UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SKECHERS U.S.A., INC.,
"Petitioner"

v.

NIKE, INC.,
"Patent Owner"

U.S. Patent No. 8,266,749

Title:
Article of Footwear Having a Textile Upper

DECLARATION OF GRANT DELGATTY
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONS FOR *INTER PARTES* REVIEW

Mail Stop: PATENT BOARD
Patent Trial and Appeal Board
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I, Grant Delgatty, submit the following declaration in connection with the proceeding identified above.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. I have been retained by counsel for Skechers U.S.A., Inc. ("Skechers" or "Petitioner") as an independent expert in connection with certain proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. I have been asked by Skechers to provide opinions on certain matters relating to footwear design and manufacture.

2. My opinions are based on my years of education, research and experience, as well as my investigation and study of relevant materials. In forming my opinions, I have considered the materials I identify in this declaration.

3. I am being compensated for my time spent on this matter at a rate of $400 per hour, and my compensation is in no way contingent upon the outcome of this matter or on the opinions I offer. All of the opinions expressed in this declaration are my own.

II. BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS

4. I have designed and developed performance athletic shoes, among other types of shoes, for more than 25 years, and have extensive experience studying the effects of cushioning and stability, particularly in the context of performance athletic footwear.

5. Early in my career, as an athletic footwear designer, I had the opportunity to be mentored and work directly under the tutelage of the legendary Bill Petersen, who worked as one of the first industrial designers at Nike and its prior name of Blue Ribbon Sports. Bill was originally given the task of developing the methodology by which Frank Rudy's patented airbag technology could be commercialized into a viable construction application for mass production. It was under Bill's guidance where I first learned to apply principles in shoe construction methodologies of performance footwear and the aspects of how biomechanics could influence new and innovative solutions for constructing performance athletic footwear, such as in the context of providing cushioning and lateral support.

6. From 1996 to 1999, I worked as the only employee at E-West Designs, an athletic footwear design and development consulting firm started by Bill Petersen and ex-Nike Olympic trial runner, Mark Feig. At E-West Designs, I worked on many commissioned projects within the performance footwear industry, including being credited for designing the PUMA CELL 5-0 basketball shoe. In addition, I worked on the Avia cantilever system, the first line of Shaquille O'Neal's basketball shoe company, DUNK.NET, an internal harness technology for Vans step-in snowboard boots, and many other shoe-related innovations.

7. In 1999, I became the in-house Director of Design for the DVS Shoe Company, which was a startup performance skate shoe company focused on

developing cutting edge technologies to address the performance needs of professional skateboarders. While at DVS, I developed many new performance technologies, including the Shock pad, Dual Lacing Technology, and the DIM (Drop In Midsole) system, which utilized an innovative over-lasted upper technology to allow for an insole containing an integrated combination airbag/impact pad cushioning technology to address heel bruising that the company's professional team riders were experiencing.

8. One footwear technology I invented was an innovative way to mechanically attach a shoe upper to a shoe sole without the use of adhesives or permanent stitching. *See e.g.*, U.S. Patent. No. 8,307,570. We utilized this technology for the shoe brand I founded called Urshuz, whereby a series of small elastic loops were attached to the bottom perimeter edge of a shoe upper. These loops were stretchable, and designed to intersect with channels molded into the sidewall of the sole unit, and lock into undercut channels found in the outsole tread pattern. Having the upper affixed to the sole unit in this manner, allowed the uppers and the soles to be detachably attached, which provided multiple benefits to the user, such as being able to mix and match different custom colors and styles, replacing soles when they wore out, and allowing for the shoes to be 100% recyclable due to their ability to be separated into 'like' materials..

9. Additional details of my education and employment history, recent professional service, patents, publications, and other testimony are set forth in my current curriculum vitae, attached to this Declaration as Exhibit A.

III. SHOE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

10. I was asked to provide certain opinions relating to shoe design and manufacturing considerations spanning the timeframe of 2004 to 2012 (the "Relevant Timeframe"). In the event any of my opinions about shoe design and manufacturing considerations set forth below would differ depending on which specific point in time within the Relevant Timeframe is at issue, I have noted it below. If I have not noted that my opinions would differ depending on the specific point in time within the Relevant Timeframe that is at issue, then my opinions are the same, or vary only insubstantially, over the entire Relevant Timeframe.

A. Minimizing Seams

11. An important consideration in the manufacture of shoes, particularly shoe uppers, is to be able to provide designs and patterns which can be easily modified from shoe style to shoe style without sacrificing quality or introducing inconsistencies. Seams in the upper can impact quality because they can serve as specific points of failure. Seams can also introduce inconsistencies during the manufacturing process. Moreover, reducing the number of seams in an upper

decreases the number of steps required to manufacture the upper. Thus, it is generally desirable to minimize the number of seams required for a given upper design. .

B. Meaning of Footwear

12. The term footwear is generally considered to be broader than shoes, and would particularly include articles such as socks, stockings, and hosiery. EX1022 (The Complete Footwear Dictionary), at 4 (defining footwear as: "***Any foot covering*** in the form of shoes, boots, slippers, or ***hose*** used for utility and/or dress wear. ***Not necessarily synonymous with shoes***, which are simply one category of footwear."), 5 (identifying "Hose," which is part of the definition of "footwear," as including socks and stockings).

C. Material Selection

13. When selecting materials to use in manufacturing shoes, one of the design considerations is the fact that some areas or parts of a shoe will generally be exposed to harsher conditions than other areas or parts of the shoe. For example, the tip of the shoe covering the toe region, as well as the lower sides closest to the connection point at the midsole, will generally be expected to experience more physical stresses (e.g., scuffing, scratching, and scraping, etc.) than the top of the shoe covering the instep region. For that reason, thicker, more durable materials are often used in the toe region and lower frontal side regions. This may mean using a rubber material to cover the toe region which in some cases can extend around the

sides of the forefoot region. This can be seen in the examples below. This is also often seen in the heel area where a heel clip can be added to provide additional durability along the heel region.

See Exhibit B (Nojima, Aaron, "Remembering Crooked Tongues"), 2, 13.

14. In the context of fabric uppers, accounting for excess wear on specific parts of the shoe may include using thicker more durable fabrics and/or stitching, which imparts additional wear resistance properties. In some cases, this can be achieved using an additional fabric layer that is sewn over the toe and lower front regions of the upper, as can be seen in the shoe images above. However, this can also be achieved by using a thicker single layer in certain areas. For example, a thicker layer of upper material is known to be used under, or in place of, the toe cap of shoes designed for skateboarding, in particular, due to the high likelihood of there being excess wear in that region.

D. Securing an Upper to the Sole

15. When manufacturing shoes, there are a limited number of ways the shoe upper is secured to the shoe sole. For example, two common ways to secure a shoe upper to the shoe sole are to use either "slip lasting" or "Strobel lasting." Strobel lasting, also known as California lasting, is a common shoe construction for casual and athletic shoes. Once the upper is complete, a bottom material is added to "close" the bottom of the upper where the upper and the bottom material are stitched together along the perimeter of the bottom material. See below.

16. Slip lasting is commonly used to make flexible and lightweight shoes for running or racing. With slip lasting, the upper materials are patterned to extend underfoot and meet in the middle of the shoe's last bottom, along which the upper sides are stitched together. See below.

Slip Lasting

17. Typically, shoe uppers are formed with a closed bottom, although it is possible for the upper to have an open bottom that is attached to the sole. When constructed with a closed bottom, whether by slip or Strobel lasting,an adhesive can be used across the entire base/bottom of sole region, thereby providing additional structural integrity between the upper and the sole. Also, stitching can be used around the perimeter lower edge of the upper for additionally securing the upper to the sole and for improved aesthetics.

18. Different lasting methods have different advantages. For example, one benefit to slip lasting (i.e., joining the bottom edges of the upper together in a longitudinal fashion) is that it tends to provide a more secure and comfortable fit around the foot because the upper is snug around the entire foot, including the sides, in almost a sock-like fashion. A second benefit of joining the bottom edges of the upper to each other along the longitudinal length of the upper is that it tends to

provide additional flexibility through the length of the upper, which would also increase comfort when bending or flexing the shoe, such as during running or walking.

E. The Throat Area

19. Footwear has long been designed to facilitate insertion and removal of a foot. In some cases, footwear is designed to facilitate insertion and removal of a foot by providing an elastic or stretchable material along areas of the upper. For example, a classic design popularized by Vans in its "Slip-On" shoe used elastic sections along either side of the throat area, as shown below, which shows the industry recognized that you could use a flexible/elastic material to provide expansion in order to facilitate putting on and taking off footwear.

20. In other examples, it was known to provide elastic or stretchable material within the throat area itself. This was a known feature in slip-on gymnastics shoes, for example, as shown below

Danshuz – Leather Slip-On Gymnastic Shoe

21. In many other cases, footwear is designed to facilitate insertion and removal of a foot by providing an opening through the throat area that allows the lateral and medial sides of the shoe to expand outwardly. This opening is then often covered by an attached tongue with some mechanism extending over the tongue that secures the lateral and medial sides against the foot, with laces being the most conventional choice. Below are some examples of this typical design.

See Exhibit B, 2, 5, 11, 13.

