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- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: RAVITZ, Marjorie [US/US]; 16 The Chase, St. James, NY 11780 (US).
- (72) Inventor: AMENDOLIA, Pasquale, J.; P.O. Box 475, St. James, NY 11780 (US).
- (74) Agent: SCHAEFER, Ira, J.; Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells LLP, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166 (US).
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FITTING SHOES

(57) Abstract: A method for fitting shoes comprises maintaining an inventory of shoes of different styles and sizes, wherein each shoe has a flat inner foot receiving surface and measuring the size, width and arch height of feet of a customer to be fitted for shoes. The proper size shoes of at least one style selected by the customer is selected and an orthotic is inserted onto the flat inner foot receiving surface of each of the selected shoes. The combination of the orthotic and the shoe is fitted on the feet of the customer.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/47715

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : A43D 11/00, 21/00, 9/00 US CL : 012/142.00N 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. : 012/142.00N; 033/3; 012/142; 033/514.2; 033/3.00A; 033/3.00B; 033/3.00C; 033/512 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) Please See Continuation Sheet		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,714,098 A (POTTER) 03 February 1998 (03.02.1998), See Figure 11, column 4, lines 14-24, column 5, lines 25-28, column 5, lines 34-45, column 9 lines 5-55	1-21
Y	US 2,162,916 A (HYLAND) 20 June 1939 (20.06.1939), See Figure 1, Figure 4, column 1, lines 13-17, column 2, lines 20-52, column 3, lines 8-20	22-24
Y	US 5,822,223 A (GENEST) 13 October 1998 (13.10.1998), See Figure 1, column 2, lines 17-20	22-24
X	US 5,640,779 A (ROLLOFF et al) 24 June 1997 (24.06.1997), See Figure 1, Figure 3, column 4, lines 38-64.	25-26, 28-29
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Y	US 5,237,520 A (WHITE) 17 August 1993 (17.08.1993), See column 5, lines 45-52.	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		<input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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 invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002)		Date of mailing of the international search report 03 OCT 2002
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230		Authorized officer Gregory Pickett Telephone No. 703-305-8321

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

Group 1, claim(s) 1-21, drawn to a method and system for fitting shoes.

Group 2, claim(s) 22-29, drawn to a device for measuring foot size.

The inventions listed as Groups 1 and 2 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The method for fitting shoes described by the applicant is known in the art.

The concept of making a custom orthotic from the inputs of an electronic measuring device is known in the art.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

SEARCH TERMS: METHOD(W)INVENTORY(W)MEASURING(W)SELECTING(W) INSERTING;
FITTING(W)METHOD(W)SHOES;ARCH(W)HEIGHT(W)FOOT; ARCH(W)HEIGHT(W)MEASURE