



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	06/28/2016	9375046	140024US02/15571-102	8429

133691 7590 06/08/2016
NIKE, Inc./BGL
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Adrian Meir, Portland, OR;
NIKE, Inc., Beaverton, OR;

The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The USA offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to encourage and facilitate business investment. To learn more about why the USA is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, and grow your business, visit SelectUSA.gov.

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

Change(s) applied to document, /Q.N./ 3/16/2016	9	6333105		2001-12-25	Tanaka et al.	
	10	3583081		~~06/1971~~ ~~1974-06-08~~	Hayashi	
	11	4447967		1984-05-15	Zaino	
	12	4813158		1989-03-21	Brown	
	13	4756098		1988-07-12	Boggia	
	14	5345638		1994-09-13	Nishida	
	15	4785558		1988-11-22	Shiomura	
	16	0601192		1898-03-22	Woodside	
	17	1215198	A	1917-02-06	Rothstein	
	18	1597934	A	1926-08-31	Stimpson	
	19	1888172	A	1932-11-15	Joha	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

	75	6910288	B2	2005-06-28	Dua	
	76	6922917	B2	2005-08-02	Kerns et al.	
	77	6931762	B1	2005-08-23	Dua	
	78	D517297	S	2006-03-21	Jones et al.	
	79	7051460	B2	2006-05-30	Orei et al.	
	80	7056402	B2	2006-06-06	Koerwien et al.	
Change(s) applied to document, /Q.N./ 3/17/2016	81	7347011	B2	03/2008 ~~2008-02-25~~	Dua et al.	
	82	7441348		2008-10-28	Dawson	
	83	7543397	B2	2009-06-09	Kilgore et al.	
	84	7568298	B2	2009-08-04	Kerns	
	85	7682219	B2	2010-03-23	Falla	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

Change(s)
applied
to document,
/Q.N./
3/17/2016

42	4373361	A	1983-02-15	Thorneburg	
43	4465448	A	1984-08-14	Aldridge	
44	4607439	A	1986-08-26	~~Harada~~ Sogabe, et al.	
45	4737396	A	1988-04-12	Kamat	
46	5031423	A	1991-07-16	Ikenaga	
47	5095720	A	1992-03-17	Tibbals, Jr.	
48	5117567	A	1992-06-02	Berger	
49	5152025	A	1992-10-16	Hirmas	
50	5192601	A	1993-03-09	Neisler	
51	5353524	A	1994-10-11	Brier	
52	5461884	A	1995-10-31	McCartney et al.	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

133691 7590 02/25/2016
NIKE, Inc./BGL
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee Transmittal is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8, on the date indicated below:

Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644	(Depositor's name)
/Christopher J. Gerardot/	(Signature)
May 24, 2016	(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	140024US02/15571-102	8429

TITLE OF INVENTION: Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$960	\$0	\$0	\$960	05/25/2016

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
WORRELL JR, LARRY D	3765	066-171000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Brinks Gilson & Lione

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

Nike, Inc.

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Beaverton, Oregon

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☒ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (**Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above**)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 23-1925 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
- ☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
- ☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature /Christopher J. Gerardot/

Date May 24, 2016

Typed or printed name Christopher J. Gerardot

Registration No. 73,644

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		14535413		
Filing Date:		07-Nov-2014		
Title of Invention:		Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Adrian Meir		
Filer:		Christopher J. Gerardot/Lori Peterson		
Attorney Docket Number:		140024US02/15571-102		
Filed as Large Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl Issue Fee	1501	1	960	960

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				960

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	25857823
Application Number:	14535413
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	8429
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Adrian Meir
Customer Number:	133691
Filer:	Christopher J. Gerardot/Alice Juhasz
Filer Authorized By:	Christopher J. Gerardot
Attorney Docket Number:	140024US02/15571-102
Receipt Date:	24-MAY-2016
Filing Date:	07-NOV-2014
Time Stamp:	14:51:14
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$960
RAM confirmation Number	1100
Deposit Account	231925
Authorized User	GERARDOT, CHRISTOPHER J.
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	15571102TL.pdf	39612 9cc5028f06cfe12d89f32269de9a90be161f7cbb	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	15571102if.pdf	131479 d5c2687c56e70f1c86ee4480a99cd6509abe447e	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30593 af19b0f772eeec09eb139ec74580922433057ce0	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			201684		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS on the below date:

Date: May 24, 2016 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/

**BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 7, 2014

For: ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR
INCORPORATING A KNITTED
COMPONENT WITH INLAID
TENSILE ELEMENTS AND
METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

Examiner: Worrell, Jr., Larry D.

Art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

Attorney Docket No.: 15571-102/140024US02

TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

☒ Transmittal Letter; Issue Fee Transmittal – Part B.

Fee calculation:

- ☐ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ An extension fee in an amount of \$_____ for a _____-month extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).
- ☐ A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$_____ under 37 CFR § 1.17(_____).
- ☐ An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

					Fee		Small Entity Fee		Micro Entity Fee	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus			x \$ 80 =	\$	x \$ 40 =	\$	x \$20 =	\$
Independent		Minus			x \$420 =	\$	x \$210 =	\$	x \$105 =	\$
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$780 =	\$	+ \$390 =	\$	+ \$195 =	\$
					Total	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$

Fee payment:

- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$960.00 for the Issue Fee.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this paper (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Respectfully submitted,

May 24, 2016

Date

/Christopher J. Gerardot /

Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

133691 7590 02/25/2016
NIKE, Inc./BGL
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

EXAMINER

WORRELL JR, LARRY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2016

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	140024US02/15571-102	8429

TITLE OF INVENTION: Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$960	\$0	\$0	\$960	05/25/2016

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax **(571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

133691 7590 02/25/2016
NIKE, Inc./BGL
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	140024US02/15571-102	8429

TITLE OF INVENTION: Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$960	\$0	\$0	\$960	05/25/2016

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
WORRELL JR, LARRY D	3765	066-171000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	140024US02/15571-102	8429
133691	7590	02/25/2016	EXAMINER	
NIKE, Inc./BGL P.O. Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610			WORRELL JR, LARRY D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2016

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 14/535,413	Applicant(s) MEIR, ADRIAN	
	Examiner DANNY WORRELL	Art Unit 3765	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/12/15.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.
2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15, 21-24 and 26. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
Certified copies:
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some *c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/17/16</u> 3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment 6. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 7. ☐ Other _____.
---	---

/DANNY WORRELL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 8429

SERIAL NUMBER 14/535,413	FILING or 371(c) DATE 11/07/2014 RULE	CLASS 066	GROUP ART UNIT 3765	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 140024US02/15571-102	
APPLICANTS NIKE, Inc., Beaverton, OR; INVENTORS Adrian Meir, Portland, OR; ** CONTINUING DATA ***** This appln claims benefit of 62/057,264 09/30/2014 ** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** ** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 11/21/2014					
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No Verified and /LARRY D WORRELL JR/ Acknowledged Examiner's Signature	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY OR	SHEETS DRAWINGS 26	TOTAL CLAIMS 20	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
ADDRESS NIKE, Inc./BGL P.O. Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610 UNITED STATES					
TITLE Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly					
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1740	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		☐ All Fees ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing) ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Credit		

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date: Date: February 17, 2016 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/
--

BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 7, 2014

For: Article of Footwear Incorporating
A Knitted Component with Inlaid
Tensile Elements and Method of
Assembly

Examiner: Worrell, Jr., Larry D.

Art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

Attorney Docket No.: 15571-102 (140024US02)

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, Applicant hereby cites the following references:

US PATENT REFERENCES

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	NAME
	B1	5,419,161	05/30/1995	Bodenschatz et al.
	B2	2004/0181972 A1	09/23/2004	Csorba
	B3	2014/0068968 A1	03/13/2014	Podhajny et al.
	B4	2014/0196316 A1	07/17/2014	Follet

FOREIGN PATENT REFERENCES

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
	B5	GB 1 461 928	01/19/1977	United Kingdom	Abstract
	B6	FR 2 571 387	04/11/1986	France	Abstract
	B7	WO 02/04726 A1	01/17/2002	WIPO	Abstract
	B8	WO 2013/113339 A1	08/08/2013	WIPO	Abstract
	B9	EP 2 716 177 A2	04/09/2014	EPO	Abstract

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
	B10	International Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed December 15, 2015 for PCT/US2015/052434 (13 pp.)		
	B11	International Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed January 29, 2016 for PCT/US2015/052453 (15 pp.)		
	B12	International Search Report and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed January 22, 2016 for PCT/US2015/052426 (13 pp.)		

Examiner Signature	/DANNY WORRELL/ (02/21/2016)	Date Considered	
-----------------------	------------------------------	--------------------	--

Page 1 of 2

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Information Disclosure Statement

Appln. No. 14/535,413

Attorney Docket No. 15571-102 (140024US02)

1. PRIORITY INFORMATION:

- ☐ This application claims priority under 35 USC §120 to the following United States patent application(s): _____. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the references cited herein which were submitted to, or cited by, the office, in compliance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)-(c) in the earlier application are not provided herewith. The Examiner is directed to those references cited in all Information Disclosure Statements filed in the priority United States patent application(s) cited above in addition to the references cited herein.

2. CERTIFICATIONS: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ For purposes of 37 CFR §1.704(d)(i), Applicant hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a patent office in a counterpart foreign or international application or from the Office, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ For purposes of 37 CFR §1.704(d)(ii), Applicant hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement is a communication that was issued by a patent office in a counterpart foreign or international application or by the Office, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ Applicant hereby certifies pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ Applicant hereby certifies pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2) that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

3. FEE INFORMATION: (CHECK IF FEE REQUIRED)

- ☐ Applicant has calculated a processing fee in the amount of _____ to be due under 37 CFR §1.17(p) in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant authorizes charging the fee to Deposit Account _____.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account 23-1925.

Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.98(a)(3) and (c), either English language abstracts, partial translations, or full translations are included for patent documents which are not in English for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of the references to the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to evaluate the same. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

By submitting this Statement, Applicant is attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 CFR §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a).

Respectfully submitted,

February 17, 2016
Date

/Christopher J. Gerardot/
Christopher J. Gerardot (Reg. No. 73,644)

Examiner Signature	/DANNY WORRELL/ (02/21/2016)	Date Considered	
-----------------------	------------------------------	--------------------	--

Page 2 of 2

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 14535413	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN
	Examiner LARRY WORRELL JR	Art Unit 3765

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION						INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION														
CLASS		SUBCLASS				CLAIMED					NON-CLAIMED									
						D	O	4	B	1 / 22 (2006.01.01)										
CROSS REFERENCE(S)																				
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)																			

NONE		Total Claims Allowed:	
		20	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)		
/DANNY WORRELL/ Primary Examiner.Art Unit 3765		O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)		15

3765[illegible]15

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14535413	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN
	Examiner LARRY WORRELL JR	Art Unit 3765

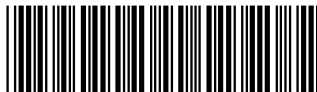
✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

☒ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47										
CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	02/07/2016								
	1	=								
	2	=								
	3	=								
	4	=								
	5	=								
	6	=								
	7	=								
	8	=								
	9	=								
	10	=								
	11	=								
	12	=								
	13	=								
	14	=								
	15	=								
	16	-								
	17	-								
	18	-								
	19	-								
	20	-								
	21	=								
	22	=								
	23	=								
	24	=								
	25	-								
	26	=								

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 14535413	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN
	Examiner LARRY WORRELL JR	Art Unit 3765

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner
D04B 1/22, 1/225		

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
66	169R, 170, 171, 177	7/17/2015	dw
36	45, 47, 48	7/17/2015	dw

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
update search	2/7/2016	/dw/
inventor search	2/7/2016	/dw/

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner
D04B	1/22, 1/225	2/21/2016	/dw/

	/LARRY WORRELL JR/ Primary Examiner.Art Unit 3765
--	--

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date:

Date: November 12, 2015 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/

Our Case No. 15571-102
Client Ref. No.140024US02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 7, 2014

For: Article of Footwear Incorporating
A Knitted Component with Inlaid
Tensile Elements and Method of
Assembly

Examiner: Worrell Jr, Larry D.

art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Supplemental Amendment has been filed by EFS Certificate. Applicants kindly request that the Examiner grant allowance of the claims in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **7** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:
a plurality of webbed areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the webbed areas having a front surface, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position and
a plurality of tubular structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular structures including a plurality of courses;
wherein at least one of the webbed areas or tubular structures is configured to stretch to move the webbed areas to the extended position in response to a force applied to the article
wherein in the neutral position, a first area of the front surface is hidden from visual observation from a first viewing perspective, and
wherein in the extended position, the first area of the front surface is revealed for visual observation from the first viewing perspective.
2. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the article is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction;
wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular structures extend along the longitudinal direction,
wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, and
wherein the article is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between the neutral position and the stretched position, the article biased toward the neutral position.
3. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 2, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the article.

4. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the article further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the second portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein at least one tubular structure of the plurality of tubular structures includes a tensile element disposed in a central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.

6. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, further comprising:
the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area;
the plurality of tubular structures including at least a first tubular structure and a second tubular structure;
wherein the first tubular structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge;
wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular structure;
wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular structure;
wherein the second tubular structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and
wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular structure.

7. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern.

8. (Currently Amended) An upper comprising:
a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures, ~~the plurality of webbed areas including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn;~~
the plurality of webbed areas having a front side and a back side;
the tubular rib structures being disposed adjacent to the webbed areas;
the tubular rib structures having a first curved portion with a first curve length extending from the front side of the webbed areas, and a second curved portion with a second curve length extending from the back side of the webbed areas, the first curve length being greater than the second curve length;
the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position;
and
at least one of the webbed areas and the tubular rib structures configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the upper.
9. (Currently Amended) The upper of claim 8,
wherein the webbed areas include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn,
wherein the tubular rib structures include a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn,
wherein the first yarn and the second yarn are different; and
wherein at least one course of one of the plurality of webbed areas formed with the first yarn is connected with at least one course of one of the plurality of tubular rib structures formed with the second yarn.
10. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 8, wherein the upper further includes a vamp region and a medial side, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the vamp region are aligned along a first orientation, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the medial side are aligned along a second orientation that is different from the first orientation.

11. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 10, wherein the upper further includes a heel region, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the heel region are aligned along a third orientation that is different from the first orientation and the second orientation.

12. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 8, wherein the upper further includes a throat portion, a throat opening, a lower region, a first end, and a second end;
wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region extend from the first end of the upper to the second end of the upper;
and

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the collar portion extend from the first end of the upper to the area along the throat opening of the upper.

13. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 12, further comprising a tensile element disposed within at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures.

14. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas comprises a first webbed area and a second webbed area;
wherein the first webbed area has a first width, and the second webbed area has a second width, the first width being less than the second width.

15. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the upper.

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tubular structures comprise (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between two knit layers.

22. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the article includes a knitted component, the knitted component comprising the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular structures.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 22, wherein the knitted component is formed of unitary knit construction.

24. (Previously Presented) The upper of claim 8, wherein the upper includes a knitted component, the knitted component comprising the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) An article comprising:

a plurality of webbed areas having a front surface, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position, and

a plurality of tubular structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular structures;

wherein at least one of the webbed areas or tubular structures is configured to stretch to move the webbed areas to the extended position in response to a force applied to the article.

wherein in the neutral position, a first area of the front surface is hidden from visual observation from a first viewing perspective, and

wherein in the extended position, the first area of the front surface is revealed for visual observation from the first viewing perspective.

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE APPLICATION**

Claims 1-15, 21-24, and new claim 26 are pending. Claim 25 has been cancelled in this response. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants note that an Amendment was filed on October 20, 2015, which addresses each of the rejections in the non-final Office Action dated July 20, 2015. Applicants have filed the current Supplemental Response in response to an interview with Examiner Worrell on November 3, 2015. In light of the interview summary below, the applicants respectfully request allowance of each of the pending claims.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Worrell for his courtesy in participating in a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on November 3, 2015. In the call, the undersigned attorney and Examiner Worrell generally discussed Applicant's pending claims, particularly in light of the references Kuroda (U.S. 5,118,569), Wolley (U.S. 3,307,379), and Dua (U.S. 2010,0154256), which were cited in the non-final Office Action of July 20, 2015.

No formal agreement was reached in the November 3, 2015 interview. However, the following proposals were discussed and were favorably received by the Examiner:

Proposal 1: With respect to independent claim 1, it was proposed to include the feature that the first area of the front surface is hidden from visual observation from a first viewing perspective, and in the extended position, the first area of the front surface is revealed for visual observation from the first viewing perspective. Claim 1 has been amended to recite this feature. Support for this amendment can be found at least in

paragraphs [0081] and [0106] and FIGS. 1-6 of the filed version of the application. Note that new claim 26 also recites this feature.

Proposal 2: With respect to independent claim 8, include the feature that a first curved portion with a first curve length extends from the front side of the webbed areas, and a second curved portion with a second curve length extends from the back side of the webbed areas, the first curve length being greater than the second curve length. Independent claim 8 has been amended to recite this feature. Support can be found at least in paragraph [0074] and FIGS. 1-7 of the filed version of the application.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 840-3268.

DATED: November 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher J. Gerardot/
Christopher J. Gerardot
Registration No. 73,644
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	24060331
Application Number:	14535413
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	8429
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Adrian Meir
Customer Number:	133691
Filer:	Christopher J. Gerardot/Alice Juhasz
Filer Authorized By:	Christopher J. Gerardot
Attorney Docket Number:	51-4600
Receipt Date:	12-NOV-2015
Filing Date:	07-NOV-2014
Time Stamp:	14:07:47
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment		no			
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	15571102TL.pdf	45176	no	1
			2500d86771b72260162ed0b1ef97446ffddaf9ad		
Warnings:					
Information:					

2		15571102sa.pdf	41852	yes	8
	09e44b8adb0d7097201355aa67a149fc5b05fdef				
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Supplemental Response or Supplemental Amendment		1	1	
	Claims		2	6	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		7	8	
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			87028		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date:

Date: November 12, 2015 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/

**BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 07, 2014

For: Article of Footwear Incorporating
A Knitted Component with Inlaid
Tensile Elements and Method of
Assembly

Examiner: WORRELL JR, LARRY D.

Art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

Attorney Docket No.: 15571-102 (140024US02)

TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached are:

☒ Transmittal; Supplemental Amendment.

Fee calculation:

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ Per 37 CFR §1.27, ☐ Applicant is small entity ☐ Applicant is micro entity.
- ☐ An extension fee in an amount of \$_____ for a _____-month extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).
- ☐ A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$_____ under 37 CFR § 1.17(_____).
- ☐ An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

					Fee		Small Entity Fee		Micro Entity Fee	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus			x \$ 80 =	\$	x \$ 40 =	\$	x \$20 =	\$
Independent		Minus			x \$420 =	\$	x \$210 =	\$	x \$105 =	\$
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$780 =	\$	+ \$390 =	\$	+ \$195 =	\$
					Total	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$

Fee payment:

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$_____ for _____.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Respectfully submitted,

November 12, 2015
Date

/Christopher J. Gerardot/
Christopher J. Gerardot (Reg. No. 73,644)

**BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE**

BRINKS GILSON & LIONE
NBC Tower – Suite 3600, 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, IL 60611-5599

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875				Application or Docket Number 14/535,413		Filing Date 11/07/2014		☐ To be Mailed	
ENTITY: ☒ LARGE ☐ SMALL ☐ MICRO									
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)							
FOR		NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)		FEE (\$)	
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (j), or (m))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))		minus 20 =		*		X \$ =			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =		*		X \$ =			
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).							
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL			
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT	11/12/2015		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT			HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		* 20		Minus	** 20	= 0		
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		* 3		Minus	***3	= 0		
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						RATE (\$)		ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
						X \$80 =		0	
						X \$420 =		0	
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		0	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT			CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT			HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		*		Minus	**	=		
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		*		Minus	***	=		
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						RATE (\$)		ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
						X \$ =			
						X \$ =			
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE			
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.									

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**
If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS on the below date:

Date: October 20, 2015 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/

BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE

Our Case No. 15571-102
Client Ref. No. 140024US02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 07, 2014

For: Article of Footwear Incorporating
A Knitted Component with Inlaid
Tensile Elements and Method of
Assembly

Examiner: WORRELL JR, LARRY D.

Art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 20, 2015, and in view of the following remarks and amendments, Applicants kindly request reconsideration of the rejections.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **7** of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component~~ An article comprising:

a plurality of webbed areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position; ~~the webbed areas configured to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas;~~ and

a plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular ~~rib~~ structures including a plurality of courses ~~formed from a second yarn;~~

wherein at least one of the webbed areas or tubular structures is configured to stretch to move the webbed areas to the extended position in response to a force applied to the article

~~wherein the plurality of tubular rib structures comprise (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The knitted component~~ article of claim 1, wherein the ~~knitted component~~ article is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction;

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures extend along the longitudinal direction,

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, and

wherein the ~~knitted component~~ article is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between a the neutral position and a the stretched position, the ~~knitted component~~ article biased toward the neutral position.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~knitted component~~ article of claim 2, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the ~~knitted component~~ article.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~knitted component~~ article of claim 1, wherein the ~~knitted component~~ article further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the second portion.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~knitted component~~ article of claim 1, wherein at least one tubular ~~rib~~ structure of the plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures includes a tensile element disposed in ~~the a~~ a central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~knitted component~~ article of claim 1, further comprising:
- the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area;
 - the plurality of tubular ~~rib~~ structures including at least a first ~~rib~~ tubular structure and a second tubular ~~rib~~ structure;
 - wherein the first tubular ~~rib~~ structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge;
 - wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular ~~rib~~ structure;
 - wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular ~~rib~~ structure;

wherein the second tubular rib structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and

wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular rib structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~knitted component~~ article of claim 1, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An article of footwear comprising~~ An upper comprising:
~~a sole; and~~

~~an upper that is attached to the sole, the upper including a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures, the plurality of webbed areas including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn;~~

~~the tubular rib structures being disposed adjacent to the webbed areas;~~

~~the plurality of tubular rib structures comprising: (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers;~~

~~the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position; and~~

~~at least one of the webbed areas and the tubular rib structures configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas~~ upper.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 8, wherein the tubular rib structures include a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn.

wherein the first yarn and the second yarn are different; and

wherein at least one course of one of the plurality of webbed areas formed with the first yarn is connected with at least one course of one of the plurality of tubular rib structures formed with the second yarn.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 8, wherein the upper further includes a vamp region and a medial side, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the vamp region are aligned along a first orientation, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the medial side are aligned along a second orientation that is different from the first orientation.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 10, wherein the upper further includes a heel region, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the heel region are aligned along a third orientation that is different from the first orientation and the second orientation.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 8, wherein the ~~knitted component upper~~ upper further includes a throat portion, a throat opening, a lower region, a first end, and a second end;

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region extend from the first end of the ~~knitted component~~ upper to the second end of the ~~knitted component~~ upper; and

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the collar portion extend from the first end of the ~~knitted component~~ upper to the area along the throat opening of the ~~knitted component~~ upper.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 12, ~~wherein at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region include~~ further comprising

a tensile element disposed within at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas comprises a first webbed area and a second webbed area; wherein the first webbed area has a first width, and the second webbed area has a second width, the first width being less than the second width.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of footwear~~ upper of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the ~~knitted component~~ upper.

16-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The article of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tubular structures comprise (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between two knit layers.

22. (New) The article of claim 1, wherein the article includes a knitted component, the knitted component comprising the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular structures.

23. (New) The article of claim 22, wherein the knitted component is formed of unitary knit construction.

24. (New) The upper of claim 8, wherein the upper includes a knitted component, the knitted component comprising the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures.

25. (New) The upper of claim 24, wherein the knitted component is formed of unitary knit construction.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 21-25 are pending. Claims 16-20 are cancelled. Claims 1-15 have been amended. Claims 21-25 are new. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an article comprising a plurality of webbed areas and tubular structures, “wherein at least one of the webbed areas or tubular structures of the article is configured to stretch to move the webbed areas to the extended position in response to a force applied to the article.” This amendment is supported by at least paragraph [0048] and Figs. 2-5 of the originally filed version of the application. Claims 2-7, which depend upon claim 1, were amended in accordance with the amendments to claim 1. New claim 21 is supported by at least paragraph [0075] and Figs. 1-7, and claims 22-23 are supported by at least paragraphs [0046] and Figs. 1-7 of the originally filed version of the application.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to recite an upper with a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures, wherein “at least one of the webbed areas and the tubular rib structures configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas upper.” This amendment is supported by at least paragraph [0048] and Figs. 2-5 of the originally filed version of the application. Claims 9-15, which depend upon claim 8, were amended in accordance with the amendments to claim 9. New claims 24-25, which

depend upon claim 8, are also supported by at least paragraph [0046] and Figs. 1-7 of the originally filed version of the application.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER § 102

Rejections over Kuroda

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kuroda (U.S. 5,118,569).

Applicants respectfully submit that Kuroda does not disclose each and every element as set forth in independent claim 1, either expressly or inherently. In particular, Kuroda at least does not disclose the recited “plurality of webbed areas,” nor an article with webbed areas and tubular structures “wherein at least one of the webbed areas or tubular structures of the article is configured to stretch to move the webbed areas to the extended position in response to a force applied to the article.”

In light of these remarks and noted amendments, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 and 21-23 are in allowable form.

Rejections over Woolley

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Woolley (U.S. 3,307,379).

Like Kuroda, Woolley does not disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 1. In particular, Woolley does not disclose a “plurality of webbed areas.” Referring to FIG. 1 and FIG. 4 of Woolley, the examiner relies on element W as a “webbed area.” It is noted this element does not comprise a “plurality of courses” as recited in claim 1.

In light of these remarks and noted amendments, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 and 21-23 are in allowable form.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER § 103

Claims 8-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dua (U.S. 2010/0154256) in view of Woolley. Applicants respectfully disagree. While the examiner states it would have been obvious to combine Dua with Woolley, neither of those references teaches the elements recited in claim 8, and particularly a “plurality of webbed areas,” or “at least one of the webbed areas and the tubular rib structures configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the upper.”

In light of these remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8 and dependent claims 9-15 and 24-25 are allowable.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 840-3253.

DATED: October 20, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher J. Gerardot/

Christopher J. Gerardot
Registration No. 73,644
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	23826262
Application Number:	14535413
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	8429
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Adrian Meir
Customer Number:	133691
Filer:	Christopher J. Gerardot/Maggie Krause
Filer Authorized By:	Christopher J. Gerardot
Attorney Docket Number:	51-4600
Receipt Date:	20-OCT-2015
Filing Date:	07-NOV-2014
Time Stamp:	16:23:20
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment		no			
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	15571102TL.pdf	45106	no	1
			a9894284dcd352e593b1e53d72a4e92c81911866		
Warnings:					
Information:					

2		15571102amd.pdf	68449 dcc83554830fdd7e6d6e855fe451e527e2fd36d	yes	10
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1	1	
	Claims		2	6	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		7	10	
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			113555		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date:

Date: October 20, 2015 Name: Christopher J. Gerardot, Reg. No. 73,644 Signature: /Christopher J. Gerardot/

**BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: MEIR, ADRIAN

Appln. No.: 14/535,413

Filed: November 07, 2014

For: Article of Footwear Incorporating
A Knitted Component with Inlaid
Tensile Elements and Method of
Assembly

Examiner: WORRELL JR, LARRY D.

Art Unit: 3765

Conf. No.: 8429

Attorney Docket No.: 15571-102 (140024US02)

TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached are:

☒ Transmittal; Amendment.

Fee calculation:

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ Per 37 CFR §1.27, ☐ Applicant is small entity ☐ Applicant is micro entity.
- ☐ An extension fee in an amount of \$_____ for a _____-month extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).
- ☐ A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$_____ under 37 CFR § 1.17(_____).
- ☐ An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

					Fee		Small Entity Fee		Micro Entity Fee	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus			x \$ 80 =	\$	x \$ 40 =	\$	x \$20 =	\$
Independent		Minus			x \$420 =	\$	x \$210 =	\$	x \$105 =	\$
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$780 =	\$	+ \$390 =	\$	+ \$195 =	\$
					Total	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$

Fee payment:

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$_____ for _____.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Respectfully submitted,

October 20, 2015
Date

/Christopher J. Gerardot/
Christopher J. Gerardot (Reg. No. 73,644)

**BRINKS
GILSON
& LIONE**

BRINKS GILSON & LIONE
NBC Tower – Suite 3600, 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, IL 60611-5599

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875				Application or Docket Number 14/535,413		Filing Date 11/07/2014		☐ To be Mailed	
ENTITY: ☒ LARGE ☐ SMALL ☐ MICRO									
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)							
FOR		NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)		FEE (\$)	
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (j), or (m))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))		minus 20 =		*		X \$ =			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =		*		X \$ =			
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).							
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL			
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT	10/20/2015	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)		ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 20	Minus	** 20	= 0	X \$80 =		0	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 2	Minus	***3	= 0	X \$420 =		0	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		0	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)		ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$ =			
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$ =			
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE			
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.									