America's No. 1 Basketball Shoes
Specified by More Coaches
Worn by More Players
In Basketball, it's
ALL STARS first!
First IN FIT
First IN QUALITY
First IN SALES
IF YOU WANT your team on top when the final whistle blows at the end of the 1954-1955 basketball season, outfit them now with the basketball footwear that helps them play better ball — Converse All Stars. For real fit, greater comfort, positive non-slip action, there's no footwear that can match All Stars. No game depends more on keen, alert foot work — and no shoes provide greater assurance and confidence, game after game, than Converse All Stars!
First because they're 9 ways better!
• LIGHTWEIGHT — For increased speed without fatigue • GAME-PROVED LAST — Developed by experts; eliminates chafing, provides greater comfort, decreases muscle strain • SHOCK-ABSORBING FULL LENGTH SPONGE INSOLE — Combined with Cushion Heel and Arch Support to provide maximum protection for normal feet and added support for weak arches • HIGH PEG TOP — Originated by Converse — permits tight lacing without binding, assures perfect ankle support • LOOSE-LINED ARMY DUCK UPPERS — Free breathing, self-ventilating uppers for coolness • UNDER-STITCHED WEB TAPE BACKSTAY — Flexes with foot action, absorbs strain, won't stretch, tear or break • TOE PROTECTING GUARD — Double strength at a vital point • DOUBLE SOLE BINDING — Makes for perfect bond between outsole and upper • NON-MARKING MOLDED OUTSOLE — Guarantees positive, non-slip traction on all types of floors; pivot button means extra wear without extra weight.
ABOUT CLEANING "ALL STARS"
Never use bleaching agents to clean "All Stars". Bleaches contain chlorine or peroxide, weaken fabric even when diluted. To clean both white and black shoes, use a mild soap and water solution. Allow shoes to dry thoroughly at normal room temperatures, away from stoves or steam pipes. For white "All Stars", use liquid chalk-type shoe cleaner for whitening.
CONVERSE
'Chuck' Taylor
ALL STAR
BASKETBALL SHOES
CONVERSE RUBBER COMPANY MALDEN 48, MASSACHUSETTS

See Exhibit C (Wei-Haas, "How Chuck Taylor Taught America How to Play Basketball"), 18-19.

F. Lace Eyelets Designs

22. Converse developed a design in which the lace eyelets were positioned on flaps which extended along both sides of the throat area. This was introduced in 1936 by the United States men's basketball team. Exhibit C, 2. This became a classic

design which continues to be used even today. In fact, it continues to be used by other shoe manufacturers as well. See below.

See Exhibit D ("7 Best Shoes That Look Like Converse: Supreme 2024 Footwear"), 9

23. Thus, positioning lace eyelets on flaps extending along the sides of the throat area has been a well-known feature adopted by multiple shoe manufacturers over the years. One example is a shoe called the "Gavin" which I designed for DVS in the late 1990s. See below.

See Exhibit E (Amazon page showing same design also on sale from April 2010 to present).

G. The Tongue

24. As can generally be seen in the images above, the tongue of a shoe refers to a flap of material that extends from a forward portion of the throat area towards the collar of the shoe.

25. In shoe design, tongues can serve multiple purposes. For example, tongues can be padded so as to protect the top of the foot from pressure caused by laces or other securing mechanisms. Commonly, tongues are also designed with an extending flap or tab which facilitates the wearer pulling the shoe into their foot. By grasping the end of the flap or tab with one hand, and positioning the opposite hand in the heel area, it becomes significantly easier to pull a shoe onto a foot than if there were no extending flap/tab to grasp. Below are some images which illustrate the concept.

H. General Considerations

26. The fabrics and other materials used in shoe design can vary widely based on a various factors. For example, the consideration and possible use of (1) rib or stripe patterns; (2) varying patterns; (3) differently shaped elements in a pattern; (4) different orientations of elements in a pattern; and (5) different locations of a elements in a pattern, among other things, is a long-standing and integral part of shoe fashion and would have been obvious or obvious to try from the perspective of a POSITA familiar with either footwear or textiles. Indeed, rib or stripe patterns are among the simplest and most ubiquitous of a finite number of aesthetic design elements in footwear and in knit fabrics, and their use and success is predictable.

27. Fabric and general material selection is also based on achieving desired structural characteristics, such as providing support where most needed, while balancing the need for comfort.

28. It is also generally desirable to select materials in a way that provides structural consistency across adjacent parts of the shoe upper, for example, from around the heel region and extending into the lateral and medial sides. This is important so that the wearer's foot feels secure along the heel region. For example, if the heel were made of a significantly softer or more elastic material than the lateral/medial sides extending towards the heel, the wearer's foot may not feel very secure. Similarly, if the forward region of the upper were made of a significantly

softer or more elastic material than the lateral/medial sides extending around and towards the forward region, the wearer's foot again may not feel very secure, particularly when running or doing other activities. As such, it is generally known that the upper can be designed such that at least some of the materials used along different parts of the upper can extend to adjacent parts of the upper, thereby providing additional structural consistency. For example, athletic shoes often have a pre-molded heel counter that is sandwiched between the inner lining and outer materials. See below.

29. Heel counters are made of a particular hardness and fit around the entire heel region, extending even beyond the heel towards the midsole. The function of the heel counter is to provide structural consistency around the entire back of the foot.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true,

statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Date: November 1, 2024

Grant Delgatty

EXHIBIT A

Grant Delgatty
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Curriculum Vitae

Experience:	**Responsibilities / Achievements:**
University of Southern California Iovine and Young Academy Chair of Product Innovation Associate Professor of Practice (Jan. 2018 - present)	- As department Chair, I helped develop and champion the curriculum for the IYA Master's of Product Innovation (MSPRIN) at the USC Jimmy Iovine and Andre (Dr Dre) Young Academy - Developed syllabi for Product Design I, II, and III (IYA undergrad) - Teach a range of courses including Designing Products 1, 2, and 3, Maker Studio, GX, Industry Practicum Residential - Developed syllabi and teach Foundation Studio and Creator Studio (MSPRIN) - Faculty lead on several industry and impact lab projects with clients including adidas, VW Audi, Samsung, Vans, imagination.org, Ellison Institute, NASA - Lead a team of students competing in an adidas international design competition against other universities - Our team took first place with the prize being an all expense paid team trip to adidas HQ in Herzogenaurach, Germany - Advisor for new building facility build-out
Urban626 LLC (URB-E) Co-founder / CCO Pasadena, CA (Apr. 2015 - Aug. 2018)	- Egological Inc. acquired by Urban626 LLC in 2015 - Shifted responsibilities from CEO to CCO to focus my efforts on new product R&D - Designed, developed and patented the URB-E Classic, URB-E Pro, URB-E Sport, URB-E Trailer, Eddy Portable Battery, URB-E Locking Rack, ECV (Electric Convenience Vehicle) - Designed and developed product packaging - Oversaw retail and office headquarter design - Inventor of 15 registered utility and design patents - More than 10,000 units sold in every US state and shipped to 40 countries worldwide
Egological Mobility Solutions Inc. (URB-E) Founder / CEO Pasadena, CA (Jan. 2013 - Apr. 2015)	- Founded URB-E personal electric folding vehicles to address 'last mile' transportation for urban commuting - Became the original electric scooter years prior to the global phenomenon of electric scooter share companies such as Bird and Lime - Responsible for inventing and designing the personal folding electric vehicle, URB-E - Created the most successful 'transportation device' crowd-funding campaign at the time on indiegogo.com, successfully raising $317,000 in pre-orders
ideapiphany LLC Co-founder / Solutionist Pasadena, CA (May 2011 - Apr. 2013)	- Co-founded this open innovation design firm - Business model was to develop game-changing innovations resulting in new ventures, licensing opportunities and discovering new technologies for commercialization - Responsible for inventing and designing a multitude of product innovations within multiple categories including footwear technology, household products, wind energy, health and wellness, furniture, lighting, sporting goods, and food preparation
Urshuz Inc. Founder / CCO Montreal, Canada (Pasadena office) (June. 2008 - May 2011)	- Founded this sustainable shoe company based on a revolutionary shoe technology I invented, of which the shoe upper and sole unit are attached with an elastic mechanical connection rather than the traditional method of bonding, allowing the consumer to customize their shoes at the retail level, as well as being able to recycle the soles - Responsible for inventing the concept, all product design, branding, and packaging - Granted utility patents in more than 30 countries

Experience (cont):	**Responsibilities / Achievements:**
ArtCenter College of Design Adjunct Instructor - Industrial Design Pasadena, CA (Sept. 2007 - Sept. 2018)	Courses taught include: - **Shoe Design** (4 years - ArtCenter at Night public programs) - developed curriculum to educate students in the entire process of designing and developing athletic footwear (topics covered: shoe design aesthetic, pattern making, last design, manufacturing, sole construction methodologies, cushioning technologies, material innovation, durability and abrasion resistance.) - **Product Design 8** (senior capstone project - taught for 21 semesters) - **Product Design 4** (4th term Product - deep dive into the consumer product design process with a heavy emphasis on human centered design methodology, prototyping, functionality and engineering) - **Product Design 1** (1st term Product - introductory course on the principles of product design and how to identify product opportunities within a specific product category) - **Mobility Design** (5th term Transportation - automotive corporation sponsored projects focused on alternative modalities of transportation) - **Unattended Retail Design** (5th - 7th term Environmental - course focused on designing the future of vending and AI activated retail environments) - **Rapid Problem Solving: The Art of Invention** (ArtCenter at Night public programs - developed the curriculum to educate students how to quickly identify problems and product opportunities, and create rapid solutions through ideation and low fidelity prototypes) - **TDS (Trans Disciplinary Studio)** - Co-taught several corporate sponsored TDS studio projects for companies including General Motors, Honda, Piaggio, Ford, Nestle, Purina, Boeing, Cailler, Johnson and Johnson, and the Nevada Gaming Counsel - **PACE International Design Competition** - lead faculty for three consecutive terms - competed with 18 other design schools around the world to create a last mile vehicle solution. Our team of 4 students took first place with the project titled CUBO
Vans, a VF Company Senior Director, Product Design Cypress, CA (Jan. 2001- Jan. 2008)	- Managed a team of 5 Designers, 6 Senior Designers, and 1 Design Director - Responsible for overseeing design for all nine product categories in the Vans portfolio including core, mainstream, lifestyle, girls, kids, snowboard boots, Syndicate, Agency branded bindings, and ProTec branded helmets and protective gear - Key influencer in overall brand identity and strategic thinking (i.e.- instrumental in determining the current Vans logo strategy, developing a new design concept for Vans retail, determining a new direction for the Vans trade show booth, working with sales to implement a 'channel of distribution' product / sales segmentation strategy, designing in-store p.o.p., and creating company growth opportunities by initiating new product categories) - Conceived, developed and designed a patented removable vamp technology - Helped grow yearly revenue from $200MM to $1B in 7 years
Podium Distribution Inc. **DVS / Lakai** Director of Design / Development Torrance, CA (Mar. 1998 - July 1999 - E-West) (July 1999 - Dec. 2000 - Podium)	- Original designer for this start-up performance skate shoe company - Responsible for overseeing design and development for two different shoe brands - Hired and managed a team of 6 footwear designers - Designed and developed many innovative technologies to address performance opportunities for professional skateboarders - innovations included DIMS (Drop In Midsole) sockliner embedded airbag cushioning technology, Shockpad - mechanically articulated shock absorption insert, DLS (Dual Lacing System) alternative protective lacing for abrasion resistance, and Duratec - reinforced toe cap durability protection - Helped conceptualize the brand identity / logo system for Lakai Footwear - Designed the interior space for the 120,000 sq/ft Podium Distribution headquarter offices - Conceptualized and design directed the Podium Distribution trade show booth - Helped grow yearly revenue from $0 to $70MM in 3 years

