

CAST MODIFICATION

CHAPTER 24

ANOTHER VIEW SHOES



ANOTHER VIEW OF SHOE MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

I have sculpted casts using no cuts, just the wire brush wheel on a sanding machine.

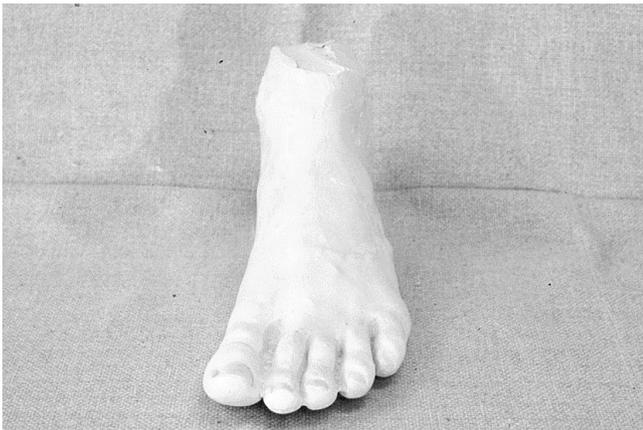
It is very hard to match the right and left casts without using cuts.

I have had a hard time determining how much material to remove consistently without the aid of cuts.

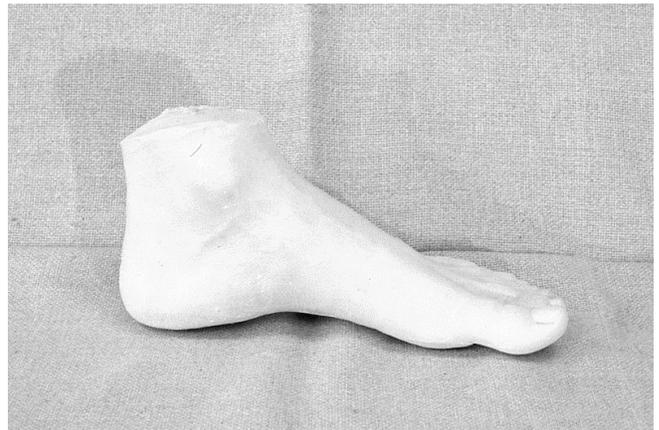
I put these pictures in the book because I want to show that no matter how good an artisan and/or craftsperson you may be, there is a point at which too much reliance on mechanical methods doesn't necessarily produce the best results.

Simple tools, the hands and mind of the artisan and/or craftsperson, can sometimes do the finest of work.

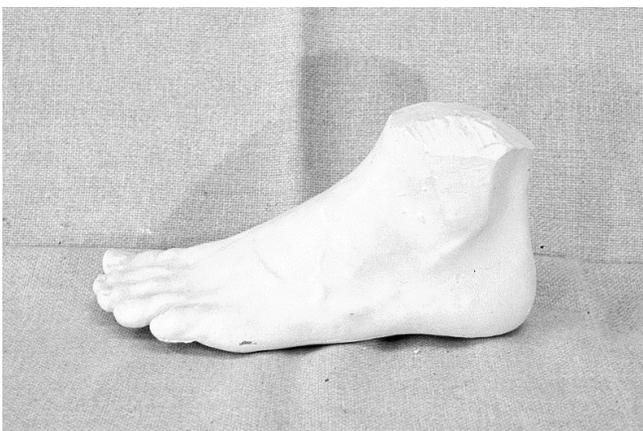
Molded shoe, boot and sandal making should be a quality endeavor.



1 The raw cast is the starting point. Take time to observe it before you begin to transform it into a last.



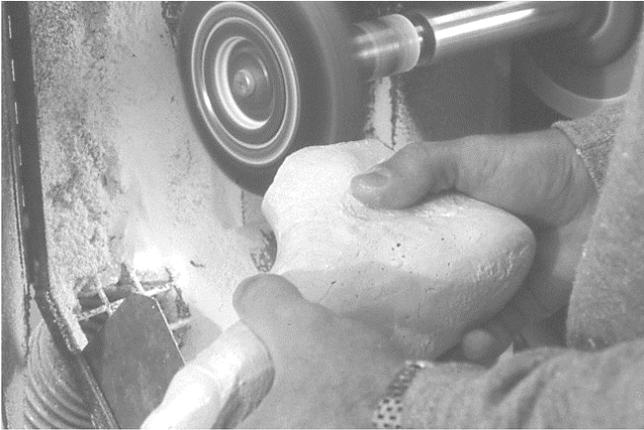
2 Think about what you want to change.