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**
If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	51-4600	8429

57618 7590 07/20/2015
PLUMSEA LAW GROUP, LLC
6710 A Rockledge Drive
SUITE 400
BETHESDA, MD 20817

EXAMINER

WORRELL JR, LARRY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3765

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

07/20/2015

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 14/535,413	Applicant(s) MEIR, ADRIAN	
	Examiner DANNY WORRELL	Art Unit 3765	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____.; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims*

5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some** c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

** See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/1/14.

3) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

4) ☐ Other: _____.

The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of claims 1-15 in the reply filed on 4/14/15 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 16-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-15 remain in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the event the determination of the status of the application as subject to AIA 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 (or as subject to pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103) is incorrect, any correction of the statutory basis for the rejection will not be considered a new ground of rejection if the prior art relied upon, and the rationale supporting the rejection, would be the same under either status.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a)(1) the claimed invention was patented, described in a printed publication, or in public use, on sale or otherwise available to the public before the effective filing date of the claimed invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(1) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (US 5,118,569), henceforth known as Kuroda.

As seen at least in the embodiment of figure 18, Kuroda teaches the knitted component formed of unitary knit construction (13) as claimed including a plurality of webbed (19) areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn (14), the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position, the webbed areas configured to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas (as is inherently well known knitted loops allow for extension and recovery of the knit structure); and a plurality of tubular rib structures (16) that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn (9a); wherein the plurality of tubular rib structures comprise (i) two co- extensive and overlapping knit layers (17, 18) and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers. Regarding claim 2, the knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction; wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures extend along the longitudinal direction, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, wherein the knitted component is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between a neutral position and a stretched position, the knitted component biased toward the neutral position. Regarding claim 3, the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component. Regarding claim 4, the knitted component further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one

Art Unit: 3765

webbed area of the second portion. Regarding claim 5, at least one tubular rib structure of the plurality of tubular rib structures includes a tensile element (5) disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers. Regarding claim 6, the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area; the plurality of tubular rib structures including at least a first rib tubular structure and a second tubular rib structure; wherein the first tubular rib structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge; wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular rib structure; wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular rib structure; wherein the second tubular rib structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular rib structure. Regarding claim 7, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(1) as being anticipated by Woolley et al. (US 3,307,379), henceforth known as Woolley.

As seen at least in figures 1 and 2, Woolley teaches the knitted component formed of unitary knit construction (figure 2) as claimed including a plurality of webbed (W) areas that

Art Unit: 3765

include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn (e.g. wool), the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position (as is inherently well known knitted loops allow for extension and recovery of the knit structure), the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position, the webbed areas configured to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas; and a plurality of tubular rib structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn (e.g. nylon); wherein the plurality of tubular rib structures comprise (i) two co- extensive and overlapping knit layers (1, 2) and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers. Regarding claim 2, the knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction; wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures extend along the longitudinal direction, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, wherein the knitted component is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between a neutral position and a stretched position, the knitted component biased toward the neutral position. Regarding claim 3, the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component. Regarding claim 4, the knitted component further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the second portion. Regarding claim 6, the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area; the plurality of tubular rib structures including at least a

Art Unit: 3765

first rib tubular structure and a second tubular rib structure; wherein the first tubular rib structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge; wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular rib structure; wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular rib structure; wherein the second tubular rib structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular rib structure. Regarding claim 7, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern as seen in figure 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent for a claimed invention may not be obtained, notwithstanding that the claimed invention is not identically disclosed as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious before the effective filing date of the claimed invention to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the claimed invention pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Dua et al. (US 2010/0154256), henceforth known as Dua, in view of Woolley.

Dua teaches the article of footwear (10) substantially as claimed including a sole (20); and an upper (30) that is attached to the sole, the upper including a knitted component (40) formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising a plurality of webbed areas (portions between ribs 42) and a plurality of tubular rib structures (42), the plurality of webbed areas inherently including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the tubular rib structures inherently including a plurality of courses formed from a yarn; the tubular rib structures being disposed adjacent to the webbed areas; the plurality of tubular rib structures comprising: (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position; and the webbed areas configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas.. However, while Dua generically sets forth the web and rib areas being knitted they do not expressly set forth a specific second yarn. As previously noted Woolley teaches that tubular rib areas typically include two yarns in the web and rib areas. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art before the effective filing date of the claimed invention to provide the rib/web section of the unitary knit upper of Dua knitted as knitted with two yarns as shown by Kuroda in order to provide different yarns with different characteristics on each of the inside and outside of the upper such in order to optimize the comfort, warmth and durability of the knitted upper. Regarding claim 9, the first yarn and the second yarn are different; and wherein at least one course of one of the plurality of webbed areas formed with the first yarn is connected with at least one course of one of the plurality of tubular rib structures formed with the second yarn.

Art Unit: 3765

Regarding claim 10, as seen in the comparison of figures 2 and 3, the shoe of Dua includes a vamp region and a medial side, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the vamp region are aligned along a first orientation, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the medial side are aligned along a second orientation that is different from the first orientation. Regarding claim 11, the upper further includes a heel region, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the heel region are aligned along a third orientation that is different from the first orientation and the second orientation. Regarding claim 12, the knitted component further includes a throat portion, a throat opening, a lower region, a first end, and a second end; wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region extend from the first end of the knitted component to the second end of the knitted component; and wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the collar portion extend from the first end of the knitted component to the area along the throat opening of the knitted component. Regarding claim 13, at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region include a tensile element (43) disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers. Regarding claim 14, as seen in the embodiment of figure 7F, the plurality of webbed areas comprises a first webbed area and a second webbed area; wherein the first webbed area has a first width, and the second webbed area has a second width, the first width being less than the second width. Regarding claim 15, the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant is reminded that all business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt. 37 C.F.R. 1.2

Further it is noted that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111, including:

- The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.

- A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.

- Moreover, The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06, MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANNY WORRELL whose telephone number is (571)272-4997. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY and WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoa Huynh can be reached on 571/272-4888. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANNY WORRELL/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765

ldw

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 14/535,413	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN	
	Examiner DANNY WORRELL	Art Unit 3765	Page 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2,151,879 A	03-1939	MAX WEBER	66/190
*	B	US-3,307,379 A	03-1967	HARRY ADAMS et al.	66/178R
*	C	US-5,118,569 A	06-1992	Kuroda et al.	428/367
*	D	US-5,356,701 A	10-1994	Wei et al.	442/6
*	E	US-5,890,381 A	04-1999	Leeke et al.	66/170
*	F	US-6,397,638 B1	06-2002	Roell, Friedrich	66/61
*	G	US-6,829,912 B2	12-2004	Rempp et al.	66/64
*	H	US-2008/0110049 A1	05-2008	Sokolowski et al.	36/50.1
*	I	US-7,380,421 B1	06-2008	Liu, Sheng-Nan	66/196
*	J	US-7,568,298 B2	08-2009	Kerns, Mark	36/50.1
*	K	US-2010/0043253 A1	02-2010	Dojan et al.	36/47
*	L	US-2010/0175276 A1	07-2010	Dojan et al.	36/47
*	M	US-7,774,956 B2	08-2010	Dua et al.	36/50.1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 14/535,413		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN	
	Examiner DANNY WORRELL		Art Unit 3765	Page 2 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2010/0251491 A1	10-2010	Dojan et al.	12/142.R
*	B	US-2010/0251564 A1	10-2010	Meschter, James C.	36/28
*	C	US-2011/0041359 A1	02-2011	Dojan et al.	36/47
*	D	US-8,631,589 B2	01-2014	Dojan, Frederick J.	36/45
*	E	US-9,027,260 B2	05-2015	Dua et al.	36/50.1
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 -- GAU: 3765

Doc code: IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

PTO/SB/08a (01-10)

Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		14535413	
	Filing Date		2014-11-07	
	First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir		
	Art Unit	3765		
	Examiner Name	TBA		
	Attorney Docket Number	51-4600		

U.S.PATENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	2343390		1944-03-07	Ushakoff	
	2	2608078		1952-08-26	Anderson	
	3	2569764		1951-10-02	Jonas	
	4	2314098		1943-03-16	McDonald	
	5	2641004		1953-06-09	Whiting et al.	
	6	2440393		1948-04-27	Clark	
	7	4750339		1988-06-14	Simpson et al.	
	8	2147197		1939-02-14	Glidden	

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

	9	6333105		2001-12-25	Tanaka et al.	
	10	3583081		1974-06-08	Hayashi	
	11	4447967		1984-05-15	Zaino	
	12	4813158		1989-03-21	Brown	
	13	4756098		1988-07-12	Boggia	
	14	5345638		1994-09-13	Nishida	
	15	4785558		1988-11-22	Shiomura	
	16	0601192		1898-03-22	Woodside	
	17	1215198	A	1917-02-06	Rothstein	
	18	1597934	A	1926-08-31	Stimpson	
	19	1888172	A	1932-11-15	Joha	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

	20	1902780	A	1933-03-21	Holden et al.	
	21	1910251	A	1933-05-23	Joha	
	22	2001293	A	1935-05-14	Wilson	
	23	2047724	A	1936-07-14	Zuckerman	
	24	2330199	A	1943-09-28	Basch	
	25	2400692	A	1946-05-21	Herbert	
	26	2586045	A	1952-02-19	Hoza	
	27	2675631	A	1954-04-20	Doughty	
	28	2994322	A	1961-08-01	Cullen et al.	
	29	3694940	A	1972-10-03	Stohr	
	30	3704474	A	1972-12-05	Winkler	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

31	3766566	A	1973-10-23	Tadakoro	
32	3778856	A	1973-12-18	Christie et al.	
33	3952427	A	1976-04-27	Von den Benken et al.	
34	3972086	A	1976-08-03	Belli et al.	
35	4027402	A	1977-06-07	Liu et al.	
36	4031586	A	1977-06-28	Von den Benken et al.	
37	4211806	A	1980-07-08	Civardi et al.	
38	4232458	A	1980-11-11	Bartels	
39	4255949	A	1981-03-17	Thorneburg	
40	4258480	A	1981-03-31	Famolare, Jr.	
41	4317292	A	1982-03-02	Melton	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

	42	4373361	A	1983-02-15	Thorneburg	
	43	4465448	A	1984-08-14	Aldridge	
	44	4607439	A	1986-08-26	Harada	
	45	4737396	A	1988-04-12	Kamat	
	46	5031423	A	1991-07-16	Ikenaga	
	47	5095720	A	1992-03-17	Tibbals, Jr.	
	48	5117567	A	1992-06-02	Berger	
	49	5152025	A	1992-10-16	Hirmas	
	50	5192601	A	1993-03-09	Neisler	
	51	5353524	A	1994-10-11	Brier	
	52	5461884	A	1995-10-31	McCartney et al.	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

53	5371957	A	1994-12-13	Gaudio	
54	5511323	A	1996-04-30	Dahlgren	
55	5572860	A	1996-11-12	Mitsumoto et al.	
56	5575090	A	1996-11-19	Condini	
57	5623840	A	1997-04-29	Roell	
58	5729918	A	1998-03-24	Smets	
59	5735145	A	1998-04-07	Pernick	
60	5746013	A	1998-05-05	Fay, Sr.	
61	5765296	A	1998-06-16	Ludemann et al.	
62	5884419	A	1999-03-23	Davidowitz et al.	
63	5996189	A	1999-12-07	Wang	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

64	6029376	A	2000-02-29	Cass	
65	6032387	A	2000-03-07	Johnson	
66	6052921	A	2000-04-25	Oreck	
67	6088936	A	2000-07-18	Bahl	
68	6151802	A	2000-11-28	Reynolds	
69	6170175	B1	2001-01-09	Funk	
70	6308438	B1	2001-10-30	Throneburg et al.	
71	6401364	B1	2002-06-11	Burt	
72	6558784	B1	2003-05-06	Norton et al.	
73	6588237	B2	2003-07-08	Cole et al.	
74	6754983	B2	2004-06-29	Hatfield et al.	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

75	6910288	B2	2005-06-28	Dua	
76	6922917	B2	2005-08-02	Kerns et al.	
77	6931762	B1	2005-08-23	Dua	
78	D517297	S	2006-03-21	Jones et al.	
79	7051460	B2	2006-05-30	Orei et al.	
80	7056402	B2	2006-06-06	Koerwien et al.	
81	7347011	B2	2008-02-25	Dua et al.	
82	7441348		2008-10-28	Dawson	
83	7543397	B2	2009-06-09	Kilgore et al.	
84	7568298	B2	2009-08-04	Kerns	
85	7682219	B2	2010-03-23	Falla	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

86	8490299	B2	2013-07-23	Dua et al.	
----	---------	----	------------	------------	--

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

U.S.PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code ¹	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	20020148258		2002-10-17	Cole et al.	
	2	20120255201		2012-10-11	Little	
	3	20020078599	A1	2002-06-27	Delgorgue et al.	
	4	20030126762	A1	2003-07-10	Tseng	
	5	20030191427	A1	2003-10-19	Jay et al.	
	6	20040118018	A1	2004-06-24	Dua	
	7	20040181972	A1	2004-09-23	Csorba	
	8	20050115284	A1	2005-06-02	Dua	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

9	20050193592	A1	2005-09-08	Dua et al.	
10	20050273988	A1	2005-12-15	Christy	
11	20050284000	A1	2005-12-29	Kerns	
12	20060059715	A1	2006-03-26	Aveni	
13	20060162187	A1	2006-07-27	Byrnes et al.	
14	20070022627	A1	2007-02-01	Sokolowski et al.	
15	20070180730	A1	2007-08-09	Greene et al.	
16	20070294920	A1	2007-12-27	Baychar	
17	20080017294	A1	2008-01-24	Bailey et al.	
18	20080078102	A1	2008-04-03	Kilgore et al.	
19	20080110048	A1	2008-05-15	Dua et al.	

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

	20	20080189830	A1	2008-08-14	Eggesfield	
	21	20080313939	A1	2008-12-25	Ardill	
	22	20090068908	A1	2009-03-12	Hinchcliff	
	23	20100051132	A1	2010-03-04	Glenn	
	24	20100154256	A1	2010-06-24	Dua	
	25	20100170651	A1	2010-07-08	Scherb et al.	
	26	20110030244	A1	2011-02-10	Motawi et al.	
	27	20110078921	A1	2011-04-07	Greene et al.	
	28	20120233882	A1	2012-09-20	Huffa et al.	
	29	20120234052		2012-09-20	Huffa et al.	

If you wish to add additional U.S. Published Application citation information please click the Add button.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number ³	Country Code ^{2,j}	Kind Code ⁴	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
	1	19728848	DE		1999-01-07	Kunert Werke Gmbh		☐
	2	0448714	EP		1996-07-03	Toray Industries, Inc.		☐
	3	1233091	EP		2002-08-21	Sara Lee Corp.		☐
	4	0231247	WO		2002-04-18	Prodesco Inc.		☐
	5	H11302943	JP		1999-11-02	Masahiko et al.		☐
	6	19738433	DE		1998-04-02	Recytex Textilaufbereitung Gmb		☐
	7	0758693	EP		1997-02-19	Buck		☐
	8	7304678	NL		1974-10-08	Wildeman et al.		☐
	9	1084173	DE		1960-06-23	Geissler		☐
	10	0032861	WO		2000-06-08	Recaro Gmbh & Co.		☐

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

11	538865	GB		1941-08-20	Brew		☐
12	0728860	EP		1996-08-28	Hoeshst Trevira Gmbh & Co Kg		☐
13	H08109553	JP		1996-04-30	Toho Seni Kk		☐
14	2171172	FR		1973-09-21	ICI Ltd		☐
15	1603487	GB		1981-11-25	Inmont Corporation		☐
16	H06113905	JP		1994-04-26	Daiyu Shoji Kk		☐
17	9003744	WO		1990-04-19	RBFPT Inc.		☐
18	870963	DE	C	1953-03-19	Hofer		☐
19	0279950	EP	A2	1988-08-31	Arova Mammut		☐
20	0898002	EP	A2	1999-02-24	Shima Seiki Mfg		☐
21	1437057	EP	A1	2004-07-14	Mizuno KK		☐

EFS Web 2.1.17

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /DW/

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

22	1563752	EP	A1	2005-08-17	Calzado Robusta S.L.	☐
23	1602762	EP	A1	2005-12-07	Shima Seiki Mfg	☐
24	1972706	EP	A1	2008-09-24	Shima Seiki Mfg	☐
25	2018837	GB	A	1979-10-24	Dubied & Cie, S.A.E	☐

If you wish to add additional Foreign Patent Document citation information please click the Add button

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁵
	1	Declaration of Dr. Edward C. Frederick from the US Patent and Trademark Office Inter Partes Review of US Patent No. 7,347,011 (178 pp).	☐
	2	David J. Spencer, Knitting Technology: A Comprehensive Handbook and Practical Guide (Third ed., Woodhead Publishing Ltd. 2001) (413 pp).	☐
	3	Excerpt of Hannelore Eberle et al., Clothing Technology (Third English ed., Beuth-Verlag GmnH 2002) (book cover and back; pp2-3, 83).	☐
	4	International Search Report and Written Opinion in connection with PCT/US2009/056795 mailed on April 20, 2010.	☐
	5	International Search Report and Written Opinion in connection with PCT/US2012/028576 mailed on October 1, 2012	☐

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

6	International Search Report and Written Opinion in connection with PCT/US2012/028559 mailed on October 19, 2012	☐
7	International Search Report and Written Opinion in connection with PCT/US2012/028534 mailed on October 17, 2012	☐
8	International Preliminary Report on Patentability in connection with PCT/US2012/028534 mailed September 17, 2013	☐
9	International Preliminary Report on Patentability in connection with PCT/US2012/028576 mailed September 17, 2013	☐

If you wish to add additional non-patent literature document citation information please click the Add button

EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature	/DANNY WORRELL/ (07/17/2015)	Date Considered	
--------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

Receipt date: 12/01/2014

14535413 - GAU: 3765

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	14535413
Filing Date	2014-11-07
First Named Inventor	Adrian Meir
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

☐ See attached certification statement.

☐ The fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☒ A certification statement is not submitted herewith.

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Eric M. Gibson/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2014-12-01
Name/Print	Eric M. Gibson	Registration Number	59,058

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 14535413	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MEIR, ADRIAN
	Examiner LARRY WORRELL JR	Art Unit 3765

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
66	169R, 170, 171, 177	7/17/2015	dw
36	45, 47, 48	7/17/2015	dw

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner

	/LARRY WORRELL JR/ Primary Examiner.Art Unit 3765
--	--

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 14/535,413 Confirmation No. 8429
Applicant : Adrian Meir
Filed : 11/7/2014
Title : Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted
Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method
of Assembly
TC/A.U. : 3765
Examiner : Larry D. Worrell, Jr.
Attorney Docket No.: 51-4600
Customer No. : 57618

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 11, 2015,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which
begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Election begins on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising:

a plurality of webbed areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position, the webbed areas configured to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas; and

a plurality of tubular rib structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn;

wherein the plurality of tubular rib structures comprise (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers.

2. (original) The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction;

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures extend along the longitudinal direction,

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, and

wherein the knitted component is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between a neutral position and a stretched position, the knitted component biased toward the neutral position.

3. (original) The knitted component of claim 2, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component.

4. (original) The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the knitted component further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the second portion.

5. (original) The knitted component of claim 1, wherein at least one tubular rib structure of the plurality of tubular rib structures includes a tensile element disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.

6. (original) The knitted component of claim 1, further comprising:
the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area;

the plurality of tubular rib structures including at least a first rib tubular structure and a second tubular rib structure;

wherein the first tubular rib structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the

second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge;

wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular rib structure;

wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular rib structure;

wherein the second tubular rib structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and

wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular rib structure.

7. (original) The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern.

8. (original) An article of footwear comprising:

a sole; and

an upper that is attached to the sole, the upper including a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures, the plurality of webbed areas including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn;

the tubular rib structures being disposed adjacent to the webbed areas;

the plurality of tubular rib structures comprising: (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers;

the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position; and

the webbed areas configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas.

9. (original) The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the first yarn and the second yarn are different; and

wherein at least one course of one of the plurality of webbed areas formed with the first yarn is connected with at least one course of one of the plurality of tubular rib structures formed with the second yarn.

10. (original) The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the upper further includes a vamp region and a medial side, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the vamp region are aligned along a first orientation, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the medial side are aligned along a second orientation that is different from the first orientation.

11. (original) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein the upper further includes a heel region, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the heel region are aligned along a third orientation that is different from the first orientation and the second orientation.

12. (original) The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the knitted component further includes a throat portion, a throat opening, a lower region, a first end, and a second end;

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region extend from the first end of the knitted component to the second end of the knitted component; and

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the collar portion extend from the first end of the knitted component to the area along the throat opening of the knitted component.

13. (original) The article of footwear of claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region include a tensile element disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.

14. (original) The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas comprises a first webbed area and a second webbed area;
wherein the first webbed area has a first width, and the second webbed area has a second width, the first width being less than the second width.

15. (original) The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component.

Claims 16-20 (cancelled)

ELECTION

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups:

I. Claims 1-15, drawn to footwear, classified in class 37/47;
and

II. Claims 16-20, drawn to a method of knitting, classified in
class 66/61

Applicant elects the Group I invention, corresponding to at least
claims 1-15. The election is with traverse.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on March 11, 2015. Since this Amendment is being filed within the two month shortened statutory period for response, which expires on May 11, 2015, no extension of time or other fees are believed to be due, except as detailed in the attached documents or herein. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 502846.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 will be pending in this application. Claims 16-20 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Further to the election of the Group I invention, Applicant has cancelled the claims identified by the Examiner as being aligned with the Group II invention, namely claims 16-20, without prejudice to the subject matter contained in those claims. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to re-file claims 16-20 in one or more subsequent divisional applications.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Appln. No. 14/535,413
Response Dated April 14, 2015
Reply to Requirement of March 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

PLUMSEA LAW GROUP, LLC

Date: April 14, 2015

By: /Eric M. Gibson/
Eric M. Gibson
Registration Number 59,058
Telephone number 301-365-9040

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	22052625
Application Number:	14535413
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	8429
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Adrian Meir
Customer Number:	57618
Filer:	Eric M. Gibson/Jose Espejo
Filer Authorized By:	Eric M. Gibson
Attorney Docket Number:	51-4600
Receipt Date:	14-APR-2015
Filing Date:	07-NOV-2014
Time Stamp:	11:24:30
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment		no			
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Response to Election / Restriction Filed	2015-04-14_51-4600_Response_Restriction.pdf	82874 fe489d9cf58acc97e00657539629ffa4e31c563	no	10
Warnings:					
Information:					

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875				Application or Docket Number 14/535,413		Filing Date 11/07/2014		☐ To be Mailed	
ENTITY: ☒ LARGE ☐ SMALL ☐ MICRO									
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)							
FOR		NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)		FEE (\$)	
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (j), or (m))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))		minus 20 =		*		X \$ =			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =		*		X \$ =			
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).							
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL			
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II									
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT	04/14/2015		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		* 7	Minus	** 20	= 0	X \$80 =	0	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		* 1	Minus	***3	= 0	X \$420 =	0	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		0	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)					
AMENDMENT			CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		*	Minus	**	=	X \$ =		
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		*	Minus	***	=	X \$ =		
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE			
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.									

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**
If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/535,413	11/07/2014	Adrian Meir	51-4600	8429
57618 7590 03/11/2015 PLUMSEA LAW GROUP, LLC 6710 A Rockledge Drive SUITE 400 BETHESDA, MD 20817			EXAMINER WORRELL JR, LARRY D	
			ART UNIT 3765	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/11/2015	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 14/535,413	Applicant(s) MEIR, ADRIAN	
	Examiner DANNY WORRELL	Art Unit 3765	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____.; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims*

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some** c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

** See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 3) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 4) ☐ Other: _____ |

The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-15, drawn to footwear, classified in 36/47.

II. Claims 16-20, drawn to method of knitting, classified in 66/61.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the process as claimed can be used to make a materially different product such as a product other than a knit component with curved portions or a shoe upper.

Restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious search and/or examination burden if restriction were not required because one or more of the following reasons apply:

(a) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification;

(b) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter;

(c) the inventions require a different field of search (for example, searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries);

(d) the prior art applicable to one invention would not likely be applicable to another invention;

(e) the inventions are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include

(i) an election of an invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.**

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 or pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

The examiner has required restriction between product or apparatus claims and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product/apparatus, and all product/apparatus claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that include all the limitations of the allowable product/apparatus claims should be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must include all the limitations of an allowable product/apparatus claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product/apparatus claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product/apparatus are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product/apparatus claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product/apparatus claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04. Additionally, in order for rejoinder to occur, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product/apparatus claims. **Failure to do so**

may result in no rejoinder. Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANNY WORRELL whose telephone number is (571)272-4997. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoa Huynh can be reached on 571/272-4888. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANNY WORRELL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765

ldw

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))		Attorney Docket No. 51-4600	
		First Named Inventor Adrian Meir	
		Title Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted...	
		Express Mail Label No.	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	ADDRESS TO: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
1. ☐ Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17 or equivalent) 2. ☐ Applicant asserts small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27 3. ☐ Applicant certifies micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29. Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/15A or B or equivalent. 4. ☒ Specification [Total Pages <u>63</u>] Both the claims and abstract must start on a new page. (See MPEP § 608.01(a) for information on the preferred arrangement) 5. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <u>26</u>] 6. ☐ Inventor's Oath or Declaration [Total Pages _____] (including substitute statements under 37 CFR 1.64 and assignments serving as an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63(e)) a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy) b. ☐ A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) 7. ☒ Application Data Sheet * See note below. See 37 CFR 1.76 (PTO/AIA/14 or equivalent) 8. CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table, or Computer Program (Appendix) ☐ Landscape Table on CD 9. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, items a. -- c. are required) a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF) b. ☐ Specification Sequence Listing on: i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. ☐ Paper c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PAPERS 10. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) Name of Assignee <u>NIKE, Inc. for the U.S.A.</u> NIKE Innovate C.V. for all other territories 11. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(c) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee) 12. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable) 13. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) ☐ Copies of citations attached 14. ☐ Preliminary Amendment 15. ☐ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP § 503) (Should be specifically itemized) 16. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 17. ☐ Nonpublication Request Under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or equivalent. 18. ☒ Other: <u>Request for Prioritized Examination Under 37 CFR 1.102(e)</u> _____ _____ _____

***Note:** (1) Benefit claims under 37 CFR 1.78 and foreign priority claims under 1.55 must be included in an Application Data Sheet (ADS).
 (2) For applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111, the application must contain an ADS specifying the applicant if the applicant is an assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter. See 37 CFR 1.46(b).

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	
☒ The address associated with Customer Number: <u>57618</u> OR ☐ Correspondence address below	
Name	
Address	
City	State Zip Code
Country	Telephone Email
Signature	/Eric M. Gibson/ Date November 7, 2014
Name (Print/Type)	Eric M. Gibson Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 59,058

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.53(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**CERTIFICATION AND REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.102(e) (Page 1 of 1)**

First Named Inventor:	Adrian Meir	Nonprovisional Application Number (if known):	
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		

APPLICANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AND REQUESTS PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION FOR THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION.

1. The processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1) and the prioritized examination fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) have been filed with the request. The publication fee requirement is met because that fee, set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(d), is currently \$0. The basic filing fee, search fee, and examination fee are filed with the request or have been already been paid. I understand that any required excess claims fees or application size fee must be paid for the application.
2. I understand that the application may not contain, or be amended to contain, more than four independent claims, more than thirty total claims, or any multiple dependent claims, and that any request for an extension of time will cause an outstanding Track I request to be dismissed.
3. The applicable box is checked below:

I. ☒ Original Application (Track One) - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(1)

- i. (a) The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the utility application via EFS-Web.
---OR---
(b) The application is an original nonprovisional plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the plant application in paper.
- ii. An executed inventor's oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63 or 37 CFR 1.64 for each inventor, or the application data sheet meeting the conditions specified in 37 CFR 1.53(f)(3)(i) is filed with the application.

