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54 **Tubular cushioning system for shoes.**

57 The present invention utilizes an upper (22) and a midsole (14) which is disposed in a conventional manner below the upper (22). The midsole includes an elastomeric material and has a number of spaced-apart horizontal tubes (28, 30) extending the width of the midsole (14) which are encapsulated in the elastomeric material. The tubes (28, 30) are hollow and lay side by side in a direction either perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shoe (10), parallel to the axis, or in any other direction functional for foot and shoe mechanics. The elastomeric material has a hardness less than the tubes (28, 30) and fills the space between the tubes (28, 30).

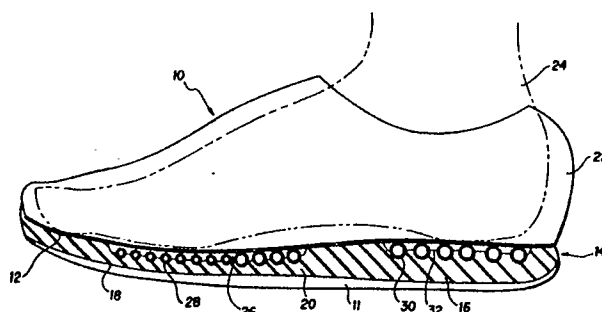


FIG. 1

EP 0 298 449 A3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88110786.6
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	EP - A2 - 0 192 820 (KANGA ROOS) * Fig. 4,8,11 * --	1,4,6	A 43 B 13/18 A 43 B 13/20 A 43 B 17/03
X	FR - A2 - 2 466 960 (RUDY) * Fig. 3,14,15 * --	1-6	
X	FR - A1 - 2 550 424 (RUDY) * Fig. 1,3,7a * --	1-6	
X	AT - B - 371 978 (ADIDAS) * Page 3, line 52ff * --	1-6	
X	EP - A2 - 0 146 846 (ADIDAS) * Fig. 4 * --	1-6	
X	DE - A1 - 3 029 258 (ADIDAS) * Page 8, line 8ff * --	1-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
D,X	US - A - 4 235 026 (PLAGENHOEF) * Fig. 7,8 * --	1	A 43 B 13/00 A 43 B 5/00
A	US - A - 1 640 302 (VAN TASSELL) * Fig. 1,3 * --	1	
A	US - A - 1 929 126 (TUKI) * Fig. 2-6 * -----	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 12-06-1989	Examiner SAMSEGGER
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			