

FOOTWEAR DESIGN

P O R T F O L I O 2025.

YIQIAO LI

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Manyou Float Culture & Creativity** **Graphic Design Assistant**

Digital Cultural Creative Development  
Jun – Sep 2021 Chongqing, China

### **Fengzhu Footwear Development** **Footwear Designer Assistant**

Product Engineering  
Aug 2022 – May 2023 Fujian, China

## AZURE INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY

### **3D Footwear Designer**

Footwear Design & 3D Modeling  
Jul – Dec 2025 Shanghai, China

### **Trinity Cineasia**

### **Graphic Designer, part-time**

Poster Design  
2023 – now London

Linkedin: Yiqiao Li  
Behance: Yiqiao Lee  
Instagram : yiqiao\_lee

## EDUCATION

### **School of Art & Design,** **Tsinghua University**

BA-Product Design  
2020-2024, Beijing

### **London College of Fashion** **University of the Arts London**

MA Footwear (FT)  
2024-2025, London

## PROFICIENCIES

Adobe InDesign  
Adobe Photoshop  
Adobe Illustrator  
Rhinceros

Technical Specifications  
Manual Illustration  
3D Modeling & Rendering

Email:  
chestnut.w.zee@gmail.com  
y.li.03202424@arts.ac.uk

## LANGUAGE

English  
Mandarin

Grasshopper  
ZBrush  
KeyShot  
Blender

Patternmaking & Sewing  
Sample making  
Marketing Research

Phone:  
+44 7947045332  
+86 15310996292



Photography by Dave Krugman  
Individuals moving through the city like formatted programs, shaped by routine.



Crowded Train Carriage  
Exit Signage at Liverpool Street Station  
London Underground



Photography by René Burri  
Bodies moving through structured space, blurred into routine and repetition.

# RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- Extreme commuting
- Longer working hours
- Transparent, surveilled workplaces
- Structured urban spaces discipline human behavior
- Information overload
- Sensory Disconnection in the Age of Technology



The crowd queuing at the ticket gates during the evening rush hour at Liverpool Street Station.

In highly structured cities such as London, Beijing, and Tokyo, an increasing number of urban workers are gradually losing touch with their bodily awareness. This phenomenon, referred to as attenuated bodily awareness, is reflected not only in dulled senses and automated behaviors, but also in lifestyles shaped by systems, routines, and spatial constraints. Fixed commuting routes, enclosed office environments, and repetitive daily schedules have turned the body from an active perceptual agent into a passive tool of execution.

## Psychological Dissociation

In increasingly standardized and automated urban life, many young professionals are gradually losing their active sensory engagement with the environment. The body becomes reduced to a functional tool, operating in sync with social rhythms. As individuals grow accustomed to ignoring internal signals, such as fatigue or postural shifts, their sensitivity diminishes, often leading to perceptual dulling or mild dissociation (Sennett, 1994; Shusterman, 2008). Individuals experiencing attenuated bodily awareness are typically urban knowledge workers aged between 20 and 45, concentrated in highly structured metropolitan areas.



Photography by Meanwhile IN Nowhere(Marcus Wallinder)  
Urban Dissociation: When routine turns the body into a passenger.



Photography by Meanwhile IN Nowhere(Marcus Wallinder)  
Urban Dissociation: When routine turns the body into a passenger.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How does highly structured urban and social life lead to a loss of bodily perception and dissociation? What kinds of habitual bodily rhythms and sensory numbing must be disrupted to heighten body awareness?
- How can footwear reawaken body awareness in everyday postures like walking, standing or sitting through discomfort, playfulness and tactility?
- In what ways might disruptive experience foster embodied presence in users?



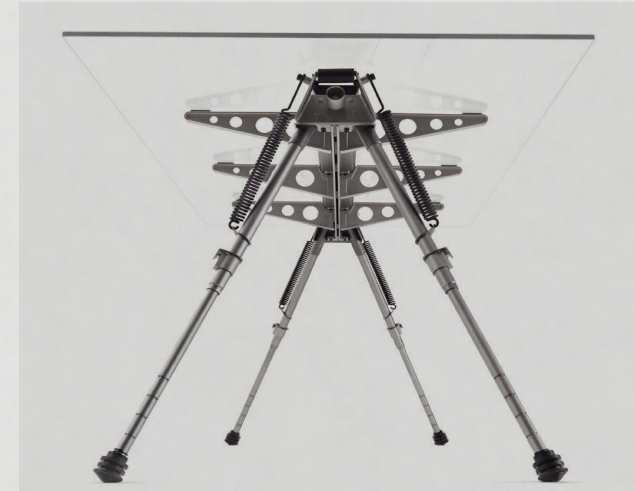




Lloyds Building, London, Richard Rogers, 1986.

# HIGH-TECH ARCHITECTURE

London's high-tech architecture emphasizes technology and structure, often exposing components such as steel beams, pipes, and elevators. It extensively employs industrial materials like steel, glass, and aluminum, highlighting modularity and prefabrication.



Bipod table, Dai Sugawara.



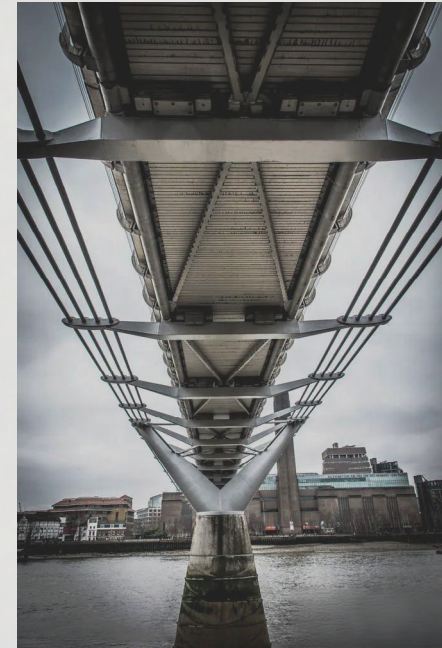
Nomos, Norman Foster.