Experience (cont):	**Responsibilities / Achievements:**
E-West Design Inc. Footwear Designer Valley Village, CA (Oct. 1996 - July 1999)	- E-West was an R&D and sourcing design agency specializing in athletic footwear - Worked for and mentored by the infamous Bill Peterson, long time footwear designer and developer for Nike (originally Blue Ribbon Sports) whose accolades include designing and developing many innovative performance footwear technologies, including developing a commercially viable solution for the Nike Air airbag technology - Maintained the only employee design position of this consulting firm, with the last year being solely dedicated to DVS - Spent months overseas in Taiwan, Korea, and China working directly with factories to develop innovative manufacturing processes - Handled design projects for a number of different shoe companies including Puma, Avia, Tretorn, Vans, Converse, Perry Ellis, Nautica, 26 Red, Amp-Tek, Dunk.net, Spank, and DVS - Helped develop many technology innovations including an internal harness support system for Vans step-in snowboard boots, multiple cushioning technologies for DVS, a protective lacing system for the 26 Red Jason Ellis signature shoe, a removable weight system for AmpTek training shoes, and multiple variations of the Avia Cantilever System - Credited for winning the challenge between several design firms to design Puma's 50th anniversary basketball shoe, the "Cell Five-O"
Stuart Karten Design Designer Marina Del Rey, CA (May 1996 - Oct.1996)	- Worked on a range of design projects including furniture, computer accessory products, interior spatial design, children's toys, signage, and trade show display systems - Designed and fabricated custom desks, workstations, and a divider wall system for the studio that stayed in commission for more than 20 years prior to the studio eventually moving locations
K-Swiss Inc. Footwear Designer Chatsworth, CA (Dec.1995 - Apr.1996)	- Hired as an entry-level shoe designer upon graduation from ArtCenter where I began to learn the process of designing and developing performance athletic footwear - Developed my first commercially available product which performed quite well in the market - Left due to the position only being part-time
Design Works Designer Vancouver, Canada (June 1991- Aug.1992)	- Prior to attending ArtCenter College of Design, I worked as a graphics and signage designer for one of the largest and most reputable design agencies in Vancouver BC - Worked on three separate signage projects that received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place out of hundreds of entries in a prestigious national signage design contest
M5 Design Group Design Intern Vancouver, Canada (May 1990 - Aug. 1990)	- Worked as a summer intern between my 2nd and 3rd year of college - Designed the logo / identity for the 1990 "Vancouver Golf Show"

Education:

Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
Bachelor of Science, Industrial Design (1992-1995)

Capilano College, Vancouver, Canada
Diploma, Graphic Design and Illustration (1988-1991)

Patents Named Inventor:

- “Foldable electric vehicle” - U.S. Patent No. US9694868B2
- “Motorized scooter” - U.S. Patent No. USD746924S1
- “Foldable electric vehicle” - U.S. Patent No. US9873476B2
- “Motorized scooter” - U.S. Patent No. USD750711S1
- “Motorized scooter” - U.S. Patent No. USD827035S1
- “Attachment system for shoe uppers” - U.S. Patent No. US8307570B2
- “Convertible scooter” - U.S. Patent No. US10654541B2
- “Shoe with removable vamp” - U.S. Patent No. US20040194349A1
- “Portable and convertible rechargeable battery power supply” - U.S. Patent No. US10363829B2
- “Convertible Scooter and Handcart” - U.S. Patent No. US20180015978A1
- “Motorized scooter” - U.S. Patent No. USD832150S1
- “Portable rechargeable battery” - U.S. Patent No. USD820201S1
- “Portable elastic pill container” - U.S. Patent No. US20130206801A1
- “Compactible wagon” - U.S. Patent No. US20200031377A1
- “Electric convenience vehicle” - U.S. Patent No. USD842169S1
- “Compact electric convenience vehicle” - Worldwide Patent No. WO2019032566A1
- “Compactible Scooter with Tensioned Body” - U.S. Patent No. US20190202519A1
- “Vehicle systems and methods” - U.S. Patent No. US20210070339A1
- “Trottinette pliante” - Worldwide Patent No. WO2019033015A1

Expert Witness Experience:

- Nike, Inc. v. Skechers U.S.A., Inc., No. 2:17-cv-08509 (C.D. Cal. filed Jan. 04, 2016)
- Retained by counsel for Defendant Skechers U.S.A., Inc.
- Form of testimony: Declaration and depositions

- Nike, Inc. v. Skechers U.S.A., Inc., No. 2:19-cv-09230 (C.D. Cal. filed Oct. 28, 2019)
- Retained by counsel for Defendant Skechers U.S.A., Inc.
- Form of testimony: Declaration and depositions

- Skechers U.S.A., Inc. v. Nike Inc., No. IPR2021-0159 (P.T.A.B., filed Oct. 30, 2020)
- Retained by counsel for Petitioner Skechers U.S.A., Inc.
- Form of testimony: Declaration and depositions

- Skechers U.S.A., Inc. v. Nike Inc., No. IPR2021-0160 (P.T.A.B., filed Oct. 30, 2020)
- Retained by counsel for Petitioner Skechers U.S.A., Inc.
- Form of testimony: Declaration and depositions

- Crocs, Inc. v. Effervescent, Inc. et al., No. 1:06-cv-00605 (D. Colo. filed Apr. 3, 2006)
- Retained by counsel for Defendant Effervescent, Inc.
- Form of testimony: Depositions and expert reports

Awards / Recognition:

- TOR Rose Parade - Mayor's award, 2023
- TOR Rose Parade - Crown City Innovator award, 2022
- TOR Rose Parade - Bob Hope Humor award, 2020
- Pasadena Magazine - 'The Influential 50', 2020
- SoCalTech50 list of entrepreneurs to watch, 2015
- LA AutoMobility - (URB-E) Top ten automotive start-ups, 2016
- Edison Innovation Awards - Silver, 2016
- Core77 Design Awards - Notable mention, 2016
- SPARK Innovation Awards - Bronze, 2016
- 'The Today Show' - URB-E featured as 'One of the hottest gadgets coming from 2014 CES'
- TechCrunch - Best products of CES list, 2014
- The Verge - Best of CES (personal transportation), 2014, and again in 2017
- CleanTech Open (Nationwide clean-tech start-up competition), Semi-finalist, 2013
- PortTech Open - Winner, most innovative technology, 2013
- Footwear Plus - Actions Sports Design of the Year (Vans) - 2004, 2005, and 2007

Skills:

- Managing and mentoring designers to create fun and creative collaboration environments, while challenging them to achieve their greatest personal potential
- Creating desirable, feasible and viable product solutions by providing innovative and strategic design direction
- Identifying problems / market needs and creating rapid solutions to address opportunities
- Applying human centered design methodology to solving problems, prototype solutions, test and iterate
- Initiating and nurturing cross-departmental communication
- Computer skills (Adobe CS, Keynote, Excel, MS Word, PowerPoint, Shapr3D, Procreate, SolidWorks, Gravity Sketch, iMovie)
- Conceptual sketching, ideation and visual communication
- 3D modeling and physical fabrication in metal/welding, plastics, foam, fiberglass, clay, fabric/sewing, and wood
- Knowledgable in intellectual property protection strategies

Industry Recognition / Publications:

Innovation Magazine - ‘Creating Business-Ready Designers’, Winter 2022, pages 60 & 61

https://pasadenamag.com/feature/the-influential-50/

https://www.socaltech.com/announcing_the___4_socaltech___southern_california_s_ones_to_watch/s-0057749.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJv2E2_GY8s

http://blogs.artcenter.edu/dottedline/tag/grant-delgatty/

https://iovine-young.usc.edu/people/faculty/Grant-Delgatty_42.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2UipbWgFLE

https://techcrunch.com/tag/urb-e/

https://edisonawards.com/winners2016.php

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EXHIBIT B

ADIDAS NIKE REEBOK

REMEMBERING CROOKED TONGUES

Aaron Nojima
January 28, 2015

SHARE TWEET

If you're a sneakerhead then it's very likely you've heard of and/or spent some time on Crooked Tongues. We recently learned that after 15 years of existence the site is shutting down, adding its name to a growing list of forgotten sneaker stores that have gone out of business. Growing from an informative forum to its own brand and sneaker retailer, Crooked Tongues was one of the most well-known international sites for sneaker enthusiasts. They've been doing sneakers since before it was fashionable, the team at Crooked Tongues were, and always have been, passionate enthusiasts. The sneaker world is a better place thanks to sites like Crooked Tongues helping grow the community. It's sad to see it go away but hopefully, it can return one day. We know this will not kill their passion for sneakers and wish them the best.

With that in mind, we look back at some of the collaborations from the CT team over the years. No doubt, if you own a pair now is as good a time as any to rock them, if you don't well, head over to eBay to snag a pair.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 576 Pack

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 576 Pack (2004)

Before collaborating with New Balance was a popular trend Crooked Tongues was already on it. Not one, nor two or even three but four colorways of the 576 were created by CT. Made in the England premium materials were used for the shoes. Each shoe sporting a different colorway they came with a special CT hangtag. It's rare to see any pairs worn or for sale.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Solebox x New Balance 1500 "BBB" Bread Butter Berlin

Crooked Tongues x Solebox x New Balance 1500 "Bread and Butter" (2005)

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Bread & Butter Berlin is one of the world's most recognized trade shows for the sneaker and streetwear industries. In 2005, BBB linked up with Chris Law of CT and Hikmet of Solebox to create one of the most limited sneakers New Balance has ever produced. Only 50 pairs are in existence and unless you're willing to shell out upwards of $2500+, these won't be seeing your collection anytime soon.

