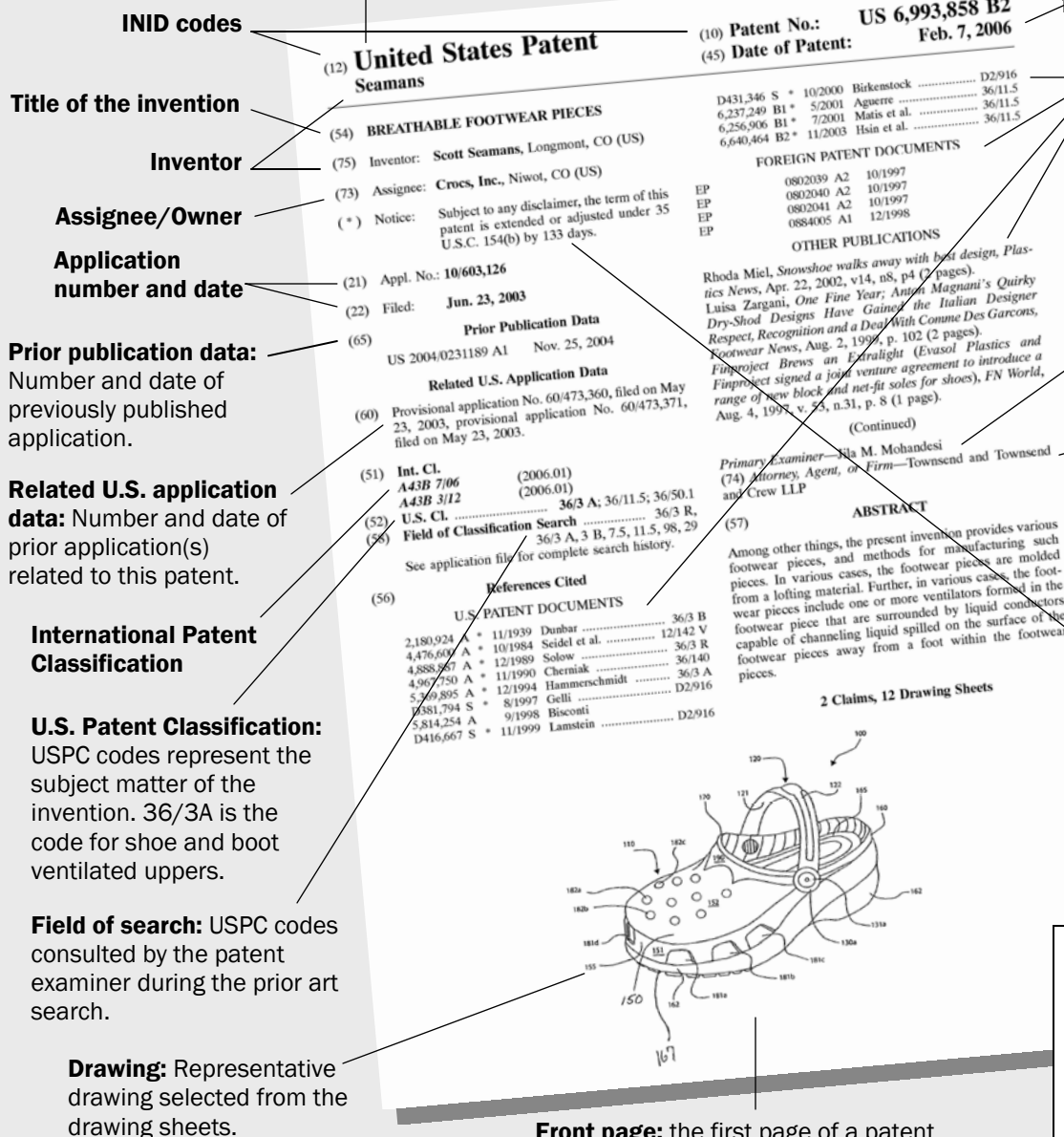


Anatomy of a U.S. Patent Document

Document number: The prefix US indicates that this is a U.S. patent. The B2 code indicates that this patent has a previously published application.

Source: Country that issued the patent.

