the outsole element 20 further defines a first rim 42 and second rim 44 (FIG. 3). The first rim 42 is adjacent the first end 30, and the second rim 44 is adjacent the second end 32. Each rim 42, 44 extends generally traverse toward the axis X, and the internal undercut 38 is defined between the first and second rims 42, 44.

[0036] The outsole element 20 can be made out of any suitable material. For instance, in some embodiments, the outsole element 20 is made out of rubber, thermoplastic rubber (TPR), or thermoplastic urethane (TPU). Accordingly, the outsole element 20 can be resiliently flexible and can provide a high degree of traction and resistance to wear.

[0037] Also, the outsole element 20 can be manufactured in any suitable fashion. In some embodiments, the outsole element 20 can be manufactured using one of a variety of so-called rapid prototyping methods. For instance, a bulk supply of polymeric powder can be supplied, and a laser can be directed toward the powder. The laser can move across the powder in the shape of the outsole element 20, and the energy from the laser can fuse small amounts of the powder particles together, wherever the laser is directed. The bulk supply of powder can be occasionally advanced such that the outsole element 20 can be eventually formed “layer-by-layer” in this method.

[0038] With reference to FIGS. 2A and 3, an exemplary embodiment of the attachment between the outsole element 20 and the lug 18 will be discussed. In the embodiments illustrated, the cavity 31 of the outsole element 20 receives the lug 18 to removably couple the body 26 of the outsole element 20 to the lug 18. Specifically, the flange 22 of the lug 18 moves through the first aperture 34 of the outsole element 20 when the outsole element 20 is attached to the lug 18. Furthermore, the first rim 42 is received and disposed in the undercut 24 of the lug 18, and the flange 22 of the lug 18 is received and disposed in the undercut 38 of the outsole element 20. Thus, the attachment of the outsole element 20 to the lug 18 can be substantially strong, and yet the outsole element 20 can be removed from the lug 18 when desired.

[0039] As shown in FIG. 3, the height H of the outsole element 20 is greater than the height H' of the lug 18 such that the outsole element 20 extends away from the base 16 and past the terminal end 19 of the lug 18. Furthermore, the

second rim 44 partially covers the terminal end 19 of the lug 18, as shown in FIG. 3. Accordingly, the outsole element 20 provides traction for the footwear 10 and protects the lug 18 and base 16 from wear.

[0040] The outsole element 20 can be coupled to the lug 18 in any suitable fashion. For instance, as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, a tool 51 (e.g., a scissors-like tool) are used to selectively change the width of the cavity 31 of the outsole element 20. Specifically, the tool 51 can include a scissors-like handle 53 and a head 55 with a plurality of contact elements 57. The tool 51 can also include a biasing member 59, such as a helical compression spring. The outsole element 20 can extend over each of the contact elements 52, and as shown in FIG. 10, the biasing member 59 can bias the contact elements 57 toward each other such that the width of the cavity 31 remains relatively small. However, as shown in FIG. 11, when the user squeezes the handle 53 against the biasing force of the biasing member 59, the contact elements 57 can be forced apart, thereby resiliently stretching and increasing the width of the cavity 31 of the outsole element 20. Accordingly, the cavity 31 can be selectively made wide enough to receive the lug 18 and to position the flange 22 of the lug 18 into the undercut 38 of the outsole element 20. The tool 51 can be similarly used to remove the outsole element 20 from the lug 18.

[0041] Also, in some embodiments, the tool 51 can be part of an automated system. For instance, the head 51 and contact elements 57 can be operably coupled to a machine (e.g., a robot) that automatically moves the head 51 and contact elements 57. As such, the contact elements 75 can automatically pick up and grab the outsole element 20 and can further expand the outsole elements 20 to attach the outsole element 20 to the lug 18. In some additional embodiments, a worker can place the outsole element 20 on the contact elements 57, and the contact elements 57 can then automatically expand the outsole element 20 for attachment to the lug 18. It will be appreciated, then, that the tool 51 can be partially automated or fully automated for use.

[0042] In some embodiments, the tool 51 and a plurality of different outsole elements 20 (differing in visual appearance, wear resistance, frictional behavior, etc.) can be included or sold in a system or kit. The midsole 14 can be included or sold together with the tool 51 and outsole elements 20 as well. As such, the user can interchange and replace the outsole elements 20 conveniently. In other embodiments, the midsole 14, the tool 51, and the outsole elements 20 can be sold separately.

[0043] Specifically, in the embodiment represented in FIG. 3, the undercut 38 of the outsole element 20 has a width W that is less than the width W' of the flange 22 of the lug 18. The body 26 is resiliently expanded to allow the first aperture 34 to receive the flange 22. Once the first rim 42 advances over the flange 22, the body 26 flexes back towards its original (neutral) shape to attach to the lug 18. Thus, when the outsole element 20 is coupled to the lug 18, the outsole element 20 is held to the lug 18 by friction and interference between the flange 22 and the rims 42, 44.

[0044] In other embodiments, a tool (not shown) is used to compress the lug 18, and the outsole element 20 is advanced over the lug 18 in this compressed state. Then, the lug 18 is released, and the lug 18 recovers substantially to its original shape such that the flange 22 is received in the undercut 38 of the outsole element 20.