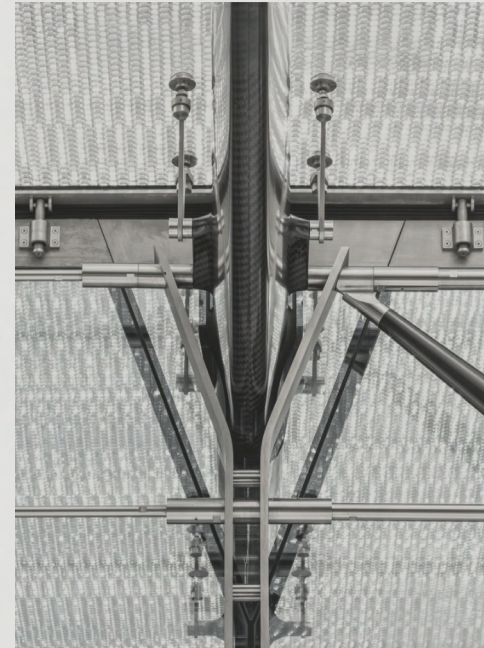
Chul-02 Cone Stool, Sukchulmok.



SHAPED, Hongxi Li, London (2022)

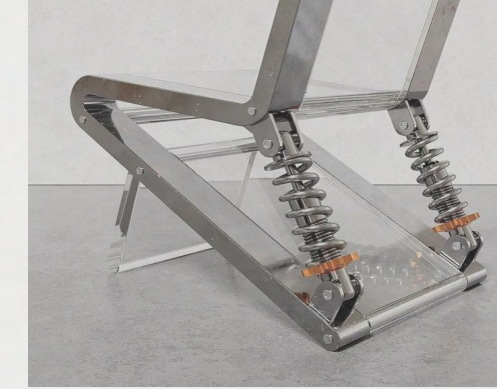


Millennium Bridge, London, Norman Foster, 2000.

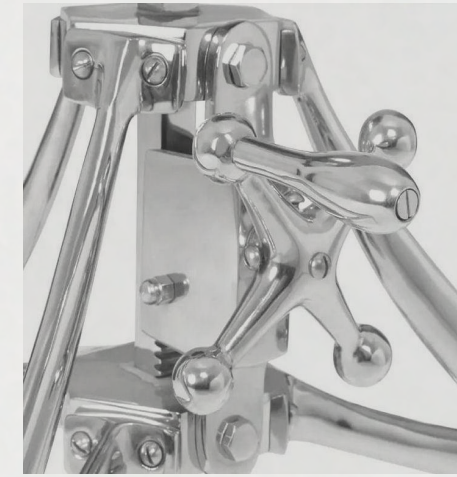


The Berkeley Hotel entrance, London, Richard Rogers, 2016

Inspired by its rational and austere aesthetic, this collection incorporates and reveals metallic and mechanical elements, enabling the wearer to better blend into London's urban landscape.



Exoskeletal bracing system, London, Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners. Sample Chair 0012, Muddycap.



A techno-urban aesthetic combining minimal silhouettes with high-tech architectural mechanics.



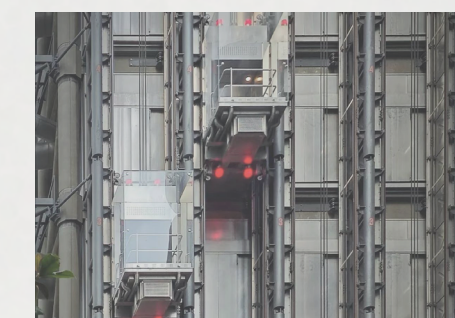
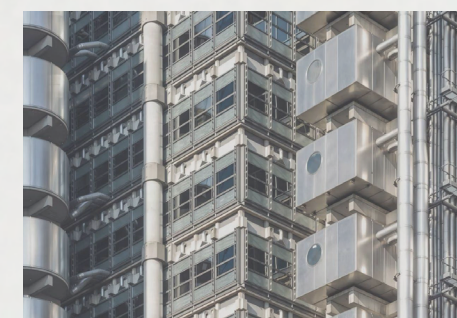
A visual study of how rigid urban structures shape and restrict the body.



Le peintre de la tour Eiffel - Paris 1953.



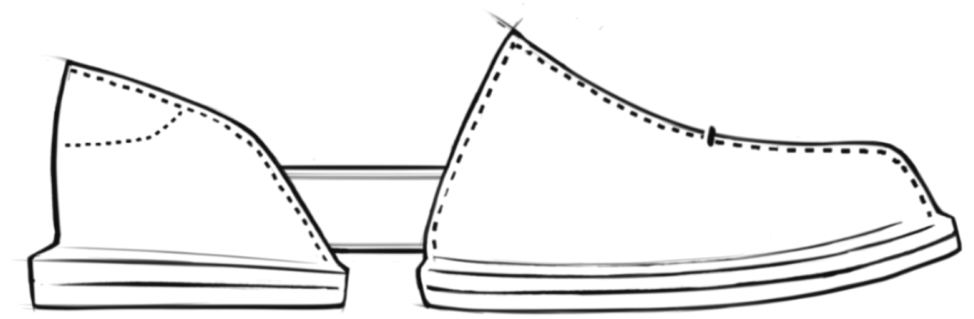
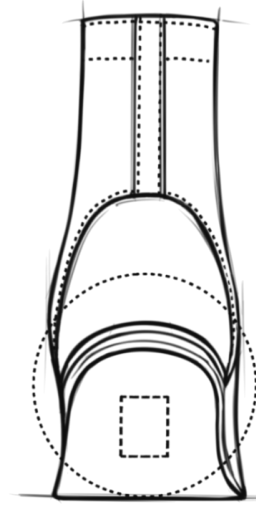
A depiction of bodily automation and disengagement within structured urban environments.



