

## CAST MODIFICATION

## CHAPTER 25

## ANOTHER VIEW BOOTS



ANOTHER VIEW OF BOOT MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

Generally, boots are a little more forgiving because there is a lot more to hold onto the foot, ankle and lower leg.

The artisan and/or craftsperson needs to consider the size, type and placement of the tongue, which is usually absent in most molded shoe styles and sandals.

One of the most important considerations in boot construction is the intended use requirements.

Planning everything ahead is very necessary so the work only has to be done once.



1 Find the vertical string line, mark and find the proper vertical alignment for the feet based on overall observations.



2 Observe the bottom of the feet above the glass surface.



3 As the artisan and/or craftsperson, you have to make important decisions about how to stance the feet. The vertical string line is not an absolute guide.



4 Cut the top off above the expected finished height of the boot.



5 Get the alignment with the glass surface correct! Then sand the top of the cast to match the levelness of the glass surface.



6 Cut the top off the other cast.



7 Get the alignment with the glass surface correct! Then sand the top of the cast to match the levelness of the glass surface.



8 Recheck both casts and levels. I always use a third level for the glass surface because, when I have to move to a different area of the glass, there may be differences in the glass.



9 Ditto.



10 Ditto.

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11 Ditto.



12 Ditto.



13 Usually I make a horizontal cut first, so omitting that cut was a purposeful decision.



14 A center cut is made at the heel to narrow this particular set of casts.



15 The parts are scraped and cleaned.

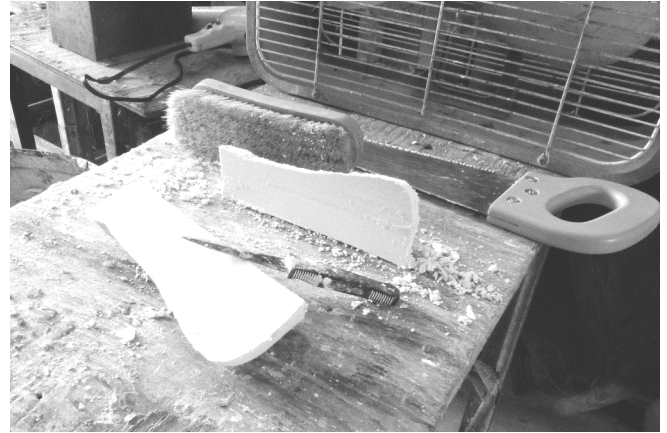


16 The same is done for the right cast.





17 Ditto.



18 Ditto.



19 A view of all the pieces.



20 Glue is applied to the parts. The backs are glued together using the glass surface for one plane of alignment. After the backs dry, they are glued to the fronts.



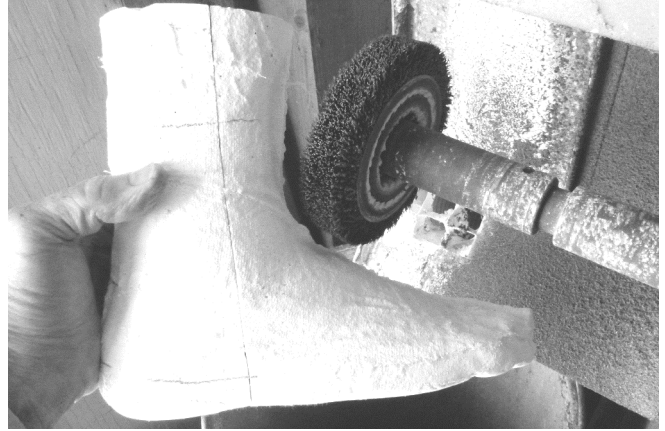
21 Immediately after putting the fronts and backs together, check the alignment of the parts.



