

CASTING METHODS & SPECIALTY FOOTWEAR

CHAPTER 13

ANOTHER VIEW OF WRAP CASTING



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The purpose of this view of wrap casting is to share another perspective with different customers. There are some slight differences in the technique. This set of pictures is earlier than the previous chapter because it is without the use of dental bibs.

The wrap casting is being done directly on the foam cushioning. Dental bibs save a lot of clean up time and the frequent replacement of the foam pads.

The measurements taken of the feet and the foot shape outlines, made before the casting, will be covered in another chapter. It is important for the caster to consider what information collected now will help later in the fabrication process when the customer is gone.



1 This client is sitting very nicely. The casts are almost dry enough to be taken off.



2 This client has posed for a "how not to sit" posture. The caster is going to get this client to cooperate, so a good cast can be obtained, in order to get a good pair of shoes



2 The feet are being shaved to remove the hair.



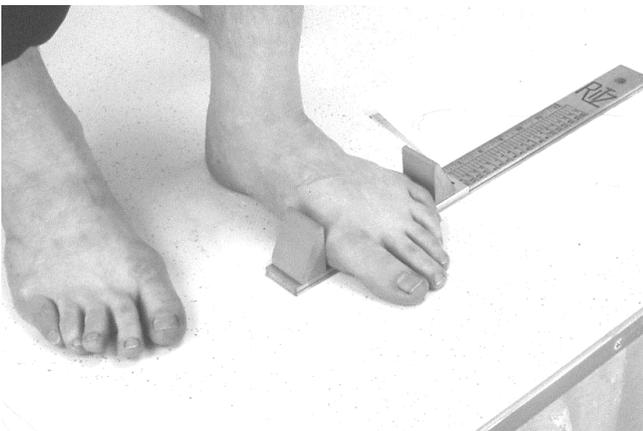
3 The caster is making a tracing of the foot in the seated position.



4 The caster is making a tracing of the foot in the standing position. Notice how the arch has changed between sitting and standing. The forefoot has also spread and you can't see the toes, but they have lengthened somewhat.



5 The length of the foot is checked while sitting and again in the standing position.



6 The width of the foot is checked while sitting and again in the standing position.



7 The circumference around the ball of the foot is measured.



8 The circumference around the waist of the foot is measured.



9 The circumference around the instep of the foot is measured.



10 Don't be afraid to go back and re-check any measurement.



11 The circumference around the ankle joint and heel is measured.



12 The foot is placed on the foot pad.



13 The leg strap or straps are placed, and the foot pads are moved to get the proper alignment.



14 Front view of alignment.



15 The plaster splinting material is cut.



16 The plaster splinting material is wet and drained.



17 The plaster splinting material is placed under the foot. The foot pads are re-positioned as needed to get proper alignment.



18 The plaster splinting material is brought up around the foot.



19 The plaster splinting material at the arch has been molded up to conform to the contour of the arch.



20 The bottom plaster splint material is being placed under the right foot.



21 Front view.



22 The plaster splint material is being wrapped around the back of foot and the ends are brought forward.



23 The caster is just about ready to make the center opening, but it is essential to first get the side coverage proper.



24 One half of the opening is completed.



25 Now both halves of the front opening have been completed.



26 The front opening seam has been completed. The upper collar on top of the ankle is very nice. The molding to the foot looks very good.



27 View of medial side.



28 The caster is placing the plaster splint material around the right foot.



29 The front opening seam is being made.



30 View number 1.



31 View number 2.



32 The plaster splinting material has firmed enough to open the front seam. Notice how the foot form is not being distorted.



33 The foot is beginning to come out. Don't rush this event, pull gently and wiggle. The caster can even open the cast fully, separating the top from bottom. It will go back together again with no distortion if done carefully.



34 The wrap cast is complete. It needs the rubber bands to hold it together. Always be gentle with this cast. It is still wet. Good setting takes about a half an hour or more before it should be handled.



35 The right cast is being removed.



36 This cast looks nice. The toes, bunion and ankle bones are all visible on the outside of the cast. The real form wanted is in the inside of the cast. This is just a shell to capture the form of the foot so a replica of the foot can be made.



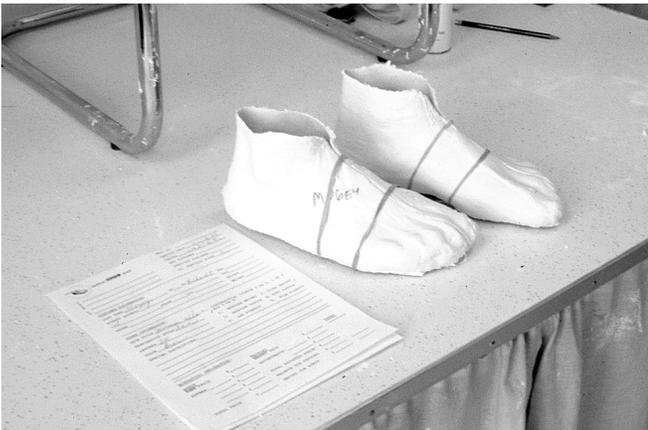
37 The cleansing of the feet is important. Little bits of plaster can be annoying. Do the best you can.



38 Ditto.



39 Drying the feet.



40 The casts got their rubber bands. Use as many rubber bands as needed. Notice that a work order or information sheet has been started. This is very important because it will give direction to the processes of fabrication.



41 After the cast has dried two to four hours, it is usually ready to be filled with plaster. This is covered in a future chapter.

Casting for sandals is the same as casting for shoes.

Casting for boots is a little more involved, even though it is the same process. The cast needs to go higher than the expected boot top. Therefore, additional pieces are put above the upper layer shown in these shoe and sandal castings. A 6" high boot generally requires one additional piece. A 8" or 10" boot would require even more layers. It is important that the layers overlap at least one or two inches every time.

Be extra careful taking apart these layers and putting them back together again. And, make sure the vertical alignment of these layers stays true.