

	IMP-PM 9.0 Footwear Tread Design Searches	
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	<i>Document Manager: Cheryl Lozen</i>	<i>Approved By: Jeffrey Nye</i>

9.0 Footwear Tread Design Searches

9.1 Introduction

Questioned tread designs can be searched in an attempt to determine the make and model of footwear that made the impression.

The results of a make and model search are provided to an agency as an investigative lead.

Because multiple footwear manufacturers may use similar tread designs/elements on their footwear, the report should include a statement informing the agency that they should not limit their search to only the footwear listed in the report (results from the make/model search).

9.2 Shoeprint Image Capture and Retrieval (SICAR) software and SOLEMATE database

SICAR sold by the company Foster & Freeman is a computer software program that can be used to perform searches of a database of known footwear (SOLEMATE) and other outsoles input by laboratory personnel.

The tread elements of a questioned impression are 'coded' according to their location on the footwear, and using a set shape icons. Once a questioned impression is coded, a search can be performed.

The search results are provided as a candidate list of possible outsole designs. The top results in the candidate list are reviewed by the examiner. If the search provides a possible make/model a report can be generated that includes the manufacturer's name, model names and photographs of the outsole and upper.

Instruction in the use and application of this software is contained in the SICAR User Manual located in the software of SICAR.

The User Manual contains guidance in the following areas:

SECTION 1: SYSTEM OVERVIEW
SECTION 2: DATABASES
SECTION 3: SHOE AND TYRE/PRINT RECORDS
SECTION 4: RUNNING SICAR
SECTION 5: CREATING AND EDITING RECORDS
SECTION 6: CODING
SECTION 7: SEARCHING
SECTION 8: LINKING RECORDS
SECTION 9: MANIPULATING RECORDS

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SECTION 10:OUTPUT

9.3 Internet Searches

In addition to using SICAR an internet search may be performed.

The following websites are examples of those which contain images of both uppers and outsoles:

www.pickyourshoes.com
 www.zappos.com
 www.drjays.com

When possible the results of an internet search should be confirmed using the manufacturer's website.

9.4 Other Options

9.4.1 European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)

The "expert working group marks" portion of ENFSI has a 'wanted' page where examiners can post photographs of questioned footwear impressions.

If anybody recognizes the tread design they will e-mail you the make/model name, then you can confirm the similarity.

To post a questioned impression to the website e-mail: wanted@krp.poliisi.fi

The wanted page website is located at:

<http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/hankkeet/wgm/home.nsf/pages/5D2BE2412FBECBE1C2256C8E00429A6F?opendocument >

The examiner must verify the information/images in the responses from the wanted post.

9.4.2 SWGTREAD (Scientific Working Group for Shoeprint and Tire Tread Evidence) Forum

Tread Typer is a discussion board on the SWGTREAD Forum.

It is designed to assist examiners with make/model determinations of questioned footwear and tire impressions.

This is similar above resource (ENFSI Expert Working Group Marks wanted page).

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To access/post to Tread Typer the examiner must be logged onto the SWGTREAD Forum www.swgtread.org

The examiner must verify the information/images in the forum response.

9.4.3 Visiting Shoe Stores

The examiner may visit shoe stores in an attempt to determine the make/model of the questioned footwear.