[0045] In addition, the outsole element 20 is substantially symmetrical with respect to a plane P_1 (FIG. 2A) that is

perpendicular to the axis X_1 and that is located approximately halfway between the first and second ends 30, 32. (This symmetry does not appear in FIG. 3 due to deformation of the outsole element 20 when coupled to the lug 18.) As such, either the first or second apertures 34, 38 can receive the lug 18, and the outsole element 20 can be flipped, for instance, if one of the ends 30, 32 becomes worn. Accordingly, the useful life of the outsole element 20 can be extended.

[0046] Furthermore, in some embodiments, the footwear 10 defines a second plane P_2 (FIG. 1) that is substantially perpendicular to the base 16 and that extends along the longitudinal axis of the base 16. At least some of the lugs 18 are disposed substantially symmetrically on the base 16 on opposite sides of the second plane P_2 . Accordingly, the footwear 10 can include relatively few shapes for the outsole elements 20, and the same outsole element 20 can be used for lugs 18 on either side of the second plane P_2 , simply by flipping the outsole element 20 with respect to the first plane P_1 . Accordingly, the footwear 10 can be manufactured at a reduced cost because, for instance, fewer molds or other unique manufacturing steps would be needed to produce the outsole elements 20.

[0047] As shown in FIGS. 2B, 2C, and 2D, the outsole element 20 can have a variety of other shapes. For instance, in the embodiment of FIG. 2B, the outsole element 120 can be substantially square in shape. Also, in the embodiment of FIG. 2C, the outsole element 220 is substantially circular. Furthermore, in the embodiment of FIG. 2D, the outsole element 320 includes side walls 328 with corresponding side apertures 329 defined therein. The side apertures 329 can provide a different degree of flexion and/or resiliency of the outsole element 320 when the weight of the wearer is applied to the outsole element 320.

[0048] Referring now to FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C, another embodiment of the footwear 410 is illustrated. In the embodiment shown, the footwear 410 includes a secured element, generally indicated at 452,

[0049] As shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the secured element 452 is an insert 454 having a flange 456 and a projection 458. The flange 456 is disposed between the terminal end 419 of the lug 418 and the second rim 444 of the outsole element 420 (FIG. 4B). Also, the projection 458 extends into and is disposed within the second aperture 436 of the outsole element 420. Accordingly, the insert 454 can cover and protect the terminal end 419 of the lug 418 and can provide additional traction for the footwear 410. Also, the insert 454 can have a different color than the base 416 and outsole elements 420 for varying the aesthetics of the footwear 410. Furthermore, the Insert 454 can be removeably attached to the footwear 410, thereby giving the wearer the ability to change the footwear 410 according to his/her desires.

[0050] In the embodiments represented in FIGS. 4A and 4C, the secured element 452 is a substantially flat insert 564. The flat insert 554 is substantially thin and flat. The flat insert 554 can cover the terminal end of 419 of the lug 418 and can be disposed between the terminal end 419 and the second rim 444 of the outsole element 420. The flat insert 554 can protect the lug 418 and can have any variety of colors, logos, or other features for varying the aesthetics of the footwear 410.

[0051] Additionally, in some embodiments represented in FIG. 6, the footwear 610 includes a strap 654 as the secured element 652. The strap 654 is disposed between the base 616 and the outsole element 620, and extends longitudinally from the base 616. It will be appreciated that the strap 654 can

attach to any other portion of the footwear **610** for varying the aesthetics of the footwear **610**, for providing a point of attachment to the upper, etc. Also, the outsole element **620** substantially protects the strap **654** from wear.

[0052] In addition, in the embodiments represented in FIG. 5, the midsole **714** of the footwear **710** includes a first portion **756** and a second portion **758**. The first and second portions **766**, **758** cooperate to define a lug **718** of the type described above. Thus, the outsole element **720** receives each of the first and second portions **756**, **758** and attaches to lug **718** in a manner substantially similar to the embodiments described above.

[0053] Additionally, in some embodiments represented in FIGS. 7 and 8, the outsole element **820** includes a cap **860** on the second end **832** thereof. When attached to the lug **818**, the first aperture **834** receives the lug **818** (FIG. 8), and the cap **860** substantially covers the entire terminal end **819** of the lug **818**. Accordingly, the cap **860** substantially protects the lug **818** from wear.

[0054] Moreover, in some embodiments represented in FIG. 9, the outsole element **920** includes one or more transverse members **962** that are disposed on the second end **932** thereof. The transverse members **962** extend generally transverse to the axis X and intersect each other to partially cover the terminal end **919** of the lug **918**.