II. ☐ Request for Continued Examination - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(2)

- i. A request for continued examination has been filed with, or prior to, this form.
- ii. If the application is a utility application, this certification and request is being filed via EFS-Web.
- iii. The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), or is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. 371.
- iv. This certification and request is being filed prior to the mailing of a first Office action responsive to the request for continued examination.
- v. No prior request for continued examination has been granted prioritized examination status under 37 CFR 1.102(e)(2).

Signature <u>/Eric M. Gibson/</u>	Date <u>2014-11-07</u>
Name (Print/Typed) <u>Eric M. Gibson</u>	Practitioner Registration Number <u>59,058</u>
Note: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required.*	
☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.	

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	51-4600
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		
The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.			

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2

☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)
--

Inventor Information:

Inventor 1					Remove
Legal Name					
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	Adrian		Meir		
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service					
City	Portland	State/Province	OR	Country of Residence i	US
Mailing Address of Inventor:					
Address 1	c/o NIKE, Inc.				
Address 2	One Bowerman Drive				
City	Beaverton	State/Province	OR		
Postal Code	97005-6453	Country i	US		
All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add					

Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below. For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).			
☐ An Address is being provided for the correspondence Information of this application.			
Customer Number	57618		
Email Address	mail@plumsea.com	Add Email	Remove Email

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		
Attorney Docket Number	51-4600	Small Entity Status Claimed	☐
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	26	Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	1

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	51-4600
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		

Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)
☐ Request Not to Publish. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32). Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.											
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Please Select One:</td> <td>☒ Customer Number</td> <td>☐ US Patent Practitioner</td> <td>☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Customer Number</td> <td colspan="3">57618</td> </tr> </table>				Please Select One:	☒ Customer Number	☐ US Patent Practitioner	☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)	Customer Number	57618		
Please Select One:	☒ Customer Number	☐ US Patent Practitioner	☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)								
Customer Number	57618										

Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78. When referring to the current application, please leave the application number blank.			
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Claims benefit of provisional	62/057264	2014-09-30
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.			Add

Foreign Priority Information:

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55(d). When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX) the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(h)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).			
Remove			
Application Number	Country ⁱ	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Access Code ⁱ (if applicable)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	51-4600
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		
Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add			

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.

NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Authorization to Permit Access:

☒ Authorization to Permit Access to the Instant Application by the Participating Offices
If checked, the undersigned hereby grants the USPTO authority to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), and any other intellectual property offices in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed access to the instant patent application. See 37 CFR 1.14(c) and (h). This box should not be checked if the applicant does not wish the EPO, JPO, KIPO, WIPO, or other intellectual property office in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed to have access to the instant patent application. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(h)(3), access will be provided to a copy of the instant patent application with respect to: 1) the instant patent application-as-filed; 2) any foreign application to which the instant patent application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) if a copy of the foreign application that satisfies the certified copy requirement of 37 CFR 1.55 has been filed in the instant patent application; and 3) any U.S. application-as-filed from which benefit is sought in the instant patent application. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(c), access may be provided to information concerning the date of filing this Authorization.

Applicant Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	51-4600
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		

Applicant 1				Remove
If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section.				
Clear				
☒ Assignee		☐ Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117		☐ Joint Inventor
☐ Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.		☐ Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest		
If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:				
Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor : 				
If the Applicant is an Organization check here. ☒				
Organization Name		NIKE, Inc.		
Mailing Address Information:				
Address 1		One Bowerman Drive		
Address 2				
City		Beaverton	State/Province	OR
Country ⁱ	US	Postal Code	97005-6453	
Phone Number			Fax Number	
Email Address				
Additional Applicant Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add				

Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.	
Assignee 1	
Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.	
Remove	
If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☐	

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	51-4600
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix

Mailing Address Information For Assignee including Non-Applicant Assignee:

Address 1			
Address 2			
City		State/Province	
Country i		Postal Code	
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			

Additional Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.

Add

Signature:

Remove

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications

Signature	/Eric M. Gibson/		Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2014-11-07
First Name	Eric M.	Last Name	Gibson	Registration Number
			59058	

Additional Signature may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.

Add

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.76. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 23 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application data sheet form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

**ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR INCORPORATING A KNITTED COMPONENT WITH
INLAID TENSILE ELEMENTS AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This non-provisional patent application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 62/057,264 (Attorney Docket No. 51-3901), which was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 30, 2014 and entitled “Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly”, the disclosure of which application is entirely incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates generally to articles of footwear, and, in particular, to articles of footwear incorporating knitted components.

[0003] Conventional articles of footwear generally include two primary elements, an upper and a sole structure. The upper is secured to the sole structure and forms a void on the interior of the footwear for comfortably and securely receiving a foot. The sole structure is secured to a lower area of the upper, thereby being positioned between the upper and the ground. In athletic footwear, for example, the sole structure may include a midsole and an outsole. The midsole often includes a polymer foam material that attenuates ground reaction forces to lessen stresses upon the foot and leg during walking, running, and other ambulatory activities. Additionally, the midsole may include fluid-filled chambers, plates, moderators, or other elements that further attenuate forces, enhance stability, or influence the motions of the foot. The outsole is secured to a lower surface of the midsole and provides a ground-engaging portion of the sole

structure formed from a durable and wear-resistant material, such as rubber. The sole structure may also include a sockliner positioned within the void and proximal a lower surface of the foot to enhance footwear comfort.

[0004] The upper generally extends over the instep and toe areas of the foot, along the medial and lateral sides of the foot, under the foot, and around the heel area of the foot. In some articles of footwear, such as basketball footwear and boots, the upper may extend upward and around the ankle to provide support or protection for the ankle. Access to the void on the interior of the upper is generally provided by an ankle opening in a heel region of the footwear.

[0005] A variety of material elements (e.g., textiles, polymer foam, polymer sheets, leather, synthetic leather) are conventionally used in manufacturing the upper. In athletic footwear, for example, the upper may have multiple layers that each include a variety of joined material elements. As examples, the material elements may be selected to impart stretch-resistance, wear-resistance, flexibility, air-permeability, compressibility, comfort, and moisture-wicking to different areas of the upper. In order to impart the different properties to different areas of the upper, material elements are often cut to desired shapes and then joined together, usually with stitching or adhesive bonding. Moreover, the material elements are often joined in a layered configuration to impart multiple properties to the same areas. As the number and type of material elements incorporated into the upper increases, the time and expense associated with transporting, stocking, cutting, and joining the material elements may also increase. Waste material from cutting and stitching processes also accumulates to a greater degree as the number and type of material elements incorporated into the upper increases. Moreover, uppers with a greater number of material elements may be more difficult to recycle than uppers formed from fewer types and numbers of material elements. By decreasing the number of material elements used in the upper, therefore, waste may be decreased while increasing the manufacturing efficiency and recyclability of the upper.

SUMMARY

[0006] In one aspect, a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, where the knitted component includes a plurality of webbed areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn. The webbed areas are configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position. The webbed areas are biased to move toward the neutral position and to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas. The knitted component also includes a plurality of tubular rib structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas. The tubular rib structures include a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn. The plurality of tubular rib structures include two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers.

[0007] In another aspect, an article of footwear comprising a sole and an upper that is attached to the sole is disclosed. The upper includes a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction. The knitted component including a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures. The plurality of webbed areas including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn. The tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn. The tubular rib structures are disposed adjacent to the webbed areas. The plurality of tubular rib structures include two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers. The webbed areas are configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position. The webbed areas are biased to move toward the neutral position. The webbed areas are configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas.

[0008] In another aspect, a method of manufacturing a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction is disclosed. The method includes knitting a first plurality of courses to define a first webbed area of the knitted component. The knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction. The first webbed area is configured to move between a neutral

position and an extended position. The first webbed area is biased toward the neutral position. The first webbed area is configured to stretch in the lateral direction toward the extended position of the first webbed area in response to a force applied to the first webbed area. The method where knitting the first plurality of courses includes extending the first plurality of courses along the longitudinal direction of the knitted component. The method also including knitting a second plurality of courses to define a first tubular rib structure of the knitted component. At least one of the first plurality of courses is joined with at least one of the second plurality of courses so as to form the first webbed area and the first tubular structure of unitary knit construction. The method where knitting the second plurality of courses includes extending the second plurality of courses along the longitudinal direction of the knitted component.

[0009] Other systems, methods, features and advantages of the embodiments will be, or will become, apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following figures and detailed description. It is intended that all such additional systems, methods, features and advantages be included within this description and this summary, be within the scope of the embodiments, and be protected by the following claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The present disclosure can be better understood with reference to the following drawings and description. The components in the figures are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the present disclosure. Moreover, in the figures, like reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the different views.

[0011] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a knitted component, wherein the knitted component is shown in a first position;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the knitted component of FIG. 1 shown in a second position;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the knitted component, where the knitted component is shown in the first position with solid lines, and the knitted component is shown in the second position with broken lines;

[0014] FIG. 4 is a cross section of an embodiment of the knitted component taken along the line 4-4 of FIG. 1;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a cross section of an embodiment of the knitted component taken along the line 5-5 of FIG. 2;

[0016] FIG. 6 is a cross section of an embodiment of the knitted component including tensile elements;

[0017] FIG. 7 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the knitted component including tensile elements;

[0018] FIG. 8 is a detail view of an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0019] FIG. 9 is a schematic perspective view of an embodiment of a knitting machine configured for manufacturing the knitted component;

[0020] FIG. 10A is a schematic knitting diagram of an embodiment of the knitted component of FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 10B is a schematic knitting diagram of an embodiment of the knitted component of FIG. 1 including an inlaid tensile element;

[0022] FIG. 11 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component, wherein a webbed area is shown being formed;

[0023] FIG. 12 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component, wherein a tubular structure is shown being formed;

[0024] FIG. 13 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component, wherein webbed areas and tubular rib structures have been added;

[0025] FIG. 14 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component that includes tensile elements, wherein a tubular structure is being formed;

[0026] FIG. 15 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component that includes tensile elements, wherein a tubular structure is being formed and a cable is being incorporated in the tubular structure;

[0027] FIG. 16 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component that includes tensile elements, wherein a tubular structure is being formed;

[0028] FIG. 17 is a schematic illustration of an embodiment of a method of manufacturing an embodiment of the knitted component that includes tensile elements, wherein tubular rib structures and webbed areas have been added;

[0029] FIG. 18 is an embodiment of the knitted component in a first position;

[0030] FIG. 19 is an embodiment of the knitted component in a second position;

[0031] FIG. 20 is a top plan view of an embodiment of an upper for an article of footwear that includes a knitted component;

[0032] FIG. 21 is a perspective view of an upper assembly method that includes an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0033] FIG. 22 is a perspective view of an upper assembly method that includes an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0034] FIG. 23 is a perspective view of an upper assembly method that includes an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0035] FIG. 24 is a perspective view of an upper assembly method that includes an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0036] FIG. 25 is a lateral side isometric view of an article of footwear that includes an embodiment of the knitted component;

[0037] FIG. 26 is a medial side view of an article of footwear that includes an embodiment of the knitted component; and

[0038] FIG. 27 is a rear view of an article of footwear that includes an embodiment of the knitted component.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0039] The following discussion and accompanying figures disclose a variety of concepts relating to knitted components and the manufacture of knitted components. Although the knitted components may be used in a variety of products, an article of footwear that incorporates one of the knitted components is disclosed below as an example. In addition to footwear, the knitted component may be used in other types of apparel (e.g., shirts, pants, socks, jackets, undergarments), athletic equipment (e.g., golf bags, baseball and football gloves, soccer ball restriction structures), containers (e.g., backpacks, bags), and upholstery for furniture (e.g., chairs, couches, car seats). The knitted component may also be used in bed coverings (e.g., sheets, blankets), table coverings, towels, flags, tents, sails, and parachutes. The knitted component may be used as technical textiles for industrial purposes, including structures for automotive and aerospace applications, filter materials, medical textiles (e.g. bandages, swabs, implants), geotextiles for reinforcing embankments, agrotexiles for crop protection, and industrial apparel that protects or insulates against heat and radiation. Accordingly, the knitted component and other concepts disclosed herein may be incorporated into a variety of products for both personal and industrial purposes.

[0040] FIG. 1 shows a knitted component 100 illustrated according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 may be provided with different structural portions that affect the properties and/or physical characteristics of knitted component 100. In an exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of knitted component 100 can include rib structures that provide strength and/or support to knitted component. In some cases, rib structures can be hollow tubes formed in knitted component 100 by co-extensive and overlapping knit layers that are closed to form the tube. In other cases, rib structures may include additional components that are disposed within the tubes, as will be described in more detail below.

[0041] In some embodiments, at least a portion of knitted component 100 extending between the rib structures can be flexible, elastic, and resilient. More specifically, in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can resiliently stretch, deform, compress, flex, or otherwise move between a first position and a second position. Additionally, knitted component 100 can be compressible and can recover from a compressed state to a neutral position in some embodiments.

[0042] FIG. 1 illustrates a first position of an embodiment of knitted component 100, and FIG. 2 illustrates a second position of an embodiment of knitted component 100. For purposes of clarity, FIG. 3 shows knitted component 100 in both positions, wherein the first position is represented in solid lines and the second position is represented in broken lines. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be biased to move toward the first position. Accordingly, in some embodiments, a force can be applied to knitted component 100 to move knitted component 100 to the second position. When released, in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can resiliently recover and return to the first position. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be subjected to a load, and as a result may compress or stretch. In other embodiments, knitted component 100 can recover to the first position of FIG. 1 once the compression load is reduced.

[0043] The resiliency and elasticity of knitted component 100 can provide benefits. For example, knitted component 100 can deform resiliently under a load, supplying a cushion against the load. Then, once the load is reduced, knitted component 100 can recover to its original position, and can continue to provide cushioning, structural reinforcement, and support. Additionally, the elasticity of knitted component 100 in the portions between adjacent rib structures can allow the arrangement of rib structures on knitted component 100 in various directions by adjusting the degree or amount of stretch, as will be further described below.

[0044] In an exemplary embodiment, knitted component 100 can include a plurality of rib structures arranged on various portions of knitted component 100.

These rib structures are configured as non-planar areas that can be arranged such that knitted component 100 has a wavy, undulating, corrugated, or otherwise uneven appearance. In some embodiments, when knitted component 100 moves from the first position represented in FIG. 1 toward the second position represented in FIG. 2, knitted component 100 can become relatively flatter in the second position. In one embodiment, when moving back to the first position, the waviness of knitted component 100 can increase. In some embodiments, the waviness of knitted component 100 can increase the range of motion and stretchability of knitted component 100. Accordingly, in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can provide a high degree of dampening or cushioning.

[0045] Referring now to FIGS. 1-7, knitted component 100 is depicted as separate from an article of footwear. In some embodiments, a knitted component (for example, knitted component 100) according to the present disclosure can be incorporating into an upper of an article of footwear. In an exemplary embodiment, a knitted component may form a substantial majority of the upper of the article of footwear.

[0046] In various embodiments, knitted component 100 is formed of unitary knit construction. As used herein and in the claims, a knitted component (e.g., knitted component 100, or other knitted components described herein) is defined as being formed of “unitary knit construction” when formed as a one-piece element through a knitting process. That is, the knitting process substantially forms the various features and structures of knitted component 100 without the need for significant additional manufacturing steps or processes. A unitary knit construction may be used to form a knitted component having structures or elements that include one or more courses of yarn or other knit material that are joined such that the structures or elements include at least one course in common (i.e., sharing a common yarn) and/or include courses that are substantially continuous between each of the structures or elements. With this arrangement, a one-piece element of unitary knit construction is provided.

[0047] Although portions of knitted component 100 may be joined to each other (e.g., edges of knitted component 100 being joined together) following the knitting process, knitted component 100 remains formed of unitary knit construction because it is formed as a one-piece knit element. Moreover, knitted component 100 remains formed of unitary knit construction when other elements (e.g., a lace, logos, trademarks, placards with care instructions and material information, structural elements) are added following the knitting process.

[0048] In different embodiments, any suitable knitting process may be used to produce knitted component 100 formed of unitary knit construction, including, but not limited to a warp knitting or a weft knitting process, including a flat knitting process or a circular knitting process, or any other knitting process suitable for providing a knitted component. Examples of various configurations of knitted components and methods for forming knitted component 100 with unitary knit construction are disclosed in U.S. Patent Number 6,931,762 to Dua; and U.S. Patent Number 7,347,011 to Dua, et al., the disclosure of each being incorporated by reference in its entirety. In an exemplary embodiment, a flat knitting process may be used to form knitted component 100, as will be described in more detail.

[0049] For reference purposes, knitted component 100 is illustrated with respect to a Cartesian coordinate system in FIGS. 1-7. Specifically, a longitudinal direction 102, a lateral direction 104, and a thickness direction 106 of knitted component 100 are shown. However, knitted component 100 can be illustrated relative to a radial coordinate system or other coordinate system.

[0050] As shown in FIGS. 1-3, some embodiments of knitted component 100 can include a front surface 108 and a back surface 110. Moreover, knitted component 100 can include a peripheral edge 114 in different embodiments. Peripheral edge 114 can define the boundaries of knitted component 100. In one embodiment, knitted component 100 may have a thickness visible along peripheral edge 114 that extends in thickness direction 106 between front surface 108 and back surface 110. In some embodiments, peripheral edge 114 of knitted

component 100 may extend around a periphery of knitted component 100 and may be further sub-divided into any number of sides, depending on the configuration of the knitted component. For example, in one embodiment of knitted component 100, peripheral edge 114 can include four sides defining an approximately rectangular shape of knitted component 100 as shown in FIGS. 1-3.

[0051] More specifically, in some embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 1-3, peripheral edge 114 of knitted component 100 can be sub-divided into a first edge 116, a second edge 118, a third edge 120, and a fourth edge 122. First edge 116 and second edge 118 can be spaced apart in longitudinal direction 102. Third edge 120 and fourth edge 122 can be spaced apart in lateral direction 104. Third edge 120 can extend between first edge 116 and second edge 118, and fourth edge 122 can also extend between first edge 116 and second edge 118. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be generally rectangular. However, it will be appreciated that knitted component 100 can define any shape without departing from the scope of the present disclosure, including regular and irregular (non-geometrical) shapes.

[0052] In different embodiments, front surface 108 and/or back surface 110 of knitted component 100 can be rippled, wavy, bumpy, undulated, corrugated or otherwise uneven and non-planar. Any waviness may be intermittent or continuous. It will also be appreciated that in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can include a series of non-planar features or constructions. For example, knitted component 100 can include ribs, tunnels, peaks and troughs, corrugations, steps, raised ridges and recessed channels, or other uneven features formed by the knit structure of knitted component 100. Such features where they occur can extend across knitted component 100 in any direction. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can include a plurality of tubular rib structures 126 and a plurality of webbed areas 128. For purposes of this description, tubular rib structures 126 and webbed areas 128 will be referred to collectively as “ribbed features”.

[0053] Generally, tubular rib structures 126 can be areas of knitted component 100 constructed with two or more co-extensive and overlapping knit layers. Knit layers may be portions of knitted component 100 that are formed by knitted material, for example, threads, yarns, or strands. Two or more knit layers may be formed of unitary knit construction in such a manner so as to form tubes or tunnels, identified as tubular rib structures 126, in knitted component 100. Although the sides or edges of the knit layers forming tubular rib structures 126 may be secured to the other layer, a central area is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two layers of knitted material forming each knit layer. In some embodiments, the central area of tubular rib structures 126 may be configured such that another element (e.g., a tensile element) may be located between and pass through the hollow between the two knit layers forming tubular rib structures 126.

[0054] Knitted component 100 can include any suitable number of tubular rib structures 126. In some embodiments, two or more tubular rib structures 126 of knitted component 100 can have similar shape and dimensions to each other. In other embodiments, the shape and dimensions of tubular rib structures 126 can vary across knitted component 100. In some embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can generally be shaped as a cylinder. In an exemplary embodiment, tubular rib structures 126 may have an elongated cylindrical shape with a wider top portion associated with front surface 108 and a narrower lower portion associated with back surface 110. In other embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can be shaped as a generally circular or elliptical cylinder. Knitted component can include differently shaped tubular rib structures 126.

[0055] Generally, webbed areas 128 may be connecting portions between various elements and/or components of knitted component 100. Webbed areas 128 are formed of unitary knit construction with the remaining portions of knitted component 100 and may serve to connect various portions together as a one-piece knit element. Knitted component 100 can include any suitable number of webbed areas 128. In different embodiments, webbed areas 128 can be an

area of knitted component 100 comprising one knit layer. In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 may extend between one portion of knitted component and another portion of knitted component 100. In one embodiment, webbed areas 128 can extend between one tubular rib structure and another tubular rib structure. In a different embodiment, webbed areas 128 may extend between one tubular rib structure and another portion of knitted component 100. In another embodiment, webbed area 128 may extend between one tubular rib structure and an edge of knitted component 100.

[0056] In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 may be disposed in an alternating manner between two or more tubular rib structures 126. In an exemplary embodiment, webbed areas 128 can extend between and connect two or more adjacent tubular rib structures 126. With this configuration, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 are formed together with knitted component 100 of unitary knit construction.

[0057] Moreover, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, knitted component 100 can have a knit layer thickness 400 that is measured from front surface 108 to back surface 110 of some areas. In some embodiments, knit layer thickness 400 can be substantially constant throughout knitted component 100. In other embodiments, knit layer thickness 400 can vary with certain portions being thicker than other portions. It will be appreciated that in some embodiments, knit layer thickness 400 can be selected and controlled according to the diameter of yarn(s) used. Knit layer thickness 400 can also be controlled according to the denier of the yarn(s) in another embodiment. Additionally, in other embodiments, knit layer thickness 400 can be controlled according to the stitch density within knitted component 100.

[0058] As mentioned, knitted component 100 can be resiliently flexible, compressible, and stretchable. Webbed areas 128 and/or tubular rib structures 126 can flex, deform, or otherwise move as knitted component 100 stretches. For example, in the first position of FIGS. 1 and 4, webbed areas 128 can remain relatively compressed and compact. In the second position of FIGS. 2 and 5,

webbed areas 128 can be relatively more extended and stretched. Furthermore, stretching of webbed areas 128 may result in a stretching and flattening of knitted component 100. In addition, in some embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can compress or extend.

[0059] The first position of knitted component 100 shown in FIGS. 1 and 4 can also be referred to as an unstretched position or a neutral position in some embodiments. The second position represented in the embodiments of FIGS. 2 and 5 can also be referred to as a stretched position or an extended position.

[0060] If knitted component 100 is stretched to the second position, the resilience and elasticity of knitted component 100 can allow knitted component 100 to recover and move back toward the first position represented in FIGS. 1 and 4 once the stretching force is removed. Stated differently, knitted component 100 can be biased toward the first position.

[0061] As shown in FIG. 3, movement of knitted component 100 from the first position to the second position can cause knitted component 100 to stretch and elongate in lateral direction 104 in some embodiments. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 3, knitted component 100 can have a first width 300 in the first position, measured from third edge 120 to fourth edge 122 along lateral direction 104. In contrast, knitted component 100 can have a second width 302 which is longer than first width 300, as shown in FIG. 4. It will be appreciated that knitted component 100 can have varying widths as it is stretched. In some cases first width 300 and/or second width 302 may each vary, depending in part on the materials comprising knitted component 100 and the amount of force applied.

[0062] As seen in FIG. 3, knitted component 100 can also have an overall length 304 that is measured between first edge 116 and second edge 118 along longitudinal direction 102. In some embodiments, length 304 can remain substantially constant. In other embodiments, knitted component 100 can exhibit some stretchability in longitudinal direction 102 such that length 304 is variable. In one embodiment, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 may stretch in longitudinal direction 102. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can

stretch in response to a force along longitudinal direction 102 such that length 304 increases. In other embodiments, knitted component 100 can exhibit a significantly higher degree of stretchability in lateral direction 104 than in longitudinal direction 102.

[0063] Furthermore, knitted component 100 can have a body thickness that changes as knitted component 100 moves. Body thickness refers to the height of tubular rib structures 126 in knitted component 100 in thickness direction 106. For example, in some embodiments, body thickness can vary as the curvature of tubular rib structures 126 change as knitted component 100 stretches and compresses. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 3, knitted component 100 has a first body thickness 306 in the first position, depicted in solid lines, and knitted component 100 has a second body thickness 308 in the second position, depicted in broken lines. In FIG. 3, first body thickness 306 is greater than second body thickness 308.

[0064] In addition, different areas of knitted component 100 can have different body thicknesses. In different embodiments, one portion of knitted component 100 may have a greater body thickness than another portion of knitted component 100. In another embodiment, some tubular rib structures of knitted component 100 may experience greater stretching and have a body thickness that is less than the body thickness of other tubular rib structures in knitted component 100.

[0065] Webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 of knitted component 100 will now be discussed in greater detail. In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 can be elongated and substantially straight, as shown in FIGS. 1-3. More specifically, webbed areas 128 can extend longitudinally along a respective web axis 130, one of which is indicated in FIG. 1 as an example. Webbed areas 128 can include a first longitudinal ends 134 and a second longitudinal ends 136, as shown in FIG. 2. Similarly, tubular rib structures 126 can extend longitudinally along a respective tubular axis 132, one of which is indicated in FIG. 1 as an example. Tubular rib structures 126 can include a first longitudinal

ends 138 and a second longitudinal ends 140, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. In some embodiments, web axis 130 and tubular axis 132 can be substantially straight and parallel to longitudinal direction 102. In other embodiments, web axis 130 and/or tubular axis 132 can be curved relative to longitudinal direction 102. Also, in some embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can be nonparallel relative to each other. In one embodiment, tubular rib structures 126 may exhibit greater curvature than webbed areas 128. In another embodiment, webbed areas 128 may exhibit greater curvature than tubular rib structures 126.

[0066] Additionally, in some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 2, first longitudinal ends 134 of webbed areas 128 can be disposed proximate first edge 116 of knitted component 100, and second longitudinal ends 136 of webbed areas 128 can be disposed proximate second edge 118 of knitted component 100. Likewise, first longitudinal ends 138 of tubular rib structures 126 can be disposed proximate to first edge 116 of knitted component 100, and second longitudinal ends 140 of tubular rib structures 126 can be disposed proximate to second edge 118 of knitted component.

[0067] Furthermore, in some embodiments, first longitudinal ends 134 of webbed areas 128 and first longitudinal ends 138 of tubular rib structures 126 can cooperate to define first edge 116 of knitted component 100. Similarly, second longitudinal ends 136 of webbed areas 128 and second longitudinal ends 140 of tubular rib structures 126 can cooperate to define second edge 118 of knitted component 100 in some embodiments.

[0068] Webbed areas 128 can include a first webbed area 142. In some embodiments, first webbed area 142 can be representative of other webbed areas 128. Referring to FIGS. 1-5, in different embodiments, first webbed area 142 may be curved or may lie relatively flat along the lateral direction 104. In one embodiment, first webbed area 142 can be generally flat. In other embodiments, first webbed area 142 can be curved or angled. In some embodiments, first

webbed area 142 can be concave on front surface 108. In other embodiments, first webbed area 142 can be convex on front surface 108.

[0069] It should be understood that in some embodiments, webbed areas 128 can be stretched to a greater extent relative to other embodiments, resulting in a substantially flattened shape of knitted component 100. In these embodiments, webbed areas 128 may comprise a relatively more planar than rounded shape.

[0070] In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 of knitted component 100 can have a similar shape and dimensions to other webbed areas 128. In other embodiments, the shape and dimensions of webbed areas 128 can vary across knitted component 100.

[0071] In different embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can include a first tubular structure 146. In some embodiments, first tubular structure 146 can be representative of other tubular rib structures 126. First tubular structure 146 can have a tube shape in some embodiments. When viewed in cross-section, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, tubular rib structures 126 can include a first curved portion 416 and a second curved portion 418. In an exemplary embodiment, first curved portion 416 is disposed opposite of second curved portion 418 on the respective top and bottom of tubular rib structures 126. In some embodiments, first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 may be knitted together to define the tube forming tubular rib structure 126. In the embodiment of FIGS. 4 and 5, first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 meet along a first transition 420 edge and also along a second transition 422 edge, forming a tunnel or tube shape.