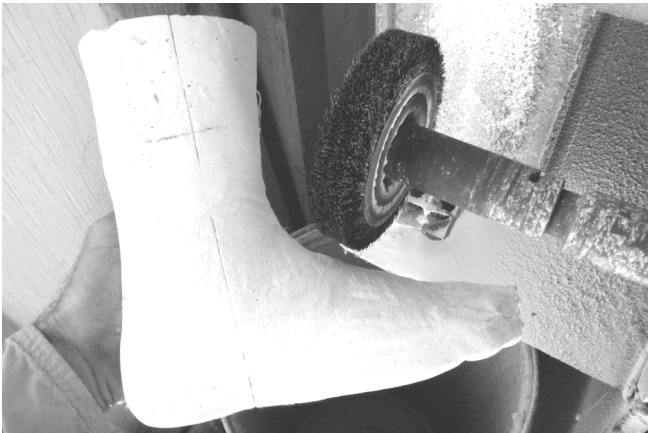
22 Ditto.



23 The parts have dried and you can see the placement of the rubber bands again.



24 Clean up the casts using the wire brush wheel on the sanding machine and/or use knife and griddle paper.



25 View after clean up.



26 More clean up of the cast with knife, rasp and griddle paper.



27 Hand sanding with the griddle paper.



28 Gloves are nice for this work, because they keep your hands cleaner.



29 Keep sanding with the griddle paper and you can achieve a very nice looking cast.



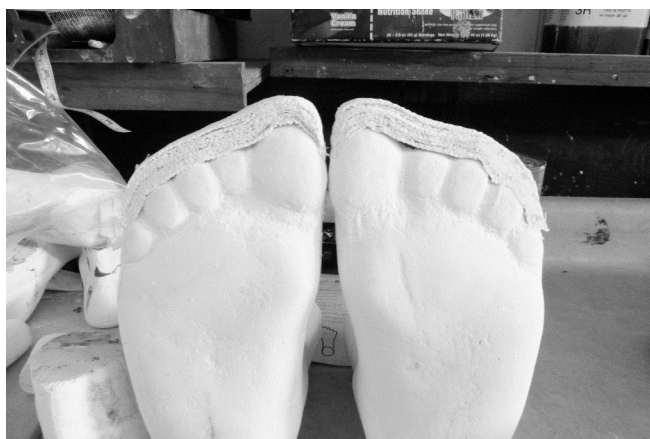
30 Ditto.



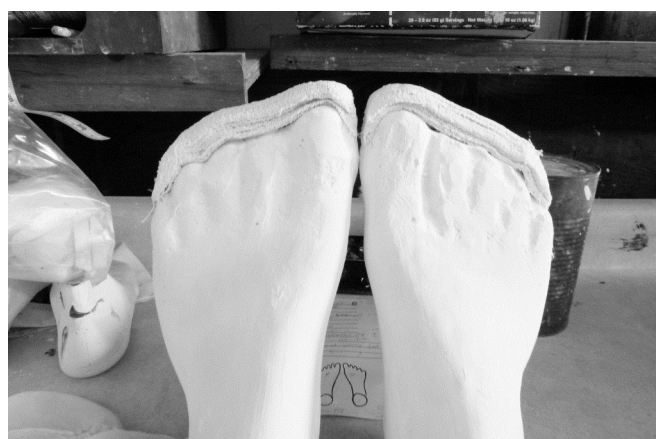
31 Sand the bottom too!



32 The plaster splints have been put on the toes.



33 The plaster splints have been trimmed.

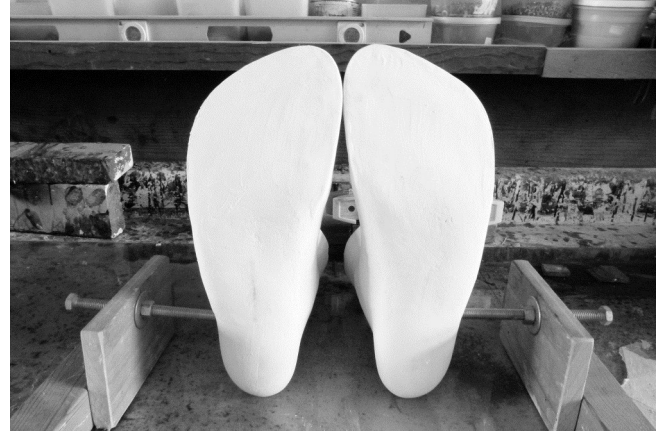


34 Ditto.

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35 The casts have been plastered and they are now "LASTS".