3 Think about why you want to change it.



4 And, think about how you want to change it.



5 Just observe the pictures; no explanation should be required.



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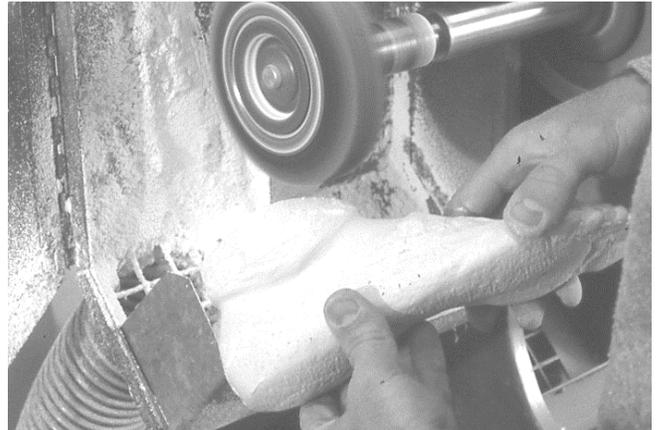
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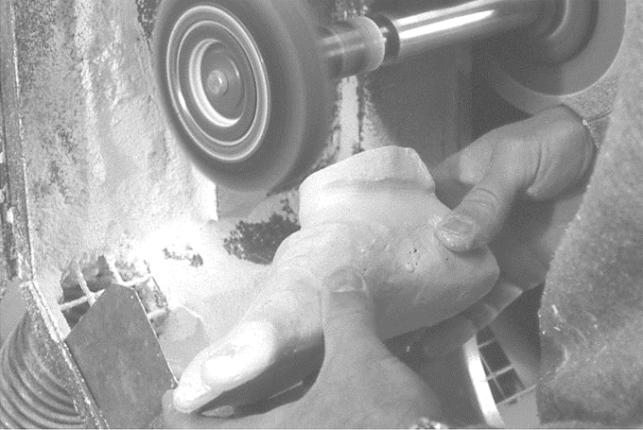
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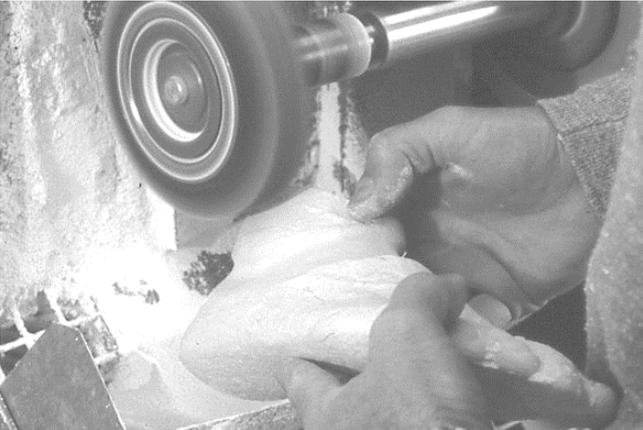
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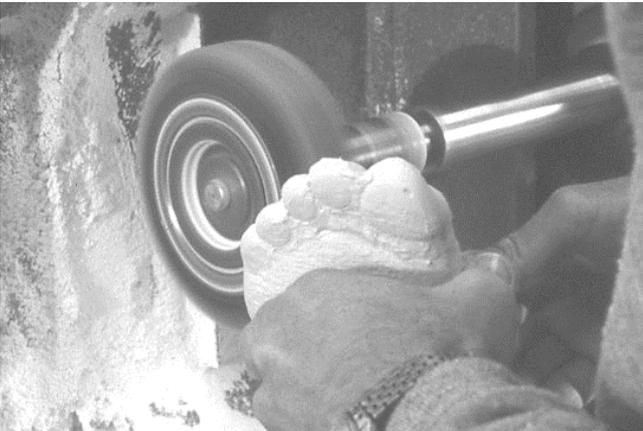
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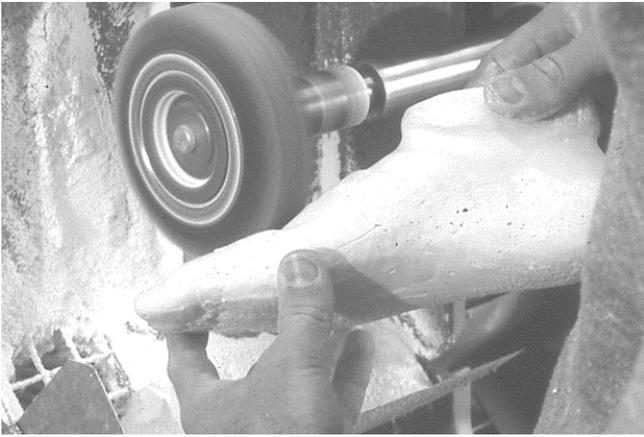
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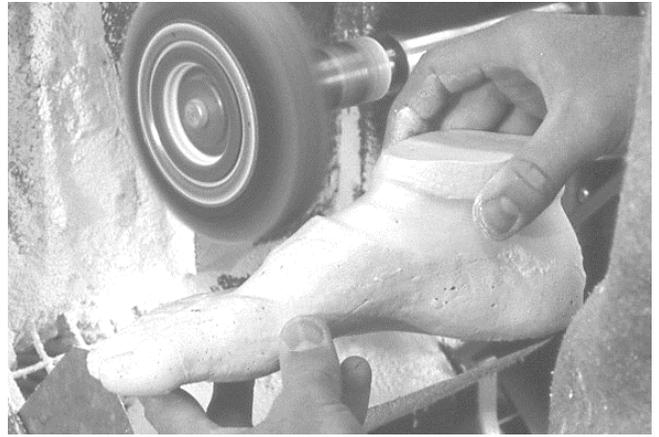
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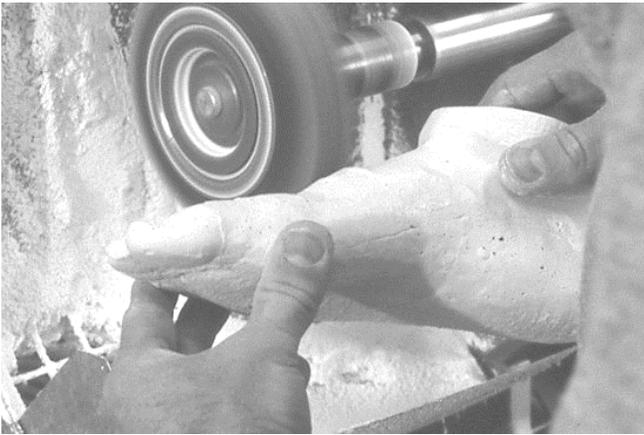
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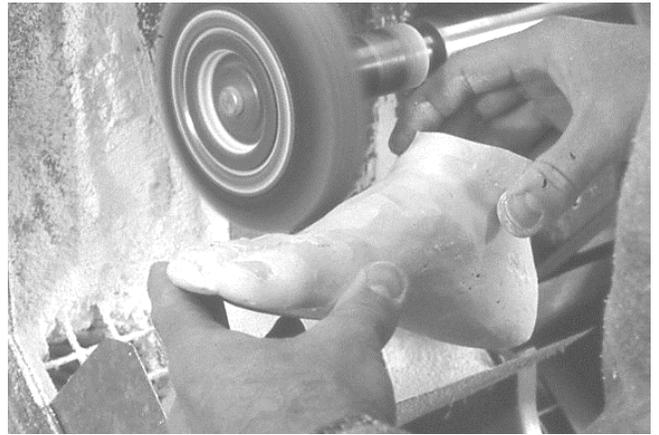
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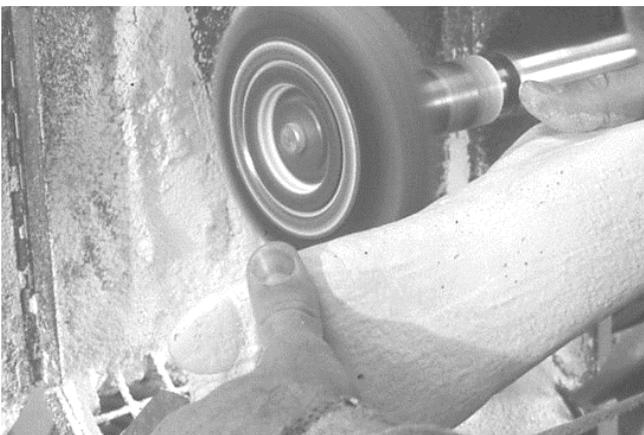
