

CHANCERY DIVISION

PATENTS COURT

B E T W E E N:

W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES GMBH

Claimant

- and -

GEOX SPA

Defendant

THE DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

European Patent (UK) EP 1 185 183 B1 entitled "Method of manufacturing a breathable shoe"

The proposed amendments are indicated by doubleunderlined (blue) text for additional text, and strikethrough (red) text for deleted text, or by commentary.

Description

Paragraph 0059 of the description is to be deleted. This paragraph read "*A manufacturing method for a shoe with a waterproof and breathable sole has in fact been provided by using the "Strobel", "ideal welt", "pre-assembled" and other classic methods (modified appropriately) in a simpler manner than shoes known in the state of the art.*"

Claims

1. A method for manufacturing a breathable shoe consisting of the steps of forming a membrane ~~indueing~~including unitary upper assembly (10;~~310~~; 11;~~311~~) comprising a breathable ~~upper~~or perforated insole (13) joined by means of stitches (13a), made according to the Strobel or ideal welt method, to the edges of a breathable upper (11) so as to form a sack and at least one membrane (14;~~314~~) made of a material which is waterproof and breathable,
a first step consisting of directly attaching said breathable upper to said membrane in a downward region, said assembly wrapping around the foot insertion region and further

comprising a protective element (17;~~317~~) made of ~~a~~ material which is resistant to hydrolysis, water-repellent, breathable or perforated, and

a second step consisting of mutually attaching said unitary upper assembly to a sole (16; 216;~~316~~) made of perforated elastomer, such ~~mutually~~mutual attaching occurring by joining through a perimetrical seal said article of manufacture to said sole, said protective element being arranged below said at least one membrane (14;~~314~~) in a region between the upper part of said sole (16; 216;~~316~~) and its internal part which is adjacent to the ground contact surface.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising attaching said membrane (14;~~314~~) to said upper assembly (10;~~310~~) by spot gluing.

3. The method of claim 2 comprising:

providing ~~a~~said breathable insole (13) and ~~an~~said breathable upper (11); and attaching said breathable insole (13) to said breathable upper (11) by means of stitches (13a); and attaching said membrane (14) to said insole (13).

4. A method for manufacturing a breathable shoe consisting of the steps of forming a membrane-including unitary upper assembly (310; 311) composed of a breathable tubular upper (311), and at least one membrane (314) made of material which is waterproof and breathable.

a first step consisting of directly attaching said breathable tubular upper (311) to said membrane in a downward region, said assembly wrapping around the foot insertion region and further comprising a protective element (317) made of material which is resistant to hydrolysis, water-repellent, breathable or perforated, and

a second step consisting of mutually attaching said unitary upper assembly to a sole (216, 316) made of perforated elastomer, such mutual attaching occurring by joining through a perimetrical seal said article of manufacture to said sole, said protective element being arranged below said at least one membrane (314) in a region between the upper part of said sole (216, 316) and its internal part which is adjacent to the ground contact surface.

5. The method of claim 4 comprising attaching said membrane (314) to said upper assembly (310) by spot gluing.

6. ~~4.~~The method of claim ~~2~~5 comprising:

providing ~~a~~said tubular upper (311); of said upper assembly (310), having a bottom portion extending continuously between two opposite side portions; and attaching said membrane (314) to said bottom portion of said tubular upper (311).

Herbert Smith LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant
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