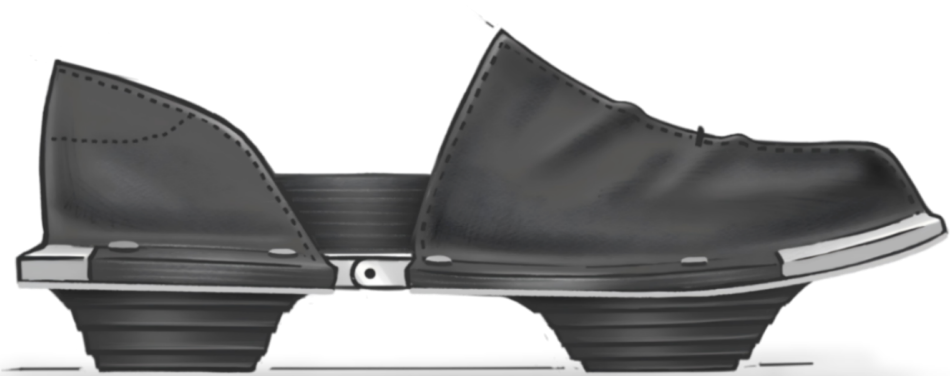
THE METAL PLATFORM IS CONSTRUCTED FROM ALUMINUM AND PLATES. DIRECTIONAL BEARING, SCREWS, NUTS AND SHIFTS.

UPPER DESIGN, THE MECHANICAL DEVICES FUNCTION LIKE STAPLETS.

HEEL PULL



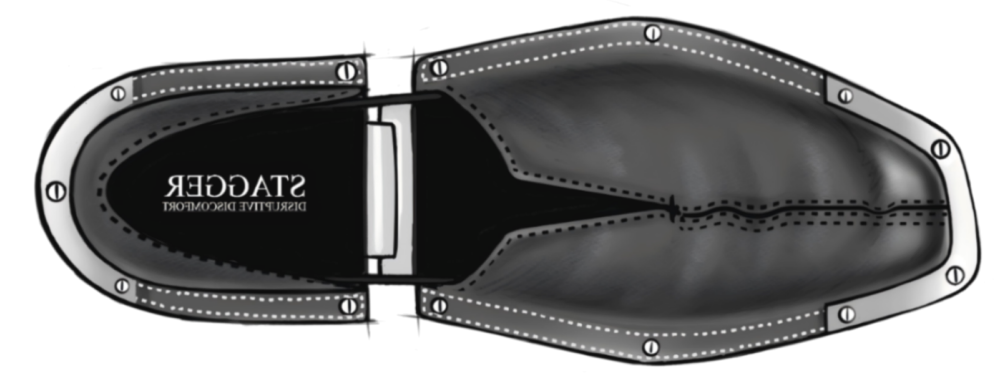
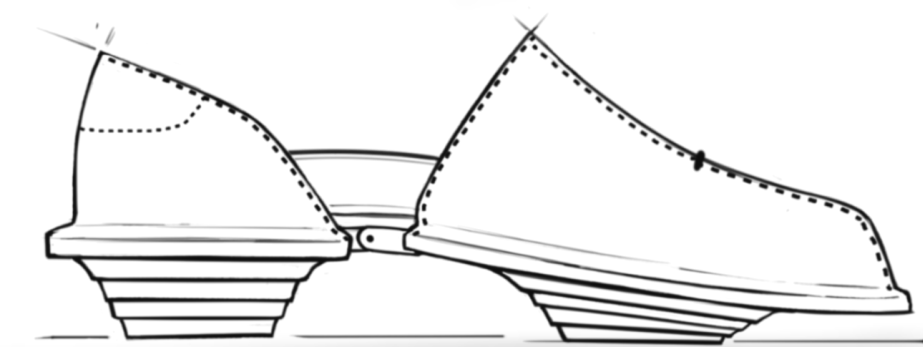
WORKING GLETS



THE HEEL IS CONSTRUCTED USING ALUMINUM BUSH, BEARING AND SPIND.

THE REAR PART OF THE SOLE IS CUT AWAY, ALLOWING THE

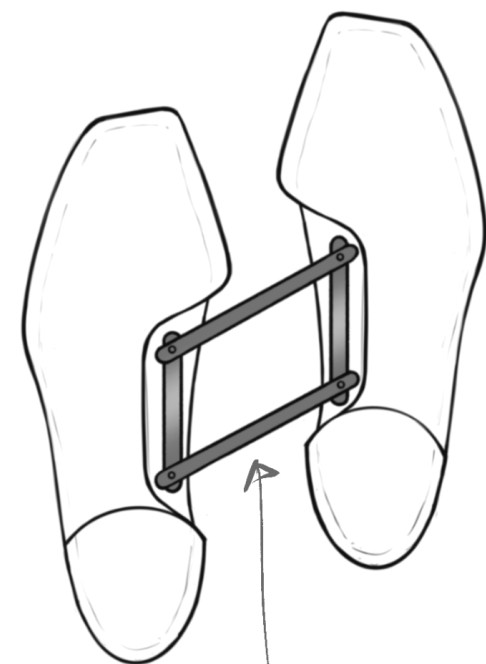
HEEL TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PAVED SURF.



USING A GENTLE FOOT-LINE SYSTEM TO NATURALLY SLOW STEPS.

