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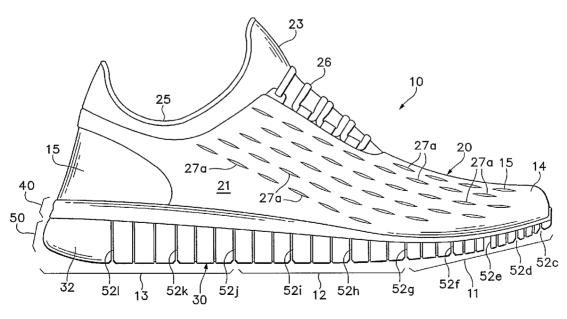
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### (54) Title: ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR WITH AN ARTICULATED SOLE STRUCTURE



(57) Abstract: An article of footwear is disclosed that includes an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper. The sole structure includes a connecting portion positioned adjacent the upper and extending along a longitudinal length of the upper. A plurality of discrete sole elements extend downward from the connecting portion. The sole elements define a lower surface, and the sole elements are separated by a plurality of sipes that extend upward from the lower surface and into the sole structure. An outsole may be located within the sipes and extend between the sole elements, with a lower portion of the outsole extending beyond the lower surface of the sole elements.



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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.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2006/011321

CLASSIFICATION, OF SUBJECT MATTER A. CLAS INV. A43B13/16 A43B13/14 A43B5/06 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) A43B 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 practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category\* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Ρ,Χ 1 - 32US 2005/262739 A1 (MCDONALD STEVEN [US] ET AL) 1 December 2005 (2005-12-01) the whole document US 2005/076536 A1 (HATFIELD TOBIE D [US] 1 - 32P,X ET AL) 14 April 2005 (2005-04-14) the whole document P,X US 2005/268491 A1 (MCDONALD STEVEN [US] ET 1 - 32AL) 8 December 2005 (2005-12-08) the whole document X Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 24 November 2006 06/12/2006 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Schölvinck, Thérèse

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