Crooked Tongues x adidas Century Lo BK 3 “adicolor”

Crooked Tongues x adidas Century Lo BK 3 “adicolor” (2006)

One part of adidas’ adicolor program in 2006, Crooked Tongues put their spin on the Century Lo in a dark motif. The body mixed with premium suede and textile with matching midsoles. Crooked Tongues added a white liner and outsole to the special shoe. Like the other shoes, part of the adicolor collection these came with multiple laces and matching, interchangeable tongues. Burgundy was put on straight out the box but you had the option of orange, purple, white, black and lime along with a very select few received orange options from Crooked Tongues.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Puma Clyde "Crooked" Part 1

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Puma Clyde "Crooked" Part 2

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Puma Clyde "Crooked" Part 3

Crooked Tongues x Puma Clyde "Crooked" (2006-2007)

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Crooked Tongues had the opportunity to work on three versions of the classic Clyde. Their inspiration for the design came from the b-boy origins of the sneaker. Premium materials were featured on each version with six sets of laces coming with each pair, three sets of thin and three sets of fat laces. Stitched onto the shoes was "Crooked" on the side panel along with special collaborative insoles. The green Part 1's and orange Part 3's seem to be the most popular of the group as we rarely see the grey pair today.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x New Balance "Confederation of Villainy" Collection

Crooked Tongues x New Balance "Confederation of Villainy" Collection (2006)

After partnering up in 2004, CT hadn't worked one-on-one with the Flimby factory for a while and late 2006 was the time. The landscape of sneakers changed and they wanted to make sure this collaboration stood out from the crowd. The four-pack was created with special attention to detail and premium materials in mind. Creating the "Confederation of Villainy" collection meant creating alter egos for each "villain".

The 575 is represented by the gentleman robber of the Old West, Black Bart, the 577 by Chinese bandit Black Sword, the 1500 by scourge of the seas Blackbeard and the 991 by the feared highwayman Black Tom. Custom

collaboration.

Limited to 99 pairs each, these are high-quality sneakers that are rarely seen now.

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 574 “SHAKE! 320 Night” Photo Credit: Freshness

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 320 "SHAKE! 320 Night" Photo Credit: Freshness

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 574 and 320 "SHAKE! 320 Night" (2007)

In 2007 for New Balance's "SHAKE! 320 Night" special event three different groups were invited to created some one-off sneakers to commemorate the evening. Crooked Tongues was one of the groups along with DQM and GREYONE x Dez Einswell. As you would expect with any one-off product only the best of materials were used. The Crooked Tongues' variety went with the color palette of white, teal and pink. Why didn't they release, we will never know what brands think at times.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x adidas Superskate "Bangkok BBQ"

Crooked Tongues x adidas Superskate "Bangkok BBQ" (2007)

The CT team felt the adidas Superskate had untapped potential and also enjoyed the model so it was their choice for their Bangkok BBQ. For the materials, they went all out using faux-elephant, nubuck, suede and leather on the neutral colored body. Wanting to keep the look simple and true to the location, they made sure to add just the necessary amounts of red and gold touches to be a bit flamboyant.

Crooked Tongues x NIKEiD Air Force 1 "BBQ"

Crooked Tongues x NIKEiD Air Force 1 "BBQ" (2007)

In 2007 the CT annual BBQ teamed up with NIKEiD to create a special Air Force 1 for the event. Made to tie in with the event and its Thai location. Colors influenced by the land a white body is hit with bold colors with an all green sole and gold highlights standing out. The premium shoe was limited to only 50 pairs and was never put for sale. The promo-only shoes were handed out to VIP guests so good luck finding a pair.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x adidas ZX 9000 "aZX"

Crooked Tongues x adidas ZX 9000 "aZX" (2008)

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CT was invited by adidas to be part of the "aZX" project in 2008. Representing "T", not sure why not "C", they chose the ZX 9000 model. Taking styling cues from other popular running makeups the body is a mixture of grey suedes, white mesh, and details including black reflective stripes. Balanced out with yellow highlights the

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x adidas München "Oktoberfest"

Crooked Tongues x adidas München "Oktoberfest" (2009)

Beer and sneakers, a lovely match as any. Inspired by Oktoberfest, CT went with the München to compliment the theme. With materials and colors as the focus tan leather with suede created the body. Working with red and green highlights only 300 pairs of these were made. If you find a pair now it probably has beer stains on it.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x eS Foothills Collection

Crooked Tongues x éS Foothills Collection (2009)

When skate brand éS wanted to expand their footwear lineup into a new segment they called upon the help of CT to help them out. The result is the Foothill almost a hybrid breed from skate and trailer running. It's no easy task to create a new shoe from the ground up but both sides were up to the challenge. In a world where retros and rehashing product is a simple and usually rewarding solution, this project caused some heads to turn in the sneaker world. Read an in-depth article on the shoe at Sneaker Freaker.

SNEAKER HISTORY

adidas x Crooked Tongues "VIP" Munchen

adidas x Crooked Tongues "VIP" Munchen (2009)

CT and adidas lovefest continued in 2009 thanks to the success of their last Munchen project. This time the project had the help of adidas' Markus Thaler, one of the minds behind the ZX series. Markus worked on this VIP CT Munchen remix himself, taking the pub-friendly idea and modifying it without losing its familiar silhouette. Details on this version include a bolder Bavarian flag logo on the tongue, nubuck lining, an embroidered Edelweiss on the rear of the medial side. Limited to 150 pairs, these would also be a good choice for your pub crawl.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues adidas Consortium Superstar 80s "3Way"

Crooked Tongues x adidas Consortium Superstar 80s "3Way" (2009)

The adidas Consortium 3Way collection consisted of groups of sneaker shops around the world separated by region. CT was part of the Asian group, the third batch from the collection. They knew they wanted to keep it classic and simple. Originally they were going to go with a nappy suede but ended up with an off-white nubuck body. Embossed on the heel is a knotted lace that represents four minds of the project. Bringing this over the top is once again adidas allowed Crooked Tongues to go with interchangeable tongues and laces, although once again burgundy came straight out the box.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x adidas Consortium Forum Mid "3Way"

Crooked Tongues x adidas Consortium Forum Mid "3Way" (2009)

Updating a classic model is a slippery slope. For this project, the CT team worked with VA to put their spin on the classic Forum Mid. The quick look reveals an ice grey leather base with Electricity accenting on the key spots, namely branding and laces. A more detailed look reveals small detailing like the addition of a small stub to keep the strap from slipping. Subtle CT and VA branding along with contrast stitching finished off the design of this special Forum Mid.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x adidas Consortium London "City Series"

Crooked Tongues x adidas Consortium London "City Series" (2009)

CT represented London (obviously) and were part of the third and final wave of the adidas Consortium "City Series" from 2009. Like so many of their designs, they went with a simple approach with only three colors of the London. Black premium leather base with red highlights and gold detailing to finish it off. The smoked translucent sole was a nice touch to this collaboration.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 1500 Pack

Crooked Tongues x New Balance 1500 Pack (2011)

Inspired by their first collab with New Balance back in 2004, the 1500 pack from 2011 mimicked two of the popular colorways from the 576. A black and orange version and a white and green colorway of the popular New Balance 1500 model, which carried that always important "Made In England" across the tongue.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Nike Air Max 90 Hyperfuse "CT BBQ"

Crooked Tongues x Nike Air Max 90 Hyperfuse "CT BBQ" (2011)

Not often is a release so popular that it becomes a normal release but that is exactly what happened with the Nike and Crooked Tongues Air Max 90 Hyperfuse from their BBQ in 2011. Now of course, the Infrared coloring wasn't anything new. But what was new was the Hyperfuse-bodied Air Max 90. CT version was only released in very limited quantities and had special insoles and box. Finding these pairs is, of course, a lot more difficult than procuring a pair of the standard offering that Nike released.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Reebok Classic Leather "Wannabes"

Crooked Tongues x Reebok Classic Leather "Wannabes" (2013)

The UK-based team got into the Chinese New Year's spirit in 2013 with their snakeskin rendition of the Reebok Classic Leather. With the "Wannabe" nickname we were secretly hoping the design was inspired by the Spice Girls. But it was really inspired by the ultra-expensive and exclusive Patrick Cox's Wannabe loafer. Regardless of the inspiration, the shoe was a winner. The all-snakeskin upper was offset by white accenting and classic gum outsole. Special CT branding on the tongue and insole brought it all together.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Le Coq Sportif "CT Flash"

Crooked Tongues x Le Coq Sportif CT Flash (2013)

Le Coq Sportif has made a bold comeback as of recent and teaming with CT was a no-brainer. For their design they paid tribute to the French Exchange, the nickname is one used for the shoe. Making their version more premium then the original any synthetic materials were swapped for the real thing including suede and leather. Other additions come in the form of 3m in two colors, carbon heel, and colors paying homage to old school Polo Snow Beach. One of the more recent CT releases these are just over a year old.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Reebok Instapump Fury "Angry Bird"

Crooked Tongues x Reebok Instapump Fury "Angry Bird" (2013)

Bird's the word? Part of the Instapump Fury's 20th anniversary Reebok let Crooked Tongues use all the colors of the rainbow in their rendition. With the World Cup in full swing Crooked Tongues was influenced by ~~soccer~~ futbol dominating the world stage. The nickname and partial inspiration of the colorway comes from the colorful feathers of Brazil's macaw birds. The other part of inspiration comes from legendary Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos' colorful jerseys from 1994, the same year Instapump Fury was released. Smart.

SNEAKER HISTORY

Crooked Tongues x Reebok The Pump 25 "Sample"

Crooked Tongues x Reebok The Pump 25 "Sample" (2014)

Why on why couldn't these have come out. Made and designed for the original Pump's 25th anniversary these were actually scrapped by Crooked Tongues. Although grey based, the green was added to represent the Boston Celtics and Dee Brown with his initials and number stitched onto the toe. That was one of the problems as the font made it looked like 087 rather than DB7. Still, this could've been tweaked and these should have been made available as a part of Reebok's Pump celebration.

