

A43B

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF FOOTWEAR; PARTS OF FOOTWEAR

Definition statement

This place covers:

Footwear, shoes, shoe components, assembling of these components, shape, and use of the shoes.

A43B 1/00

Footwear characterised by the material

Definition statement

This place covers:

General features of the material the footwear presents, either in the sole or in the upper.

Basically when it does not really matter where in the upper or in the sole the feature has to be (e.g. the use of a transparent material, to cover a logo while still displaying it).

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Shaping or joining of plastics	B29C
Producing particular articles from plastic, footwear	B29D 35/00
Layered products	B32B
Printing, marking or copying	B41M
Macromolecular compounds, e.g. polyethylene or polypropylene copolymers	C08F
Macromolecular compounds, e.g. polyurethane or silicones	C08G
Manufacture of polymeric films or sheets	C08J 5/00
Coating of polymeric articles	C08J 7/00
Production of macromolecular porous or cellular articles	C08J 9/00
Compositions of macromolecular compounds	C08L
Coating compositions	C09D
Adhesive processes	C09J 5/00
Adhesive tapes, films or sheets	C09J 7/00
Skins; Hides; Pelts or leather	C14
Woven materials	D03D
Knitted materials	D04B
Non-woven materials	D04H
Treatment of fabrics	D06M
Polymeric coatings on fibrous web	D06N
Impregnation or coating of paper; Special paper	D21H

A43B 1/06

made of wood, cork, card-board, paper or like fibrous material

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Soles	A43B 13/00
Soles made of wood	A43B 13/08
Making of wooden shoes	B27M 3/20

A43B 1/08

made of metal

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Soles made of metal	A43B 13/10
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A43B 1/10

made of rubber

Definition statement

This place covers:

Footwear made from natural or synthetic rubber material.

A43B 1/14

made of plastics ([A43B 1/028](#) takes precedence)

Definition statement

This place covers:

Footwear made from synthetic polymers, e.g. polyethylene, polyurethane or artificial leathers.

Relationships with other classification places

Synthetic rubber should be classified in [A43B 1/10](#).

References**Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

Footwear made of synthetic or artificial fibres	A43B 1/028
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A43B 3/00

Footwear characterised by the shape or the use

Definition statement

This place covers:

General or special shape of the footwear, or a special use.

Examples of what will found here are footwear equipped with electronic devices, adjustable in length, slippers with all kind of straps, shoes to help or protect a person (e.g. military person) walking on landmines (by absorbing energy, deflecting shock wave, or limit the pressure of the person on the ground by increasing the ground contact surface of the sole, avoiding by such to trigger the landmine to activate).

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Footwear for all kind of sport	A43B 5/00
Features concerning a support or resilient pad	A43B 7/1405
Features concerning the sole	A43B 13/00
Features concerning the sole insert	A43B 17/00
Features concerning the heel	A43B 21/00

A43B 3/02

Boots covering the lower leg

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Gaiters; Spats	A41D 17/00
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A43B 3/10

Low shoes {, e.g. comprising only a front strap}; Slippers

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Sandals	A43B 3/12
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A43B 3/12

Sandals; Strap guides thereon

Definition statement

This place covers:

Sandals are an open type of footwear, consisting of a sole held to the wearer's foot by straps going over the instep and around the ankle.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Low shoes; Slippers	A43B 3/10
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A43B 3/16

Overshoes

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Heel-protectors for car-drivers	A43B 23/30
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A43B 3/24

Collapsible or convertible

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Multi-purpose skate boots	A43B 5/1633
Easily-exchangeable soles	A43B 13/36

A43B 3/26

adjustable as to length or size

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Adjustable ski boots or similar boots	A43B 5/0427
Adjustable skating boots	A43B 5/1608

A43B 3/34

with electrical or electronic arrangements

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Footwear with cooling arrangements	A43B 7/005
Footwear with heating arrangements	A43B 7/02

A43B 5/00

Footwear for sporting purposes (non-skid devices, e.g. ice-spurs or studs for football shoes, [A43C 15/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Footwear especially adapted for the practice of sport.

For example ski boots, neoprene footwear for use in the water, golf shoes.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

All cleats and studs	A43C 15/00
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Special rules of classification

If the document concerns the stud for a football shoe, and does not bring any information about the shoe, it does not have to be classified in [A43B 5/02](#).