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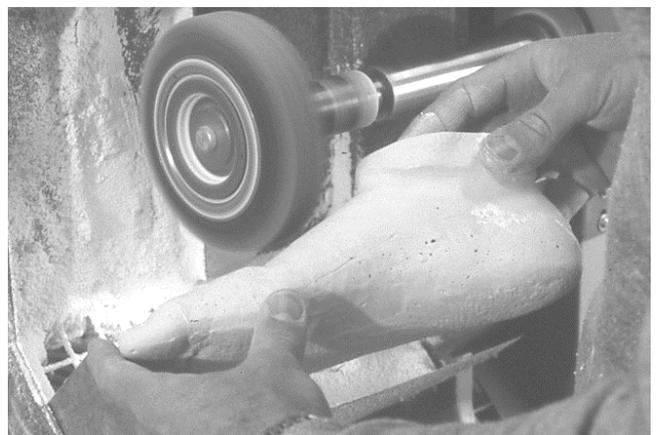
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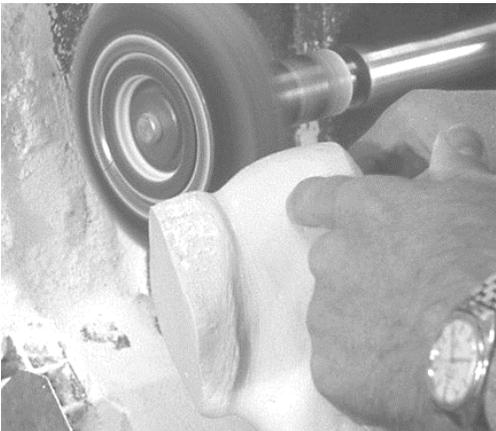
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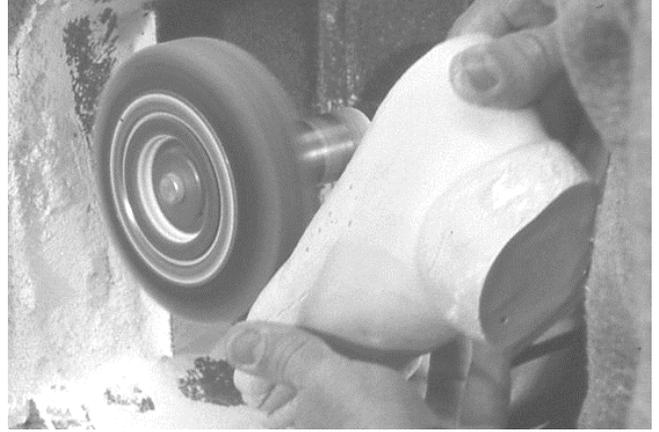
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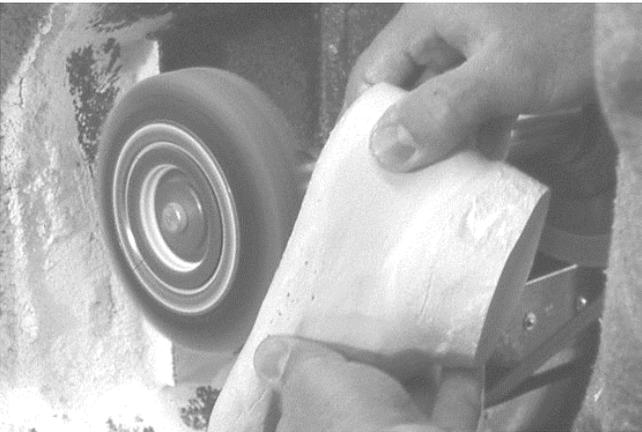
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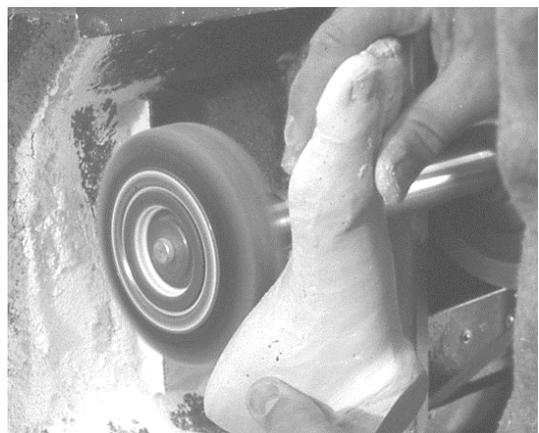
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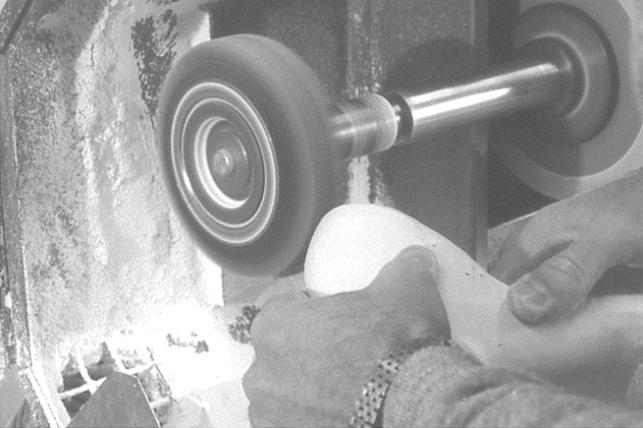
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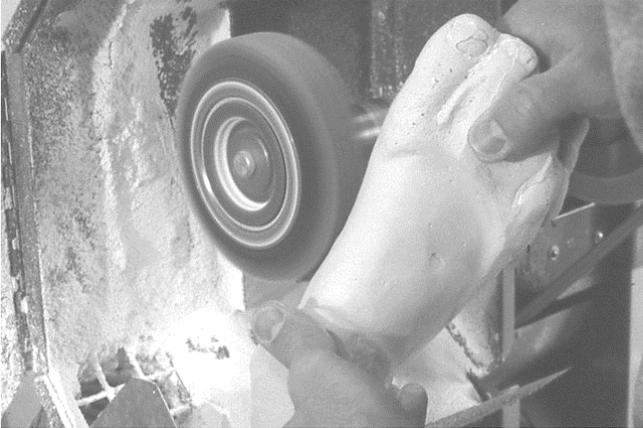
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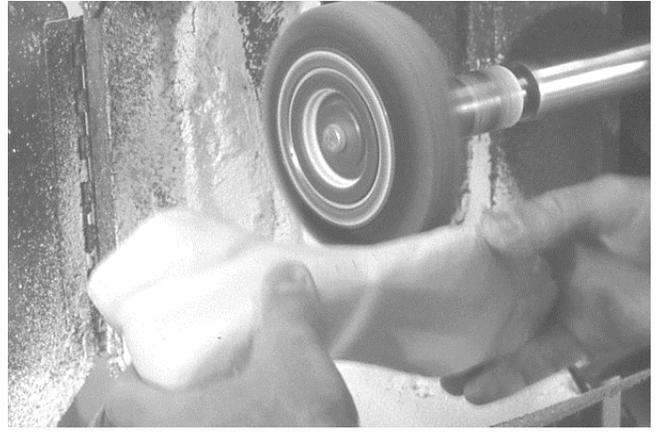
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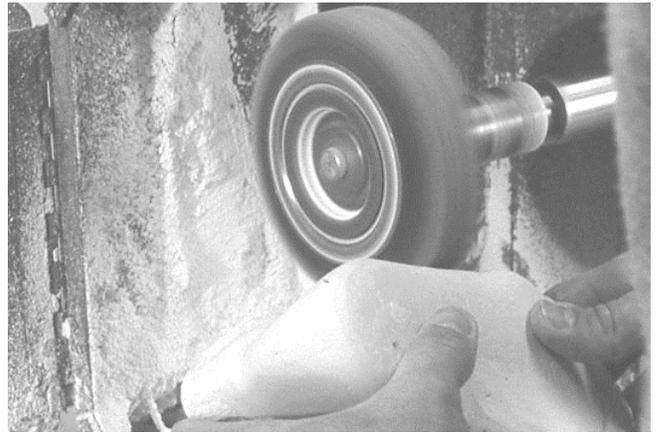
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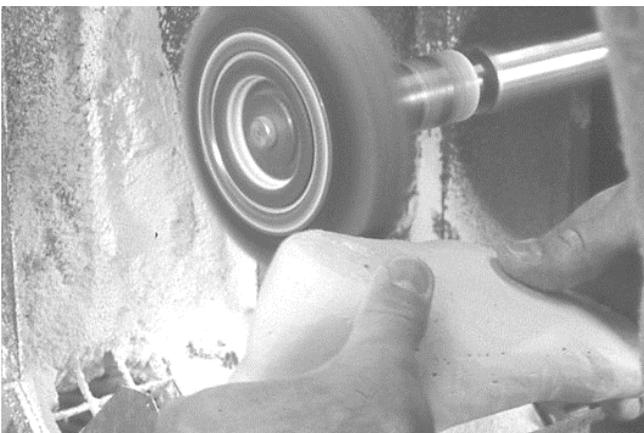
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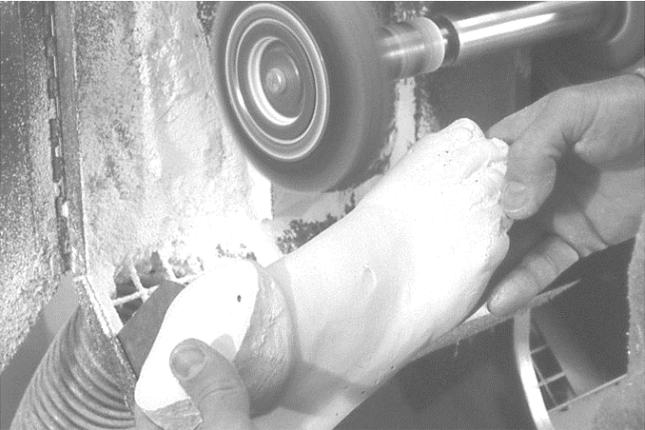