[0072] In some embodiments, first curved portion 416 can comprise a portion of front surface 108 of knitted component. In some embodiments, second curved portion 418 can comprise a portion of back surface 110 of knitted component 100. Together, first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 may comprise two sides of first tubular structure 146. In different

embodiments, first curved portion 416 may be comprised of one knit layer and second curved portion 418 may be comprised of another knit layer.

[0073] Various areas of first tubular structure 146 can comprise different shapes. In different embodiments, first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 can move and change shape. In some embodiments, first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 can be relatively level or flattened. In other embodiments, first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 can be rounded or curve by varying amounts.

[0074] In other embodiments, first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 can comprise curved areas of tubular rib structures 126. First curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 can be curved or bent to a greater degree in some embodiments, and to a lesser degree in other embodiments. For example, in some embodiments, the amount of courses of knit material forming first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 may be varied to change the associated degree or amount of curvature of the respective first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418. Additionally, the direction of the curvature of each of first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 may vary. In one embodiment, first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 may be provided such that first tubular structure 146 can be convex on front surface 108 and convex on back surface 110.

[0075] In different embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can define one or more hollow tubes. A hollow tube 112 may be a generally unsecured area disposed between first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 of tubular rib structure that has the configuration of a tunnel or channel. In some embodiments, first tubular structure 146 may comprise a generally cylindrical or elliptical shape, with hollow tube 112 extending throughout the length of first tubular structure 146 in a longitudinal direction 102. In some embodiments, hollow tube 112 may form a tunnel within tubular rib structures 126, and may extend partway along the length of tubular rib structures 126. In other embodiments, hollow tube 112 may extend throughout the full length of tubular rib structures 126.

The diameter of one hollow tube and the diameter of other hollow tubes may differ in some embodiments, as discussed further below.

[0076] In different embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 may be arranged in various configurations. As shown in FIG. 4, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can be spaced apart relative to each other. For example, in some embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can be spaced apart in lateral direction 104. Also, in some embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can be arranged in an alternating pattern across knitted component 100. More specifically, as shown in FIGS. 1-5, webbed areas 128 can include first webbed area 142 and a second webbed area 144. Likewise, tubular rib structures 126 can include first tubular structure 146 as well as a second tubular structure 148. First tubular structure 146 can be disposed between and can separate first webbed area 142 and second webbed area 144. Furthermore, first webbed area 142 can be disposed between and can separate first tubular structure 146 and second tubular structure 148. This alternating arrangement can be repeated across knitted component 100 in lateral direction 104 in some embodiments.

[0077] In some embodiments, such as those shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, knitted component 100 can further include a third tubular structure 432, a third webbed area 442, a fourth tubular structure 434, a fourth webbed area 444, a fifth tubular structure 436, a fifth webbed area 446, and a sixth tubular structure 438. Third tubular structure 432 can define third edge 120 of knitted component 100. Moving away from third edge 120 in lateral direction 104, third webbed area 442 is disposed adjacent to third tubular structure 432. Also, fourth tubular structure 434 is disposed adjacent third webbed area 442, and second webbed area 144 is disposed adjacent fourth tubular structure 434. As stated, first webbed area 142 is disposed adjacent second tubular structure 148, first tubular structure 146 is disposed adjacent first webbed area 142, and second webbed area 144 is disposed adjacent first tubular structure 146. Additionally, second tubular structure 148 is disposed adjacent to fourth webbed area 444, fourth webbed area

444 is disposed adjacent to fifth tubular structure 436. Fifth tubular structure 436 is disposed adjacent to fifth webbed area 446, and fifth webbed area 446 is disposed adjacent to sixth tubular structure 438. Sixth tubular structure 438 can define fourth edge 122.

[0078] Webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can be directly adjacent and attached to each other in some embodiments. More specifically, as shown in the embodiment of FIG. 5, first webbed area 142 can be attached to first tubular structure 146 at first transition 420. First webbed area 142 is also attached to second tubular structure 148 at second transition 422. This arrangement can be repeated among other adjacent pairs of webbed areas and tubular rib structures as well.

[0079] In other embodiments the arrangement of the webbed areas and tubular rib structures may differ. In one embodiment, two or more webbed areas may be disposed adjacent to one another within knitted component 100. In another embodiment, two or more tubular rib structures may be disposed adjacent one another within knitted component 100. In some embodiments, the webbed areas and/or tubular rib structures may be disposed adjacent to other portions of knitted component 100.

[0080] In different embodiments, the position of webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 may vary as knitted component 100 moves between the first position of FIGS. 1 and 4 and the second position of FIGS. 2 and 5. As shown in FIG. 4, webbed areas 128 can be in a compacted or unstretched position when knitted component 100 is in the first position. In some embodiments, tubular rib structures 126 can similarly be in a compacted or unstretched position when knitted component 100 is in the first position. In contrast, as shown in FIG. 5, webbed areas 128 can be in an extended or stretched position when knitted component 100 is in the second position, and tubular rib structures 126 can similarly be in an extended or stretched position when knitted component 100 is in the second position. The lateral width of webbed areas 128 can be smaller in the neutral position as compared to the extended position. In addition, as seen in

FIGS. 4-5, the midpoints of first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 of tubular rib structures 126 can be closer together in the stretched position as compared to the unstretched position, as body thickness changes from first body thickness 306 to second body thickness 308, as shown in FIG. 3. Similarly, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, in some embodiments, first transition 420 can be closer to second transition 422 in the relaxed or neutral position than in the extended or stretched position. This is due in part to the change in curvature of first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 about the respective tubular axis 132 when moving between the compacted and extended positions associated with the neutral or unstretched first position of knitted component 100 and the extended or stretched second position of knitted component 100. This can be seen as first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 move closer to imaginary reference plane 402 from FIG. 4 to FIG. 5.

[0081] In some embodiments, the arrangement of adjacent tubular rib structures 126 may be provided such that webbed areas 128 disposed between each pair of adjacent tubular rib structures 126 is at least partially obscured from visual observation in the neutral or unstretched position when viewed from top surface 108. That is, first curved portion 416 of each adjacent tubular rib structure 126 may be touching or close to each other such that webbed area 128 below is not visible in the unstretched position of knitted component 100. When some force is applied to knitted component 100 to move knitted component 100 from the unstretched position to the stretched position, the relative positions of webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 are moved apart from neutral positions to extended positions, and the underlying webbed areas 128 may then be revealed for visual observation from top surface 108. In an exemplary embodiment, webbed areas 128 may be knitted using a contrasting type or color of yarn than tubular rib structures 126, such that when moving knitted component 100 from the unstretched position to the stretched position, the contrast of webbed area 128 is revealed to visual observation from top surface 108.

[0082] In different embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 128 can have different degrees of stretch as knitted component moves from the unstretched or neutral position to the stretched or extended position. For example, in FIG. 4, fifth webbed area 446 has a width W1, and first tubular structure 146 has a width W2. In FIG. 5, fifth webbed area 446 has a width W2 and first tubular structure 146 has a width W4. As knitted component 100 moves from the first position of FIG. 4 to the second position of FIG. 5, width W1 increases to width W2, and width W3 increases to width W4. In some embodiments, the lateral stretch that occurs along webbed areas 128 can be greater than the stretch that occurs along tubular rib structures 126. For example, in one embodiment, the percentage of increase from width W1 to width W2 may be greater than the percentage of increase from width W3 to width W4. In some embodiments, this difference may result from the particular construction of tubular rib structures 126, where two knit layers (for example, first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418) are joined together, which can constrain the amount of stretch. In other embodiments, this difference can be due to the strand selected in the knitting of tubular rib structures 126, and/or the inclusion of other material within openings 112 of tubular rib structures 126, such as tensile elements, as discussed further below.

[0083] Additionally, in some embodiments, webbed areas 128 and/or tubular rib structures 126 can be biased toward the neutral position represented in FIGS. 1 and 4. In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can respond to a force by moving toward the extended or stretched position represented in FIGS. 2 and 5. Once the stretching force is reduced, webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can recover back to the neutral position represented in FIGS. 1 and 4. When the load is removed, the resilience of knitted component 100 and biasing provided by webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 can provide recovery of knitted component 100 back to the position of FIG. 4.

[0084] In different embodiments, knitted component 100 can be modified to limit the recovery from a stretched position to a more compact position. In some embodiments, this process is favored when knitted component 100 can be comprised at least partially of a fusible material. In one embodiment, the material may include a thermoplastic polymer material. In general, a thermoplastic polymer material softens or melts when heated and returns to a solid state when cooled. Although a wide range of thermoplastic polymer materials may be utilized in knitted component 100, examples of possible thermoplastic polymer materials include thermoplastic polyurethane, polyamide, polyester, polypropylene, and polyolefin.

[0085] In some configurations, knitted component 100 may be entirely, substantially, or partially formed from one or more thermoplastic polymer materials. Advantages of forming knitted component 100 from a thermoplastic polymer material are uniform properties, the ability to form thermal bonds, efficient manufacture, elastomeric stretch, and relatively high stability or tensile strength. Although a single thermoplastic polymer material may be utilized, individual strands in knitted component 100 may be formed from multiple thermoplastic polymer materials. Additionally, while each strand may be formed from a common thermoplastic polymer material, different strands may also be formed from different materials. As an example, some strands in knitted component 100 may be formed from a first type of thermoplastic polymer material, whereas other strands of knitted component 100 may be formed from a second type of thermoplastic polymer material, and further strands in knitted component 100 may be formed of a different material.

[0086] The thermoplastic polymer material may be selected to have various stretch and fusible properties, and the material may be considered elastomeric. As a related matter, the thermoplastic polymer material utilized may be selected to have various recovery properties. That is, knitted component 100 may be formed to return to an original, neutral shape after being stretched. However, in different embodiments, knitted component 100 may be formed and/or

treated so that different portions include different capacities for stretch and recovery.

[0087] Knitted component 100 may be maintained in various neutral configurations as a result of different treatments to material forming knitted component 100. Knitted component 100 may be treated in some manner to inhibit recovery to original position. Treatments may include chemical treatment, application of heat, alterations in manufacturing or material, or other treatments. The materials used in formation of knitted component 100 may influence the selection of treatment. In one embodiment, fusible materials may be selected to permit the use of heat to maintain a stretched position. Thus, in some embodiments, one or more portions of a knitted component 100 can remain in a stretched position, where the elastic recovery properties of the material are decreased.

[0088] Thus, in some embodiments, stretch in one or more areas may be maintained. In other words, areas of knitted component 100 may remain stretched relative to other areas even without a compression load. In some embodiments, the degree of stretch in one area and the degree of stretch in another area can differ. As a result, the width of one area of knitted component 100 can also differ from the widths of other areas of knitted component 100 that include the same number of ribbed features. Depending on the extent of stretch present, one section of knitted component 100 comprising a series of ribbed features may have an average width that is greater than the average width of another section of knitted component 100 comprising the same set of ribbed features. Thus, knitted component 100 may include varying levels of stretch throughout the component which can be maintained even in the absence of compression loads.

[0089] In addition, it should be noted that the orientation of ribbed features may also change as knitted component 100 is stretched in various ways. This aspect will be discussed in greater detail below, with respect to articles incorporating a knitted component.

[0090] In different embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 6-10, one or more tensile elements 600 can be incorporated in knitted component 100. Tensile elements 600 can provide support to knitted component 100. Stated differently, tensile elements 600 can allow knitted component 100 to resist deformation, stretching, or otherwise provide support for the wearer's foot during running, jumping, or other movements. Tensile elements may be arranged in such a manner as to improve performance characteristics. Tensile elements can enhance strength, support, and provide structural reinforcement.

[0091] In some embodiments, tensile elements 600 can be incorporated, inlaid, or extended into one or more tubular rib structures during the unitary knit construction of the knitted component 100. Stated another way, tensile elements 600 can be incorporated during the knitting process of knitted component 100. In one embodiment, tensile elements 600 can be extended across the tubular structure. In some embodiments, tensile elements 600 may lie within the tunnels formed by first curved portion 416 and second curved portion 418 of tubular rib structures.

[0092] In FIG. 6, a cross section of a portion of knitted component 100 is shown. A first tubular structure 602 and a second tubular structure 604 are depicted, with a webbed area 606 disposed between the two tubular rib structures. Tensile elements 600 can be inlaid during the unitary knit construction of knitted component 100 such that a first cable 608 is disposed in the tunnel of first tubular structure 602 and a second cable 610 is disposed in the tunnel of second tubular structure 604. First cable 608 and second cable 610 are shown independent of one another. However, in some embodiments, first cable 608 and second cable 610 may be comprised of a single, continuous length of cable.

[0093] Tensile elements 600 may extend along one or more tubular rib structures, as shown in FIG. 7. In different embodiments, tensile elements 600 may be arranged in various configurations though knitted component 100. Tensile elements 600 may be present in some or all tubular rib structures. Tensile elements 600 may be arranged in various patterns or at varying intervals along

knitted component 100. In FIG. 7, a knitted component 100 is shown with tensile elements 600 disposed along the tunnels of half of the depicted tubular rib structures, or in this case, three of the six tubular rib structures. In the embodiment of FIG. 7, a first cable 702, a second cable 704, and a third cable 706 are shown. First cable 702 extends along the tunnel 714 of first tubular structure 146, second cable 704 extends along the tunnel 720 of fourth tubular structure 434, and third cable 706 extends along the tunnel 718 of third tubular structure 432. It is important to note that while first cable 702, second cable 704, and third cable 706 are depicted as independent of one another, in some embodiments, first cable 702, second cable 704, and third cable 706 may be comprised of a single, continuous length of cable. In other words, a single cable may emerge from tunnel 714 of first tubular structure 146 and return to knitted component 100 by entering, for example, tunnel 720 in adjacent fourth tubular structure 434, and continue in such a manner through any number of additional tubular rib structures.

[0094] In other embodiments, knitted component 100 may include tensile elements 600 in fewer tunnels or more tunnels. In one embodiment, tensile elements 600 may be disposed in tubular rib structures 126 that neighbor one another. In another embodiment, tensile elements 600 may be present in a majority of tubular rib structures 126, or in all tubular rib structures 126, of knitted component 100. In one embodiment, tensile elements 600 may be disposed in tubular rib structures 126 that are more distant from one another. In another embodiment, tensile elements 600 may occur in every other tubular structure 126, to form a staggered, or alternating, arrangement. Thus, tubular rib structures 126 that contain tensile elements 600 may be adjacent to tubular rib structures 126 that do not contain tensile elements 600. In other embodiments, the presence of tensile elements 600 may not be as regular. For example, there may be two or more tubular rib structures 126 that contain tensile elements 600, and these can be adjacent to one or more tubular rib structures 126 that do not contain tensile elements 600. Additionally, there may be one or more tubular rib structures 126 that contain tensile elements 600, and these may be adjacent to two or more

tubular rib structures 126 that do not contain tensile elements 600. In other embodiments, knitted component 100 may include tensile elements 600 in one region of knitted component 100 and include no tensile elements 600 in another region of knitted component 100. In still other embodiments, knitted component 100 may include no tensile elements 600.

[0095] In different embodiments, tensile elements 600 may be formed from a variety of materials. Tensile elements 600 may comprise various materials, including rope, thread, webbing, cable, yarn, strand, filament, or chain, for example. In some embodiments, tensile elements 600 may be formed from material that may be utilized in a knitting machine or other device that forms knitted component 100. Tensile elements 600 may be a generally elongated fiber or strand exhibiting a length that is substantially greater than a width and a thickness. Accordingly, suitable materials for tensile elements 600 include various filaments, fibers, and yarns, that are formed from rayon, nylon, polyester, polyacrylic, silk, cotton, carbon, glass, aramids (e.g., para-aramid fibers and meta-aramid fibers), ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, and liquid crystal polymer. In comparison with the yarns forming the knitted component, the thickness of the tensile elements may be greater. In some configurations, the tensile element may have a significantly greater thickness than the yarns of the knitted component. Although the cross-sectional shape of a tensile element may be round, triangular, square, rectangular, elliptical, or irregular shapes may also be used. Moreover, the materials forming a tensile element may include any of the materials for the yarn within a knitted component, including, but not limited to: cotton, elastane, polyester, rayon, wool, nylon, and other suitable materials. Although tensile elements 600 may have a cross-section where width in lateral direction 104 and thickness direction 106 are substantially equal (e.g., a round or square cross-section), some tensile elements may have a width that is somewhat greater than their thickness (e.g., a rectangular, oval, or otherwise elongated cross-section).

[0096] In different embodiments, size and length of tensile elements 600 may vary. In some embodiments, tensile elements 600 may extend across the

length of one or more tubular rib structures. In other embodiments, tensile elements 600 may extend only partway across the length of one or more tubular rib structures. In another embodiment, tensile elements 600 may extend beyond the length of one or more tubular rib structures. In some embodiments, first cable 702 may comprise a first length in some tubular rib structures and second cable 704 may comprise a second length in other tubular rib structures. For example, in one embodiment, first cable 702 may extend partway across the length of one or more tubular rib structures, second cable 704 may extend across the full length of another tubular structure, while third cable 706 may extend beyond the length of a tubular structure.

[0097] In different embodiments, end portions of tensile elements 600 can enter and/or exit first longitudinal ends 134 of tubular rib structures and/or second longitudinal ends 136 of tubular rib structures. Tensile elements 600 may be adjusted in tautness, length, friction, or other aspects. In some embodiments, a tensile element may be anchored at any point along its length to stabilize or inhibit the movement of the tensile element. For example, in some cases, tensile elements 600 may be anchored at one or more longitudinal ends, to prevent their ends from being pulled through one of the tubular rib structures beyond a designated point. In other cases, a single tensile element may be looped through two or more tubular rib structures, which may prevent tensile elements from being pulled into tubular rib structures beyond a certain point.

[0098] In different embodiments, resistance between tensile elements 600 and the inner surface of tubular rib structures 126 may be adjusted. Friction may be altered through various configurations of tubular rib structures 126 and/or tensile elements 600. This may permit tensile elements 600 to move through the tunnels with varying levels of tension or compression. Depending on the preferred level of stiffness, the amount of contact between tensile elements 600 and the inner surface of tubular rib structures 126 may be adjusted.

[0099] It should be understood that in different embodiments, one or more alterations may be made to webbed areas 128, tubular rib structures 126, or

tensile elements 600 in order to adjust the resistance between tensile elements 600 and knitted component 100, including those described above. Some embodiments may allow other configurations. For example, in one embodiment, the diameter of a cable may be increased, while the lateral length of one or more knit layers of the tubular rib structures corresponding with the tensile element may be decreased. In another embodiment, the thickness of one or more knit layers may be decreased, and/or the diameter of the tensile element associated with those knit layers may be increased.

[00100] Referring now to FIG. 8, a portion of knitted component 100 is illustrated in detail in a flatten configuration. As shown, knitted component 100 can include one or more yarns, strands, monofilaments, compound filaments, or other strands that are knitted to define knitted component 100. A yarn 808 can be knitted and stitched to define a plurality of successive courses 800 and a plurality of successive wales 802. In some embodiments, courses 800 can extend generally in longitudinal direction 102, and wales 802 can extend generally in lateral direction 104.

[00101] A representative portion of webbed area 128 and a representative portion of a knit layer of tubular rib structure 126 are also indicated in FIG. 8. In this flattened configuration, tubular rib structure 126 is shown in a two dimensional state for purposes of illustration, the three dimensional configuration of tubular rib structure 126 is shown in phantom. As shown, the plurality of courses 800 of knitted component 100 can include a plurality of web courses 806 that define webbed area 128. Also, as shown, the plurality of courses 800 of knitted component 100 can include a plurality of tubular courses 804 that help to define tubular rib structure 126. In some embodiments, web courses 806 can extend in the same direction as web axis 130, and tubular courses 804 can extend in the same direction as tubular axis 132, also referred to in FIGS. 1 and 2.

[00102] The knitting pattern of webbed area 128 can be opposite the knitting pattern of tubular rib structure 126. For example, one or more portions of tubular rib structure 126 can be knitted using a front jersey knit pattern, and one or

more portions of webbed area 128 can be knitted using a reverse jersey knit pattern. In other embodiments, tubular rib structure 126 can be knitted using a reverse jersey stitching pattern, and webbed area 128 can be knitted using a front jersey stitching pattern. It will be appreciated that the inherent biasing provided by this type of knitting pattern can at least partially cause the biased curling, rolling, folding, or compacting behavior of webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126. Also, it will be appreciated that in some embodiments, webbed area 128 may be stitched in an opposite pattern from one knit layer of tubular rib structure 126.

[00103] In an exemplary embodiment, during the knitting process, at least one tubular course 804 may be joined by knitting to at least one web course 806 so as to form a loop and close tubular rib structure 126. For example, as shown in FIG. 8, a first portion 850 of one tubular course 804 forming tubular rib structure 126 may be joined by knitting to an attachment portion 852 of one web course 806. First portion 850 and attachment portion 852 may be joined by knitting with yarn across both of the front bed and back bed of the knitting machine to interloop portions of each of tubular course 804 and web course 806. With this arrangement, tubular rib structure 126 may move from a substantially flattened, two-dimensional configuration to a raised, three-dimensional configuration, as shown in FIGS. 1 through 7.

[00104] Webbed areas 128 can include any number of web courses 806, and tubular rib structures 126 can include any number of tubular courses 804. In the embodiment of FIG. 8, webbed area 128 includes four web courses 806, and the depicted knit layer of tubular structure 126 includes four tubular courses 804. However, the number of web courses 806 and tubular courses 804 can be different from the embodiment of FIG. 8. For example, in other embodiments, webbed area 128 can include five to ten web courses 806, and a single knit layer of tubular structure 126 can include five to ten tubular courses 804. Also, the curvature of webbed area 128 can be affected by the number of web courses 806 that are included, and the curvature of tubular rib structure 126 can be affected by the number of tubular courses 804 that are included. More specifically, by

increasing the number of web courses 806, the width, curvature and/or stretchability of webbed areas 128 can be increased. Likewise, by increasing the number of tubular courses 804, the width and/or curvature of some or all of tubular rib structures 126 can be increased. The number of web courses 806 within webbed area 128 can be chosen to provide enough fabric to allow webbed area 128 sufficient elasticity. The number of tubular courses 804 within tubular structure 126 can be chosen to provide enough fabric to allow some or all of tubular structure 126 to sufficiently curl to form a hollow tube.

[00105] In some embodiments, yarn 808 can be made from a material or otherwise constructed to enhance the resiliency of the webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126. Yarn 808 can be made out of any suitable material, such as cotton, elastane, polymeric material, or combinations of two or more materials. Also, in some embodiments, yarn 808 can be stretchable and elastic. As such, yarn 808 can be stretched considerably in length and can be biased to recover to its original, neutral length. In some embodiments, yarn 808 can stretch elastically to increase in length at least 25% from its neutral length without breaking. Furthermore, in some embodiments, yarn 808 can elastically increase in length at least 50% from its neutral length. Moreover, in some embodiments, yarn 808 can elastically increase in length at least 75% from its neutral length. Still further, in some embodiments, yarn 808 can elastically increase in length at least 100% from its neutral length. Accordingly, the elasticity of yarn 808 can enhance the overall resilience of knitted component 100.

[00106] Additionally, in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be knitted using a plurality of different yarns. For example, in FIG. 8, at least one portion of webbed area 128 can be knitted using a first yarn 810, and at least one portion of tubular structure 126 can be knitted using a second yarn 812. In some embodiments, first yarn 810 and second yarn 812 can differ in at least one characteristic. For example, first yarn 810 and second yarn 812 can differ in appearance, diameter, denier, elasticity, texture, or other characteristic. In some embodiments, first yarn 810 and second yarn 812 can differ in color. Thus, in

some embodiments, when a viewer is looking at front surface 108 when knitted component 100 is in the first position of FIGS. 1 and 4, first yarn 810 can be visible and second yarn 812 can be hidden from view. Then, when knitted component 100 stretches to the position of FIGS. 2 and 5, second yarn 812 can be revealed. Thus, the appearance of knitted component 100 can vary, and first yarn 810 and second yarn 812 can provide striking visual contrast that is aesthetically appealing.

[00107] In another embodiment, in at least some portions of knitted component 100, the elasticity of first yarn 810 is greater than the elasticity of second yarn 812. This can result in one or more portions of knitted component 100 comprising webbed areas 128 that can have a greater capacity for stretch than tubular rib structures 126.

[00108] Knitted component 100 can be manufactured using any suitable machine, implement, and technique. For example, in some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be automatically manufactured using a knitting machine, such as the knitting machine 900 shown in FIG. 9. Knitting machine 900 can be of any suitable type, such as a flat knitting machine. However, it will be appreciated that knitting machine 900 could be of another type without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

[00109] As shown in the embodiment of FIG. 9, knitting machine 900 can include a front needle bed 902 with a plurality of front needles 904 and a rear needle bed 906 with a plurality of rear needles 908. Front needles 904 can be arranged in a common plane, and rear needles 908 can be arranged in a different common plane that intersects the plane of front needles 904. Front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 may be angled with respect to each other. In some embodiments, front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 may be angled so they form a V-bed. Knitting machine 900 can further include one or more feeders that are configured to move over front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906. In FIG. 9, a first feeder 910 and a second feeder 912 are indicated. As first feeder 910 moves, first feeder 910 can deliver first yarn 810 to front needles 904 and/or rear needles 908 for knitting knitted component 100. As second feeder 912 moves,

second feeder 912 can deliver second yarn 812 to front needles 904 and/or rear needles 908.

[00110] A pair of rails, including a forward rail 920 and a rear rail 922, may extend above and parallel to the intersection of front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906. Rails may provide attachment points for feeders. Forward rail 920 and rear rail 922 may each have two sides, each of which accommodates one or more feeders. As depicted, forward rail 920 includes first feeder 910 and second feeder 912 on opposite sides, and rear rail 922 includes third feeder 914. Although two rails are depicted, further configurations of knitting machine 900 may incorporate additional rails to provide attachment points for more feeders.

[00111] Feeders can move along forward rail 920 and rear rail 922, thereby supplying yarns to needles. As shown in FIG. 9, yarns are provided to a feeder by a first spool 916 and/or a second spool 918. More particularly, first yarn 810 extends from first spool 916 to first feeder 910, and second yarn 812 extends from second spool 918 to second feeder 912. Although not depicted, additional spools may be used to provide yarns to feeders in a substantially similar manner as first spool 916 and second spool 918.

[00112] In some embodiments, webbed areas 128 can be formed using either front needles 904 of front needle bed 902 or rear needles 908 of rear needle bed 906. Tubular rib structures can be formed using the needles of both front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906.

[00113] In some embodiments, an exemplary process for knitting a tubular rib structure between successive webbed areas 128 may be performed using knitting machine 900. Figures 10A and 10B illustrate representative knitting diagrams or looping diagrams of an exemplary knitting process for forming a tubular rib structure, for example, tubular rib structure 126 of knitted component 100. In one embodiment, represented in FIG. 10A, webbed area 128 can be formed from first yarn 810 using rear needle bed 906, followed by tubular rib structure 126 being formed from second yarn 812 using rear needle bed 906 and front needle bed 902, and another webbed area 128 being formed from first yarn

810 using rear needle bed 906. The following discussion describes the knitting process schematically illustrated in FIGS. 10A-10B, and it will be understood that the front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 referred to in this discussion are shown schematically in FIG. 9.

[00114] Referring again to FIG. 10A, after formation of webbed area 128, a course may be formed extending between rear needle bed 906 and front needle bed 902. Next, one or more courses may be knit on the front needle bed 902. For example, courses forming the first curved portion of tubular rib structure 126 can be formed using second yarn 812 on front needle bed 902. Next, after a final course 1000 on front needle bed 902, second yarn 812 forming tubular rib structure 126 may be used to knit a course 1002 with rear needle bed 906. For example, course 1002 may form the second curved portion of tubular rib structure 126 that closes tubular rib structure 126 and forms a hollow tunnel. After course 1002 completes the formation of tubular rib structure 126, another course 1004 may be formed extending between rear needle bed 906 and front needle bed 902 that is interlooped to the previous final course 1000 on the front needle bed 902 and course 1002 on rear needle bed 906. By using a stitch at course 1004 that extends between rear needle bed 906 and front needle bed 902, second yarn 812 forming tubular rib structure 126 can be prepared to be associated with additional courses forming another webbed area 128 with first yarn 810 using rear needle bed 906.