A43B 5/006

{for horse riding}

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Stirrups	B68C 3/00
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A43B 5/0405**{Linings, paddings or insertions; Inner boots}****References****Informative references***Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Shoe-shaped inserts; Inserts covering the instep	A43B 19/00
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A43B 7/00**Footwear with health or hygienic arrangements****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Footwear with health (protection against injuries, walking aid for injured people, people with diseases) or hygienic arrangements.

Examples: ventilation systems for footwear, waterproof arrangements, support pads, resilient pads, located under strategic bones/regions of the foot.

References**Informative references***Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Hygienic overshoes (mostly disposable from sheet)	A43B 3/163
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A43B 7/02**with heating arrangements (with electric heating arrangements [A43B 3/35](#))****References****Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

With electric heating arrangements	A43B 3/35
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Informative references*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Heating or cooling appliances for medical or therapeutic treatment of the foot	A61F 2007/0045
Electric heating arrangements	H05B

A43B 7/06

ventilated

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Skating boots with ventilation means in the sole	A43B 5/165
Skating boots with ventilation means in the upper	A43B 5/1675

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Ventilated socks, insoles or inserts	A43B 17/08
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A43B 7/1405

with pads or holes on one or more locations, or having an anatomical or curved form

Definition statement

This place covers:

Any pad, or resilient cushion, recess filled with resilient part.

Special rules of classification

[A43B 7/1415](#) and subgroups will locate geographically the pad under the foot.

[A43B 7/1475](#) and subgroups will specify the type of pad/cushion.

It is important to give a class in both subgroups.

Additional information can be given by attributing a class in [A43B 17/00](#) if the document concerns an insole to be inserted, in [A43B 13/18](#) or [A43B 13/20](#) if it concerns the midsole/the sole (even if in the heel, like Nike Air).

A43B 7/1463

with removable pads to allow custom fit

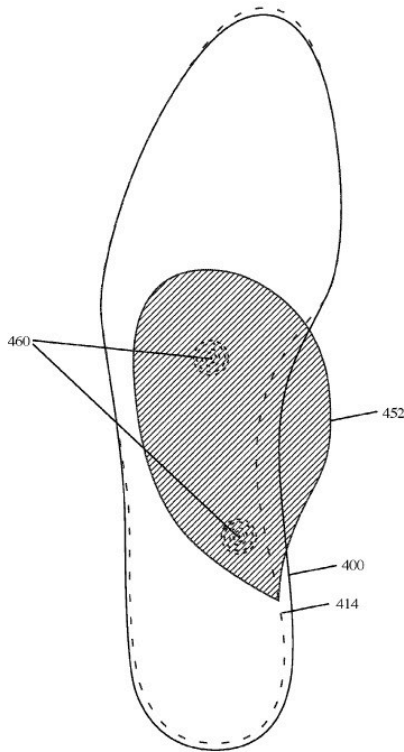
Definition statement

This place covers:

Foot-supporting parts where a custom fit is provided for by at least one pad which can be removed or replaced with another pad.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this group:

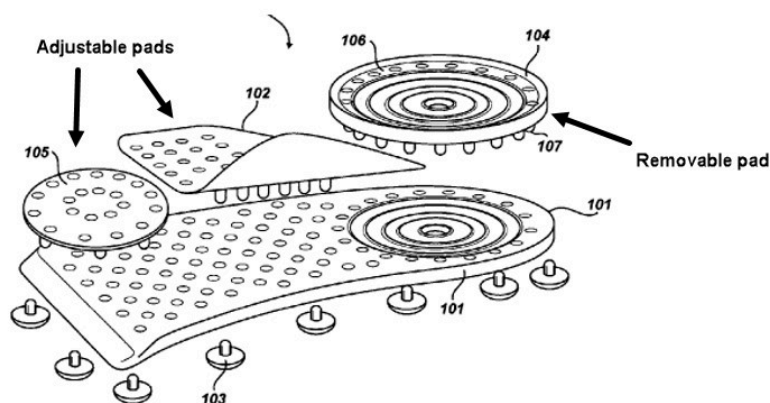
The foot-supporting part includes fasteners to provide for the addition and removal of a support insert.