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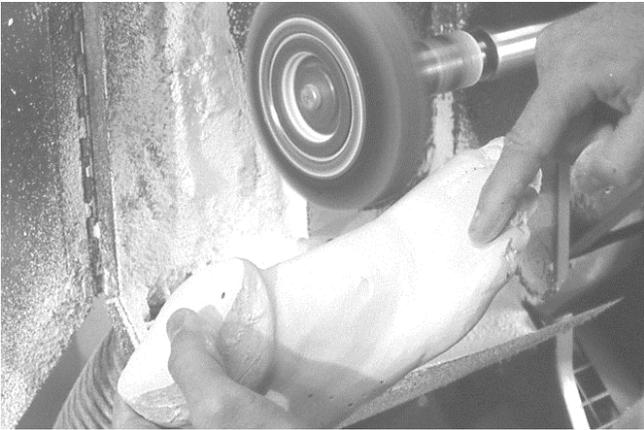
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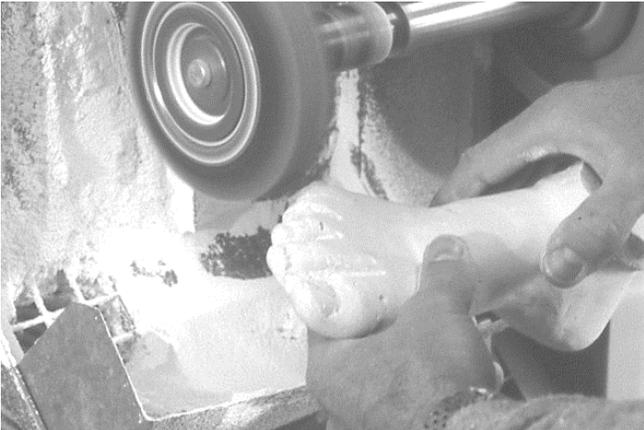
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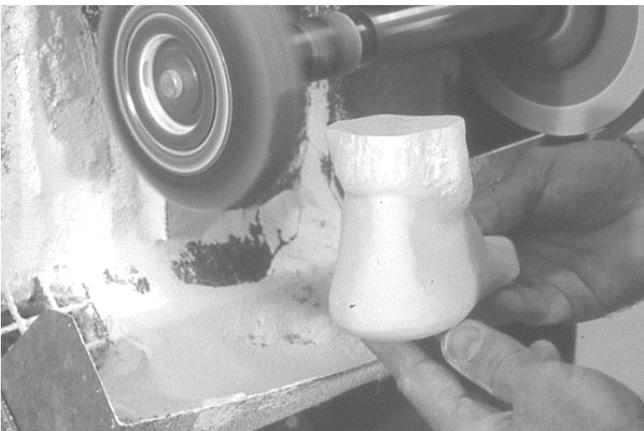
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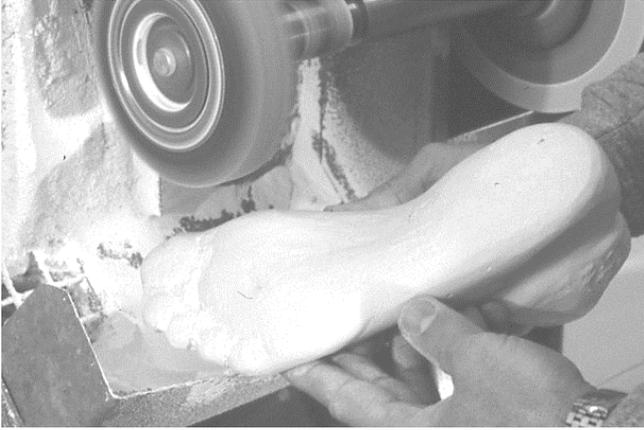
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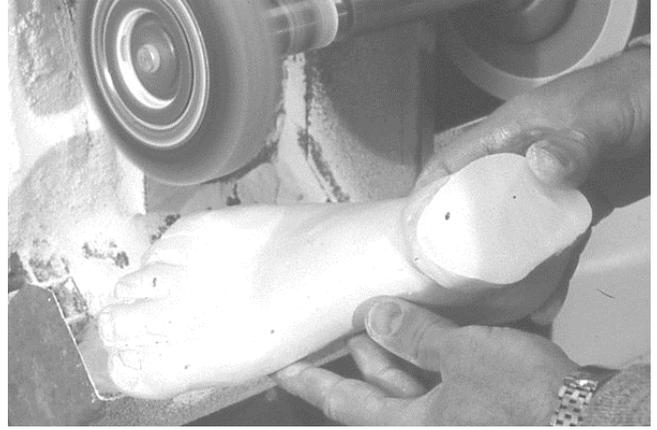
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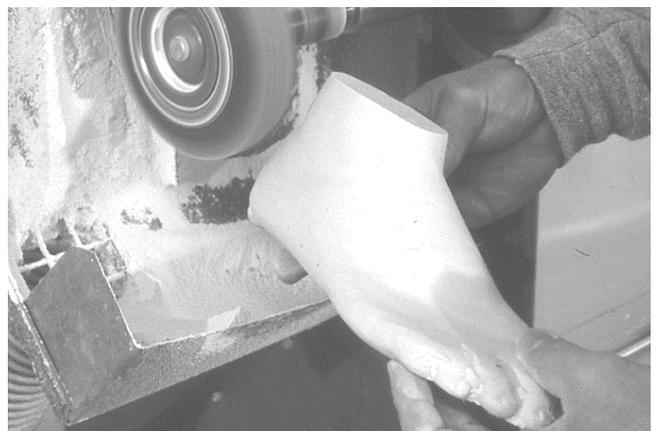
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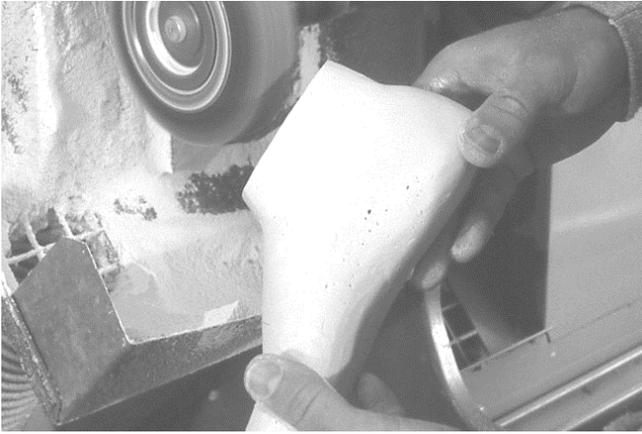
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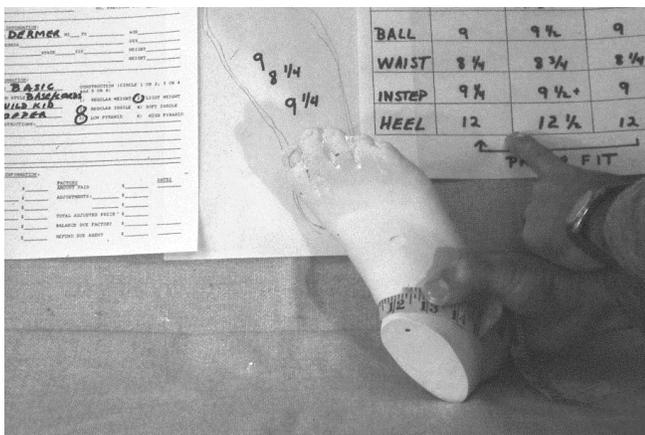
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76 This cast needs a center cut which is used to narrow a cast. Center cuts are usually applied for sandals because they have more cut outs and therefore, offer less support. The purpose of the center cut is to produce a tighter fit in width.