[00115] In this embodiment, tubular rib structure 126 may be formed using one course knit on rear needle bed 906 and five courses knit on front needle bed 902. With this configuration, the elongated cylindrical shape of tubular rib structure 126 may be provided.

[00116] In other embodiments, different numbers of courses may be knit on one or both of front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 so as to change the shape and/or size of the tubular rib structure 126. In some cases, by increasing or decreasing the number of courses knit on the rear needle bed 906 and/or front needle bed 902 the size of the tubular rib structure 126 may be

correspondingly enlarged or reduced. In other cases, by increasing the number of courses knit on one of the rear needle bed 906 or front needle bed 902 relative to the other, the shape of the tubular rib structure 126 may be altered. For example, by increasing the number of courses knit on the rear needle bed 906, the shape of tubular rib structure 126 may be changed so as to round out the curvature on the back surface 110 of knitted component 100 to be similar to the curvature on the front surface 108 of knitted component 100.

[00117] After the completion of tubular rib structure 126, the process may then repeat to form another webbed area 128. Subsequently, an additional webbed area 128 can be added to knitted component 100 using rear needle bed 906, and so on until a completed knitted component 100 is formed having the desired number of webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126.

[00118] In other embodiments, the formation of knitted component 100 may be similar but entail a switch in the needle beds used. For example, the process shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B may be performed using opposite needle beds, such that webbed area 128 can be formed using front needle bed 902 and then the portion of knitted component 100 can be transferred from front needle bed 902 to rear needle bed 906. The remaining steps shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B can be performed in identical order using the opposite needle bed than illustrated. Other methods of using the various needle beds of knitting machine 900 to form webbed areas 128 and tubular rib structures 126 will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art based on the above description.

[00119] In the exemplary process described in reference to FIG. 10A, a hollow tubular rib structure 126 is formed. In other embodiments, a tensile element may be inlaid within the unsecured central area of one or more tubular rib structures 126. FIG. 10B illustrates an exemplary process for forming tubular rib structure 126 including an inlaid tensile element. As shown in FIG. 10B, the process is substantially similar as the process for forming hollow tubular rib structure 126 illustrated in FIG. 10A. However, in the process of FIG. 10B, after forming course 1002 on rear needle bed 906, tensile element 600 is inlaid within a

portion of tubular rib structure 126. Tensile element 600 may be inlaid using a combination feeder and associated method of inlaying described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2012/0234052, the disclosure of which application is incorporated herein in its entirety.

[00120] After tensile element 600 is inlaid within the portion of tubular rib structure 126, an additional course 1004 may be knit using second yarn 812 to complete the formation of tubular rib structure 126. With this configuration, tensile element 600 is contained within tubular rib structure 126 and is disposed through the unsecured central area running along the length of tubular rib structure 126.

[00121] FIGS. 11 – 17 further illustrate the process of knitting a knitted component 1100 having a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures. FIGS. 11-17 are merely exemplary representative illustrations of the process used to knit the various portions of knitted component 1100. Additional steps or processes not shown here may be used to form a completed knitted component that is to be incorporated into an upper for an article of footwear. In addition, only a relatively small section of a knitted component 1100 may be shown in the Figures in order to better illustrate the knit structure of the various portions of knitted component 1100. Moreover, the scale or proportions of the various elements of knitting machine 900 and knitted component 1100 may be enhanced to better illustrate the knitting process.

[00122] It should be understood that although knitted component 1100 is formed between front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906, for purposes of illustration, in FIGS. 11 through 17, knitted component 1100 is shown adjacent to front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 to (a) be more visible during discussion of the knitting process and (b) show the position of portions of the knitted component relative to each other and needle beds. The front needles and rear needles are not depicted in FIGS. 11-17 for purposes of clarity. Also, although one rail, and limited numbers of feeders are depicted, additional rails, feeders, and spools may be used. Accordingly, the general structure of knitting machine 900 is simplified for purposes of explaining the knitting process.

[00123] Referring to FIG. 11, a portion of knitting machine 900 is shown. In this embodiment, knitting machine 900 may include a first feeder 910 and a second feeder 912. In other embodiments, additional feeders may be used and may be located on the front or rear side of forward rail 920 and/or rear rail 922.

[00124] In FIG. 11, first yarn 810 from a spool (not shown) passes through first feeder 910 and an end of first yarn 810 extends outward from a dispensing tip at the end of first feeder 910. Any type of yarn (e.g., filament, thread, rope, webbing, cable, chain, or strand) may pass through first feeder 910. Second yarn 812 similarly passes through second feeder 912 and extends outward from a dispensing tip. In some embodiments, first yarn 810 and second yarn 812 may be used to form portions of knitted component 1100.

[00125] In different embodiments, the knitting process may begin with formation of either a webbed area or a tubular rib structure. Each webbed area or tubular rib structure may be referred to as a section of knitted component 1100. Completion of one webbed area or tubular rib structure may be followed by formation of a second webbed area or tubular rib structure. Multiple sections of knitted component 1100 may be formed in an alternating manner between webbed areas and tubular rib structures. This knitting process may continue until knitted component 1100 is fully formed.

[00126] In the embodiment of FIG. 11, three sections of knitted component 1100 have been formed by knitting machine 900, including a first tubular structure 1102, a first webbed area 1104, and a second tubular structure 1106. Additionally, formation of a second webbed area 1108 is proceeding on knitting machine 900. As described earlier, webbed areas may be knit by either the front needle bed 902 or the rear needle bed 906 of knitting machine 900. First feeder 910 is positioned along an unfinished fourth edge 122 of knitted component 1100. First feeder 910 may feed first yarn 810 to either front needle bed 902 or rear needle bed 906. Front needle bed 902 or rear needle bed 906 can receive first yarn 810 and form loops that define the courses of second webbed area 1108.

Below the machine in the illustration, knitted component 1100, as it is being formed, is depicted in an isometric view.

[00127] In the subsequent illustration of FIG. 12, four sections of knitted component 1100 have been formed by knitting machine 900, including first tubular rib structure 1102, first webbed area 1104, second tubular rib structure 1106, and second webbed area 1108. Formation of a third tubular rib structure 1200 is proceeding on knitting machine 900. As described earlier, tubular rib structures may be knit by both the front needle bed 902 and the rear needle bed 906 of knitting machine 900. First feeder 910 and second feeder 912 are positioned near unfinished fourth edge 122 of knitted component 1100. First feeder 910 may feed first yarn 810 to either front needle bed 902 or rear needle bed 906. In some embodiments, front needle bed 902 can receive first yarn 810 and form loops that define the courses forming first curved portion 416 of third tubular rib structure 1200. In other embodiments, rear needle bed 906 can receive first yarn 810 and form loops that define courses of first curved portion 416 of third tubular rib structure 1200. Below the machine in the illustration, knitted component 1100 is depicted in an isometric view as it is being formed.

[00128] In different embodiments, the various areas of tubular rib structures may be formed by different elements of knitting machine 900. In an exemplary embodiment, first curved portion 416 may be formed by front needle bed 902, and second curved portion 418 may be formed by rear needle bed 906, so that first feeder 910 feeds first yarn 810 to front needle bed 902, and second feeder 912 feeds second yarn 812 to rear needle bed 906. In another embodiment, first curved portion 416 may be formed by rear needle bed 906, and second curved portion 418 may be formed by front needle bed 902, so that first feeder 910 feeds first yarn 810 to rear needle bed 906, and second feeder 912 feeds second yarn 812 to front needle bed 902.

[00129] FIG. 13 depicts the formation of a knitted component 1100 with eleven sections, including six tubular rib structures and five webbed areas. In an exemplary embodiment, each webbed area is disposed between two adjacent

tubular rib structures on either side of the webbed area. The knitting process can be continued and the desired amount of webbed areas and tubular rib structures can be formed until knitted component 1100 is complete with the desired dimensions. Additionally, other known knitting processes and methods may be used to form various other portions of knitted component 1100.

[00130] In different embodiments, a knitting process may include the incorporation of one or more tensile elements within portions of knitted component 1100. Referring to FIGS. 14 - 17, an embodiment of a knitted component 1100 including tensile elements is depicted. In FIG. 14, knitted component 1100 has been formed with eleven sections, including five completed tubular rib structures, five webbed areas, and a partially formed sixth tubular rib structure. Each completed tubular rib structure in this illustration can be seen including a tensile element extending through the hollow central unsecured area of the tubular rib structure. As described earlier, it should be understood that there may be various tensile element arrangements included in knitted component 1100. For example, in some embodiments, tensile elements may be disposed through a selected number of the total number of tubular rib structures associated with a knitted component. With this arrangement, additional support and resistance to stretch may be selectively provided by the desired placement of tensile elements within the tubular rib structures.

[00131] Referring again to FIG. 14, formation of a sixth tubular rib structure 1404 is underway. As described earlier, tubular rib structures may be knit by both the front needle bed 902 and the rear needle bed 906 of knitting machine 900. First feeder 910 and second feeder 912 are positioned along unfinished fourth edge 122 of knitted component 1100. Second feeder 912 may feed second yarn 812 to either front needle bed 902 or rear needle bed 906. In some embodiments, front needle bed 902 can receive second yarn 812 and form loops that define first curved portion 416 of sixth tubular rib structure 1404. In other embodiments, rear needle bed 906 can receive second yarn 812 and form loops that define first curved portion 416 of sixth tubular rib structure 1404.

[00132] Specifically, in one embodiment, first curved portion 416 may be formed by front needle bed 902, and second curved portion 418 may be formed by rear needle bed 906 so that second feeder 912 supplies second yarn 812 to front needle bed 902, and second feeder 912 also supplies second yarn 812 to rear needle bed 906. It should be understood that the choice of needle bed, feeder, and/or yarn used to form each portion of knitted component 1100 may be varied. For example, in another embodiment, the portions of sixth tubular rib structure 1404 may be formed using opposite needle beds, as described above, so that first curved portion 416 may be formed by rear needle bed 906, and second curved portion 418 may be formed by front needle bed 902. Additionally, in other embodiments, the same yarn that is used to form webbed areas may similarly be used to form tubular rib structures, so that first feeder 910 supplies first yarn 810 to front needle bed 902 and rear needle bed 906 to use in forming sixth tubular rib structure 1404. Below knitting machine 900, knitted component 1100 as it is being formed is depicted in an isometric view.

[00133] First feeder 910 and second feeder 912 can be returned to a start position along fourth edge 122 of knitted component 1100 to begin the next course forming a portion of sixth tubular rib structure 1404. Following this step, third feeder 914 supplies a tensile element 1500 to be inlaid within knitted component 1100, as shown in FIG. 15. In some embodiments, third feeder 914 may move along forward rail 920 or rear rail 922 as it supplies and inlays tensile element 1500 along the length of sixth tubular rib structure 1404. In different embodiments, first curved portion 416 and/or second curved portion 418 of sixth tubular rib structure 1404 may continue to be formed as tensile element 1500 is inlaid along inner surface of sixth tubular rib structure 1404. In FIG. 15, tensile element 1500 has been inlaid along the length of sixth tubular rib structure 1404.

[00134] First feeder 910 and second feeder 912 may begin another course forming a portion of sixth tubular rib structure 1404 in some embodiments. In FIG. 16, sixth tubular rib structure 1404 is being completed by further courses to fully form sixth tubular rib structure 1404 and thereby enclose tensile element 1500

within the interior of the hollow unsecured central area of sixth tubular rib structure 1404. FIG. 17 depicts the formation of knitted component 1100 comprising six tubular rib structures including tensile elements separated by five webbed areas between each successive tubular rib structure. Additionally, it should be understood that tubular rib structures that do not include tensile elements may also be included. This process can be continued and the desired amount of webbed areas and tubular rib structures with or without tensile elements can be formed until knitted component 1100 is complete.

[00135] Using this exemplary process for forming knitted components, manufacture of knitted component 1100 can be efficient. Also, knitted component 1100 can be substantially formed without having to form a significant amount of waste material.

[00136] As discussed earlier, in different embodiments, one or more webbed areas and/or tubular rib structures can move away from a compacted or neutral position toward a more extended or stretched position. FIGS. 18 and 19 depict how a compression load or force may deform one area of an embodiment of a knitted component 1808. As described previously, under the influence of a compression load, ribbed features, i.e., a series of alternating webbed areas and tubular rib structures, can move away from a compacted position, seen in FIG. 18, toward a more extended position, seen in FIG. 19. In some embodiments, upon removal or reduction of the compression load, the ribbed features can recover and return to the compacted position. It will be appreciated that knitted component 1808 can cushion, attenuate, or otherwise reduce the compression load as a result of this resilience.

[00137] In FIG. 18, a portion of an embodiment of knitted component 1808 is shown in a neutral position, similar to the embodiment of FIG. 1. Several tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are shown. Knitted component 1808 is at a first width 1806. In FIG. 19, the same webbed areas 1800 and tubular rib structures 1802 are shown as they respond to a compressive load, and knitted component is stretched to a second width 1900, similar to FIG. 2. First

width 1806 is less than second width 1900. In some embodiments, webbed areas 1800 may exhibit greater stretching than tubular rib structures 1802. In one embodiment, depending on the amount of force applied, and the location of the force application, some areas of knitted component 1808 may stretch further than other areas. In FIG. 19, there is greater stretch in lateral direction 104 than longitudinal direction 102.

[00138] Moreover, in some embodiments, ribbed features can differ in size, structure, shape, and other characteristic along different areas of knitted component 1808. For example, in the embodiments of FIGS. 18 and 19, different widths of webbed areas are depicted in knitted component 1808, including a first width 1810 and a second width 1804. First width 1810 is larger than second width 1804. The width of each webbed area may be determined during the knitting process by changing the number of courses that are knit for each webbed area. For example, in embodiments where first width 1810 is larger than second width 1804, the larger width of the webbed area may be due to a larger number of courses forming the webbed area having first width 1810. Similarly, a smaller width of the webbed area may be due to a smaller number of courses forming the webbed area having second width 1804. In other embodiments, the width of webbed areas 1800 and/or tubular rib structures 1802 can vary across knitted component 1808. As the size of ribbed features increase or decrease, the stretch and resilience available in knitted component 1808 can be altered. For example, areas with webbed areas 1800 comprising greater width (for example, first width 1810) may be more elastic and permit further stretch relative to webbed areas 1800 of smaller width (for example, second width 1804).

[00139] A knitted component can define and/or can be included in any suitable article. Knitted components can provide resilience to an article. As such, an article can be at least partially stretchable and elastic in some embodiments. In addition, an article can provide cushioning for the user due to the inclusion of one or more knitted component pieces.

[00140] In different embodiments, a knitted component can be used to form various components or elements for an article of footwear. An embodiment of an upper 2000 for an article of footwear is illustrated in FIG. 20. Upper 2000 comprises a knitted component 2002, which can include one or more features of the knitted component of FIGS. 1 – 8. Upper 2000 comprises an irregular shape that is designed to allow upper 2000 to be assembled through a wrapping process, further described below. Generally, upper 2000 includes a first end 2004 and a second end 2006, representing two opposing sides along longitudinal direction 102, as well as a top edge 2010 and a bottom edge 2012. Upper 2000 additionally includes a collar portion 2014, a throat portion 2016, and a lower region 2020. Collar portion 2014 may include a first side 2030 and a second side 2032 representing generally opposing ends of collar portion 2014. Throat portion 2016 may end on one side at a throat opening 2040. Lower region 2020 includes the portion of knitted component 2002 nearer to bottom edge 2012, while throat portion 2016 includes the portion nearer to top edge 2010. Lower region 2020 generally extends from first end 2004 to second end 2006, while throat portion 2016 generally extends from first end 2004 to throat opening 2040. Thus in the embodiment of FIG. 20, ribbed features, i.e., webbed areas and tubular rib structures, disposed in lower region 2020 are of longer length in longitudinal direction 102 than ribbed features disposed in throat portion 2016. In other words, ribbed features disposed in lower region 2020 run continuously from first end 2004 to second end 2006, and ribbed features in throat portion 2016 run continuously from first end 2004 to the area along throat opening 2040.

[00141] Knitted component 2002 further comprises a first portion 2022, a second portion 2024, a third portion 2026, and a fourth portion 2028. First portion 2022 runs from first end 2004 to a first boundary 2034. Second portion 2024 runs from first boundary 2034 to a second boundary 2036. Third portion 2026 runs from second boundary 2036 to a third boundary 2038. Fourth portion 2028 runs from third boundary 2038 to second end 2006 of knitted component 2002. In some embodiments, throat portion 2016 of knitted component 2002 can include a

different number of tubular rib structures and/or webbed areas than the remaining region of knitted component 2002. In some embodiments, one or more tensile elements 2018 may be included in upper 2000.

[00142] It will be understood that first boundary 2034, second boundary 2036, and third boundary 2038 are only intended for purposes of description and are not intended to demarcate precise regions of the components.

[00143] FIGS. 21-24 illustrate an embodiment of an exemplary process of assembling upper 2000 incorporating knitted component 2002 for use in an article of footwear. For reference purposes, various components associated with the article of footwear may also be associated with different regions of the foot. Components associated with an article of footwear may include an upper, a sole, a tongue, laces, toe and/or heel counters, an article forming member, or other individual elements associated with footwear. Article forming members may include, but are not limited to, a last, a mold, a foundational element, a cast, or other such devices and/or pieces.

[00144] In FIG. 21, upper 2000 is shown being associated with article forming member 2100. Article forming member 2100, as well as other components associated with footwear, may be divided into various regions that are representative of the various regions of a finished article of footwear. In the embodiment of FIGS. 21-24, article forming member 2100 is divided into six general regions: a forefoot region 2112, a midfoot region 2102, a vamp region 2106, a heel region 2104, a sole area 2124, and an ankle region 2114. Forefoot region 2112 generally includes portions of footwear corresponding with the toes and the joints connecting the metatarsals with the phalanges. Midfoot region 2102 generally includes portions of footwear or component corresponding with an arch area of a foot. Vamp region 2106 generally includes portions covering the front and top of a foot, extending from the toes to the area where the foot joins the ankle. Heel region 2104 generally corresponds with rear portions of the foot, including the calcaneus bone. Sole area 2124 generally includes the area corresponding with the sole of a foot. Sole area 2124 is typically associated with the ground-engaging

surface of an article of footwear. Ankle region 2114 generally includes portions of footwear or component corresponding with an ankle and the area where the ankle joins the foot. Throat opening 2040 may be associated with ankle region 2114.

[00145] For consistency and convenience, directional adjectives are employed throughout this detailed description corresponding to the illustrated embodiments. The term forward direction (“forward”) refers to a direction toward forefoot region 2112, or toward the toes when an article of footwear is worn on the foot. The term rearward direction (“rearward”) refers to a direction extending toward heel region 2104, or toward the back of a foot when an article of footwear is worn on the foot. There may also be an upward direction and a downward direction, corresponding with opposite directions. The term upward direction (“upward”) is the vertical direction, moving from sole area 2124 toward the upper when viewing an article of footwear. The term downward direction (“downward”) refers to a direction moving from the upper toward the sole area 2124 when viewing an article of footwear.

[00146] Components associated with footwear, such as article forming member 2100, may also include a lateral side 2108 and a medial side 2110, which extend through each of forefoot region 2112, midfoot region 2102, and heel region 2104, and correspond with opposite sides of an article associated with the foot. More particularly, lateral side 2108 corresponds with an outside area of the foot (i.e., the surface that faces away from the other foot), and medial side 2110 corresponds with an inside area of the foot (i.e., the surface that faces toward the other foot). Additionally, components associated with footwear may include a forward portion 2116. Forward portion 2116 comprises the region forward of heel region 2104.

[00147] It should be noted that the terms forefoot region 2112, midfoot region 2102, vamp region 2106, heel region 2104, sole area 2124, ankle region 2114, lateral side 2108, medial side 2110, and forward portion 2116 can be applied to various individual components associated with footwear, such as an upper, a sole structure, an article of footwear, an article forming member, and/or

an upper. It will be understood that forefoot region 2112, midfoot region 2102, vamp region 2106, heel region 2104, sole area 2124, ankle region 2114, and forward portion 2116 are only intended for purposes of description and are not intended to demarcate precise regions of the components. Likewise, medial side 2110 and lateral side 2108 are intended to represent generally two sides of a component, rather than precisely demarcating the component into two halves.

[00148] In some embodiments, an article forming member 2100 can be used to facilitate assembly of an article. In other embodiments, different foundational elements or solid forms may be used in the process of assembly, most commonly including a last. In FIG. 21, first end 2004 is removably attached to the underside of article forming member 2100 along forefoot region 2112 and partway along lateral side 2108 of midfoot region 2102. First portion 2022 of upper 2000 is extended across article forming member 2100 so that it fully covers vamp region 2106.

[00149] In FIG. 22, upper 2000 is shown as it is further extended over article forming member 2100. Second portion 2024 is placed on the area corresponding to medial side 2110 of article forming member 2100. A portion of bottom edge 2012 of upper 2000 is removably attached to the underside of article forming member 2100 along medial side 2110.

[00150] Following this step, upper 2000 is wrapped around heel region 2104, illustrated in FIG. 23. Third portion 2026 has been placed along the area corresponding to heel region 2104 of article forming member 2100. A portion of bottom edge 2012 of upper 2000 is removably attached to the underside of article forming member 2100 along heel region 2104.

[00151] In a next step, illustrated in FIG. 24, upper 2000 is further wrapped so that fourth portion 2028 is brought around article forming member 2100, and placed along lateral side 2108. Throat opening 2040 may be formed when fourth portion 2028 meets first portion 2022, hidden behind collar portion 2014 in FIG. 24. A portion of second side 2032 of collar portion 2014 may meet, join, or otherwise become associated with a portion of first side 2030 of collar

portion 2014, covering throat opening 2040. Similarly, a portion of second end 2006 may meet, join, or otherwise become associated with a portion of first end 2004 of upper 2000. A portion of bottom edge 2012 of upper 2000 is removably attached to the underside of article forming member 2100 along lateral side 2108 of heel region 2104 and part of midfoot region 2102.

[00152] FIGS. 25-27 illustrate an embodiment of an article of footwear ("footwear") 2512 that includes an assembled upper 2500 comprising knitted component 2002 of FIG. 20. In forming article of footwear 2512, a sole structure ("sole") 2514 can be secured to assembled upper 2500 along sole area 2124 and can extend between the wearer's foot and the ground when footwear 2512 is worn. Sole 2514 may differ from the embodiments of FIGS. 25-27. Sole 2514 can be a uniform, one-piece member in some embodiments. Alternatively, sole 2514 can include multiple components, such as an outsole, a midsole, and/or an insole, in some embodiments. Also, sole 2514 can include a ground-engaging surface.

[00153] Assembled upper 2500 can define a void that receives a foot of the wearer. Stated differently, assembled upper 2500 can define an interior surface that defines a void. When a wearer's foot is received within the void, assembled upper 2500 can at least partially enclose and encapsulate the wearer's foot. Assembled upper 2500 can also include a collar 2516 that may surround ankle region 2114. Collar 2516 can include an opening that is configured to allow passage of the wearer's foot during insertion or removal of the foot from the void.

[00154] An assembled upper 2500 that incorporates a knitted component may include various configurations of ribbed features, including differences in orientation, spacing, strands, size, and arrangement of webbed areas and/or tubular rib structures. In some embodiments, ribbed features can form a pattern of stripes or lines across portions of knitted component that follow a prevailing orientation. In other embodiments, the orientation of ribbed features may be in one direction across one portion of assembled upper 2500 and in another direction across a different portion of assembled upper 2500. The orientation of ribbed features along different areas of upper 2500 may be arranged in directions that

help provide footwear 2512 with improved structural reinforcement and resilience in each region.

[00155] FIGS. 25-27 depict possible orientations of ribbed features along assembled upper 2500 in footwear 2512. It should be noted that in other embodiments, ribbed features can be oriented differently from the embodiments of FIGS. 25-27. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 25, five zones of assembled upper 2500 have been magnified to illustrate variations in the orientation and spacing of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800.

[00156] In a first zone 2502, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are oriented at an angle as they run from heel region 2104 and move downward and generally diagonally toward midfoot region 2102 along lateral side 2108 of footwear 2512. The widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular and generally of the same size.

[00157] In a second zone 2504, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are oriented at an angle as they run from heel region 2104 and move downward and generally diagonally toward second end 2006 along lateral side 2108. In this case, while the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular, webbed areas 1800 are substantially more narrow than webbed areas of first zone 2502.

[00158] In a third zone 2506, if viewer is looking at footwear 2512 from above, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 run forward and toward lateral side 2109 in a generally diagonal manner as they extend along vamp region 2106 toward forefoot region 2112. In this case, webbed areas 1800 include two different widths. Webbed areas 1800 of first width 1804 are substantially more narrow than webbed areas 1800 of second width 1810. In addition, tubular rib structures 1802 broaden in the areas adjacent to webbed areas 1800 of first width 1810. In other embodiments, tubular rib structures 1802 may remain of a substantially constant width while webbed areas 1800 include areas of varying widths. In some embodiments, tubular rib structures 1802 may change in width in

some areas of assembled upper 2500 while webbed areas 1800 remain a substantially constant width in the same area.

[00159] In a fourth zone 2508, if viewer is looking at footwear 2512 from above, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 run forward and toward lateral side 2109 in a generally diagonal manner as they extend along vamp region 2106, toward forefoot region 2112. In this case, while the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular, webbed areas 1800 are substantially more narrow than tubular rib structures 1802. In addition, the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 in fourth zone 2508 can be seen to be less than widths of tubular rib structures 1802 in first zone 2502.

[00160] In a fifth zone 2510, if viewer is looking at footwear 2512 from above, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 run forward and toward lateral side 2109 in a generally diagonal manner as they extend along vamp region 2106, toward forefoot region 2112. In this case, while the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular, webbed areas 1800 are narrow to the extent that they may not be visible to viewer. In this case, webbed areas 1800 may comprise only one or two web courses. Thus, in some cases, tubular rib structures 1802 may appear to be directly adjacent to one another.

[00161] In different embodiments, the arrangements of ribbed features associated with first zone 2502, second zone 2504, third zone 2506, fourth zone 2508, and fifth zone 2510 may comprise specific orientations that can support and lend resilience to footwear 2512. For example, first zone 2502 and second zone 2504 together depict an embodiment of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 that correspond to fourth portion 2028 of knitted component 2002. Therefore, when knitted component 2002 is incorporated into assembled upper 2500, the ribbed features included in fourth portion 2028 can be referred to as following along a direction associated with a “fourth orientation”. The term fourth orientation, as used throughout this specification and the claims, refers to an arrangement of ribbed features where the tubular rib structures disposed along

third boundary 2038 are located rearward and upward relative to the position of the tubular rib structures disposed along second end 2006 in assembled upper 2500.

[00162] Furthermore, third zone 2506, fourth zone 2508, and fifth zone 2510 together illustrate an embodiment of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 that correspond to first portion 2022 of knitted component 2002. Therefore, when knitted component 2002 is incorporated into assembled upper 2500, the ribbed features included in first portion 2022 can be referred to as following along a direction associated with a “first orientation”. The term first orientation, as used throughout this specification and the claims, refers to an arrangement of ribbed features where the tubular rib structures disposed along first end 2004 (hidden behind fourth portion 2028 and collar 2516 in FIGS. 25-27) are located forward and more toward lateral side 2108 relative to the position of the tubular rib structures disposed along first boundary 2034 in assembled upper 2500. Moreover, it can be seen that the first orientation of ribbed features in first portion 2022 is different from the fourth orientation of ribbed features in fourth portion 2028. Of course, other portions may be associated with still other orientations that may be similar or different from the first orientation and/or the fourth orientation.

[00163] In FIG. 26, four zones of assembled upper 2500 have been magnified to illustrate variations in the orientation and spacing of tubular rib structures and webbed areas, as well as possible differences in material. In a sixth zone 2600, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 extend from forefoot region 2112 toward midfoot region 2102, oriented so that they run relatively parallel to the curve of the periphery of sole 2514 along medial side 2110 in this area. The widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular and of substantially the same size.

[00164] In a seventh zone 2602, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 extend from midfoot region 2102 toward heel region 2104, oriented so that they run relatively parallel to the curve of the periphery of sole 2514 along

medial side 2110 in this area. In this case, while the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular, webbed areas 1800 are substantially more narrow than webbed areas 1800 of sixth zone 2600.