Date of Issue



The diagram shows a sample of a U.S. Patent document with various sections labeled and explained. The patent is for 'BREATHABLE FOOTWEAR PIECES' by Scott Seamans, assigned to Crocs, Inc. The patent number is US 6,993,858 B2, issued on Feb. 7, 2006. The document includes a detailed description of the invention, a list of references, and a drawing of a shoe with a sole assembly.

INID codes (12) United States Patent

Title of the invention (54) BREATHABLE FOOTWEAR PIECES

Inventor (75) Inventor: Scott Seamans, Longmont, CO (US)

Assignee/Owner (73) Assignee: Crocs, Inc., Niwot, CO (US)

Application number and date (21) Appl. No.: 10/603,126
(22) Filed: Jun. 23, 2003

Prior publication data: Number and date of previously published application.
(65) US 2004/0231189 A1 Nov. 25, 2004

Related U.S. application data: Number and date of prior application(s) related to this patent.
(60) Provisional application No. 60/473,360, filed on May 23, 2003, provisional application No. 60/473,371, filed on May 23, 2003.

International Patent Classification (51) Int. Cl. A43B 7/06 (2006.01)
(52) U.S. Cl. 36/3 A, 36/11.5, 36/50.1
(56) Field of Classification Search 36/3 A, 3 B, 7.5, 11.5, 98, 29
See application file for complete search history.

U.S. Patent Classification: USPC codes represent the subject matter of the invention. 36/3A is the code for shoe and boot ventilated uppers.

Field of search: USPC codes consulted by the patent examiner during the prior art search.

Drawing: Representative drawing selected from the drawing sheets.

Front page: the first page of a patent document containing bibliographic data.

References: U.S. and foreign patent documents and other publications cited as related prior art by the inventor and patent examiner.

Patent examiner: Official who examined the application.

Patent attorney: Legal counsel hired by the inventor to prosecute the application.

Abstract: Simple, non-technical description of the invention.

Term adjustment: Additional days added to the term of the patent to make up for processing delays.

The USPTO publishes unexamined applications 18 months after the earliest filing date. Prior to 2001, applications were kept secret until a patent issued.

INID codes: Patent offices use INID codes to identify bibliographic data on the front page of patent documents. (See sidebar.) These two-digit codes, which may be enclosed in parentheses, brackets or circles, came into general use in the 1970s. INID is an acronym for Internationally agreed Numbers for the Identification of (bibliographic) Data.

Selected INID Codes

- 10 Patent number
- 12 Document type
- 21 Application number
- 22 Date of application
- 45 Date of patent
- 51 IPC classification
- 52 National classification
- 54 Title of the invention
- 56 References
- 57 Abstract
- 58 Field of search
- 60 Related application data
- 65 Published application data
- 72 Inventor(s)
- 73 Assignee (owner)
- 74 Attorney or agent

every sheet.

U.S. Patent Feb. 7, 2006 Sheet 1 of 12 US 6,993,858 B2

Fig. 1

Drawings must confirm to drafting guidelines set by the patent office. They must be labeled clearly and provide enough detail for the reader to understand the invention's design and use.

1. Utility patent - protects new and useful:
 - Products (tool, shoe, toy, etc.)
 - Compositions (chemical compound, alloy, etc.)
 - Machines
 - Processes
2. Design patent - protects new and original:
 - Ornamental designs for articles of manufacture
3. Plant patent - protects distinct and new:
 - Varieties of asexually propagated plants.
(Reproduced by means other than seeds, such as grafting, budding, etc.)

Claims: Paragraphs located at end of the specification that define the scope of protection of a patent. The phrases “I claim” or “What is claimed” precedes the numbered claims. Patents must have at least one claim, but most usually have several and some hundreds of claims. The claims define the legal boundaries of the invention in the way a property deed defines the physical boundaries of an area of land.

Unlike journal articles, patent applications are not peer-reviewed and experimental proof is not required in order to obtain a patent. Although patents contain detailed technical information, they can also be frustratingly vague (especially older patents) and written in an arcane technical-legal jargon often called “patentese.”

Michael White
Librarian for Research Services
May 2008