Title: METHOD AND KIT FOR PREPARING A LAST FOR FOOTWEAR

Abstract: A method and kit for preparing a last for footwear. The method includes applying an elastomeric liner (16) having a smooth continuous inner surface on a foot to be molded inner surface and optionally spacers (14) for pads or orthotics as needed, applying a pliable, hardenable sock (18) structure over the liner (16) in close conformity with the foot, liner (16) and spacers (14), activating the hardening agent of the sock structure (18), removing the sock structure (18) now having a mold cavity (50) and with the mold cavity including the spacer geometries after the sock structure has hardened, pouring a settable last forming compound (54) into the cavity (50) of the sock structure (18) with the liner (16) after the settable last forming compound (54) has cured, thereby yielding a positive impression of the foot that is directly usable as a last. A kit according to the present invention includes a combination of elements and materials used to carry out the process.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(7) : B29C 33/40
   US CL : 12/146L; 264/222, 227, 320
   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)
   U.S. : 12/146L; 264/222, 227, 320
   Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
   Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 3,262,142 A (KEDER) 26 July 1966 (926.07.1966), See the whole document</td>
<td>1-21</td>
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<td>US 2,961,714 A (MURRAY) 29 November 1960 (29.11.1960), See the whole document</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>EP 0 018 087 A1 (THE BRITISH BATA SHOE COMPANY) 29 October 1980 (29.10.1980), See the whole document</td>
<td>1, 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 21</td>
</tr>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>1-21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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  "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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NEW ABSTRACT

A method and kit for preparing a last for footwear. The method includes applying an elastomer liner (16) having a smooth continuous inner surface on a foot to be molded inner surface and optionally spacers (14) for pads or orthotics as needed, applying a pliable, hardenable sock (18) structure over the liner (16) in close conformity with the foot, liner (16) and spacers (14), activating the hardening agent of the sock structure (18), removing the sock structure (18) now having a mold cavity (50) and with the mold cavity including the spacer geometries after the sock structure has hardened, pouring a settable last forming compound (54) into the cavity (50) of the sock structure (18) and removing the sock structure (18) with the liner (16) after the settable last forming compound (54) has cured, thereby yielding a positive impression of the foot that is directly usable as a last. A kit according to the present invention includes a combination of elements and materials used to carry out the process.