[00165] In an eighth zone 2604, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 extend in the rearward direction along medial side 2110 of heel region 2104, and are oriented relatively parallel to the curve of the periphery of sole 2514 along medial side 2110 in this area. In this case, webbed areas 1800 include two different widths. Webbed areas 1800 with first width 1804 are substantially wider than webbed areas 1800 with second width 1810. In addition, tubular rib structures 1802 are broader in the areas adjacent to webbed areas 1800 with second width 1810. In other embodiments, tubular rib structures 1802 may remain at a substantially constant width while webbed areas 1800 include areas of varying widths. In some embodiments, tubular rib structures 1802 may change in width in some areas of assembled upper 2500 while webbed areas 1800 remain a substantially constant width in the same area. In other embodiments, both tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 may vary in width in the same area.

[00166] In different embodiments, the arrangements of ribbed features associated with sixth zone 2600, seventh zone 2602, eighth zone 2604, and ninth zone 2606 may comprise specific orientations that can support and lend resilience to footwear 2512. For example, sixth zone 2600, seventh zone 2602, and eighth zone 2604 depict an embodiment of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 that correspond to second portion 2024 of knitted component 2002.

Therefore, when knitted component 2002 is incorporated into assembled upper 2500, the ribbed features included in second portion 2024 can be referred to as following along a direction associated with a “second orientation”. The term second orientation, as used throughout this specification and the claims, refers to an arrangement of ribbed features where the tubular rib structures disposed along first boundary 2034 are located forward relative to the position of the tubular rib structures disposed along second boundary 2036 in assembled upper 2500.

[00167] In a ninth zone 2606, one area of collar portion 2014 is magnified to depict one possible embodiment of the knit structure in this area. Collar portion 2014 may include ribbed features in some embodiments. In other embodiment, collar portion 2014 may comprise knitted material that does not include ribbed features. In one embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 26, collar portion 2014 includes a mesh region. In some embodiments, collar portion 2014 may facilitate the securing of footwear 2512 to wearer's ankle.

[00168] In FIG. 27, two zones of assembled upper 2500 have been magnified to illustrate variations in the orientation and spacing of tubular rib structures and webbed areas, as well as possible differences in material. In a tenth zone 2700, tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 extend from medial side 2110 toward lateral side 2108, and are oriented relatively parallel to the curve of periphery of sole 2514 along heel region 2104 in this area. In this case, the widths of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 are generally regular, while webbed areas 1800 are more narrow than tubular rib structures 1802.

[00169] In an eleventh zone 2702, one area of collar portion 2014 is magnified to depict one possible embodiment of the knit structure in this area. In some embodiments, collar portion 2014 may comprise a plurality of intermeshed loops that define a variety of courses and wales. That is, knit element may have the structure of a knit textile with varying texture and construction. For example, in eleventh zone 2702, a knitted mesh portion 2704 is present in collar portion 2014, as well as a knitted solid portion 2706.

[00170] In different embodiments, the arrangement of ribbed features associated with tenth zone 2700 may comprise specific orientations that can support and lend resilience to footwear 2512. For example, tenth zone 2700 depicts an embodiment of tubular rib structures 1802 and webbed areas 1800 that correspond to third portion 2026 of knitted component 2002. Therefore, when knitted component 2002 is incorporated into assembled upper 2500, the ribbed features included in third portion 2026 can be referred to as following along a

direction associated with a “third orientation”. The term third orientation, as used throughout this specification and the claims, refers to an arrangement of ribbed features where the tubular rib structures disposed along second boundary 2036 are located more toward medial side 2110 relative to the position of the tubular rib structures disposed along third boundary 2038 in assembled upper 2500, and where the tubular rib structures are substantially parallel to periphery of sole 2514 along heel region 2104.

[00171] The varying orientation of ribbed features in different regions of article of footwear 2512 can provide a wearer with increased support, stability, control, and durability. The arrangements of tubular rib structures and webbed areas can promote better performance, agility, and flexibility. Specifically, as a portion of the ribbed features flow over vamp region 2106, from the periphery of sole 2514 on lateral side 2108 and extending toward medial side 2110, wearer may have additional support, structural reinforcement, and cushioning as the foot moves from side to side. Lateral support is increased as the ribbed features resist deformation along lateral side 2108, allowing a wearer to perform better as he/she engages in various plays, such as a lateral cutting movement. The particular orientation of ribbed features may also provide better pronation control of the foot. This is due in part to the fact that knitted component 2002 included in assembled upper 2500 has a capacity for greater stretch along lateral direction 104 than along longitudinal direction 102, as discussed earlier.

[00172] In addition, in embodiments where the knitted component includes one or more tensile elements disposed through the tubular rib structures, for example, tensile elements 2018 of knitted component 2002, the tensile elements further provide support and resistance to stretching following along the direction of the tensile element as it is disposed through the orientation of the tubular rib structure. With this arrangement, portions of knitted component 2002 that include tensile elements 2018 may be configured to provide additional lateral support along lateral side 2108, allowing a wearer to perform better as he/she engages in various plays, such as a lateral cutting movement. Additionally, in

some embodiments, the selective inclusion or absence of tensile elements 2018 in specific tubular rib structures of knitted component 2002 may allow for some degree of stretch or deformation in desired portions of the finished article of footwear.

[00173] Heel region 2104 is supported in a similar fashion, where the ribbed features are oriented parallel to the periphery of sole 2514. As a result there is greater stability and control for a wearer during movements of the heel, because the capacity for stretch in longitudinal direction 102 in that region is limited relative to stretch in lateral direction 104. Wearer may also be provided with a higher degree of agility. For example, the ribbed features disposed in area of assembled upper 2500 associated with the bending of the foot in the arch and ball areas are oriented in such a way as to provide greater flexibility, so that wearer can experience better responsiveness and comfort during bending movements. Overall the structural strengthening available with assembled upper 2500 may help provide both increased support and control, as well as greater stability during flexing.

[00174] It should be understood that the embodiments in FIGS. 25-27 are for illustrative purposes only and depict only one embodiment of an upper including a knitted component. In other embodiments, the shape, length, thickness, width, arrangement, orientation, and density of ribbed features of assembled upper 2500 may vary.

[00175] Other articles can include knitted component 100 as well. For example, knitted component 100 can be included in a strap or other part of an article of apparel. In other embodiments, knitted component(s) 100 can be further included in a strap for a bag or other container. In some embodiments, container article can include one or more features that are similar to a duffel bag. In other embodiments, container article can include features similar to a backpack or other container. Ribbed features can resiliently deform to allow a strap to lengthen under a load from container body. Ribbed features can attenuate cyclical loading in some embodiments. Also, ribbed features can deform under compression, for

example, to allow strap to conform to the user's body and/or to provide cushioning. Additional embodiments may include incorporation of knitted component 100 into an article of apparel. It will be appreciated that the article of apparel can be of any suitable type, including a sports bra, a shirt, a headband, a sock, or other articles. Use of articles of apparel incorporating knitted component 100 may allow wearer to experience improvement in balance, comfort, grip, support, and other features.

[00176] It will further be appreciated that knitted components of the types discussed herein can be incorporated into other articles as well. For example, knitted component 100 can be included in a hat, cap, or helmet in some embodiments. In some embodiments, knitted component 100 can be a liner for the hat, cap, or helmet. Thus, the resiliency of knitted component 100 can allow the hat, cap, or helmet that helps conform article to the wearer's head. Knitted component 100 can also provide cushioning for the wearer's head.

[00177] In summary, the knitted component of the present disclosure can be resilient and can deform under various types of loads. This resilience can provide cushioning, for example, to make the article more comfortable to wear. This resilience can also allow the article to stretch and recover back to an original width. Accordingly, in some embodiments, knitted component can allow the article to conform to the wearer's body and/or to attenuate loads. Furthermore, the knitted component can be efficiently manufactured and assembled.

[00178] While various embodiments of the present disclosure have been described, the description is intended to be exemplary, rather than limiting, and it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that many more embodiments and implementations are possible that are within the scope of the present disclosure. Accordingly, the present disclosure is not to be restricted except in light of the attached claims and their equivalents. Also, various modifications and changes may be made within the scope of the attached claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising:
 - a plurality of webbed areas that include a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position, the webbed areas configured to stretch toward the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas; and
 - a plurality of tubular rib structures that are adjacent to the webbed areas, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn;wherein the plurality of tubular rib structures comprise (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers.
2. The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction;
 - wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures extend along the longitudinal direction,
 - wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are spaced apart in the lateral direction, and
 - wherein the knitted component is configured to stretch in the lateral direction between a neutral position and a stretched position, the knitted component biased toward the neutral position.
3. The knitted component of claim 2, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component.

4. The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the knitted component further comprises a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion include at least one webbed area in common, and wherein the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the first portion is less than the number of courses forming the at least one webbed area of the second portion.
5. The knitted component of claim 1, wherein at least one tubular rib structure of the plurality of tubular rib structures includes a tensile element disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.
6. The knitted component of claim 1, further comprising:
 - the plurality of webbed areas including at least a first webbed area and a second webbed area;
 - the plurality of tubular rib structures including at least a first rib tubular structure and a second tubular rib structure;
 - wherein the first tubular rib structure includes a first curved portion and a second curved portion, wherein the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a first edge, and the first curved portion and the second curved portion are joined along a second edge;
 - wherein the first webbed area is adjacent to the first edge of the first tubular rib structure;
 - wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the second edge of the first tubular rib structure;
 - wherein the second tubular rib structure includes a third curved portion and a fourth curved portion, wherein the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a third edge, and the third curved portion and the fourth curved portion are joined along a fourth edge; and
 - wherein the second webbed area is adjacent to the third edge of the second tubular rib structure.

7. The knitted component of claim 1, wherein the plurality of webbed areas include one of a front jersey knit pattern and a reverse jersey knit pattern.
8. An article of footwear comprising:
a sole; and
an upper that is attached to the sole, the upper including a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the knitted component comprising a plurality of webbed areas and a plurality of tubular rib structures, the plurality of webbed areas including a plurality of courses formed from a first yarn, the tubular rib structures including a plurality of courses formed from a second yarn;
the tubular rib structures being disposed adjacent to the webbed areas;
the plurality of tubular rib structures comprising: (i) two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers and (ii) a central area that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers;
the webbed areas configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the webbed areas being biased to move toward the neutral position; and
the webbed areas configured to stretch from the neutral position to the extended position in response to a force applied to the webbed areas.
9. The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the first yarn and the second yarn are different; and
wherein at least one course of one of the plurality of webbed areas formed with the first yarn is connected with at least one course of one of the plurality of tubular rib structures formed with the second yarn.

10. The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the upper further includes a vamp region and a medial side, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the vamp region are aligned along a first orientation, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the medial side are aligned along a second orientation that is different from the first orientation.

11. The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein the upper further includes a heel region, and the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures disposed along the heel region are aligned along a third orientation that is different from the first orientation and the second orientation.

12. The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the knitted component further includes a throat portion, a throat opening, a lower region, a first end, and a second end;

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region extend from the first end of the knitted component to the second end of the knitted component; and

wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures of the collar portion extend from the first end of the knitted component to the area along the throat opening of the knitted component.

13. The article of footwear of claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of tubular rib structures of the lower region include a tensile element disposed in the central unsecured area within the hollow between the two knit layers.

14. The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas comprises a first webbed area and a second webbed area;

wherein the first webbed area has a first width, and the second webbed area has a second width, the first width being less than the second width.

15. The article of footwear of claim 8, wherein the plurality of webbed areas and the plurality of tubular rib structures are disposed in an alternating manner across the majority of the knitted component.

16. A method of manufacturing a knitted component formed of unitary knit construction, the method comprising:

knitting a first plurality of courses to define a first webbed area of the knitted component, wherein the knitted component is associated with a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the first webbed area configured to move between a neutral position and an extended position, the first webbed area being biased toward the neutral position, the first webbed area configured to stretch in the lateral direction toward the extended position of the first webbed area in response to a force applied to the first webbed area, wherein knitting the first plurality of courses includes extending the first plurality of courses along the longitudinal direction of the knitted component; and

knitting a second plurality of courses to define a first tubular rib structure of the knitted component, wherein at least one of the first plurality of courses is joined with at least one of the second plurality of courses so as to form the first webbed area and the first tubular structure of unitary knit construction, wherein knitting the second plurality of courses includes extending the second plurality of courses along the longitudinal direction of the knitted component.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of knitting the second plurality of courses to define the first tubular rib structure further comprises:

knitting two co-extensive and overlapping knit layers; and
providing a central area of the first tubular rib structure that is generally unsecured to form a hollow between the two knit layers.

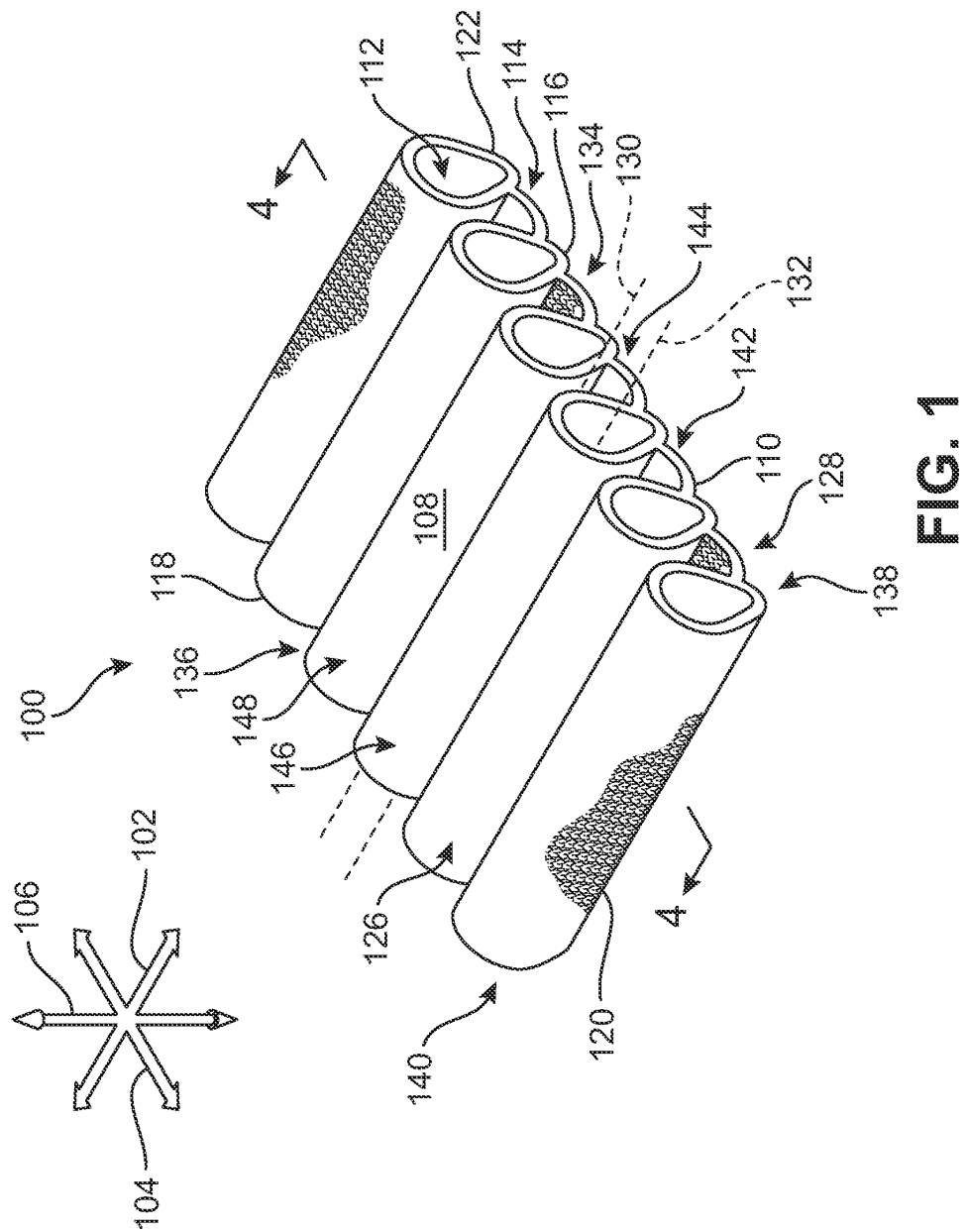
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of inlaying a tensile element within the hollow of the central area of the first tubular rib structure.

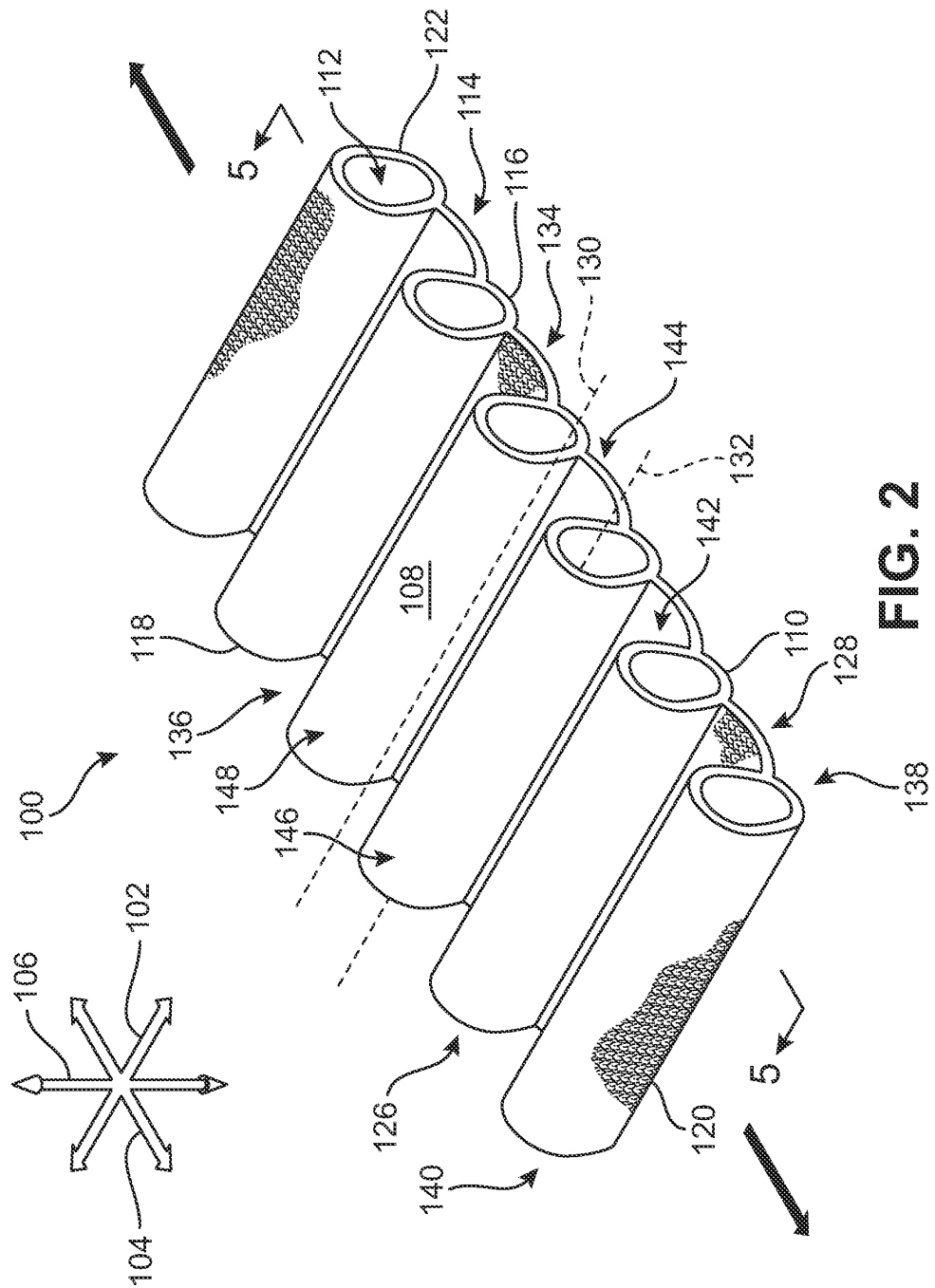
19. The method of claim 16, wherein knitting the first webbed area includes knitting the first webbed area with a first yarn; and
wherein knitting the first tubular rib structure includes knitting the first tubular structure with a second yarn, the second yarn being different than the first yarn.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising knitting a second webbed area, wherein the second webbed area is substantially similar to the first webbed area; and
knitting a second tubular rib structure, wherein the second tubular rib structure is substantially similar to the first tubular rib structure;
wherein the first tubular rib structure is disposed adjacent to the first webbed area in the lateral direction, the first webbed area is disposed between the first tubular rib structure and the second tubular rib structure in the lateral direction, and the second tubular rib structure is disposed adjacent to the second webbed area in the lateral direction; and
wherein the first webbed area, the first tubular rib structure, the second webbed area, and the second tubular rib structure, are formed of unitary knit construction.

ABSTRACT

Various articles may include a knitted component formed of multiple knitted component portions. The knitted component is formed of unitary knit construction and includes multiple tubular rib structures and multiple webbed areas. An article of footwear may include an upper incorporating a knitted component. The upper may be assembled through a wrapping process. The upper may comprise areas with tubular rib structures arranged in different orientations over the forefoot region, the midfoot region, the vamp region, and the heel region of the article of footwear. Some regions of the upper may have a greater number of tubular rib structures than other regions, and some tubular rib structures can include tensile elements.

**FIG. 1**



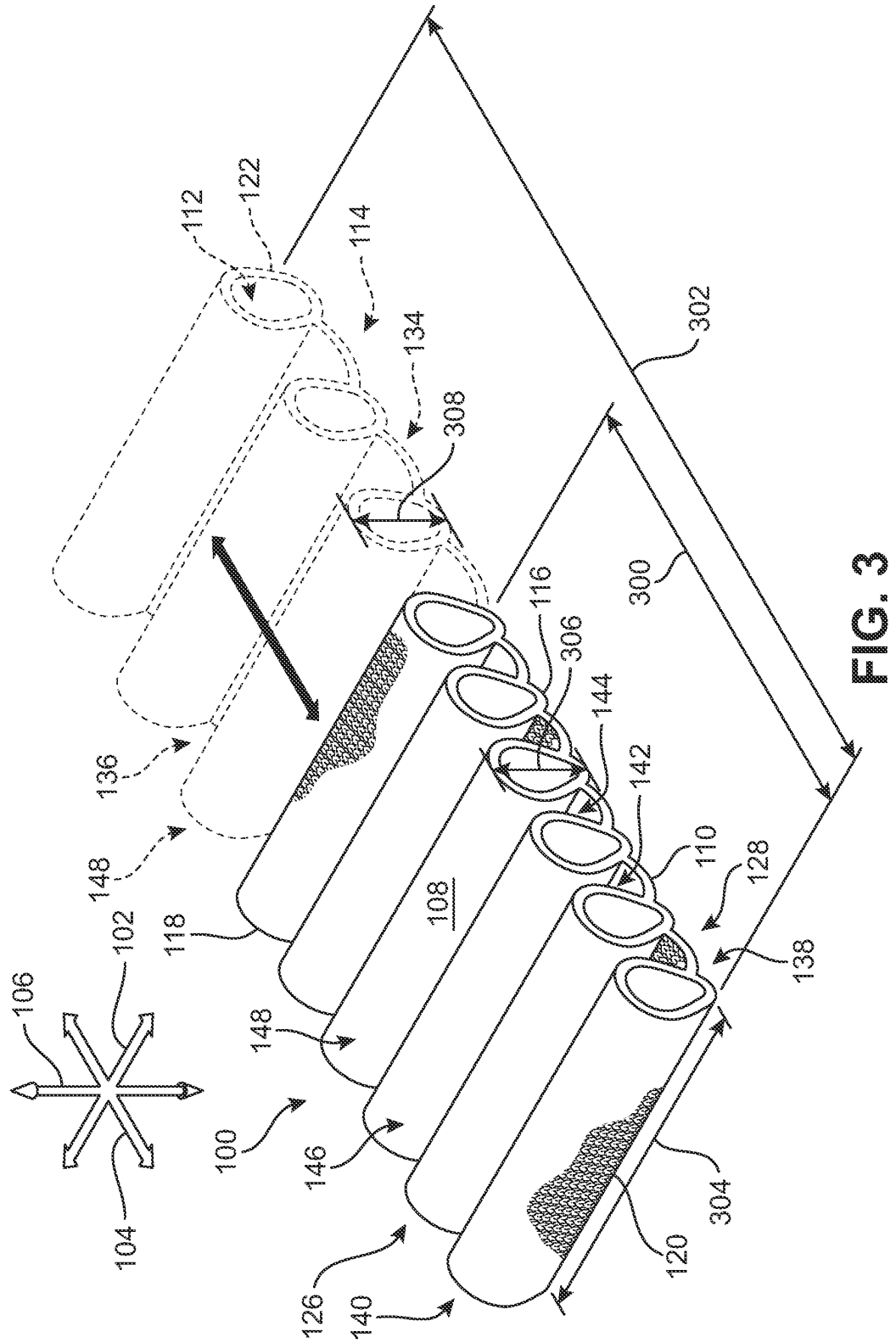
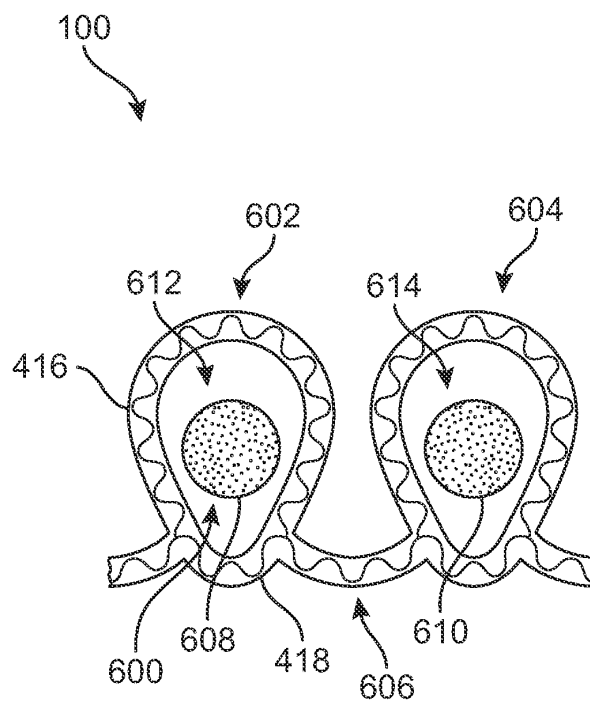
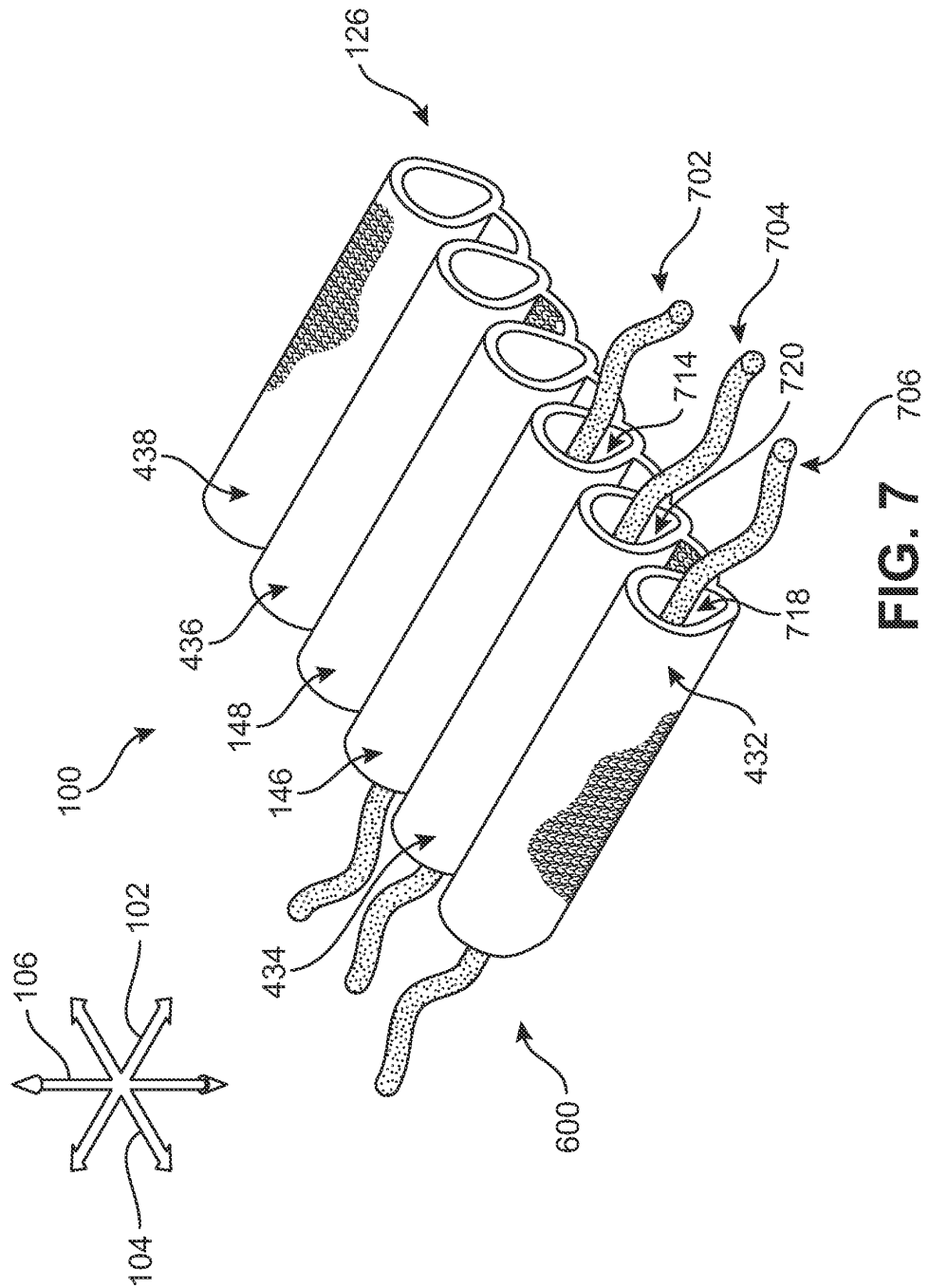