# IDEATION SKETCHES

METAL TOE



CONNECTED

SEPARATE SOLE



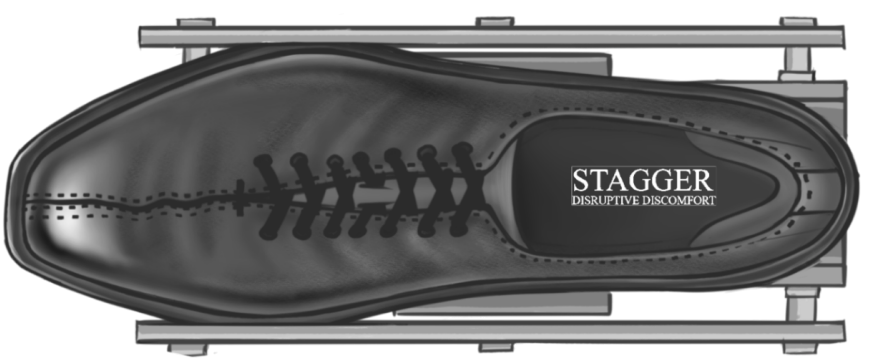
LEFT ONE



DESIGN STEPPER

METAL DEVICES ARE PLACED IN THE FOREFOOT AND HEEL OF EACH SHOE. SPECIAL AN ASYMMETRICAL WALKING EXPERIENCE.

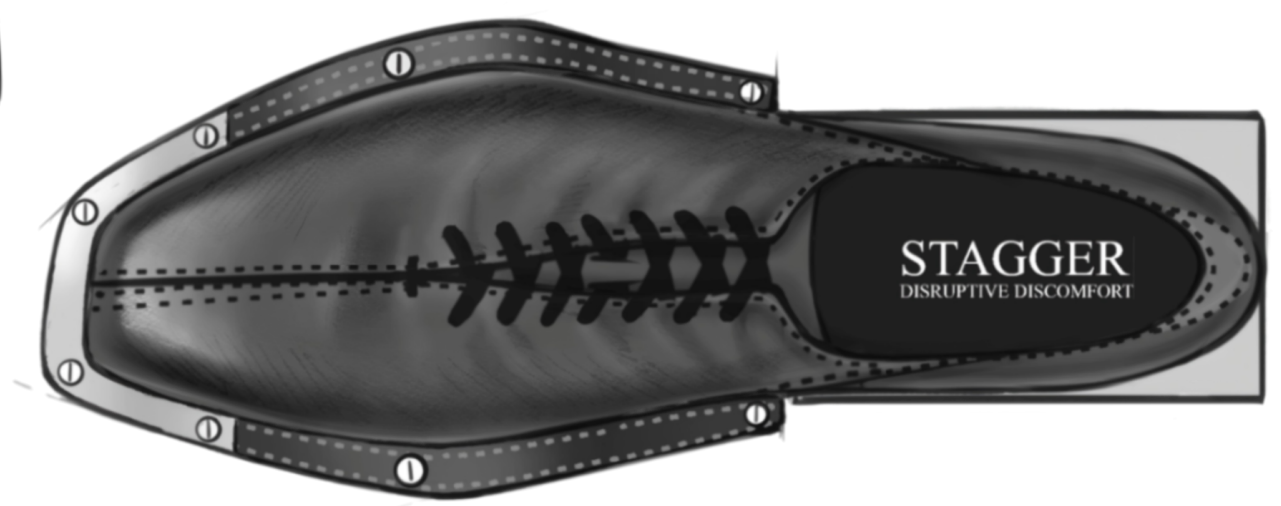
RIGHT ONE



THE METAL PLATFORM IS CONSTRUCTED FROM ALUMINUM AND PLATES. DIRECTIONAL BEARING, SCREWS, NUTS AND SHIFTS.



FEATURING AN ASYMMETRICAL UPPER DESIGN, THE MECHANICAL DEVICES FUNCTION LIKE STAPLETS.