Special rules of classification

Removal of a pad but replacing it in another available position should be classified in [A43B 7/1469](#). This is considered an adjustable feature since the pad is only removed so that it can be relocated.

Example - Pads (102) and (105) should be considered adjustable since they are removed but replaced in a different configuration. Pad (104) should be considered removable since it is either added or removed and cannot be placed in another position. If the foot-supporting part also supports the foot with pads (102) and (105) removed, then classification in [A43B 7/1463](#) is also proper.



A43B 7/1464

with adjustable pads to allow custom fit

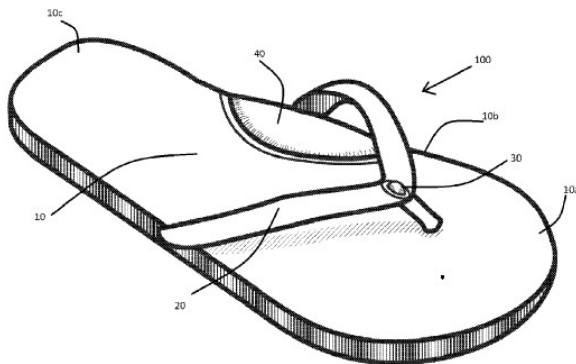
Definition statement

This place covers:

Foot-supporting parts where a custom fit is provided for by adjustment of at least one pad.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this group:

The footwear below includes an air bladder at the arch where the pressure of the bladder is adjustable.

**A43B 7/1466**

adjustable by screws or threads

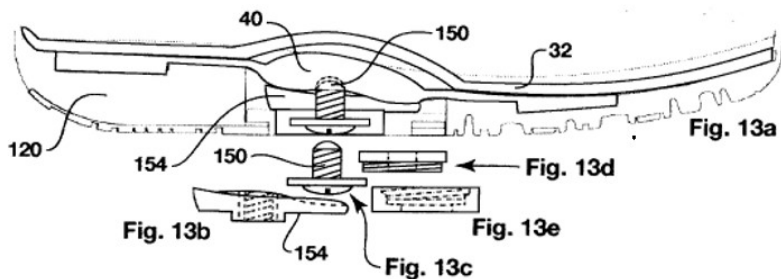
Definition statement

This place covers:

Foot-supporting parts where at least one pad is adjusted by turning a screw or movement along a threaded piece.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this group:

The footwear below includes a pad which can be adjusted by turning a screw.



A43B 7/1467**adjustable by resilient members, e.g. springs****Definition statement***This place covers:*

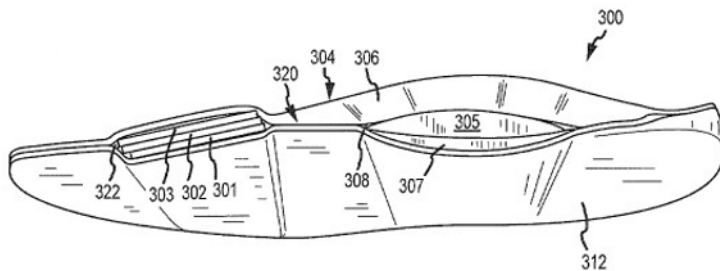
Foot-supporting parts where at least one pad is adjustable through the elastic deformation of a resilient member.

A43B 7/1468**adjustable by shims****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Foot-supporting parts where at least one pad is adjustable by adding and removing shims.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this group:

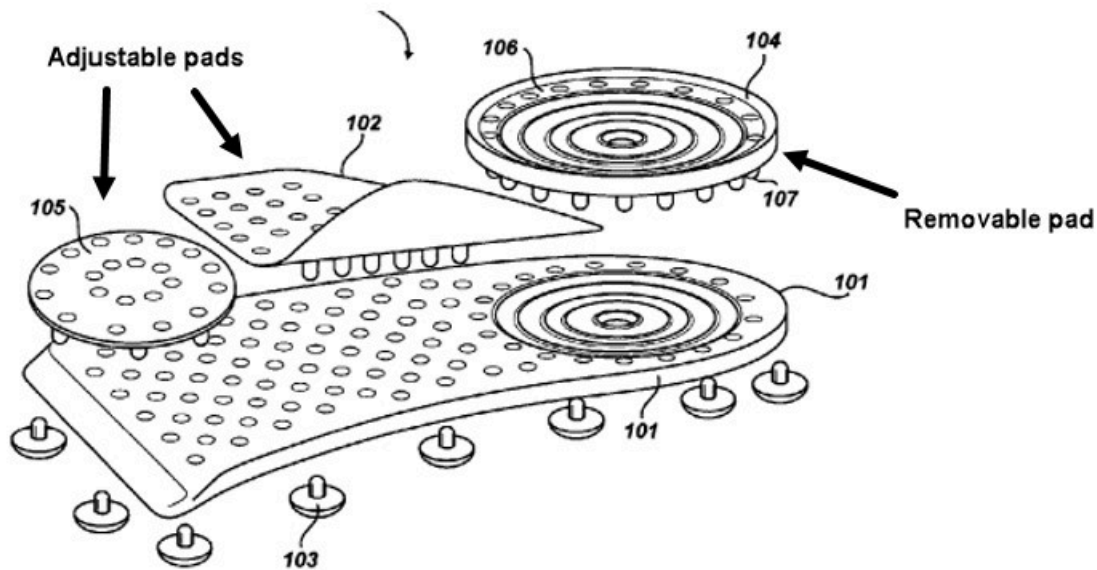
Foot-supporting part with pad (322) where adjustment is made by inserting one or more shims (301, 302, 303).

**A43B 7/1469****adjustable by selectively fastening or securing into multiple available positions****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Foot-supporting parts where a custom fit is provided for by pads which can be positioned into multiple positions.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this group:

The foot-supporting part includes pads (102) and (105) which can be secured across multiple positions.



References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Footwear with removable pads to allow custom fit	A43B 7/1463
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A43B 7/22

with fixed flat-foot insertions, metatarsal supports, ankle flaps or the like

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Orthopaedic insertions	A61F 5/14
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A43B 7/38

Elevating, i.e. height increasing (with elevated heel parts inside [A43B 7/16](#); lengthening pieces for natural legs [A61F 3/00](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

With elevated heel parts inside	A43B 7/16
Lengthening pieces for natural legs	A61F 3/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Orthopaedic insertions for conventional shoes	A61F 5/14
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A43B 9/00**Footwear characterised by the assembling of the individual parts****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Assembling an upper to a sole, e.g. by stitching, gluing.

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Assembling different layers of sole	A43B 13/12
Assembling different pieces of soles	A43B 13/16
Assembling different parts of the upper together	A43B 23/0245
Assembling of an upper to a sole by moulding/vulcanising	B29D 35/06 , B29D 35/10

Special rules of classification

[A43B 9/16](#), [A43B 9/18](#), [A43B 9/20](#) are not really used anymore. [B29D 35/06](#) and [B29D 35/10](#) are more appropriate.

A43B 9/16**Footwear with soles moulded on to uppers or welded on to uppers without adhesive****Special rules of classification**

not used: [B29D 35/10](#) (having preformed soles or heels joined on the preformed uppers using moulding technique, e.g. by feeding or injecting material between the parts to be joined).

A43B 9/18**moulded****References****Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Footwear having soles or heels formed and joined on to preformed uppers using a moulding technique, e.g. by injection moulding, pressing and vulcanising	B29D 35/06
Footwear having preformed soles or heels joined on to preformed uppers using a moulding technique, e.g. by feeding or injecting plastics material between the parts to be joined	B29D 35/10

Special rules of classification

Not used, use instead [B29D 35/06](#) and [B29D 35/10](#).

A43B 9/20

welded

Special rules of classification

Not used: [B29D 35/10](#): having preformed soles or heels joined on to preformed uppers using a moulding technique, e.g. by feeding or injecting plastics material between the parts to be joined.

A43B 11/00

Footwear with arrangements to facilitate putting-on or removing, e.g. with straps

Definition statement

This place covers:

Any arrangement to help putting-on of the shoes. It can be the shape, that makes it easier to put the foot inside the shoe, or built-in shoe horns which have a dedicated sub-group.

A43B 13/00

Soles; Sole-and-heel integral units

Definition statement

This place covers:

Soles, midsoles and built-in insoles.