FIG. 3

**FIG. 6**

**FIG. 7**

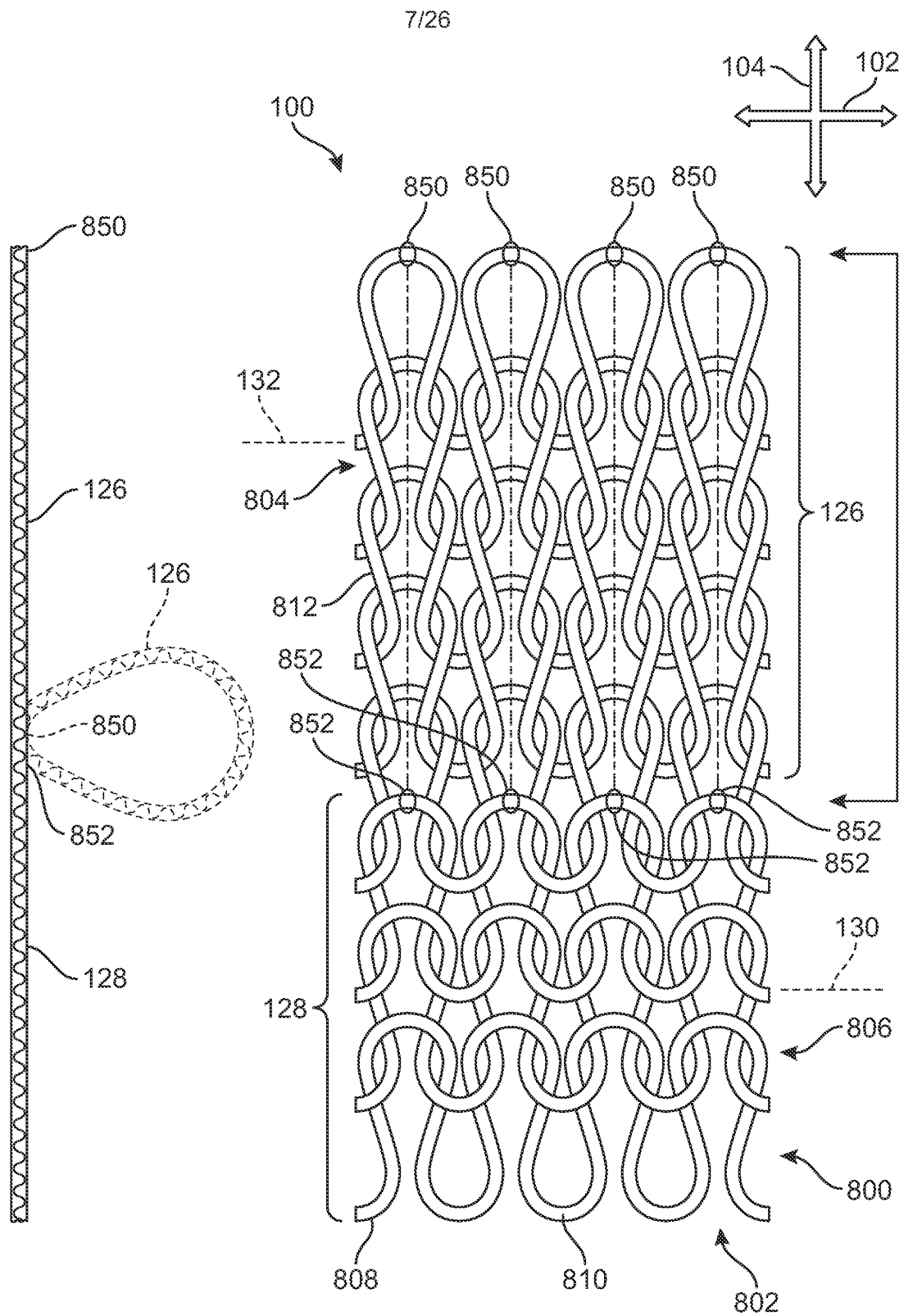
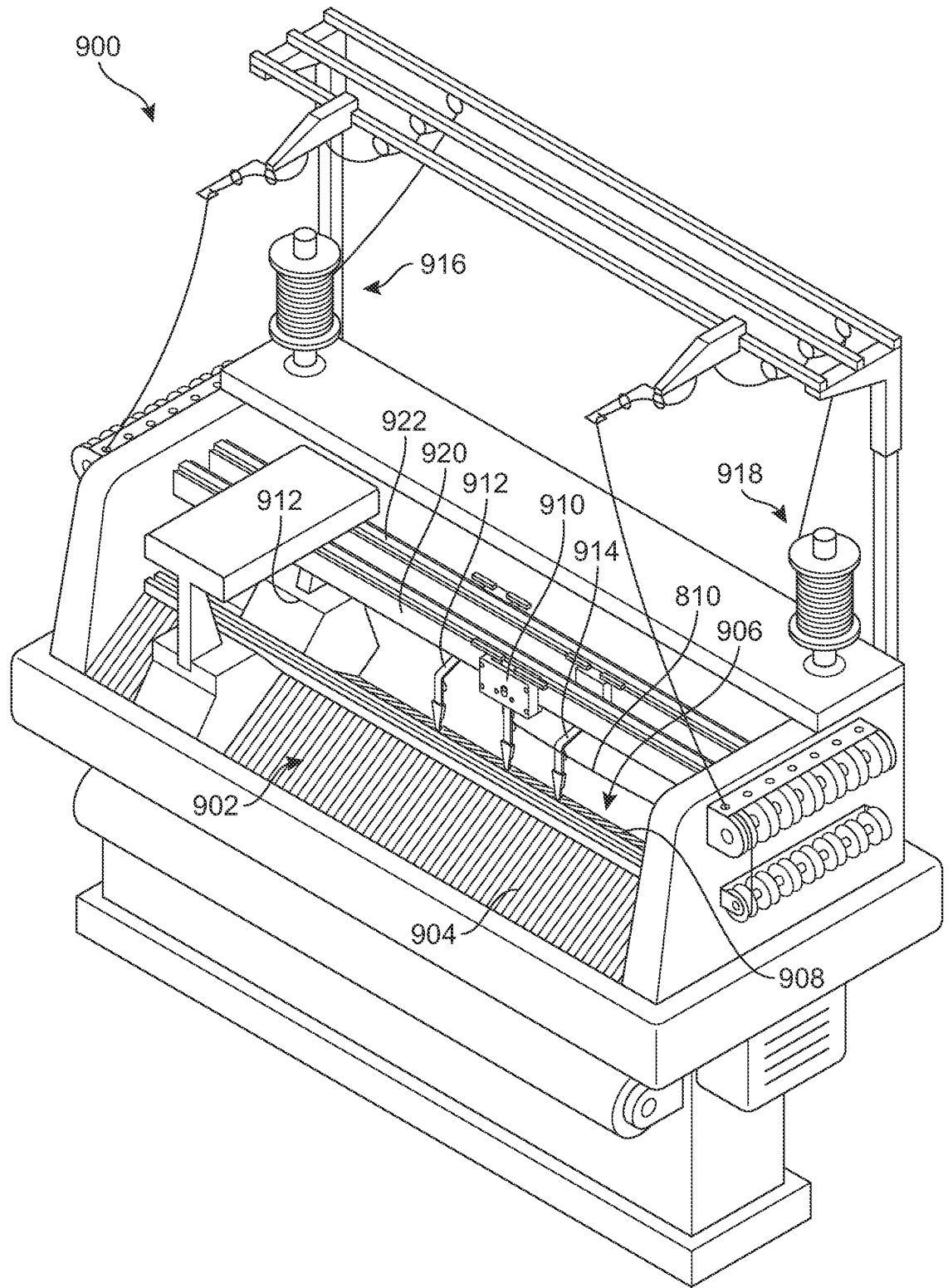


FIG. 8

**FIG. 9**

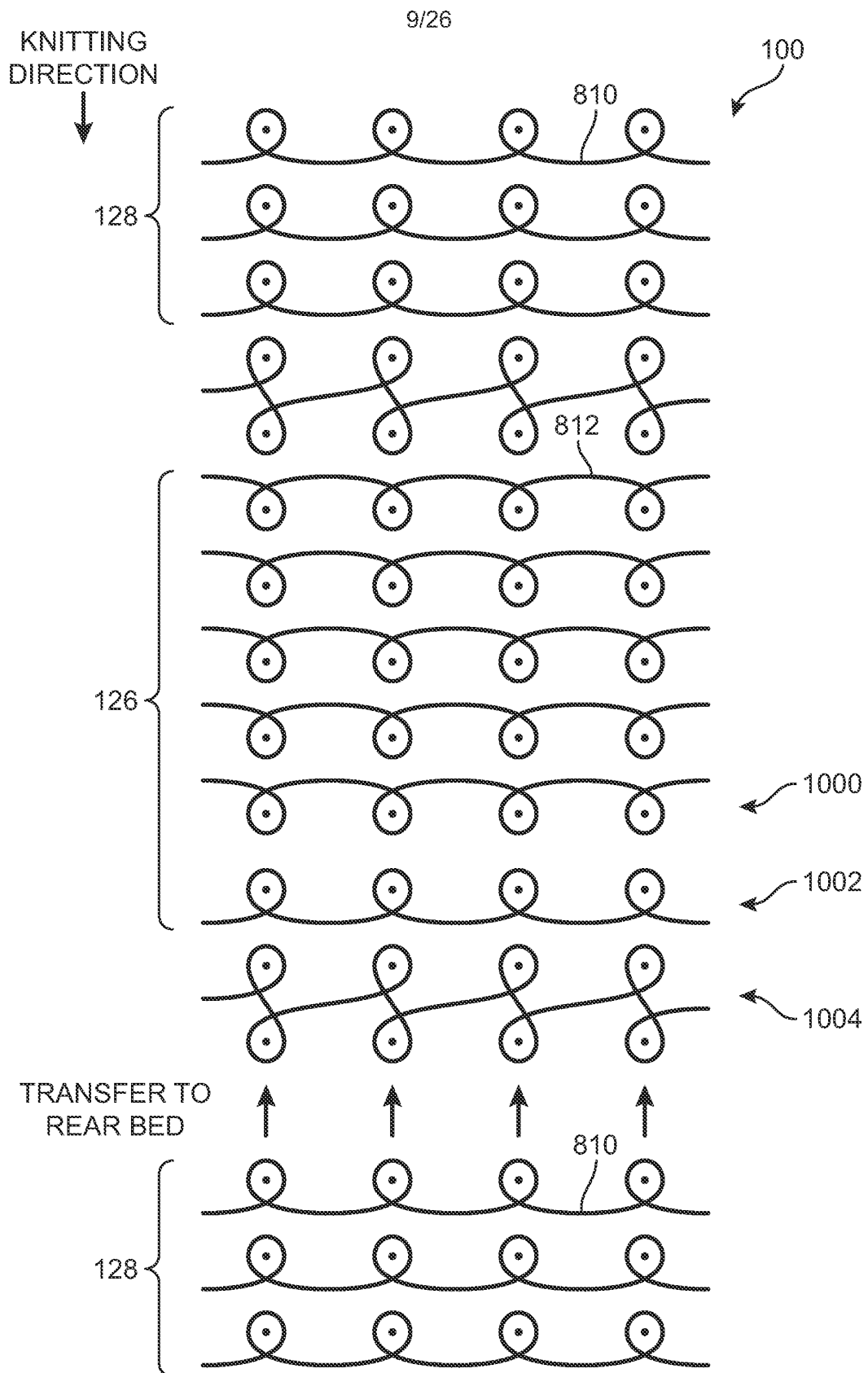


FIG. 10A

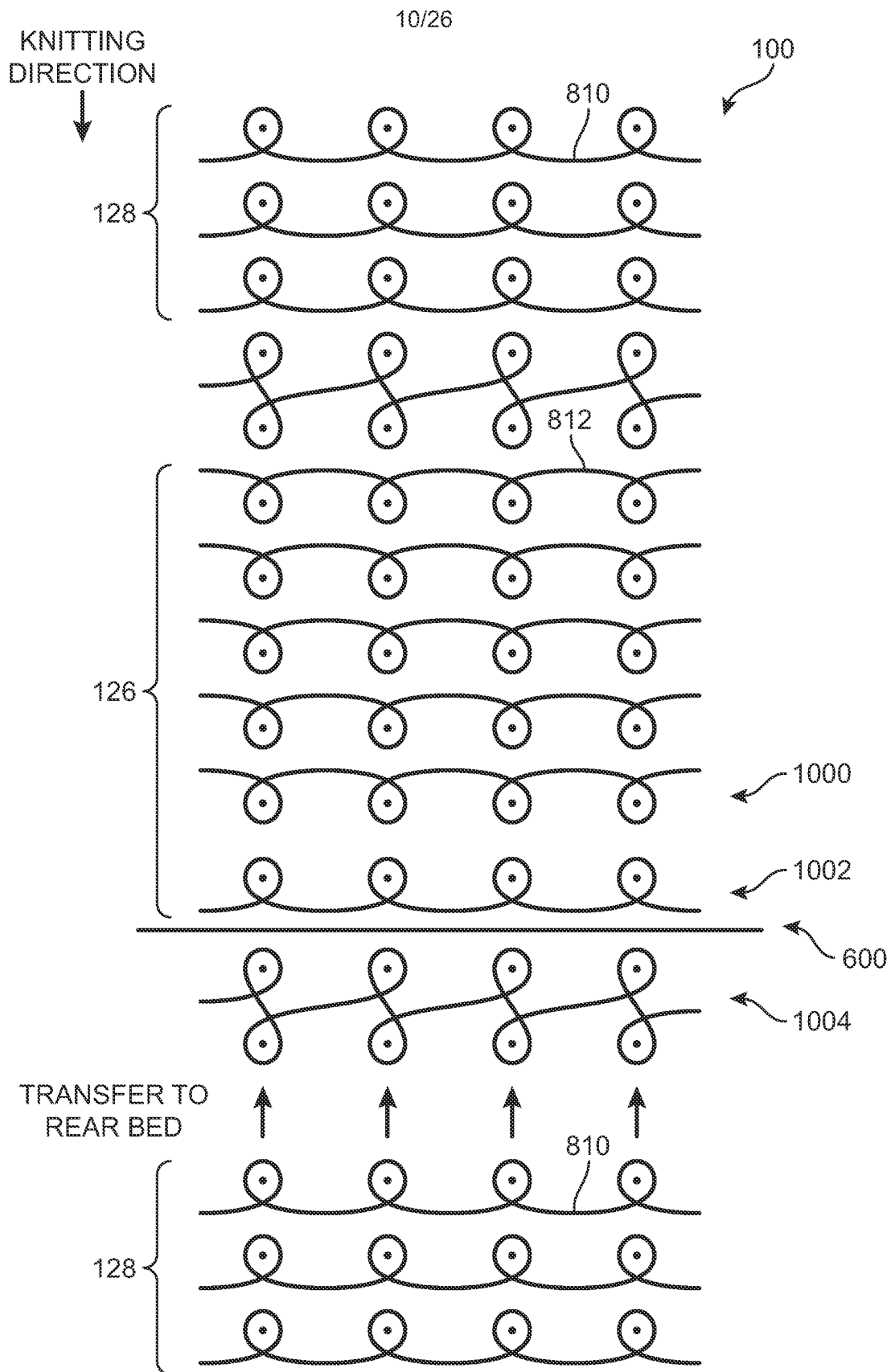
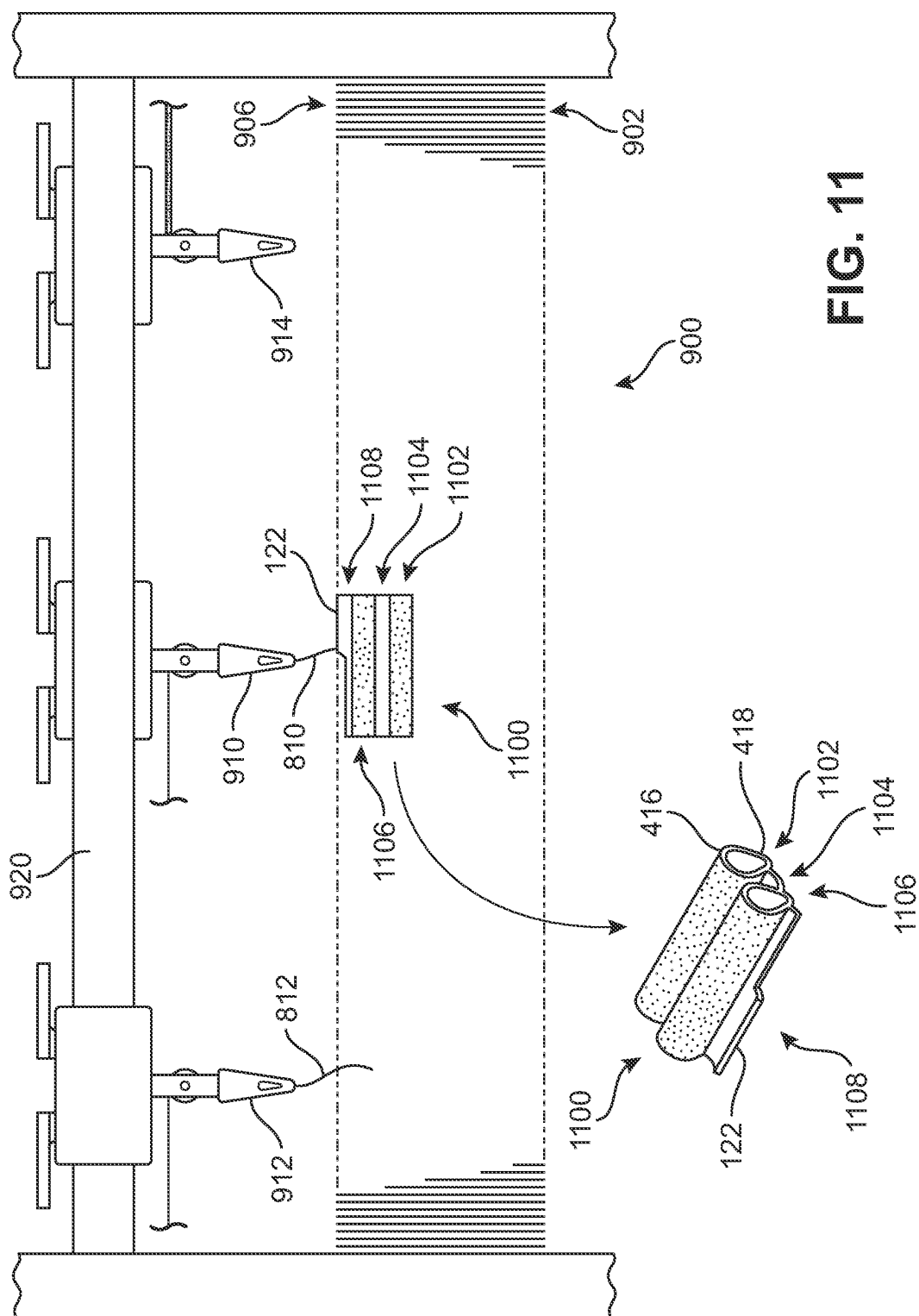