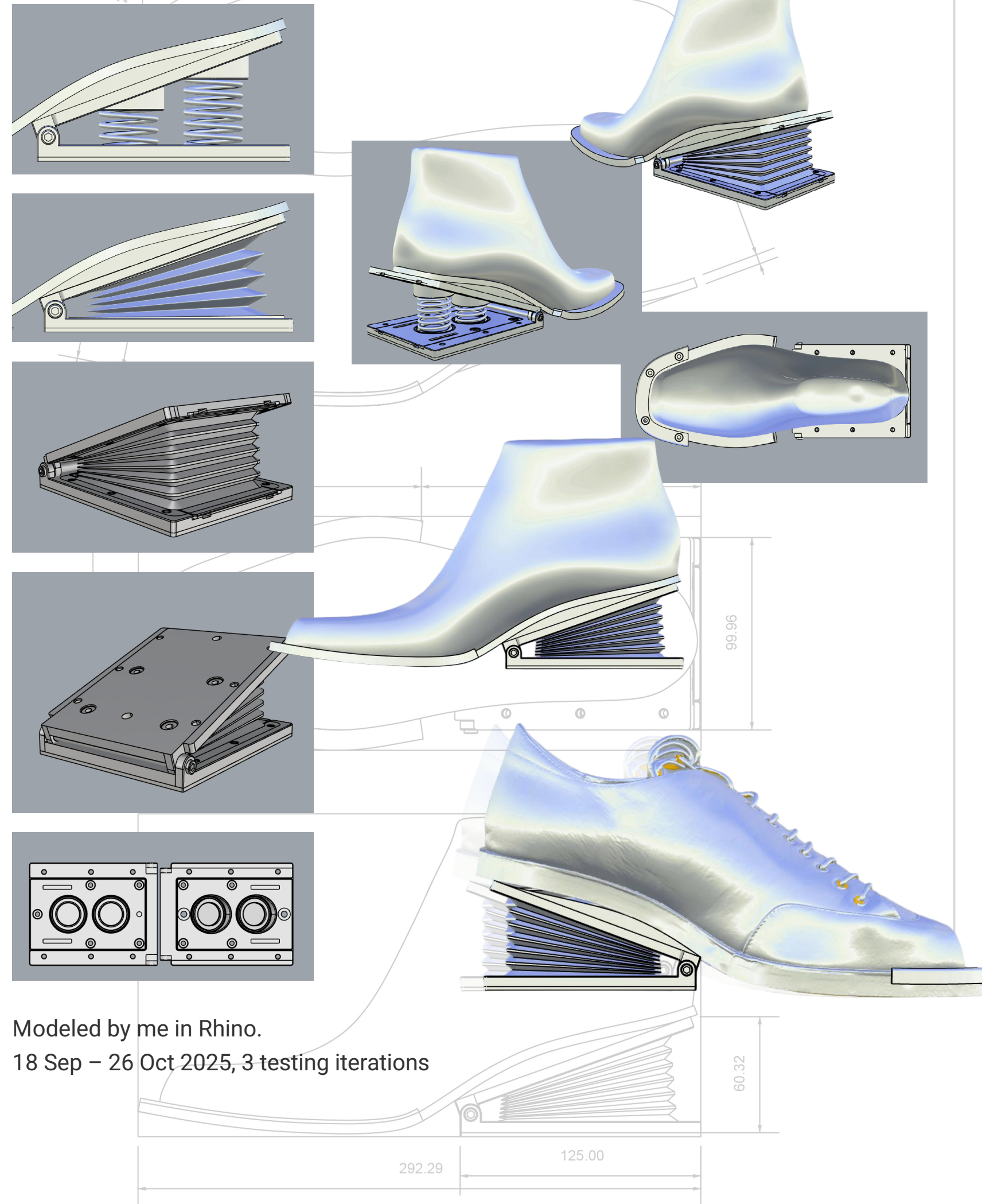
HEEL PULL

WORKING GLETS

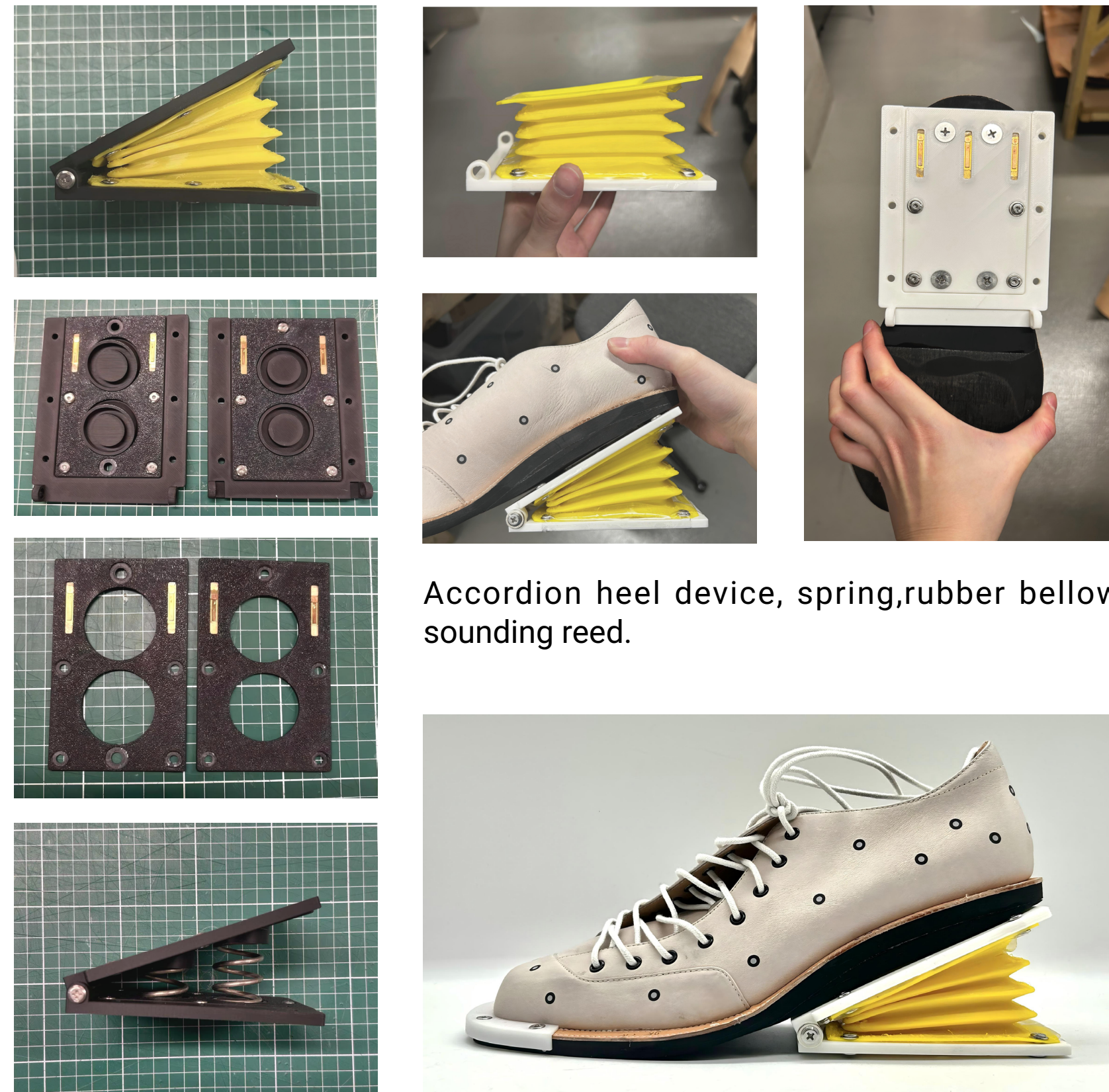
# MECHANICAL SYSTEM EXPERIMENTS

## 3D modeling and Digital Prototypes

SINGLE PIN PIVOT HINGE SYSTEM



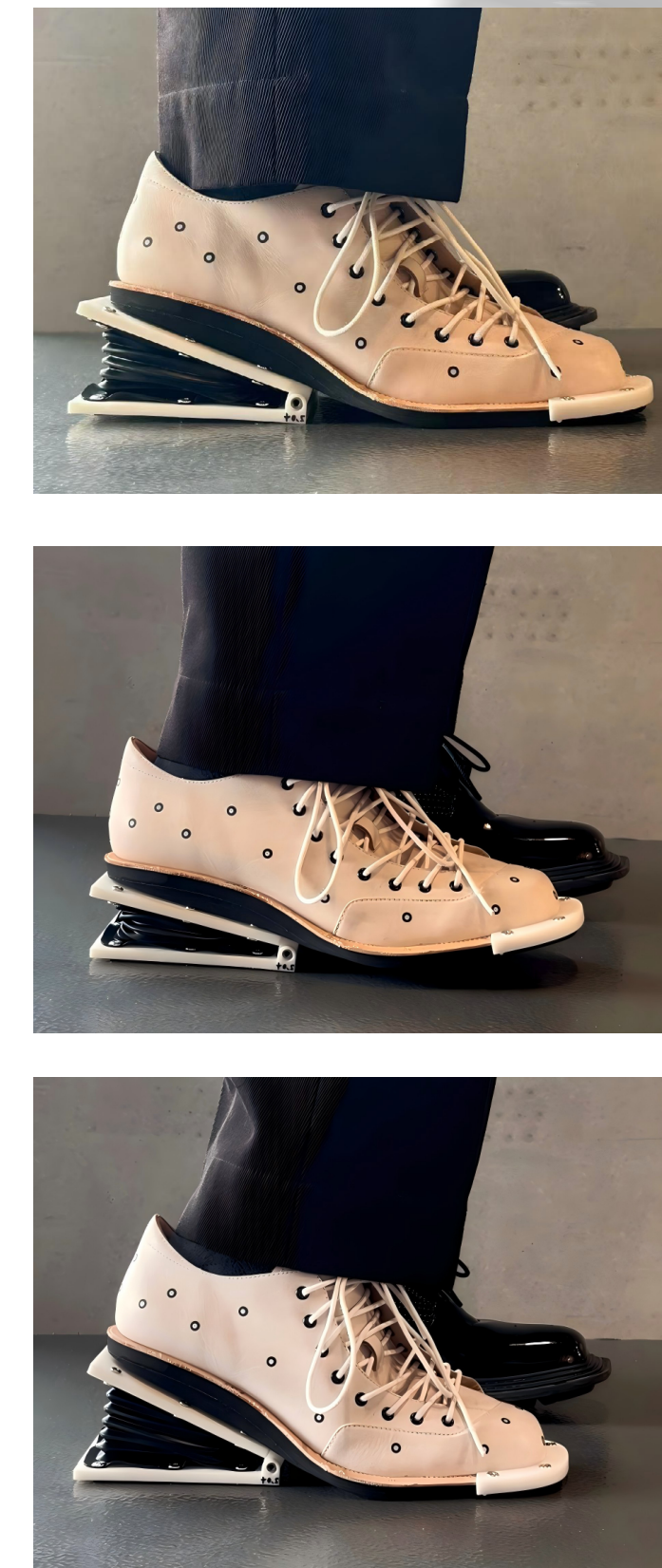
## Physical Heel Prototypes



Accordion heel device, spring, rubber bellow, sounding reed.

**Heel prototype components:**  
3D-printed parts, rubber, springs, sounding reed, locking screws, self-tapping screws.

