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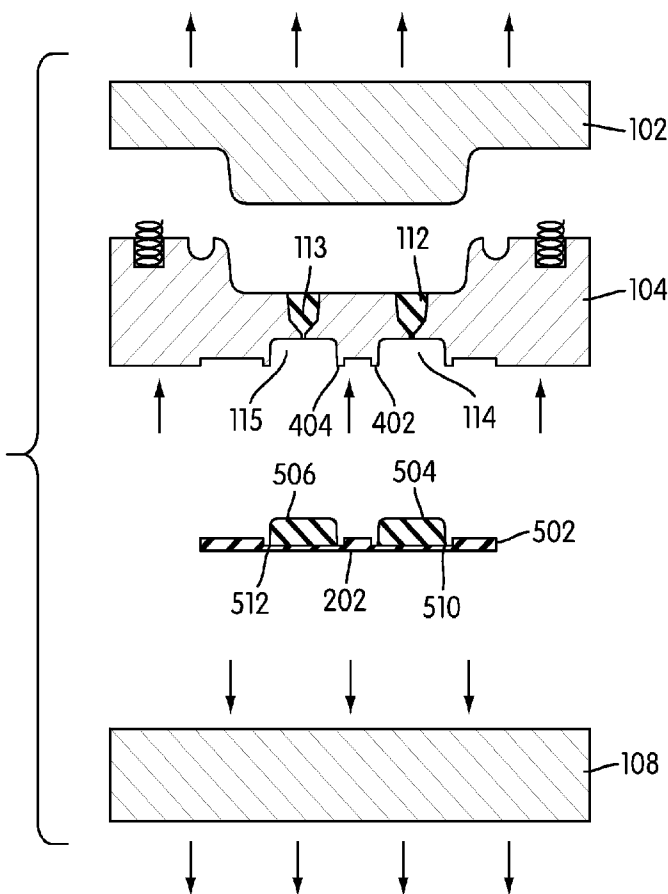
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR MAKING A TREAD ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A method for making an article of footwear is disclosed. The method can include a number of steps where various molds are used to attach or mold a tread element onto a substrate or matrix lining. The tread element can be formed by compressing a rubber block between various molding members to liquefy and cause the resulting rubber material to flow into at least one lug cavity disposed near the matrix lining. The rubber material eventually enters the lug cavity and becomes attached to the matrix lining.

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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).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A43B 13/04; B29D 31/50 (2007.01)

USPC - 12/146BR; 264/24

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)

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USPC - 12/146BR; 264/244

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Searcher's own books.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

USPTO-WEST: @pd < 20060605 and (425/DIG.228)[cc] and transfer (mold or molding or molded) same (rubber or elastomer))[bl] and (shoe or footwear or sole), elastomer, rubber, shoe, footwear

US-PTO public search site: CCL/264/244 and spec/transfer; ref/4309376 and ccl/264/\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,725,823 A (FINN et al.) 10 March 1998 (10.03.1998) Figure 4; col. 2 at lines 24-29, 43-45 and 62-67; col. 3 at lines 1-18.	18-19 and 24-28
Y	US 1,405,453 A (SOMERVILLE) 07 February 1922 (07.02.1922) Figs. 3 and 4.	1-29
Y	US 4,309,376 A (UENO et al.) 05 January 1982 (05.01.1982) Figures 2, 6A and 6C; col. 2 at lines 61-63 and col. 4 at lines 3-10.	1-23 and 29
Y	BERINS, M.L. (ed.) Plastics Engineering Handbook of the Society of the Plastics Industry, 5th ed. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991, ISBN 0442317999. Figures 5-20, 9-12 and 9-13; pages 156 and 269-271.	1-23 and 29

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

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

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