[0055] Accordingly, it will be appreciated that the removable outsole elements **20-920** provide traction to the footwear **10-910**. Also, because the outsole elements **20-920** are removably coupled, the wearer can vary the amount of traction for the corresponding footwear **10-910**. Also, in some embodiments, the wearer can mix and match various outsole elements **20-920** on one article of footwear **10-910**. For instance, higher friction outsole elements **20-920** can be attached on one portion of the footwear **10**, and lower friction elements **20-920** can be attached on another portion. Also, the outsole elements **20-920** on the footwear **10** can have different wear resistance characteristics. Moreover, the outsole elements **20-920** on the single article of footwear **10** can vary in visual appearance (shape, color, etc.). Furthermore, because the outsole elements **20-920** are removably attached, the footwear **10-910** can have less environmental impact, for instance, because less solvents are used during manufacture, and because the outsole elements **20-920** can be recycled more easily in comparison with conventional footwear. In addition, the wearer can change the aesthetics of the footwear **10-910** very easily because of the removable outsole elements **20-920**.

[0056] The foregoing description of the embodiments has been provided for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention. Individual elements or features of a particular embodiment are generally not limited to that particular embodiment, but, where applicable, are interchangeable and can be used in a selected embodiment, even if not specifically shown or described. The same may also be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the invention, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

a midsole that is attached to the upper, the midsole being resiliently compressible to provide cushioning for the article of footwear, the midsole including a base that

partially defines a ground engaging surface of the article of footwear, the midsole also including a lug that extends from the base, the lug being resiliently compressible; and

an outsole element having a body and a cavity defined in the body, the cavity receiving the lug to removably attach the outsole element to the lug, the body partially defining the ground engaging surface, the body configured to provide traction for the article of footwear.

2. The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the lug includes a base end that is attached to the base, wherein the lug includes a terminal end that is opposite the base end, wherein the lug includes a radial surface that extends between the base end and the terminal end, wherein the outsole element includes an inner surface that defines the cavity, and wherein the inner surface removably engages the radial surface.

3. The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein one of the inner surface and the radial surface includes a projection, wherein the other of the inner surface and the radial surface includes an opening that receives the projection to removably engage the lug and the outsole element.

4. The article of footwear of claim 1, further comprising an object that is removably retained on the lug via the outsole element.

5. The article of footwear of claim 4, wherein the object is a strap with an opening that receives the lug, wherein the strap is disposed between the base and the outsole element, and wherein the strap extends from the lug toward the upper.

6. The article of footwear of claim 4, wherein the outsole element includes a first end with a first opening, wherein the outsole element includes a second end with a second opening, and wherein the object is exposed through the second opening.

7. The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the outsole element includes a first end with a first opening and a second end with a second opening.

8. The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein the outsole element continuously extends about the lug.

9. An article of footwear comprising:

an upper; and

a sole structure that is attached to the upper, the sole structure including:

a base that partially defines a ground engaging surface of the article of footwear;

a lug that extends from the base, the lug including a base end that is attached to the base, the lug including a terminal end that is opposite the base end, the lug including a radial surface that extends between the base end and the terminal end; and

a sole element having a body and a cavity defined in the body, the cavity receiving the lug to removably attach the sole element to the lug, the body partially defining the ground engaging surface, the body configured to provide traction for the article of footwear, the body including a side wall that at least partially covers the radial surface, the body further comprising a side aperture defined in the side wall, the radial surface of the lug being exposed through the side aperture.

10. The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein the base and the lug are integrally attached and cooperate to define a one-piece midsole of the sole structure, wherein the lug and the base are resiliently compressible under the weight of a wearer of the article of footwear.

11. The article of footwear of claim **9**, wherein the radial surface of the lug includes a projection, wherein the side wall receives the projection to removably attach the sole element to the lug.

12. The article of footwear of claim **1** wherein the projection is a flange, and wherein the side wall includes an undercut that receives the flange.

13. The article of footwear of claim **9**, wherein the side wall is one of a plurality of side walls of the sole element;

wherein the plurality of side walls are arranged generally in a polygonal shape;

wherein the side aperture is one of a plurality of side apertures; and

wherein the plurality of side apertures are each defined in respective ones of the plurality of side walls.

14. The article of footwear of claim **9**, wherein the sole element includes a first end that faces the base, wherein the first end includes a first opening that receives the lug, wherein the sole element further includes a second end that faces away from the base, and wherein the second end includes a second opening.

15. An article of footwear comprising;

an upper;

a midsole that is attached to the upper, wherein the midsole is resiliently compressible, wherein the midsole includes a base that partially defines a ground engaging surface, wherein the midsole includes a first member and

a second member, wherein the first member and the second member cooperate to define a lug that extends from the base; and

an outsole element having a body and a cavity defined in the body, the cavity receiving the first member and the second member to removably attach the outsole element to the lug, the body partially defining the ground engaging surface, the body configured to provide traction for the article of footwear.

16. The article of footwear of claim **15**, wherein at least one of the first member and the second member includes a projection, and

wherein the outsole element includes an opening that receives the projection to removably attach the outsole element to the lug.

17. The article of footwear of claim **15**, wherein the first member and second member cooperate to define a flange of the lug, and

wherein the outsole element includes an internal undercut that receives the flange.

18. The article of footwear of claim **15**, wherein the first member includes a first base end that is attached to the base and a first terminal end that is opposite the first base end, wherein the second member includes a second base end that is attached to the base and a second terminal end that is opposite the second base end, and wherein the first terminal end and the second terminal end are substantially flush with each other.

* * * * *