## Accordion heel compression sound test



**Conclusion:** Through testing, I found that the angled heel achieves better compression performance without the spring.

# MOCK UP ON LASTS



**Prototype 1**  
Make a simple mock-up to test the midsole patterns.

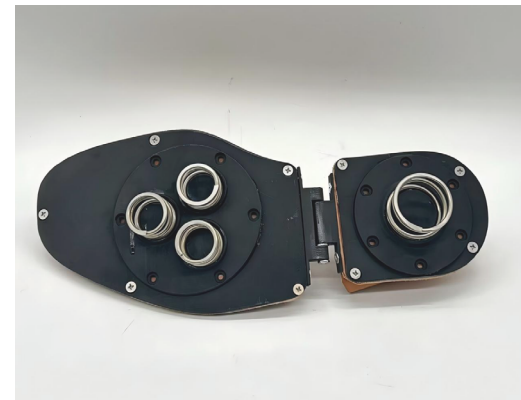


Mock-up shoes on model



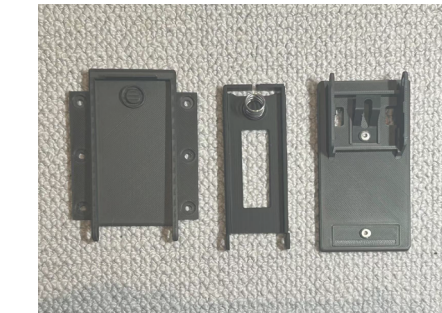
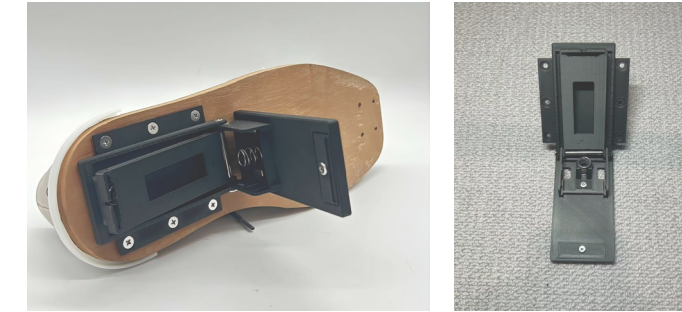
**Prototype 2**  
Sample shoes made by me

The model shifted their weight back and forth between the forefoot and heel to test the shoe's flexibility and stability.