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SNEAKER HISTORY

AARON NOJIMA

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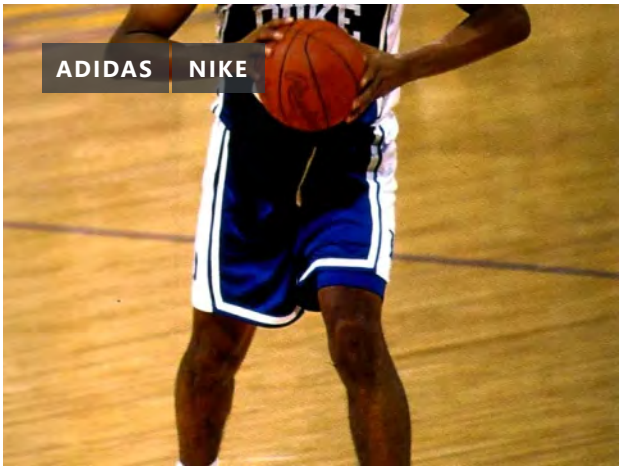

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EXHIBIT C

THE PARIS OLYMPICS
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INNOVATION

How Chuck Taylor Taught America How to Play Basketball

A shoe-in for the first ever basketball game in the Olympics, Converse All Stars have a long history both in and out of sport

Maya Wei-Haas

Reporter

August 8, 2016

Chuck Taylor All Star, circa 1957 Converse

It was 1936, and the United States men's basketball team stepped onto the rain-soaked outdoor courts sporting bright white Converse shoes—patriotic blue and red pinstripes wrapping around each sole. The Americans were taking on the Canadians in the Olympic finals, and the conditions were miserable. As it poured, water inundated the courts, turning them into a "sea of mud," according to the *New York Times*. But, in a painfully low-scoring game, the U.S. ultimately won 19-8.

This was basketball's inaugural year in the games and the first of seven consecutive Olympic gold medals for the U.S. men's team. But it also marked the first appearance of the iconic "Olympic white" Chuck Taylor shoes—a design still around to this day.

The history of the shoe is nearly as old as the game of basketball itself, and in a way both matured together. In 1891, YMCA physical educator James Naismith invented the indoor game, played with a soccer ball and two peach baskets, to keep his students fit during the frigid Massachusetts winters. Seventeen years later, Marquis Converse founded his Converse Rubber Shoe Company, also in Massachusetts, to produce rubber galoshes, a far cry from the canvas kicks the company is known for today.

The company churned out these protective boots for the wet spring, winter and fall, but sales inevitably dropped during the dry summer months. After two years of Converse firing his employees at the beginning of the slump and rehiring when the rains returned in autumn, the entrepreneur made a bid to keep his most skilled workers year-round. He started making a non-skid, canvas-topped shoe.

1 / 7

Marquis Converse founded his Converse Rubber Show Company to produce rubber galoshes. Converse

2 / 7

All Star, circa early 1920s Converse

3 / 7

All Star, 1928 Converse

4 / 7

Chuck Taylor All Star, 1971 Converse

5 / 7

Chuck Taylor All Star Oxford, circa 1960 Converse

6 / 7

Chuck Taylor All Star, circa 1957 Converse

7 / 7

Leather Chuck Taylor All Star, circa 1934 Converse

The first version was a low-top oxford kind of shoe, says Sam Smallidge, the head archivist at Converse. But these dressy sneaks quickly became associated with sports, specifically the rapidly spreading basketball craze. In 1922, the Converse Rubber Company hired a charismatic athlete named Charles “Chuck” Taylor as part salesman, part player-coach for the shoe’s club team, the Converse All Stars.

“It was all about promotion,” says Abraham Aamidor, author of the book *Chuck Taylor, All Star*. “The team was not in a league, but would travel through small Midwestern

towns and challenge the local hot shots to a game."

By Aamidor's count, the All Stars played about 30 games a year. In addition to these games, Taylor hosted clinics to teach people the relatively new sport. Sporting goods stores sent representatives to the clinics to sell Converse All Star shoes to the captive audience—touting the kicks as the best basketball shoes around.

"What Converse was doing was teaching America to play basketball," says Smallidge. But in addition to this, these clinics "allowed Converse to cement this relationship with basketball itself as being the premiere basketball shoe."

The clinics would often include a basketball game and a sideshow featuring Chuck and free-throw fiend Harold "Bunny" Levitt, according to Aamidor. "Chuck did his trick shots and Bunny Levitt never missed a free throw," he says. The duo would then pass out pocket-sized instruction books on how to play the game.

1 / 4

Taylor preps for a game in 1927 as the player and coach of the Converse All Stars team. Courtesy of Abe Aamidor

2 / 4

Chuck Taylor (left) at the Wright Field Army Air Corps base where he coached the nation's top military team at the time. Dwight Eddleman stands in the middle and pro basketball player Ed Sadowski stands to the right. Courtesy of Diana Eddleman Lenzi

3 / 4

Taylor was on the road year round teaching Americans to play basketball and promoting the Converse brand. This is Taylor in the 1950s, giving one of his clinics to a team and local fans. Courtesy of Abe Aamidor

4 / 4

For his contributions to the sport, Taylor was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1969. Courtesy of Abe Aamidor

Taylor traveled all over the country hosting clinics and promoting the shoes. Shoe sales were booming, but all was not well with the company. In the mid-1910s, competing rubber companies ventured into the production of rubber galoshes, which were still a Converse classic. So Marquis Converse tried to edge in on the competition's money-maker: rubber tires.

At the time, tires were a rapidly changing technology, and Converse couldn't keep pace. The Great Depression only added to the company's troubles, says Smallidge. "He sunk so much of his money into this tire business, so when the tire business collapsed, it kind of dragged the rest of the company down with it," he says. In 1929 Marquis Converse lost the company.

The business changed hands several times. Hodgman Company had a brief stint, but its president died in a freak hunting accident soon after the merge, says Smallidge. Businessmen Joseph, Harry and Dewey Stone bought the floundering company in 1932.

"The Converse name had lost its glitter," says Aamidor. "The company was in trouble."

1 / 5

"The sole reason," 1954 advertisement Converse

2 / 5

"Now 2 great Converse 'Chuck' Taylor All Stars," 1957 advertisement Converse

3 / 5

"In basketball, it's All Stars first!" 1954 advertisement Converse

4 / 5

"Now basketball's more colorful than ever," 1971 advertisement Converse

5 / 5

"The Converse All Star," 1982 advertisement Converse

Taylor, then the company's sales manager, decided to market himself as a great basketball player and add his name to the shoe, Aamidor explains.

"He neither was a great player, nor did he play on some of the great teams that he said he played on," says Aamidor. But he did have moderate abilities with basketball and the connections in the field to make an impact. Though many—if not all—basketball coaches knew "it was a bunch of hooey," he says, they accepted the act and moved on.

Taylor signed a contract with Converse to add his name in 1933, and the change went into effect the following year, says Smallidge. The All Star became the Chuck Taylor All Star.

As Taylor's popularity and infamy as a big-shot basketball player grew, he continued to work the road selling shoes. It was his personal touches as a salesman that made all the difference, says Aamidor. For big college tournaments, Taylor often attended himself to support the teams and care for the shoes. If there were problems with stitching, fit or damages, Taylor was on hand to make the repair.

"This would be like buying a basketball that has a Lebron James signature on it," says Aamidor, "and when you want to get it inflated to the right pressure, there's Lebron James doing it for you."

Similar to today, what people wore in large part came down to marketing. "Chucks weren't the only canvas shoes with rubber bottoms," says Aamidor. Other shoe manufacturers at the time, such as Spalding and BF Goodrich, had similar options. "But they [Chucks] were the most expensive ones and the most elite ones," he adds.