36 Another bottom view.



37 Top view.



38 Making a ball cut with a hack saw blade.



39 Ditto.



40 Ditto.





41 Depending on the individual person, 10 or 15 or 20 plaster splints have been added to the length of the ball area plus 3 for the width of the hack saw blade.



42 Ditto.



43 The toe to ball angle and the ball to heel angle are checked. This angle is too excessive for this person. I have to do something better.



44 Ditto.



45 I remove the splints.



46 I cut new plaster splints



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47 I put the new splints in place and control the alignment of the toe to ball and ball to heel angles better.



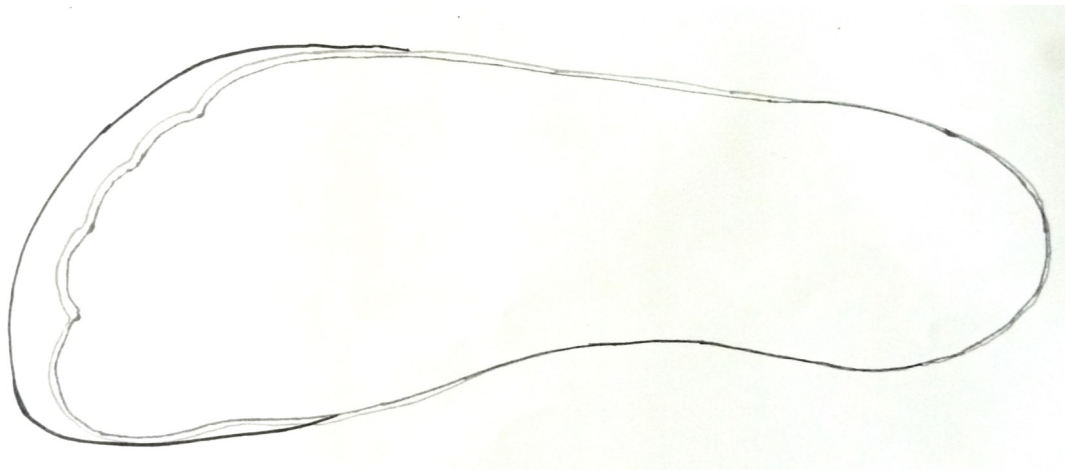
48 The result is perfect! The "LAST" is finished!

ORIGINAL CAST CUTTING MODIFICATIONS FOR BOOTS

Tracing Last Over Elongation Drawing Especially Around Toe Box



Traced Elongation Drawing Showing Size and Length of Last Toe Box in Front of Standing and Sitting Lines



SUMMING UP THE CAST CUTTING, MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES AND MEASUREMENTS FOR BOOTS

Modifying and plastering the cast is a subjective art. Wearing a molded shoe, boot or sandal is a subjective experience. The results of modifying and plastering a cast, will be best understood when the artisan and/or craftsman is the wearer.

Remember: every person and every foot is different, no two articles of molded footwear are going to come out exactly alike. There is no precise formula of modification that fits every article of molded footwear.

Look at the common likenesses in the procedures. Then adjust according to your own ideas and expectations about what might work the best for what you are trying to do.

Measurements are just a tool to help you achieve what you want to do.

Comparison Chart for Present Cutting and Modification for a Boot

This chart should be viewed as a theoretical example of one foot.

	Measurements				
	BALL	WAIST	INSTEP	HEEL	LENGTH
RAW FOOT	9	8 1/4	9 1/4	12	9
RAW CAST	9 1/2	9	9 1/2	12 3/4	9 1/8+
CUTS MALE	1 Horizontal (usually but not always) and 0 to 3 Vertical (it all depends on the style of boot, thickness of tongue and thickness of socks to be worn)				
CUTS FEMALE	Same as above				
SPLINTS	Generally 5 to 10 more splints are added to toes and/or ball cut than for shoes and sandals and 5 to 10 splints may be added over top of vamp, in front of ankle and upward plus application of plaster.				
FINISHED LAST MALE	9 1/8 to 1/4	9 3/4	9 1/4	12 3/4 to 13	9 3/4 to 7/8
FINISHED LAST FEMALE	Same as above				