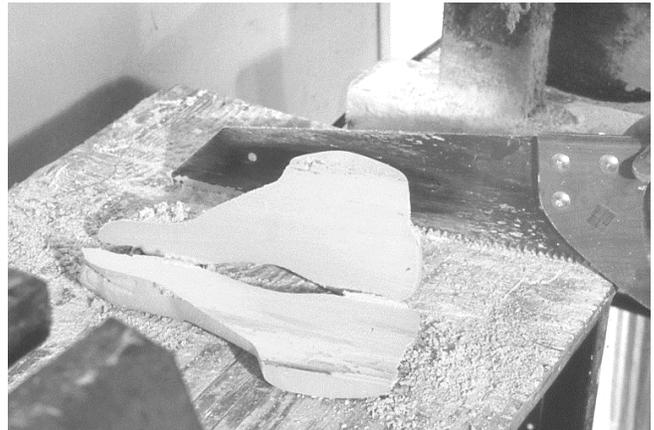
77 Center cuts can be used any time a narrower width is desired. Sometimes multiple center cuts can be used. The hand saw makes nice straight and even cuts.



78 Ditto.



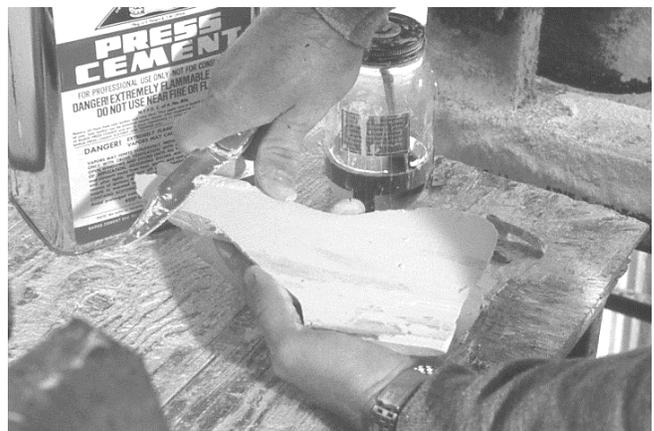
79 This center cut with a hand saw can be done before or after toe splints are applied.



80 The two halves.



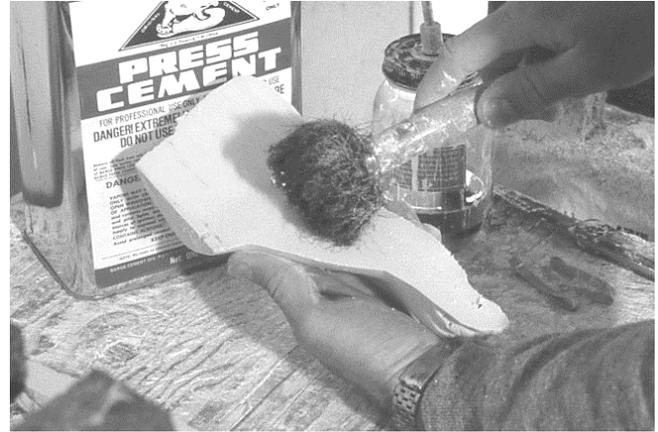
81 Scrape and clean with a knife.



82 Ditto.



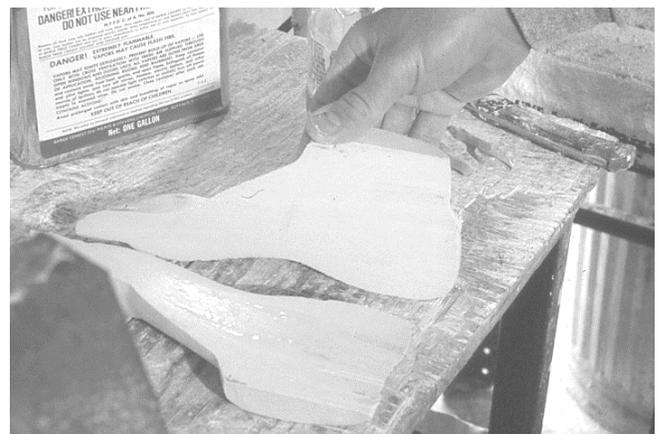
83 Ditto.



84 Brushing surface clean.



85 Applying Barge® Press Cement. Barge® Press Cement is no longer made. I now use a vinyl cement.



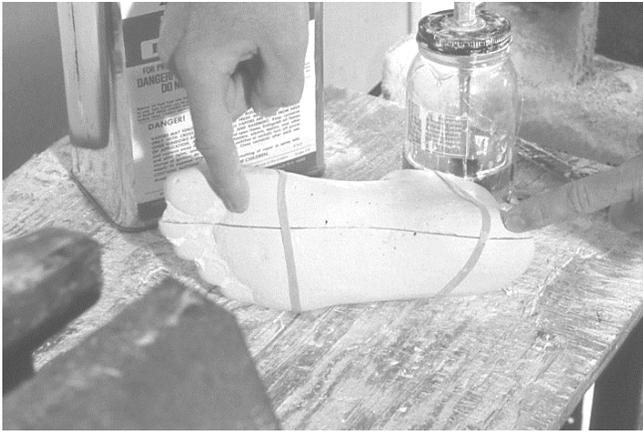
86 Both sides have had cement applied.



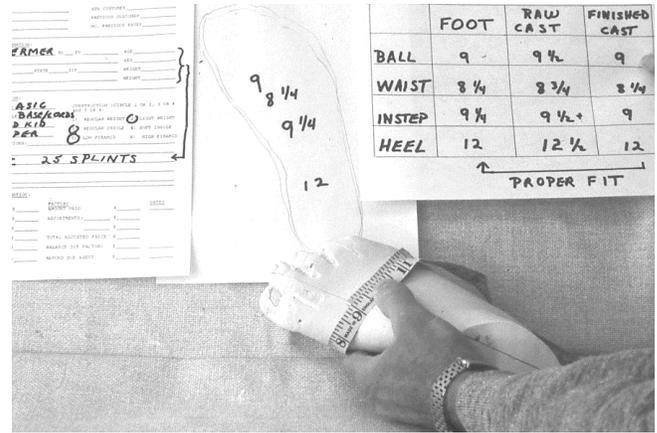
87 The two halves are put together.



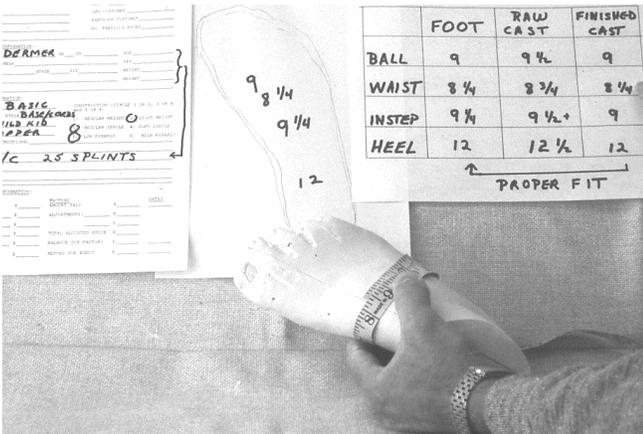
88 Put on rubber bands, align, press and hold about one minute.