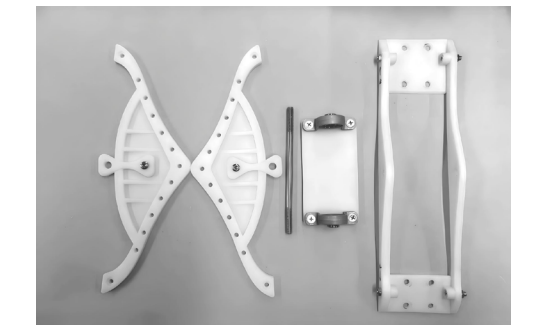


**Heel prototype components:**  
3D-printed parts, rubber, metal shaft, 8 springs, self-tapping screws.

It relies on the separated forefoot-heel design and a 3 mm thick spring at the bottom to create a wobbly, unstable underfoot feeling.



**Prototype 3**  
The mechanical device on the left shoe is installed at the heel, while the one on the right shoe is installed at the forefoot.



**Prototype 4**  
Mount the shoes onto a seesaw-like platform device.

# TECHNICAL DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATION SHEETS

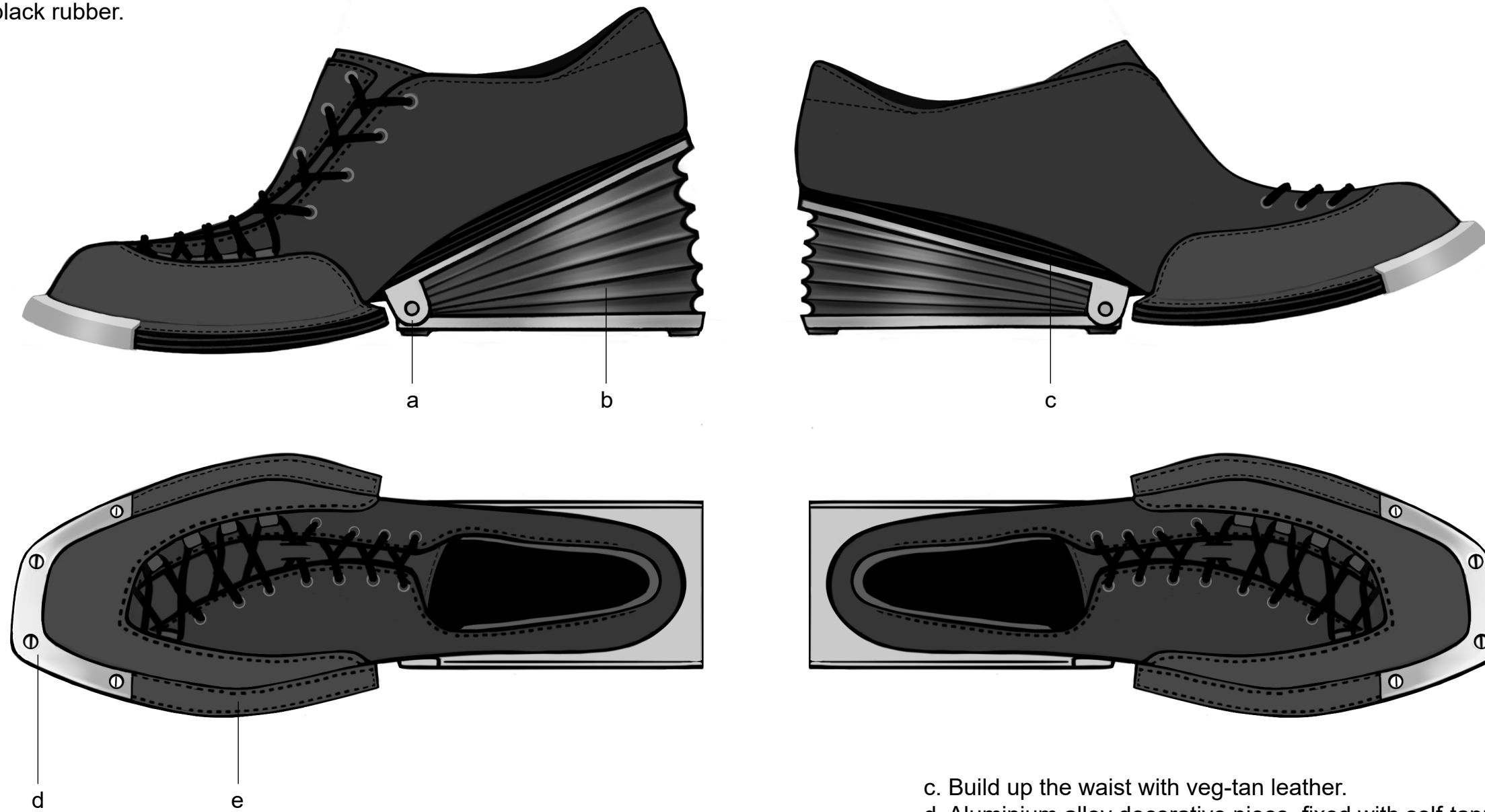
STAGGER SPEC SHEET					
Date	06-09-2025	Product Name	ECHO HEEL	Insole	STAR HONGYE
Deadline	15-11-2025	Product Number	STAGGER I	Thread	Nylon 60 Black
Designer	Yiqiao Li	Sample Size	EU 42.5 / UK 8-8.5	Finish	Folded edges
Maker	Migaloo	Last Model	Custom Last I (Heel 6)	Eyelet	Ø3 mm - Silver

- a. Aluminium alloy component with built-in sound reed; connected using optical shafts, locking screws, and self-tapping screws.
- b. Compression bellows in black rubber.