FIG. 10B



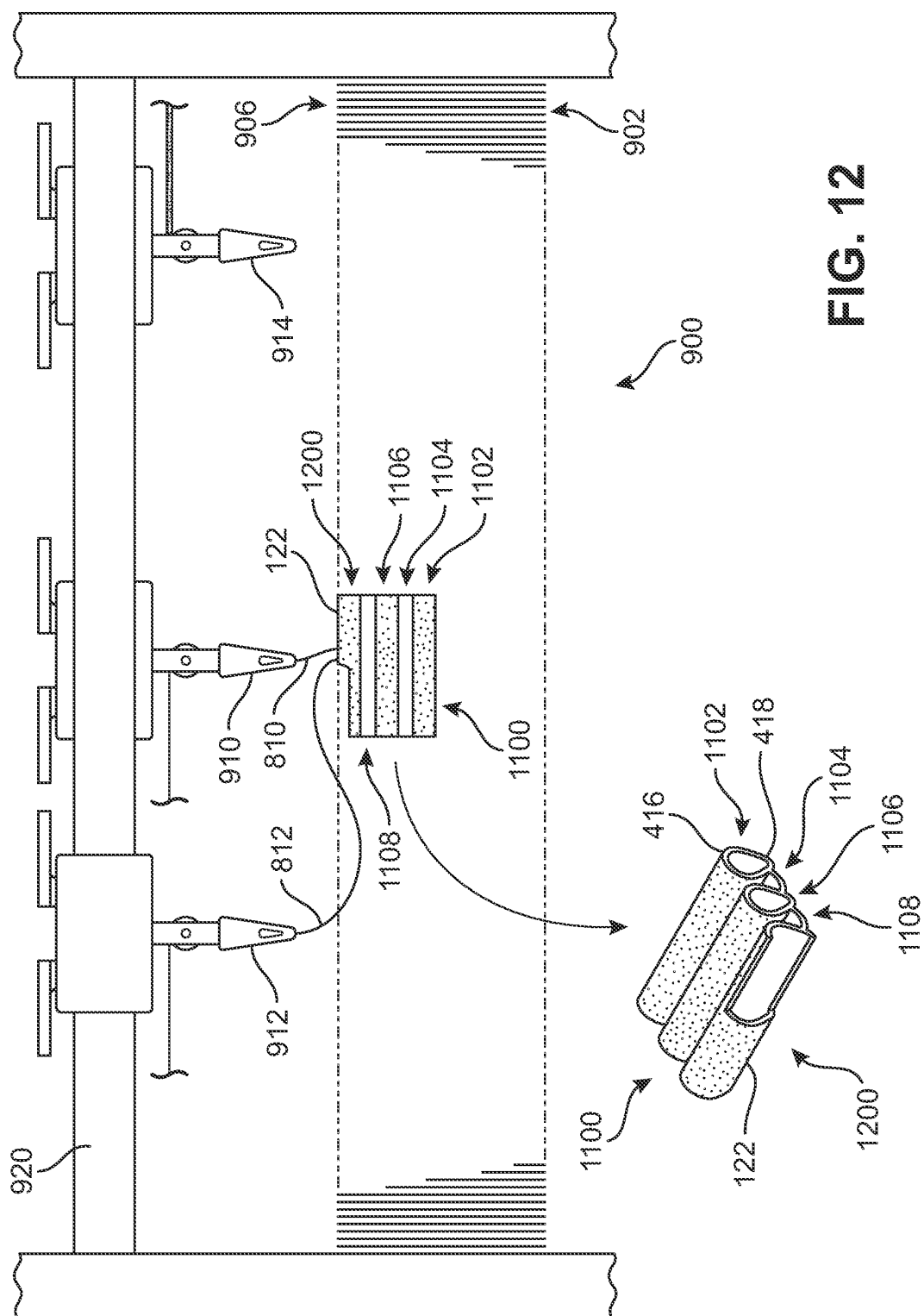


FIG. 12



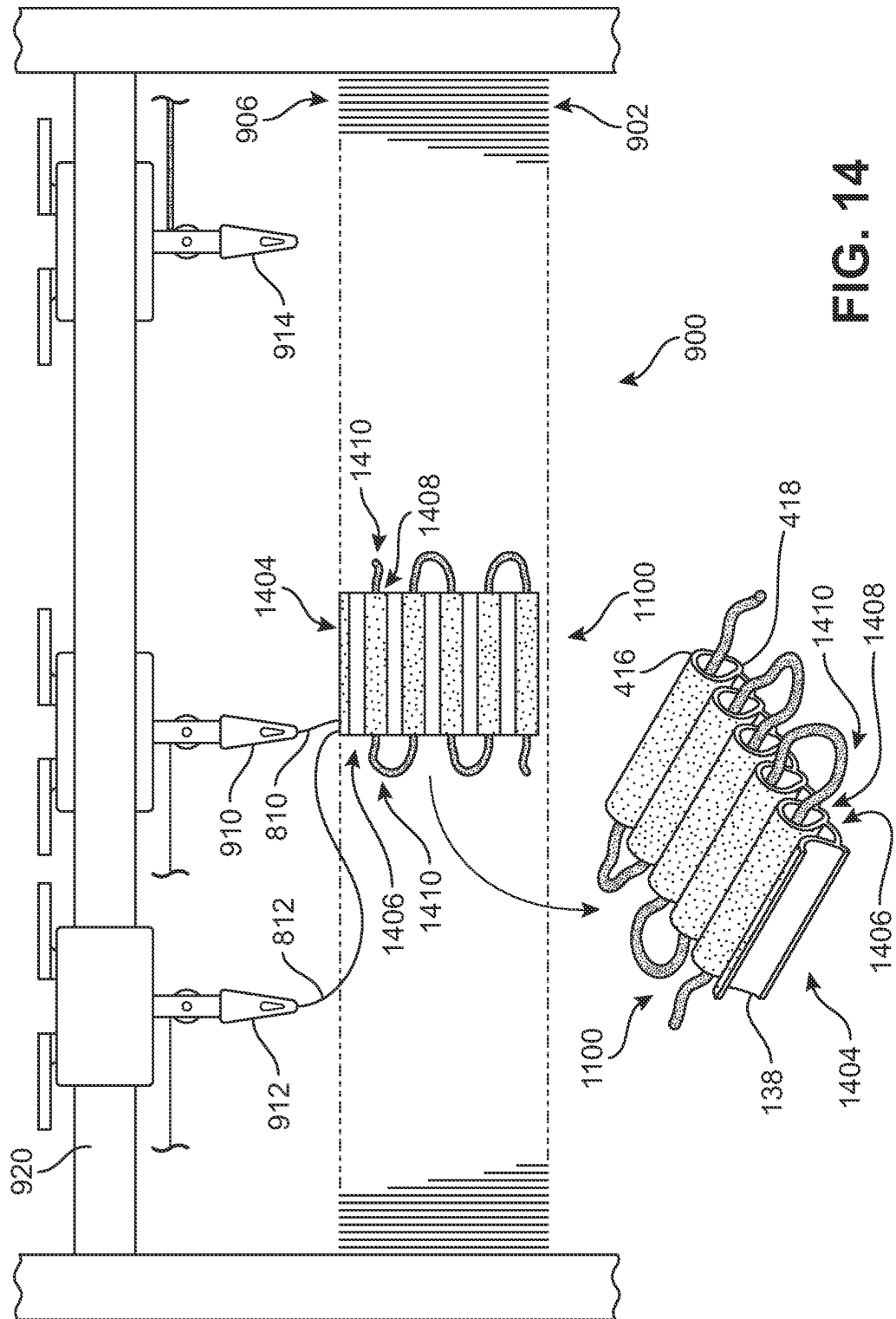
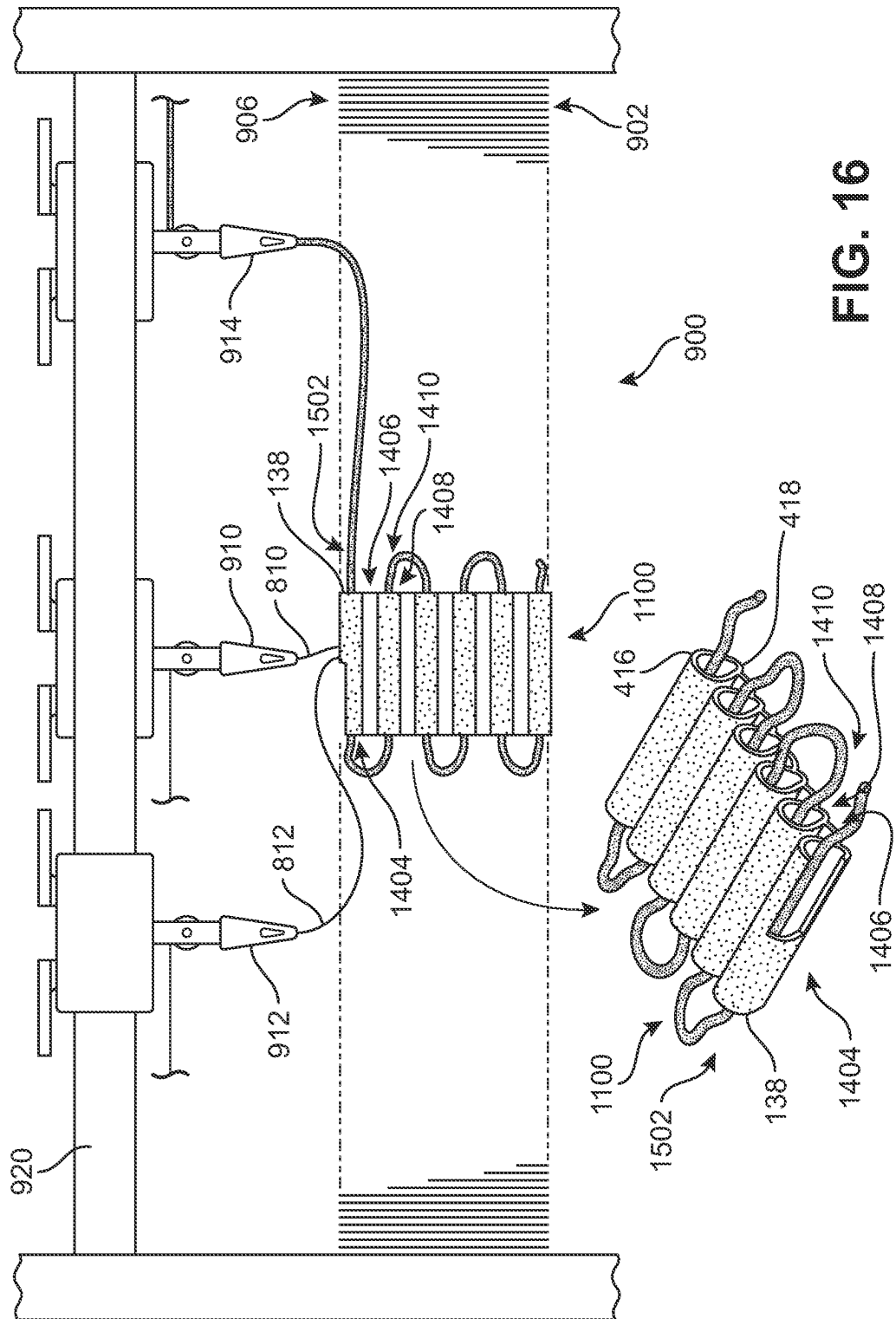
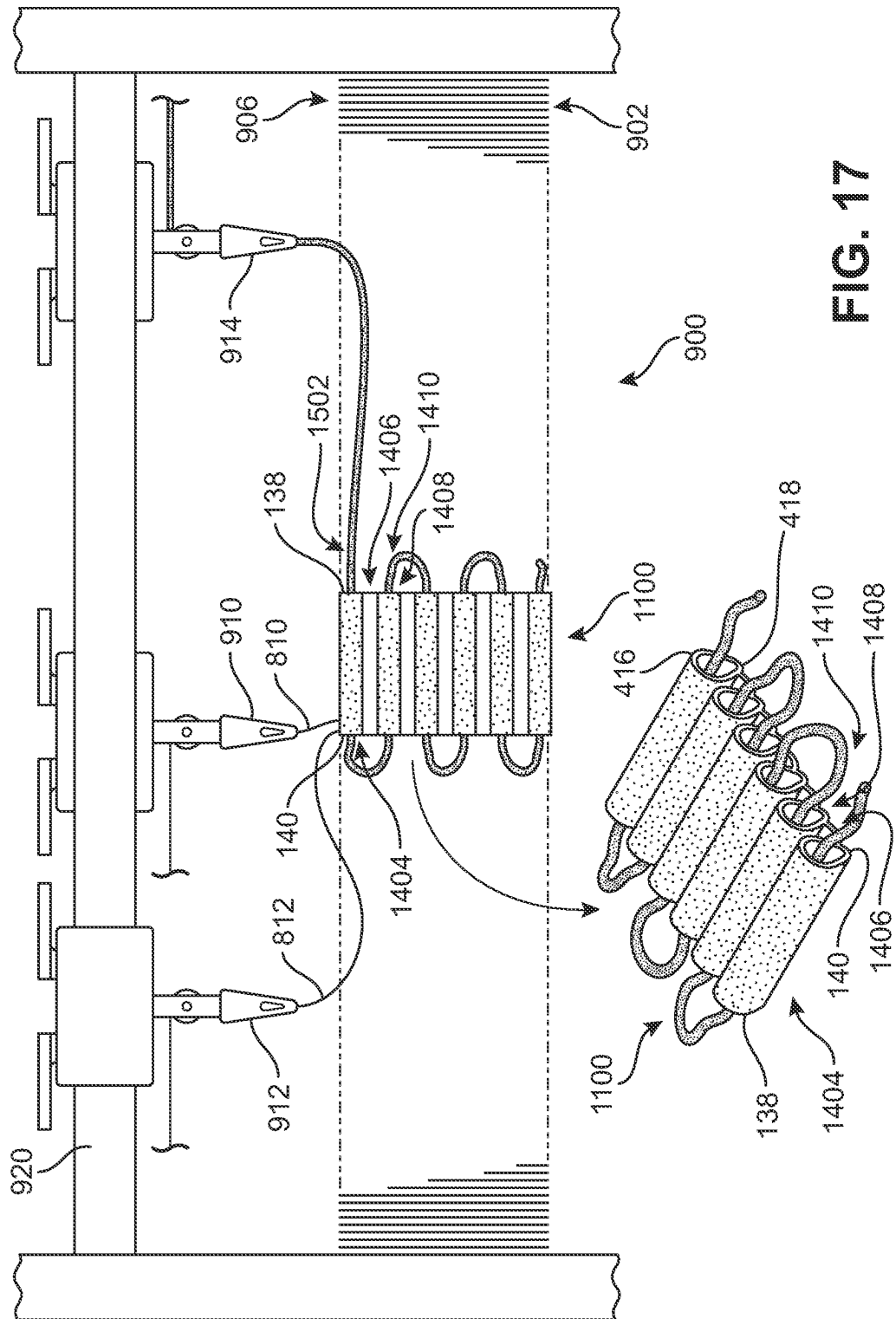


FIG. 14





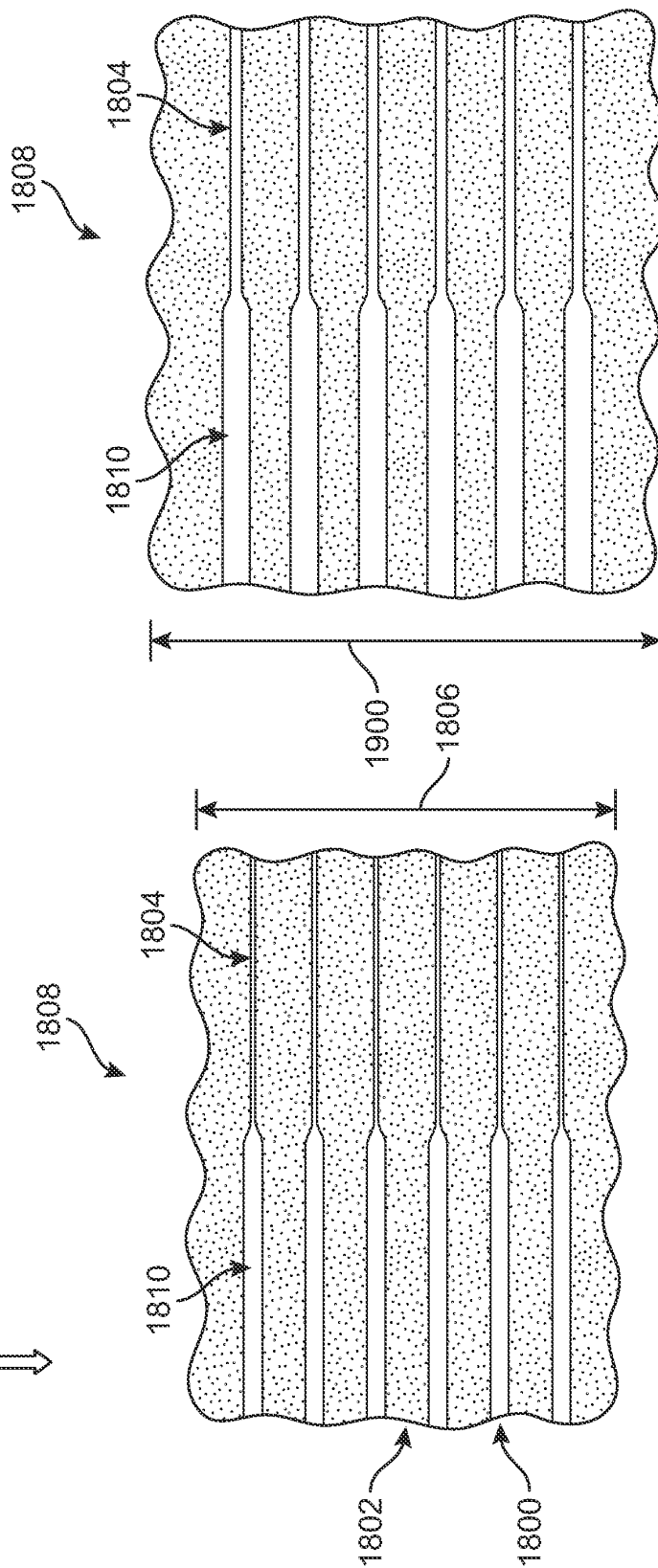
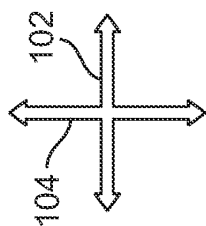
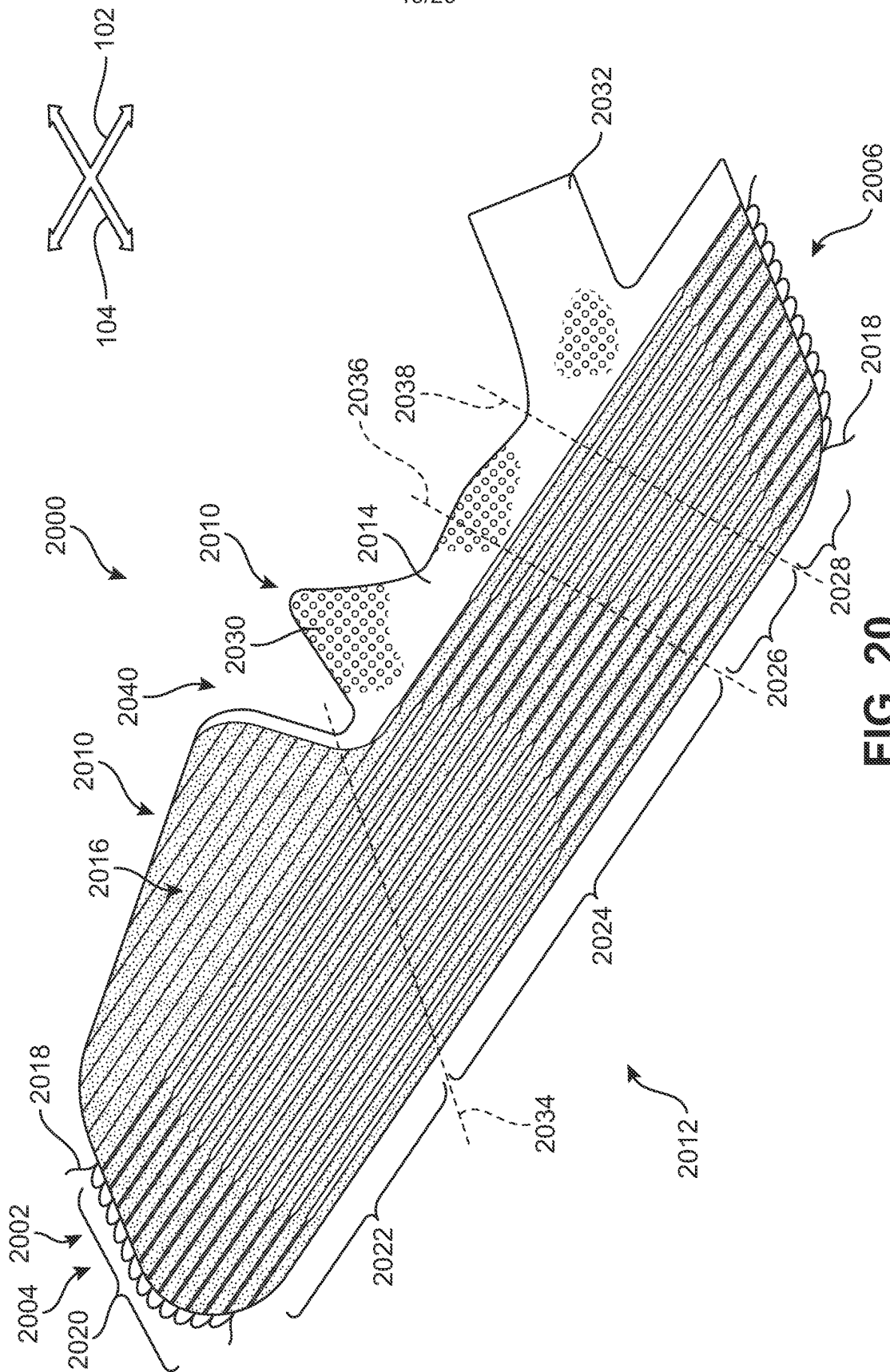
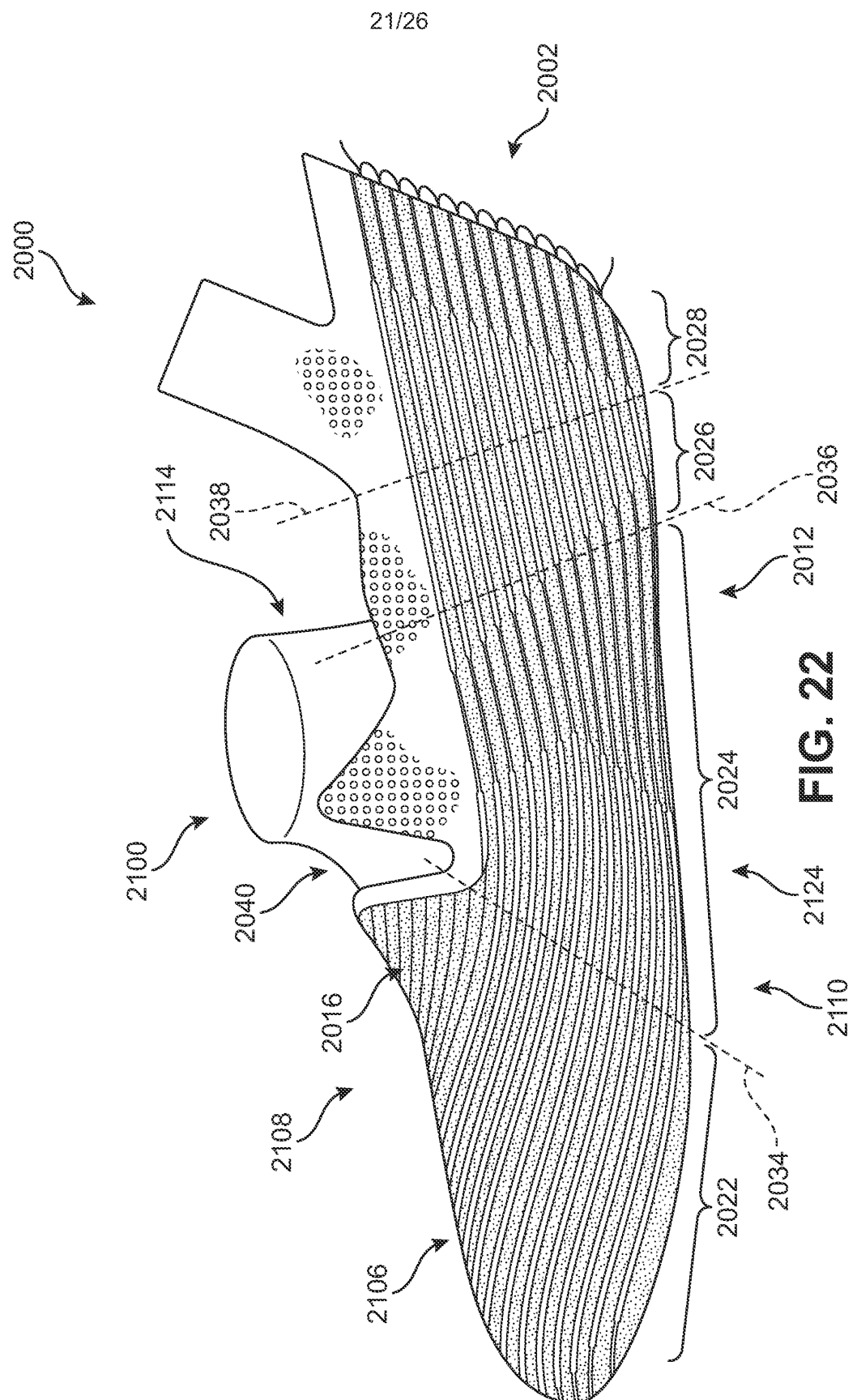


FIG. 19

FIG. 18



2020



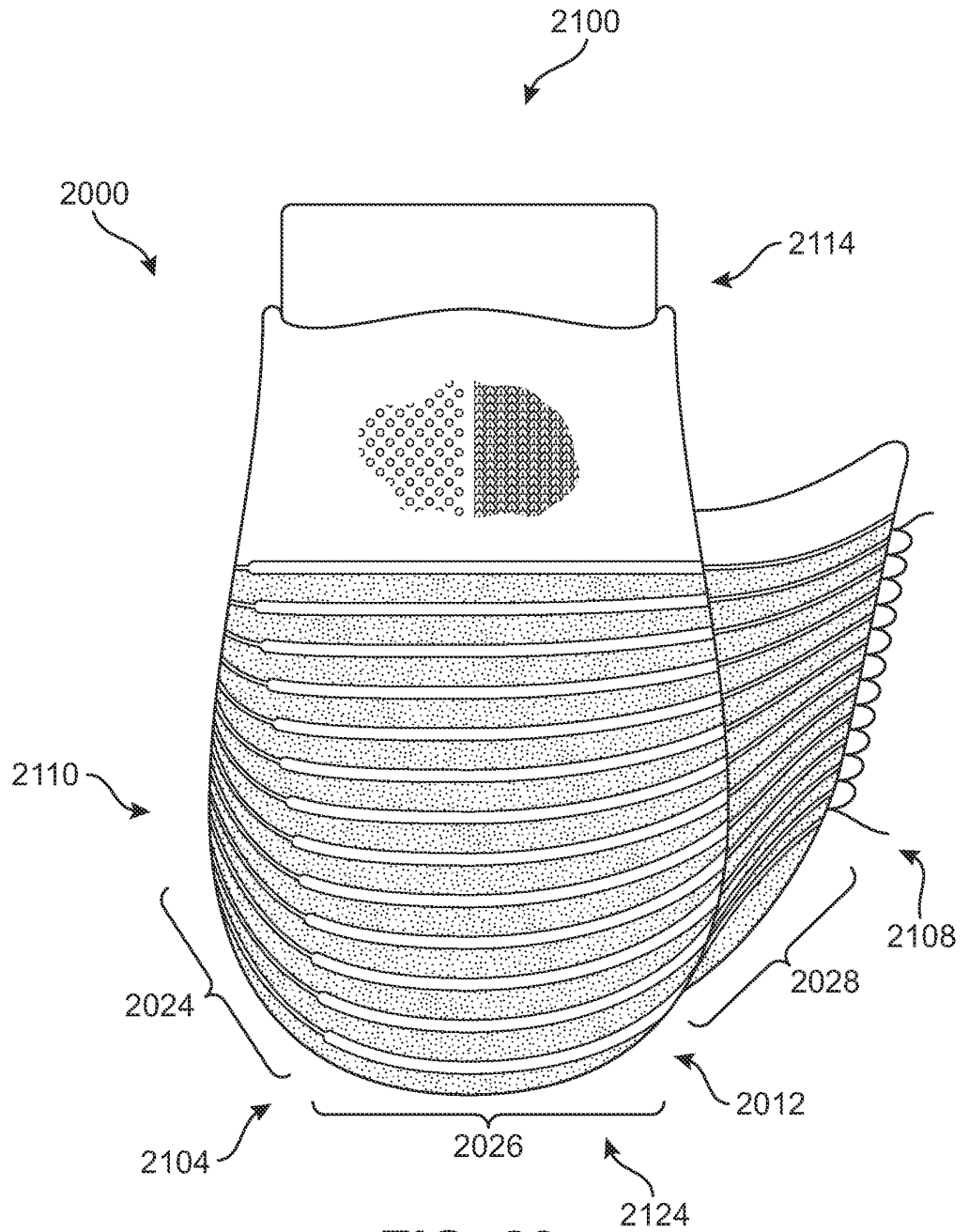
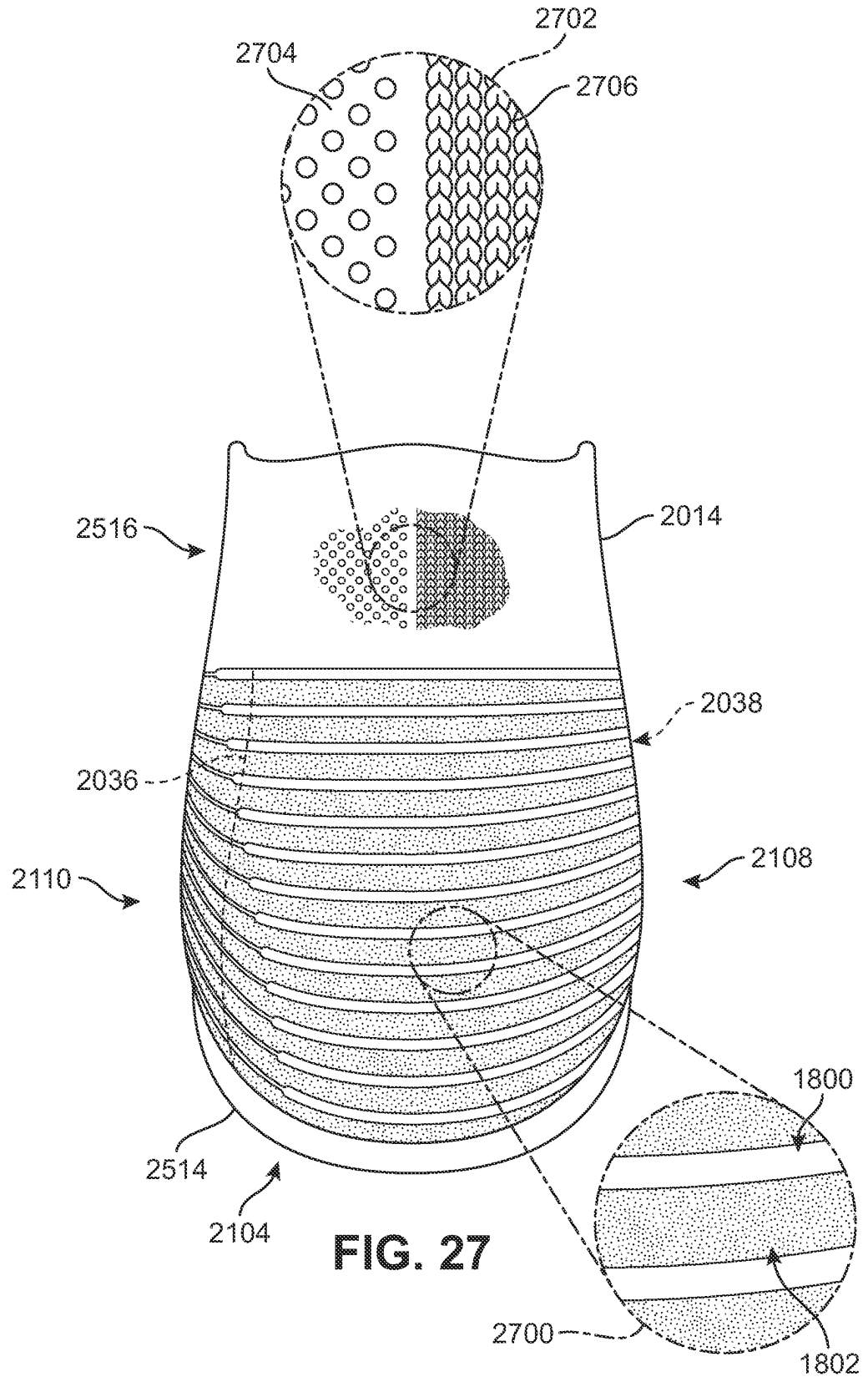


FIG. 23







Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Adrian Meir		
Filer:		Eric M. Gibson/Jose Espejo		
Attorney Docket Number:		51-4600		
Filed as Large Entity				
Track I Prioritized Examination - Nonprovisional Application under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Utility application filing	1011	1	280	280
Utility Search Fee	1111	1	600	600
Utility Examination Fee	1311	1	720	720
Request for Prioritized Examination	1817	1	4000	4000
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Publ. Fee- Early, Voluntary, or Normal	1504	1	0	0
PROCESSING FEE, EXCEPT PROV. APPLS.	1830	1	140	140
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				5740

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	20633815
Application Number:	14535413
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	8429
Title of Invention:	Article of Footwear Incorporating A Knitted Component with Inlaid Tensile Elements and Method of Assembly
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Adrian Meir
Customer Number:	57618
Filer:	Eric M. Gibson/Jose Espejo
Filer Authorized By:	Eric M. Gibson
Attorney Docket Number:	51-4600
Receipt Date:	07-NOV-2014
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	10:21:26
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 5740
RAM confirmation Number	8326
Deposit Account	502846
Authorized User	GIBSON, ERIC M.
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)	

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Transmittal of New Application	2014-11-07_51-4600_Transmittal.pdf	63027	no	1
			ab0cccee91ce2a957813ea1e6ef5fa2bf07dc7c		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	TrackOne Request	2014-11-07_51-4600_Request_Prioritized_Examination.pdf	34448	no	1
			b74104144d9cf8e59b709dadb27ac76b8430b4bd		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Application Data Sheet	2014-11-07_51-4600_ADS.pdf	1279258	no	6
			ae282f117022d9156241a05a15c7d1b00d788b01		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4		2014-11-07_51-4600_Specification.pdf	204274	yes	63
			583e7790b9f12bcd11f0435f7833ad4a4b90ace8		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	56	
	Claims		57	62	
	Abstract		63	63	
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	2014-11-07_51-4600_Drawings.pdf	576184	no	26
			3bca03fef57142a4d08fc87238ca0ad14223b757		
Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	40131	no	2
			720f88894810bd18b160110bd6d5c24124ee1f33		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			2197322		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.