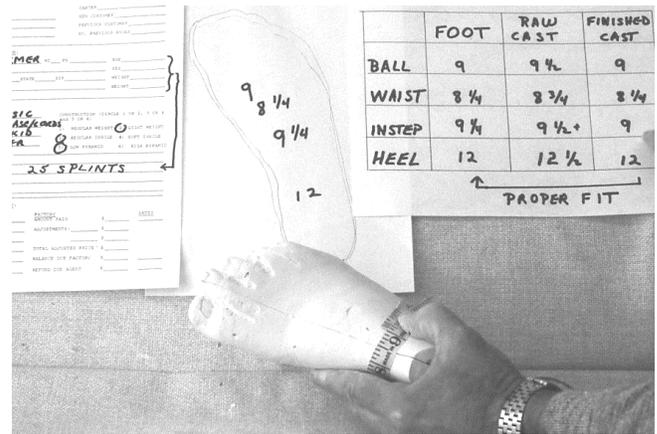
89 Recheck alignment!



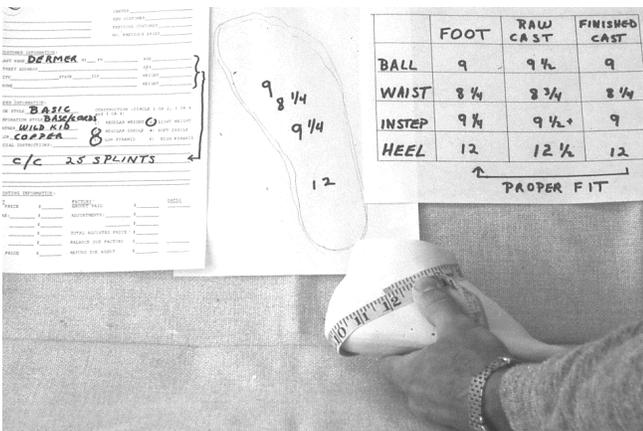
90 Checking measurements again should reveal the width of saw cut difference.



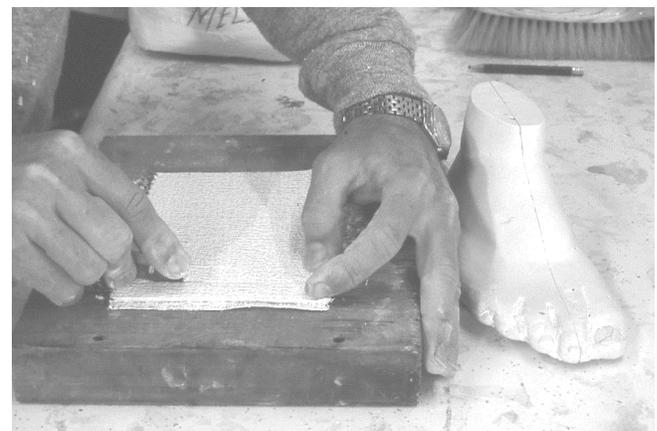
91 Ditto.



92 Ditto.



93 Ditto.



94 Cutting plaster splints with a single edge razor blade.



95 Ditto.



96 3, 4,5 or 6 layers of five plaster splints depending on how much additional toe room you wish to have inside of the shoe, boot or sandal.



97 Wetting the plaster strips.



98 Applying the plaster strips to the front of the toes.



99 Ditto.



100 Let them firm slightly for a few minutes.



101 Use a single edge razor blade to cut off excess.



102 Notice a little is cut off in front of the 4th and 5th toes with a nice taper.



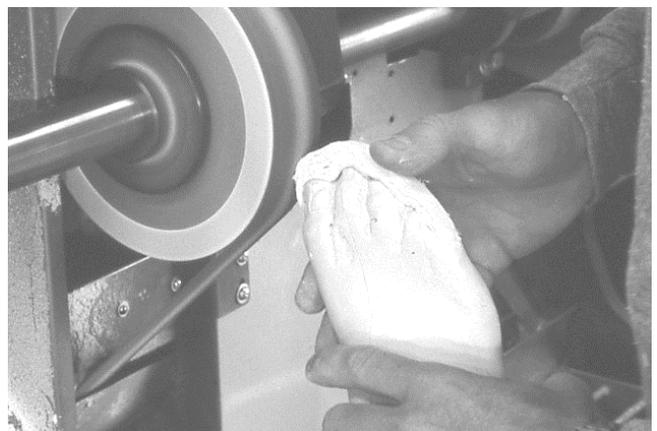
103 Notice how the big toe excess is cut off. It depends on the person and how you like to plaster.



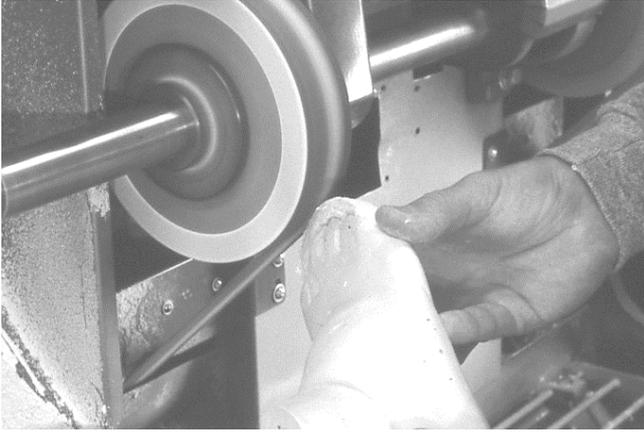
104 Sanding toe splints for a nice appearance



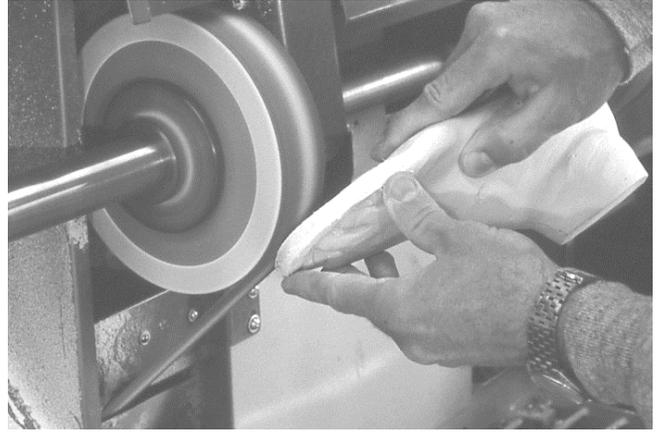
105 Ditto.



106 Ditto.



107 Ditto.



108 Ditto.



109 Adding plaster to water.



110 Mixing plaster and water.



111 Applying plaster to front of cast.



112 Ditto.



113 Ditto.



114 Ditto.



115 Wetting your fingers is fun. It is playtime for the artisans who are still kids.



116 Shaping and smoothing the plaster.



117 Ditto.



118 Applying plaster to the bottom.

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119 Shaping and smoothing.



