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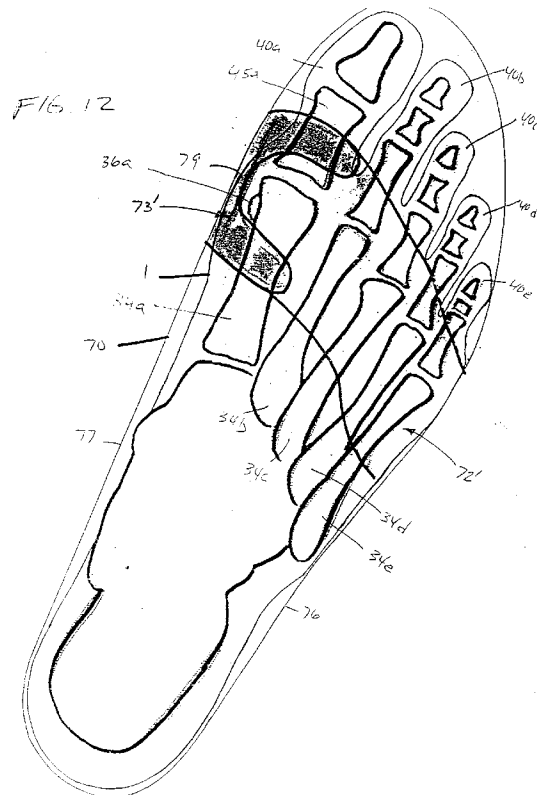
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(54) Footwear with differential cushioning regions

(57) A shoe having an upper and a sole (70), where-
in the sole (70) includes differential cushioning regions
to provide cushioning and stability for the wearer's foot.
Cushioning elements (72,73;72',73') which exhibit dif-
ferent stiffnesses in compression are placed at selected
locations with respect to the skeletal structure of the
foot. Cushioning elements (72,72') with lesser stiffness
are positioned at locations most likely to experience di-
rect impact loading during running and like activities.
Cushioning elements (73,73') with greater stiffness are
positioned at locations where greater resistance is
needed to provide stability.

A cushioning element (72;72') of lesser stiffness un-
derlies at least a substantial portion of the ball (42)
of the foot. A cushioning element (73;73') of higher relative
stiffness comprises at least a roughly C-shape area of
the sole (70) adjacent the medial side of the sole (70)
and embracing a medial end portion of the cushioning
element (72,72') of lesser stiffness.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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P,X	WO 95 20332 A (REEBOK INT LTD ;LITCHFIELD PAUL E (US); SMITH STEVEN F (US); MONTR)	1,3,4,8,	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		17 November 1997	Scholvinck, T
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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