June 2, 1931. M. L. PATERSON 1,808,063

FOOTWEAR

Filed July 16, 1929

Fig. 1

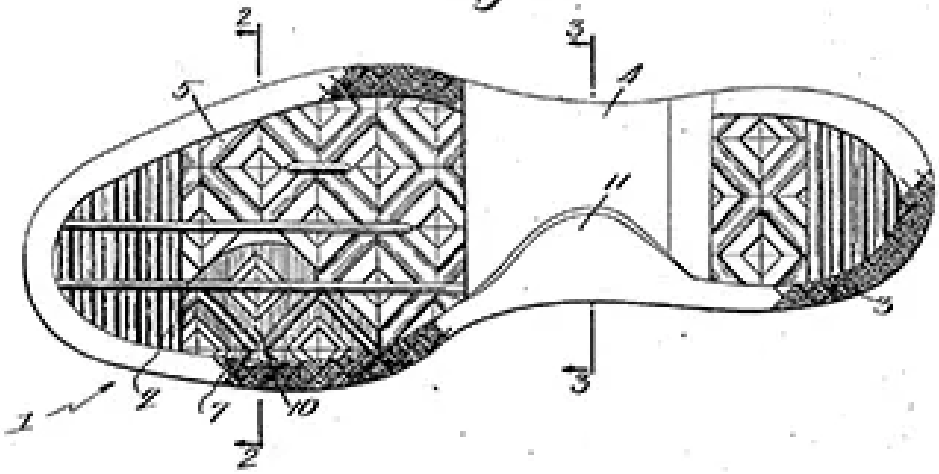


Fig. 2

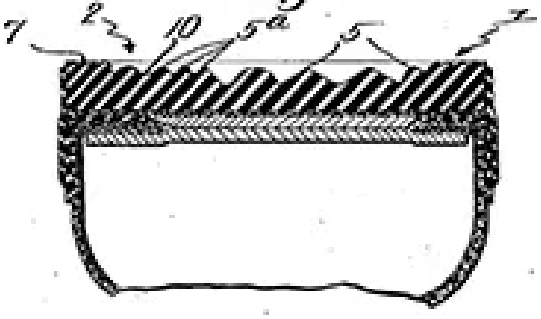


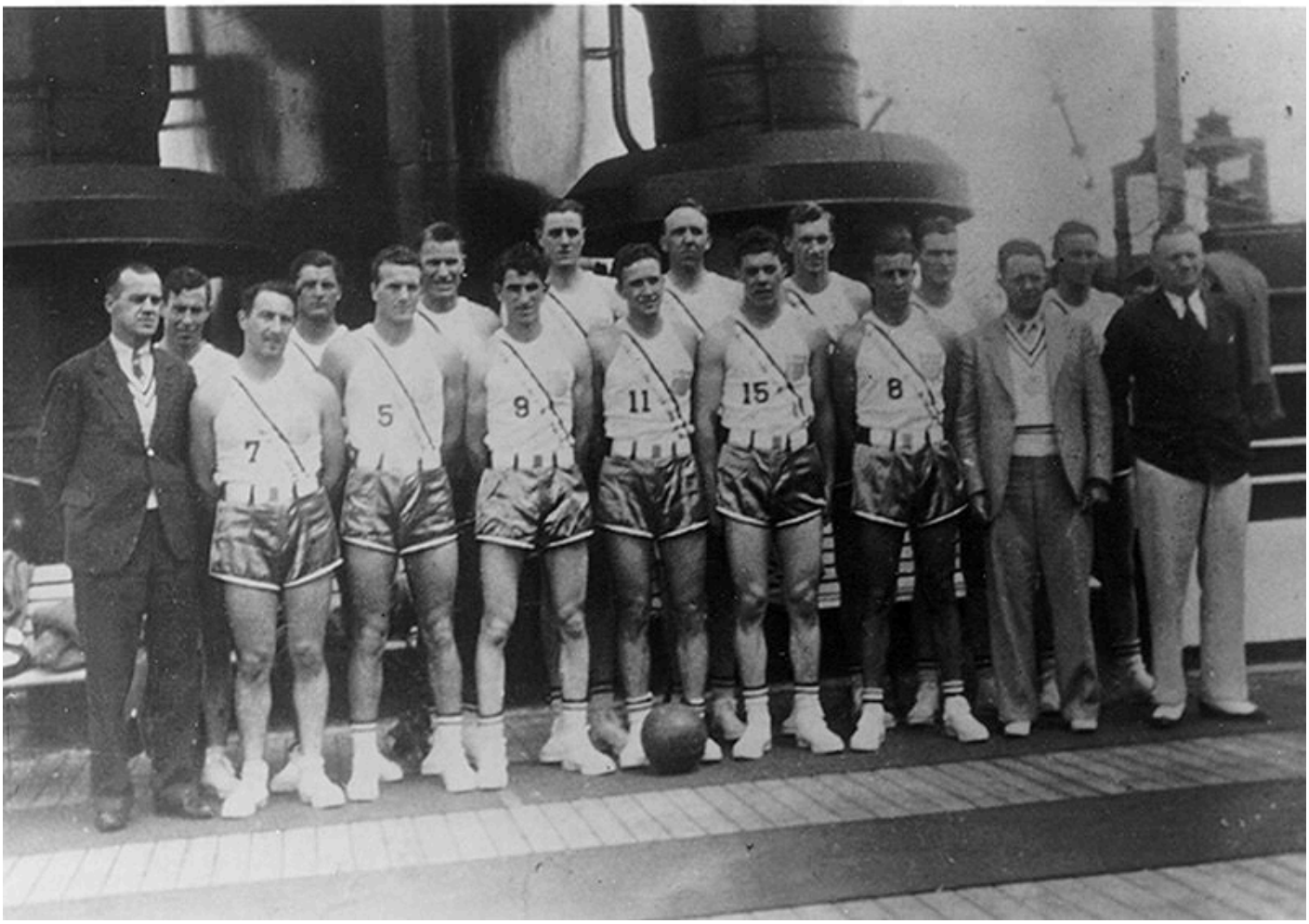
Fig. 3

Inventor
Morton L. Paterson
by Robert, Cushman & Woodbury
his Attorneys.

The tread pattern used in Chuck Taylor All Stars is a patented design. U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Converse's ultimate goal was to make shoes with the grippiest soles around. The tread pattern became fixed in the mid-1930s, and the patented design is still used in today's Chucks.

When the first Olympic team formed in 1936, and needed team sneaks, the company was a *shoe*-in. Converse debuted the "Olympic White All Stars" that year—a departure from the traditional black high tops.



The U.S. men's basketball team took the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics while sporting their Olympic white Chuck Taylor All Stars. USA Basketball

The shoe remained the Olympic shoe of choice for decades, but its popularity in sports began to peter out in the 1970s when players started expecting lucrative endorsement contracts. Converse didn't pay athletes to wear their products until 1975, when they gave Julius "Dr. J" Erving an endorsement deal. But even then, the company just couldn't keep pace with the massive deals and clothing lines that other companies began offering their players.

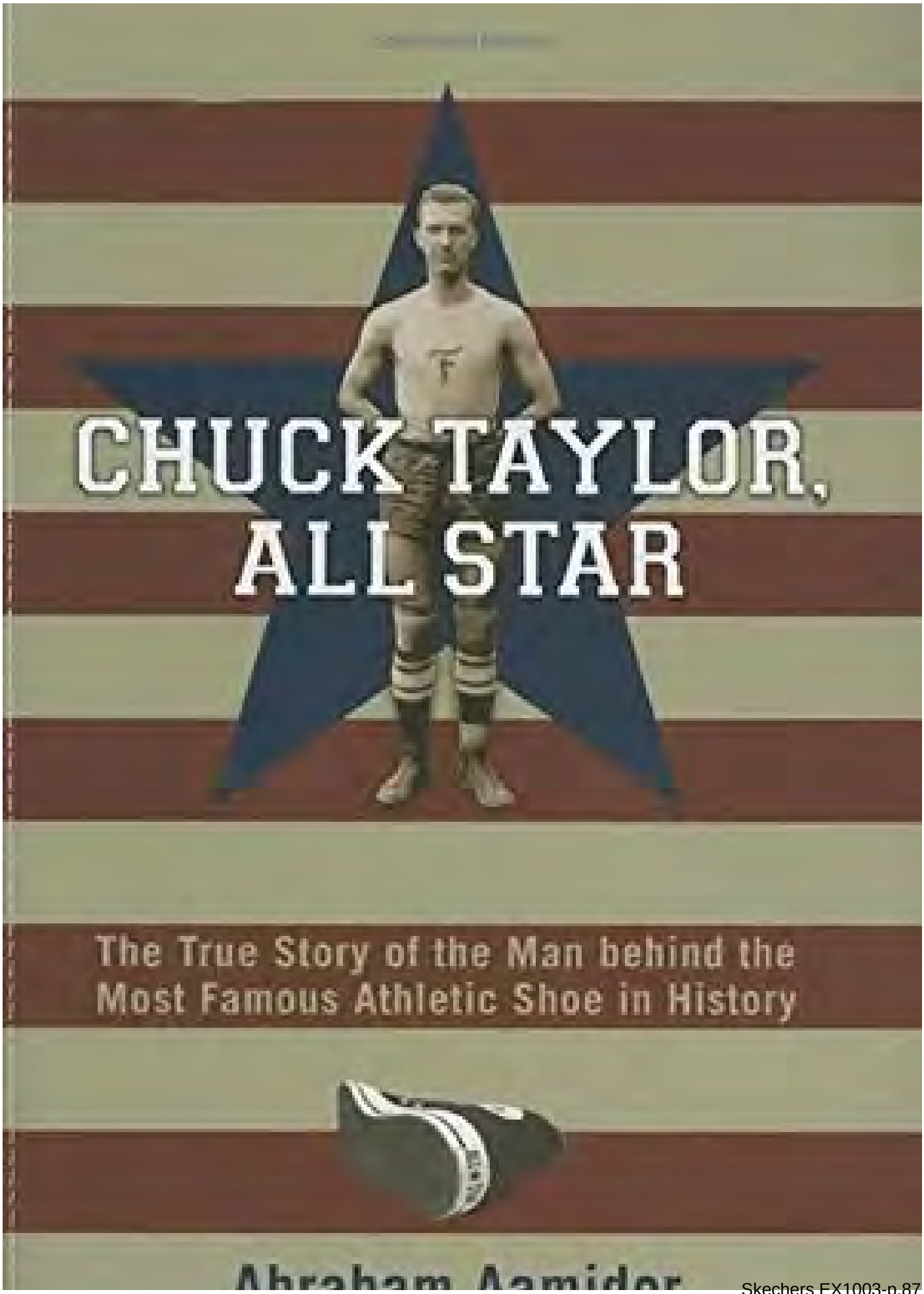
The 1984 games was Converse's Olympic swan song. The company was the official footwear sponsor of the games, and the U.S. men's basketball team won gold sporting Converse's latest leather sneaks.

Even so, paralleling the company's popularity decline in the professional sports world was a growing following in rock culture. The introduction of seven colors of the shoe in 1971 bolstered this movement, and shoe sales pivoted from the courts to the streets.

"Really it's the only clothing that you'll ever see old men, young girls, hipsters in New York, [all wearing]," says Aamidor, of Converse's now broad appeal. "Anybody is likely to be wearing those shoes."

These days, Chuck Taylor—the man—has been lost somewhere in history. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1969, and died later that year. He is no longer remembered in his invented persona of a basketball star or as a spectacular salesman. Many people even assume the name is like Betty Crocker, says Aamidor—a brand name only.

But Taylor was indeed flesh and blood. His love of basketball and Converse shoes helped build the sport into a classic American game.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Maya Wei-Haas is a freelance science writer who specializes in geology of Earth and beyond. Her work has been featured in *National Geographic, News from Science,* and AGU's *EOS.*

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MEN'S FASHION

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23 October 2024 ANDREJ PASKALOV

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Nike has made a lot of good business moves, and buying out Converse is near the top of the list. The Converse design is one of the most iconic in footwear history, and it's not hard to see why. That said, a common criticism directed their way are the questionable footbeds. For the ideal blend of comfort and style, consider shoes that look like Converse instead.

Footwear brands often like to imitate, but when it comes to Converse, the top competitors genuinely innovate. You might assume that the industry giants are unbeatable, but the Converse vs. Everyone Else battle proves otherwise.