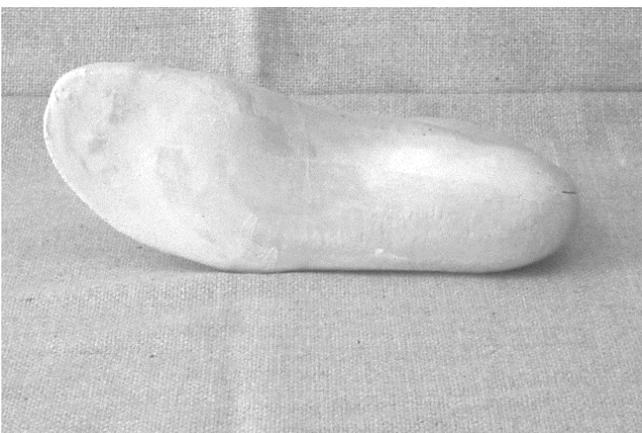
120 Filling the low spots. Making it nice. What you do here will be felt by the wearer. So, pay particular attention to the details on the bottom.



121 Filling in the center cut.



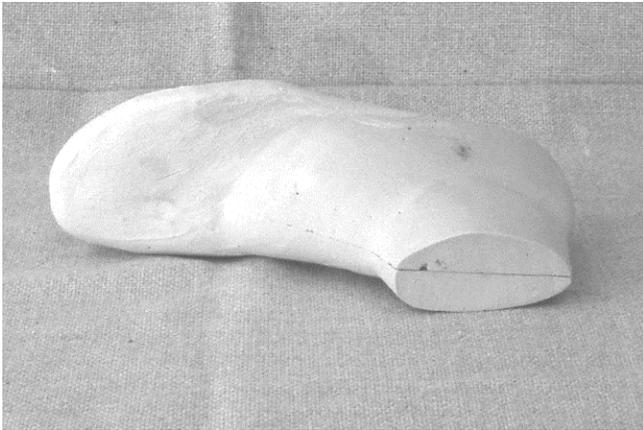
122 The finished "LAST"!



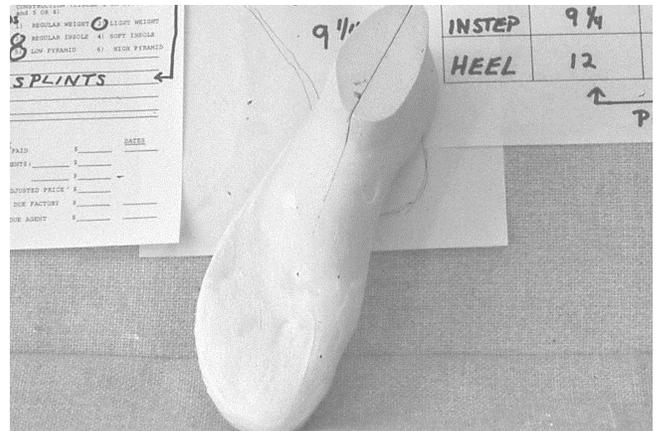
123 Observe. This is going to be the inside size and shape of the shoe or sandal.



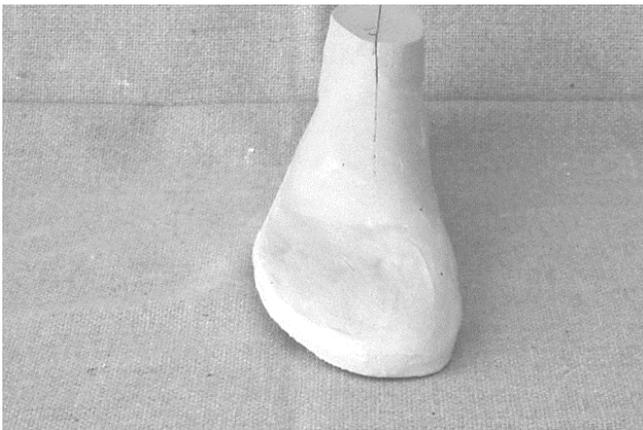
124 Ditto.



125 Ditto.



126 Ditto.



127 Ditto.



128 Ditto.

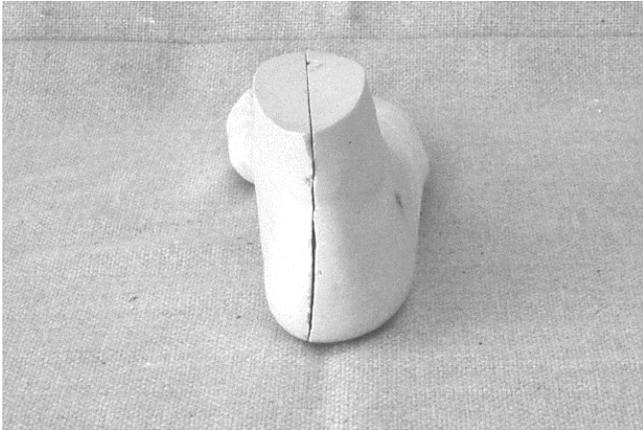


129 Ditto.

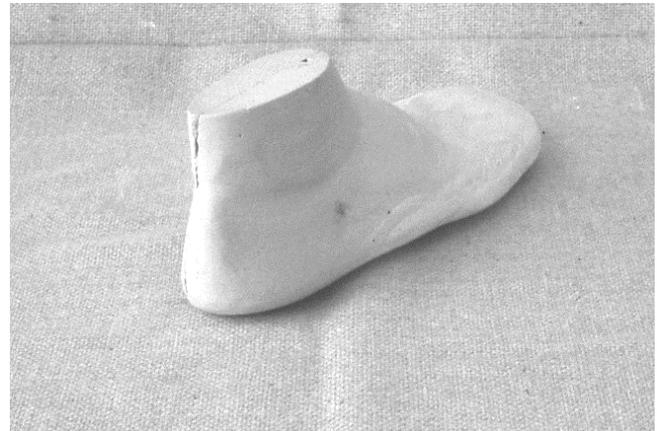


130 Ditto.

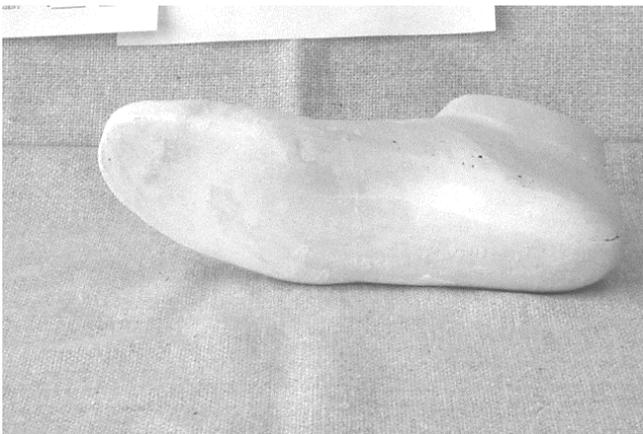
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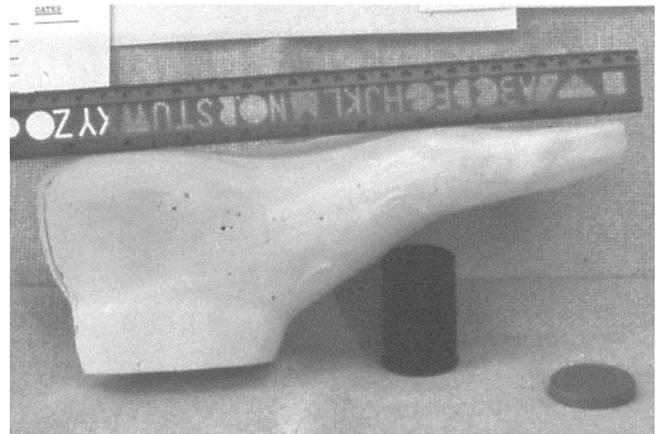
131 Ditto.