References**Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Skating boots characterised by the sole	A43B 5/1641
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Insoles for insertion, e.g. footbeds or inlays, for attachment to the shoe after the upper has been joined	A43B 17/00
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A43B 13/02

characterised by the material

Special rules of classification

If the material can be component of the sole, of a part of it or a layer of it, a class in [A43B 13/02](#) and subgroups has to be assigned. On top of that, in case of multilayer, [A43B 13/12](#) and subgroup defines where the material is expected to be found.

If the insole is multilayered, a class in [A43B 13/386](#) has to be attributed. If the material concerns a part of the sole/layer (e.g. the front, the middle part, the heel, and not the rest, the sole/layer is call "pieced" [A43B 13/16](#) has to be attributed ([A43B 13/38](#) in case of a pieced insole).

A43B 13/023

{Soles with several layers of the same material}

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Soles with several layers of different materials	A43B 13/12
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A43B 13/22

Soles made slip-preventing or wear-resisting, e.g. by impregnation or spreading a wear-resisting layer

Definition statement

This place covers:

Sole made anti skid, either by impregnation, either by antiskid devices monolithic to the sole, or multilayer soles, with a part of it in contact with the ground, but excluding the cleats, and studs attached to the sole, like for football or soccer boots or shoes which have this group dedicated: [A43C 15/16](#) and subgroups.

Relationships with other classification places

[A43C 15/00](#) and especially [A43C 15/16](#), dedicated to studs and cleats.

A43B 13/28

characterised by their attachment, also attachment of combined soles and heels

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Attachment of heels	A43B 21/36
Attachment of heel parts	A43B 21/52

A43B 13/36

Easily-exchangeable soles (protecting-soles [A43C 13/12](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Protecting-soles	A43C 13/12
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Of metal	A43B 13/10
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A43B 15/00**Welts for footwear****Definition statement**

This place covers:

The welt that is used when assembling, mainly by stitching the sole to the upper.

A43B 17/00**Insoles for insertion, e.g. footbeds or inlays, for attachment to the shoe after the upper has been joined****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Insoles to be inserted.

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Hosiery; Panti-hose	A41B 11/00
Special medical insertions for shoes	A61F 5/14

Special rules of classification

Inserted insole with cushion/pads are also to be classified in [A43B 7/1405](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Sock	Insole to be put in a shoe as to make it fit better.
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A43B 19/00**Shoe-shaped inserts; Inserts covering the instep****References****Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Linings, paddings, insertions for ski boots; Inner boots for ski boots	A43B 5/0405
Inner boots for skating boots	A43B 5/1616

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Insoles for insertion, e.g. footbeds or inlays, for attachment to the shoe after the upper has been joined	A43B 17/00
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A43B 21/00**Heels; Top-pieces or top-lifts****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Heels of the type protruding from the sole, like high heels for women or some leather classical shoes for men with a heel attached to a sole.

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Pneumatic soles filled with compressible fluid, e.g. air or gas	A43B 13/20
Sole and heel units	A43B 13/37

A43B 23/00**Uppers; Boot legs; Stiffeners; Other single parts of footwear****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Shoe uppers, boot legs, toe and heel cups, linings, and anything that would be attached for decorating the upper.

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Straps of sandals and slippers	A43B 3/12 , A43B 3/10
Fastening	A43C 1/00 , A43C 3/00 , A43C 7/00 , A43C 11/00
Ornaments with fastening function	A43C 11/24

Special rules of classification

Even if slippers and sandals should be in the [A43B 3/10](#) and [A43B 3/12](#) and sub-groups, if the upper of the slipper has some very special feature which can be of interest for common shoes, it would be classified also in the [A43B 23/00](#).

A43B 23/02**Uppers; Boot legs****References****Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Ski boots characterised by the material of the upper	A43B 5/0486
Skating boots characterised by the upper	A43B 5/1666

A43B 23/07**Linings therefor {(lining laminated with upper [A43B 23/026](#))}****References****Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

Lining laminated with upper	A43B 23/026
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Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Linings, paddings, insertions for ski boot; Inner boots for ski boot	A43B 5/0405
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A43B 23/08**Heel stiffeners; Toe stiffeners****References****Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Footwear with shock-absorbing means	A43B 7/32
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A43B 23/22**Supports for the shank or arch of the uppers****References****Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

For health or hygienic purposes	A43B 7/14
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A43B 23/30

Heel-protectors for car-drivers

Special rules of classification

Not used: [A43B 5/007](#) footwear for car drivers instead.