But which Converse alternatives should you get? There's no shortage of great options, but for your convenience, we've narrowed it down to the seven best. There's something here to match everyone's taste, and I guarantee that includes you, too.

Without further ado, here are the best shoes similar to Converse.

Key Takeaways

After scouring the internet and reading too many reviews to count (trust me, I tried), I've made my decision. The Cariuma OCA Sneakers are by far the best shoes that look like Converse. The quality materials, abundance of colors, and unmatched sole durability make them a no-brainer for any sneaker lover.

For something a bit more attention-grabbing, you can also go for the Burnetie High Top Vintage Sneakers. These shoes combine orthopedic support with a chic leather patch for the ultimate '90s look.

OUR TOP PICKS

Skechers EX1003-p.91
Skechers v Nike

Best Overall:

OCA High Sneakers at Cariuma

Best Everyday:

OCA Low Top Sneakers at Cariuma

Best Budget:

Hash Bubbie High Top Sneakers at Amazon

Best Luxury:

BOSS Men's Aidan Tennis Sneakers at Amazon

Best on Amazon:

Yageyan Low Top Sneakers at Amazon

Best Casual:

ZGR Men's High Top Sneakers at Amazon

Best Vintage:

Burnetie High Top Vintage Sneakers at Amazon

In This Article

01. Our Picks 02. Buying Considerations 03. How We Chose 04. Why Trust Us?

05. Final Verdict 06. FAQs

insidehook / Instagram

Best Overall: Cariuma OCA High Sneakers

View It On Cariuma

Why they're great: What makes these the best shoes that look like Converse? For starters, they have the design down to a T, and that goes for whichever upper material you pick. To make matters better, OCA sneakers are made of sustainable materials, so you can look good and be part of the solution too.

Who are these for? If you adore Converse but wish that they offered more spring to your step, then this is the shoe for you. The rubber sole is both durable and easy to walk with, not to mention it looks incredible. Whether you like it black, white, or even leopard, you'd be hard-pressed to find a cooler pair of shoes.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: I don't mean to sound biased, but there's nothing to complain about here. Converse should be taking notes from these guys if they want to stay on top, and I don't say that lightly.

Material: Canvas; suede; leather; recycled fibers | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 5–13 | **Colors Available:** 3–7 (material-dependent)

Best Everyday: Cariuma OCA Low Top Sneakers

View It On Cariuma

Why they're great: Yes, I added another Cariuma pick to the list, but can you blame me? In true OCA fashion, you can pick between canvas, leather, and suede for the upper, and the number of design options is staggering. There's also the quality, slip-resistant rubber to get you through most terrain types.

Who are these for? This is the low-top variant of our overall pick, so you can expect a lot of the same perks. The main allure comes from the mamona oil insole, the perfect antidote to flat feet and foot pain in general.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: Again, not much to complain about with these Converse alternatives. I guess some of the uppers are a little daring for my taste, but I'd say that having options is more of a positive than anything.

Material: Canvas, leather, suede | **Sole Material:** Slip-resistant rubber | **Sizes Available:** 5–13 | **Colors Available:** 22 (material-dependent)

Best Budget: Hash Bubbie High Top Sneakers

View It On Amazon

Why they're great: Don't feel like burning a hole in your wallet over sneakers? I'd challenge anyone to find a more affordable pair that ticks so many boxes. These sporty shoes come in every color you'd want from a Converse alternative, and they shave a few years off you with their sprightly design.

Who are these for? These are a bit of a unisex shoe, so they're slightly wider than other sneakers with matching sizes. This gives both your toes and ankle area a bit more breathability. As far as occasions go, you can wear these to a hike or the office and not worry about performance or looking out of place.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: Regrettably, there are only a few size options available for these. Either way, the thoughtful fit ensures that most guys with average-sized feet won't have any issues.

Material: Canvas | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 3.5–13 | **Colors Available:** 17

Best Luxury: BOSS Men's Aidan Tennis Sneakers

View It On Amazon

Why they're great: Boss is a brand that needs no introduction, and they really outdid themselves here. If you're going to go for a low top sneaker, then you might as well get one of the most elegant uppers money can buy. There's also the vulcanized rubber outsole, which is supremely comfortable and able to get you through a full day on your feet.

Who are these for? Besides the build quality, my favorite thing about these Converse alternatives is the color palette. Besides the classic black and white, you have some zanier colors for your summer fits. Then there are the earthy tones to go along with your cargos for a kind of elevated casual look. Oh, and the water resistance helps, too.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: My only gripe with these is that I wish they came in a larger number. Either way, the ones they do have available are top-shelf, so grab them if they have your size.

Material: Cotton | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 7–12 | **Colors Available:** 11

Best on Amazon: Yageyan Low Top Sneakers

View It On Amazon

Why they're great: Not only are these shoes similar to Converse, they're nearly a one-to-one replica of their low top models. The canvas lets your feet breathe that sweet summer air when it's hot out, and the color choices are pretty unique. I like that you can get a toe cap that matches the rest of the upper, especially in black and beige.

Who are these for? Any fan of Converse shoes is likely to be a fan of these things, too. It also helps that the soles are anti-slip, making them great for seaside walks and other skiddy terrain.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: The downside here is that these shoes sometimes have that Converse insole issue, too. On the other hand, when you consider how much you're saving for what's effectively the same shoe, it's a pretty obvious no-brainer.

Material: Canvas | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 7–13 | **Colors Available:** 9

Best Casual: ZGR Men's High Top Sneakers

View It On Amazon

Why they're great: I'm shocked that you can get such a high-quality pair of Converse alternatives at this fair of a cost, but the facts speak for themselves. You can get these puppies in more than a dozen eye-catching colors, each one boasting a quality canvas upper. Then there's the thick rubber sole, which is leaps and bounds ahead of more expensive competitors.

Who are these for? Whether you're looking for a travel shoe or something to get you through a night out, look no further. You can style ZGRs with anything from jeans to cargo pants, and no color combination is off the table.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: The insoles aren't as durable as I'd like, so I wouldn't wear them running or anything like that. Still, they're an otherwise incredible product with loads of style points.

Material: Canvas | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 7–13 | **Colors Available:** 14

Best Vintage: Burnetie High Top Vintage Sneakers

View It On Amazon

Why they're great: These Burnetie sneakers are a little bit different from our other picks, but in a really awesome way. The leather patch on the back is a total blast from the past, and it looks good regardless of color. The OrthoLite insole provides some amazing support, to the point where you won't feel achy if you're active throughout the day.

Who are these for? Anyone who can appreciate a throwback shoe, really. Even if the contrast between cotton and leather isn't your thing, then you can get them in full black for a more conservative look.

Flaws but not deal-breakers: I'm a huge fan of zipper closures on the sides of sneakers, but I understand that it's not for everybody. If you ask me, I'd say it adds to the retro aesthetic. You almost feel like a cowboy while wearing these Converse alternatives.

Material: Cotton | **Sole Material:** Rubber | **Sizes Available:** 8–13 | **Colors Available:** 3

burnetie_canada / Instagram

Buying Considerations for the Best Shoes That Look Like Converse

Color

Converse shoes tend to look best in black, white, red, or blue, so the same goes for Converse alternatives. You're getting a white-toe cap more often than not, but the color should depend on the rest of your outfit.

Generally, bright-colored clothes like summer tees and worn-out jeans go great with a light-colored upper. Alternatively, you can always go black and call it a day.

Material

Aside from the toe cap, Converse shoes are generally made of a canvas upper and a rubber sole. This is what you want to look for in shoes similar to Converse, too – canvas feels extremely airy on your foot, and rubber strikes a good balance between durability and cushiness.

Size

Converse shoes are known for running a little large sometimes, to the point that you may need to go a full size down. The best Converse alternatives do away with this problem, so unless otherwise instructed, you can rely on the size guides provided. With some high tops, you may need to go half a size up to give your ankles some wiggle room.

boss / Instagram

How We Chose

The footwear industry is one of the most oversaturated niches in all of fashion. With that in mind, we really did our homework to bring you the best shoes that look like Converse. We read reviews, looked at forum discussions, and cross-referenced every reputable source of information we could find.

Design: Is the product a genuine improvement over the classic Converse formula? My primary focus was making sure that readers aren't getting a product that looks like the real thing but performs worse.

Price: Does the price of the product make sense? If you're familiar with the Converse manufacturing process, then you get an idea of how much Converse alternatives should cost. I filtered out everything I deemed unreasonably priced, even if it was of decent quality.

Customer reviews: What do users have to say about the product? Alongside trying them for myself, compiling dozens or hundreds of reviews gives me the best idea of what the product has to offer.

Company reputation: Is the company known for putting out quality footwear? It's harder to pitch a brand that makes only sneakers inspired by Converse and has no other track record. Generally, the shoes I've outlined for you are one in a long line of successful products for the manufacturer.

Why Trust Us?

FashionBeans has been on the forefront of male fashion for a long time, and footwear is no exception. What makes us stand out is our commitment to thorough research – we leave no stone unturned when bringing you what we think are the best products money can buy.

Andrej Paskalov's shoe closet is a big one, and it grows larger by the year. He likes to stay informed on the latest trends in footwear, and that's reflected in his work at FashionBeans. Veja sneakers, flip-flops, and loafers are just the tip of the iceberg for him. So, you'd best believe he's bringing you the best Converse alternatives today.

Final Verdict

And that's a wrap for today's list. For me, the Cariuma OCA Sneakers are the best shoes that look like Converse. You can pick between four quality upper designs and loads of colors, all while getting a quality sole and footbed out of the deal.

FAQ

What is similar to Converse?

There are lots of good shoes that look like Converse but perform that much better in terms of comfort. Brands like Boss, Veja, Cariuma, and Vans are behind some of the best alternatives on the market. Then there's brands like ZGR that, against all odds, manage to one-up the newest Converse products at a fraction of the price.

Are Converse shoes still trendy?

Converse shoes are, and will always be, the blueprint for trendy sneakers. Their elegance and versatility in terms of styling are unmatched, and that goes for their competitors, too. All you need is the right color to match the rest of your outfit, and you're guaranteed to look like a million bucks.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrej Paskalov

Andrej is a graduated psychologist-turned-marketer with a penchant for online content writing. Following his stints with Adventure in You, The Packable Life, and other lifestyle websites. When he's not working on a new piece, he's working on expanding into the world of fashion.