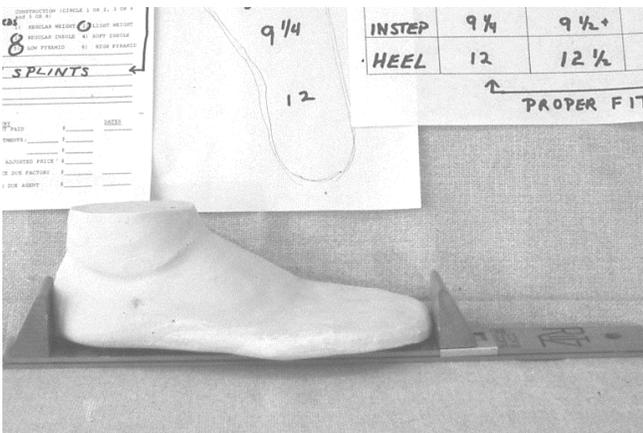
132 Ditto.



133 Ditto.



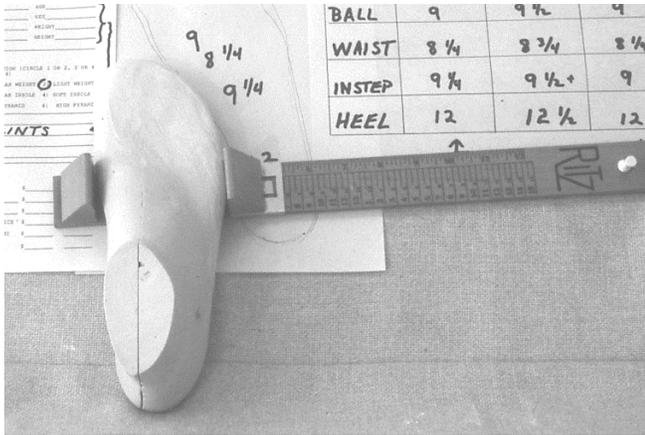
134 Look at the heel to ball angle and the ball to toe angle.



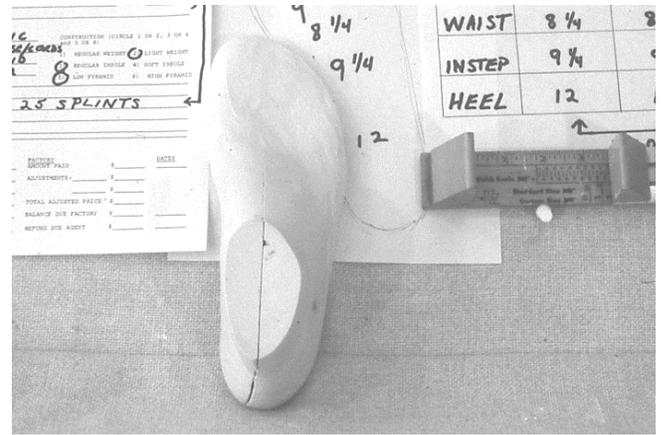
135 Checking the length.



136 Ditto.



137 Checking the width.



138 Ditto.

The pictures in this chapter are applicable to both shoes and sandals. Generally, the shoes would be made without a center cut. Sometimes the wearer of thin and tight hosiery necessitates a center cut for shoes.

Sandals would normally be made with a center cut.

The number of splints used in front of the toes may or may not be increased for sandals. Sandals generally need to be narrower for a better fit, because there is less material holding the foot in place.

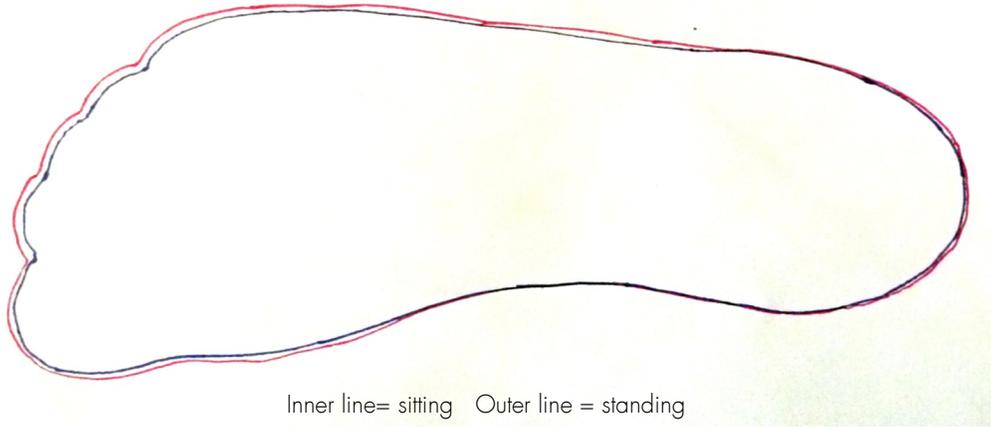
Again, I do not recommend the reliance on the wire brush wheel for shaping the whole cast without doing the hand saw cuts. The wire brush wheel is excellent for taking away cast imperfections of plaster, general smoothing and shaving in specific areas like under the ankle, around back of heel, over metatarsals to toe joints or under the arch, when used lightly.

The markings of an indelible pencil or regular pencil, done before any specific procedure, are really an essential aid to helping the artisan and/or craftsperson.

Be not afraid to use a little liberty to match left and right shoes, boots and sandals whenever it is possible. Just don't compromise the comfort, fit or the gait of the wearer when you do so.

ORIGINAL CAST CUTTING MODIFICATIONSS FOR SANDALS

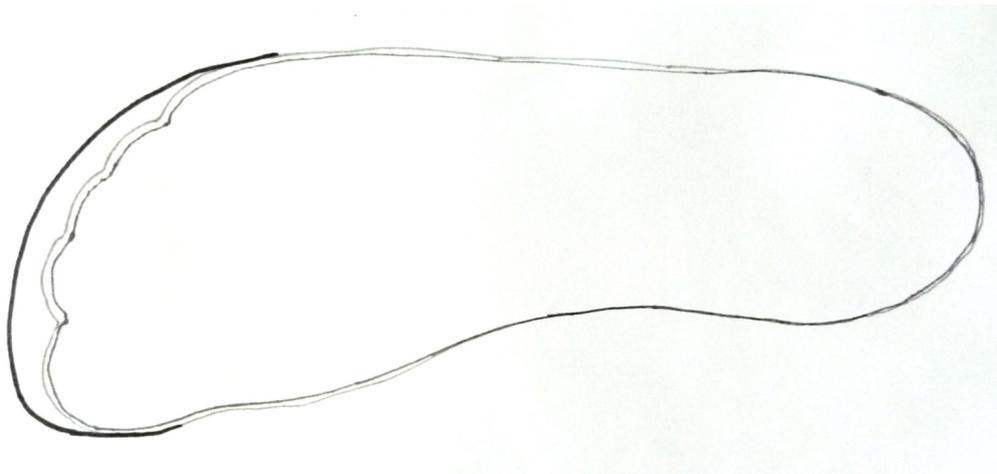
Elongation Drawing



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 ORIGINAL CAST CUTTING MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

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 craftsperson 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 Wheel Shaping and Modification for a Sandal

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	No cuts				
CUTS FEMALE	Center cut				
SPLINTS	25 to 30 Splints and application of plaster				
FINISHED LAST MALE	8 5/8+	8 3/8+	8 5/8+	12 1/8+	9 5/8
FINISHED LAST FEMALE	8 3/4	8 1/4	8 3/4	12	9 5/8