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DVS Men's Celsius Skate Shoe
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prime

Globe Men's Tilt Skateboarding Shoe
4.6 4,934
$43.59 - $116.00
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Brand: DVS

DVS Men's Gavin CT Skate Sneaker

3.9 67 ratings | Search this page

$52.11

Or **$8.99**/mo (6 mo). Select from 2 plans

FREE Returns

Size: 8

Color: Black/White Suede

10 is your recommended size based on millions of customer orders and reviews.

Size Chart

Product details

Fabric type	100% Suede
Care instructions	Machine Wash
Origin	Imported
Sole material	Rubber

About this item

- 100% Suede
- Imported
- Rubber sole

Report an issue with this product or seller

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★★★★★ 3

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DC Men's Construct Skate Shoe, Black/White, 13

★★★★★ 11

$84.95

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Osiris NYC 83 CLK White/Black/White 9 D (M)

★★★★½ 545

Amazon's Choice in Men's Skateboarding Shoes

$67.80

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DC Cure Casual High-Top Skate Shoes Sneakers Navy/Grey 14 D (M)

★★★★½ 1,645

$59.95

✓prime

Videos

Help others learn more about this product by uploading a video!

Upload your video

Product details

Package Dimensions : 12 x 8 x 4 inches; 2 Pounds

Item model number : Gavin CT

Department : mens

Date First Available : April 9, 2010

Manufacturer : DVS

ASIN : B006Q71EF6

Customer Reviews: 3.9 ★★★★☆ 67 ratings

Looking for specific info?

Ask Rufus or search customer feedback

Product Description

The Gavin CT skate sneak from DVS is the real deal, with a canvas upper for flexibility and a metal lace up for a quick, adjustable fit. Beneath, a grippy, high-walled rubber sole delivers the traction you need on or off the board.

Back in 1995, a couple of skateboard shop owners and a pro skater named Tim Gavin had a vision to create a footwear brand designed specifically for skateboarding. DVS, as they originally named it, has become a globally recognized force in the footwear market, yet the founding partners haven't wavered from the mantra the brand was built on--to create quality footwear made for skaters by skaters. While it now caters to the breadth of the boardsports world, DVS remains focused and committed to sponsoring the best skateboarders, supporting the best skateboard events, and backing the best skateboard retailers in the world.

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Customer reviews

3.9 out of 5

67 global ratings

5 star	50%
4 star	22%
3 star	10%
2 star	9%
1 star	9%

How customer reviews and ratings work

Customers say

Customers like the style, comfort, and fit of the shoes. They mention they're decent looking, comfortable, and feel conformable right away. Some appreciate the value for money. However, some customers differ on durability.

AI-generated from the text of customer reviews

Select to learn more

Style | Comfort | Fit | Value for money | Shoe quality | Durability

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Share your thoughts with other customers

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Top reviews

Top reviews from the United States

Lori S.

Great leather sneaker

Reviewed in the United States on June 11, 2014

Verified Purchase

These arrived quickly and are much nicer in person. The leather is substantial and the color much more attractive then it appears to be in the online picture. These are a birthday gift for my nephew and time will tell about the fit and durability. For the price I am very pleased with the quality and the two day Prime delivery right to my door. I definitely would buy these again. j

Helpful | Report

merleage

great shoe, great price

Reviewed in the United States on March 16, 2012

Verified Purchase

i have had this shoe for a week and a half, and they are very light,look and feel good, and only take about three days of moderate skating to fully break into. only thing i dont like is they seem to ware out kind of fast, i already have about two little holes on my right shoe, and a small hole on my left one. realisticly it is to be expected though, so i would recomend this shoe to anyone.

3 people found this helpful

Helpful | Report

trent

great shoes,better price.

Reviewed in the United States on May 5, 2014

Verified Purchase

For 25 bucks you can't beat em.they look great,feel good and best of all I only paid $25 so I can thrash em too.quick seller,great shoes,great prices.would buy again

Helpful | Report

coolnicknameguy

they look cool, they feel alright, not to badly priced

Reviewed in the United States on November 17, 2014

Verified Purchase

I took off 2 stars cause they don't feel all that comfortable and will fall apart fast. Im not too worried I have like 20 pairs of shoes.. just needed a new white pair for going out.. I don't plan on wearing these every day or longer then 4 or 5 hours at play not work so they are good for me but if some 1 is looking for something to wear daily they? they will hurt your after a wile and wont last more then a few months daily use.. maybe 2 months if you skate in them.. I don't even skate and trash shoes like this all the time just wearing them to the mall the movies or out for drinks.. For the price they are good for just that but don't waste your money if you are gonna skate in them or wear them 9 hours waiting tables or something..

Helpful | Report

Tigerking

Great shoe

Reviewed in the United States on November 22, 2013

Verified Purchase

Love the style of this shoe. Great fit and very durable. Canvas may slightly fade after a wash so maybe better to wash by hand.

Helpful | Report

cesar 237

★☆☆☆☆ **Very poor quality these days**

Reviewed in the United States on June 17, 2017

Verified Purchase

I purchased two pairs of DVS shoes back to back and on both the sole of the shoe separated in the same area. Very poor quality these days. I've been buying these shoes for nine years and this is the first time I'm having these problems. I've contacted the company about it and they didn't do anything for me. They said it was my problem. Don't waste your time or money. These are only a month old.

Helpful | Report

Jason Koppa

★★☆☆☆ **Ouch**

Reviewed in the United States on July 16, 2015

Verified Purchase

Decent looking shoes, but unfortunately the shos have s absolutely no padding. I would look elsewhere for a pair of shoes, unless you fine with bruised heels.

Helpful | Report

J. Lancelot

★★★★☆ **More grey than black**

Reviewed in the United States on January 8, 2015

Verified Purchase

Nice shoe, fits well, comfortable, and well made. Only knock is black chambray is medium grey chambray. Picture darker color than shoe. It works for me but if you're looking for black it probably won't work for you.

Helpful | Report

See more reviews ›

Top reviews from other countries

Translate all reviews to English

Lola CHENOT

★★★★☆ **Dvs shoes**

Reviewed in France on November 22, 2017

Verified Purchase

Bien arrivé, a l'air de bonne qualité. Juste quelques défauts peu importants. Moisissure légère sur le tissus, à mon avis à cause des conditions de voyage etats-unis - Belgique.
Rien de dramatique, un coup de chiffon et c'est partit.

Report

Translate review to English

Snezhana Hristova

★★★★★ **perfect**

Reviewed in Germany on September 23, 2013

Verified Purchase

Very good shoes, comfortable. They fit perfectly - size EU 38. Usually I get size UK 5, but this model is UK 4.5.

Report

Christophe Dublin

★★☆☆☆ **zweite Wahl?**

Reviewed in Germany on March 14, 2013

Verified Purchase

Habe bereits mehrere Schuhe von DVS besessen, auch Gavin, aber nicht aus Stoff. Mag das Modell an sich gerne, aber das Paar was ich bekam, da war ein Schuh einfach eine halbe nummer kleiner und somit relativ unbequem.

Report

Translate review to English

See more reviews ›

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Climate Pledge Friendly

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Typical: ~~$10.40~~
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Climate Pledge Friendly

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$59.99
✓prime FREE Delivery **Sunday, Nov 3**

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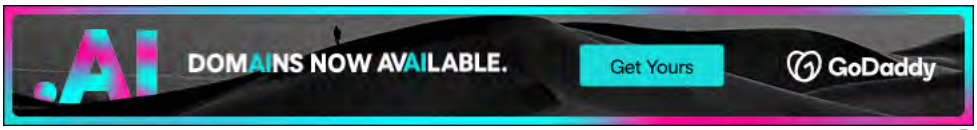

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7,897
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-35% $39.09
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Shoes
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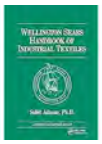

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- Supply to Amazon
- Protect & Build Your Brand
- Become an Affiliate
- Become a Delivery Driver

Amazon Payment Products
- Amazon Visa
- Amazon Store Card
- Amazon Secured Card
- Amazon Business Card
- Shop with Points
- Credit Card Marketplace
- Reload Your Balance

Let Us Help You
- Your Account
- Your Orders
- Shipping Rates & Policies
- Amazon Prime
- Returns & Replacements

Amazon Devices
Amazon Science

Start a Package Delivery Business
Advertise Your Products
Self-Publish with Us
Become an Amazon Hub Partner
› See More Ways to Make Money

Gift Cards
Amazon Currency Converter

Manage Your Content and Devices
Recalls and Product Safety Alerts
Registry & Gift List
Help

amazon
English
United States

Amazon Music
Stream millions of songs

Amazon Ads
Reach customers wherever they spend their time

6pm
Score deals on fashion brands

AbeBooks
Books, art & collectibles

ACX
Audiobook Publishing Made Easy

Sell on Amazon
Start a Selling Account

Veeqo
Shipping Software Inventory Management

Amazon Business
Everything For Your Business

Amazon Fresh
Groceries & More Right To Your Door

AmazonGlobal
Ship Orders Internationally

Home Services
Experienced Pros Happiness Guarantee

Amazon Web Services
Scalable Cloud Computing Services

Audible
Listen to Books & Original Audio Performances

Box Office Mojo
Find Movie Box Office Data

Goodreads
Book reviews & recommendations

IMDb
Movies, TV & Celebrities

IMDbPro
Get Info Entertainment Professionals Need

Kindle Direct Publishing
Indie Digital & Print Publishing Made Easy

Amazon Photos
Unlimited Photo Storage Free With Prime

Prime Video Direct
Video Distribution Made Easy

Shopbop
Designer Fashion Brands

Amazon Resale
Great Deals on Quality Used Products

Whole Foods Market
America's Healthiest Grocery Store

Woot!
Deals and Shenanigans

Zappos
Shoes & Clothing

Ring
Smart Home Security Systems

eero WiFi
Stream 4K Video in Every Room

Blink
Smart Security for Every Home

Neighbors App
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