**PANTONE**  
Black C  
C: 0 M: 0 Y: 0 K: 100

**PANTONE**  
447 C  
C: 15 M: 0 Y: 27 K: 83

**PANTONE**  
877 C  
C: 9 M: 6 Y: 5 K: 0

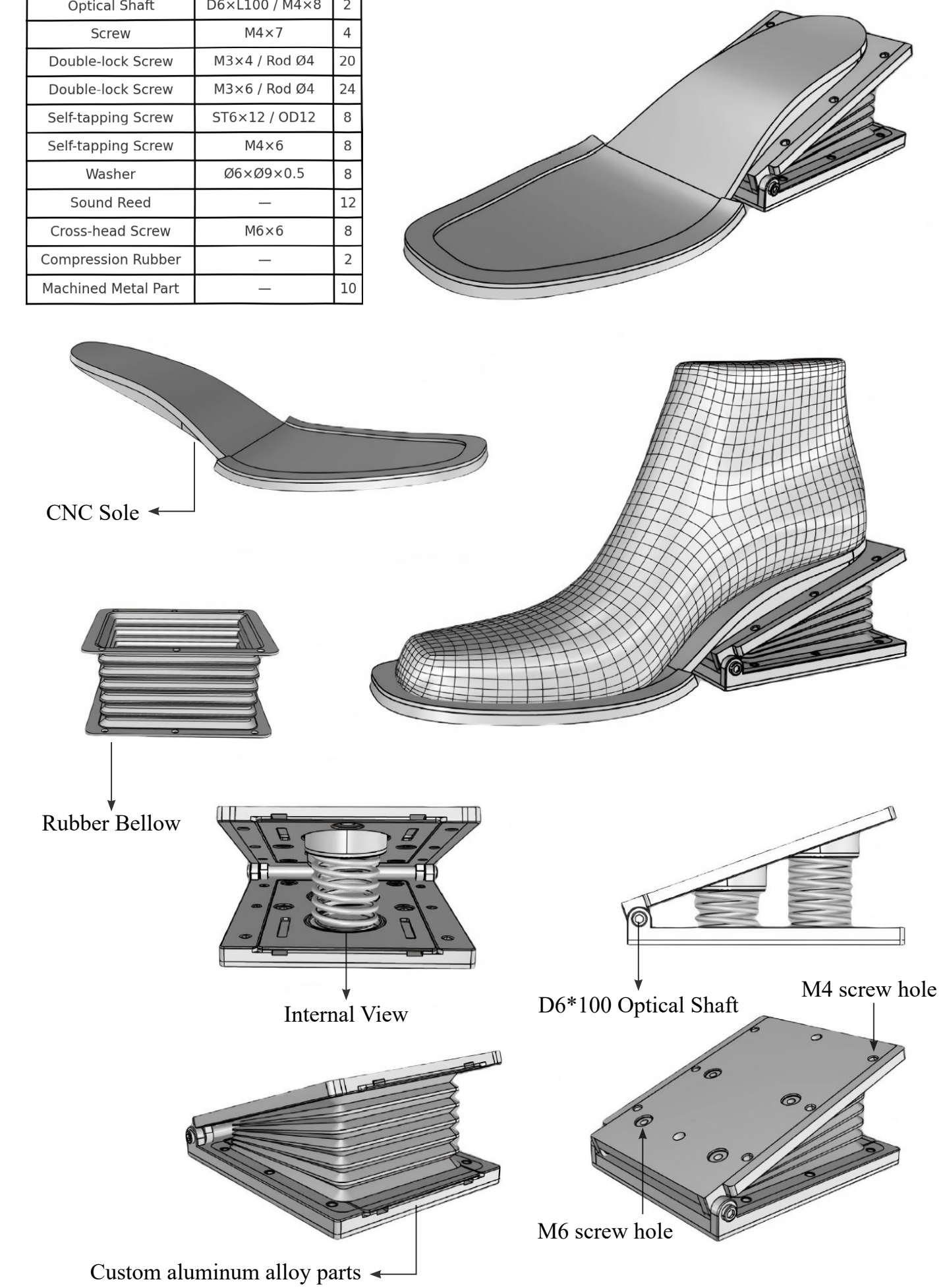


- c. Build up the waist with veg-tan leather.
- d. Aluminium alloy decorative piece, fixed with self-tapping screws.
- e. Leather welt, 15 mm wide.

	Material	Description
Upper	Veg-tan horse leather	1.8 mm-black
Lining	Cowhide	0.8 - 1.0 mm-black
Welt	Veg-tan leather	2 mm thick - 15 mm wide-black

	Material	Description
Sock	Cowhide and EVA bonded	Custom sock with Logo
Heel	Aluminium and rubber	Silver and Black
Sole	Veg-tan leather	5 mm - black

Part Name	Spec (Abbrev.)	Qty
Optical Shaft	D6xL100 / M4x8	2
Screw	M4x7	4
Double-lock Screw	M3x4 / Rod Ø4	20
Double-lock Screw	M3x6 / Rod Ø4	24
Self-tapping Screw	ST6x12 / OD12	8
Self-tapping Screw	M4x6	8
Washer	Ø6xØ9x0.5	8
Sound Reed	—	12
Cross-head Screw	M6x6	8
Compression Rubber	—	2
Machined Metal Part	—	10



# TECHNICAL DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATION SHEETS

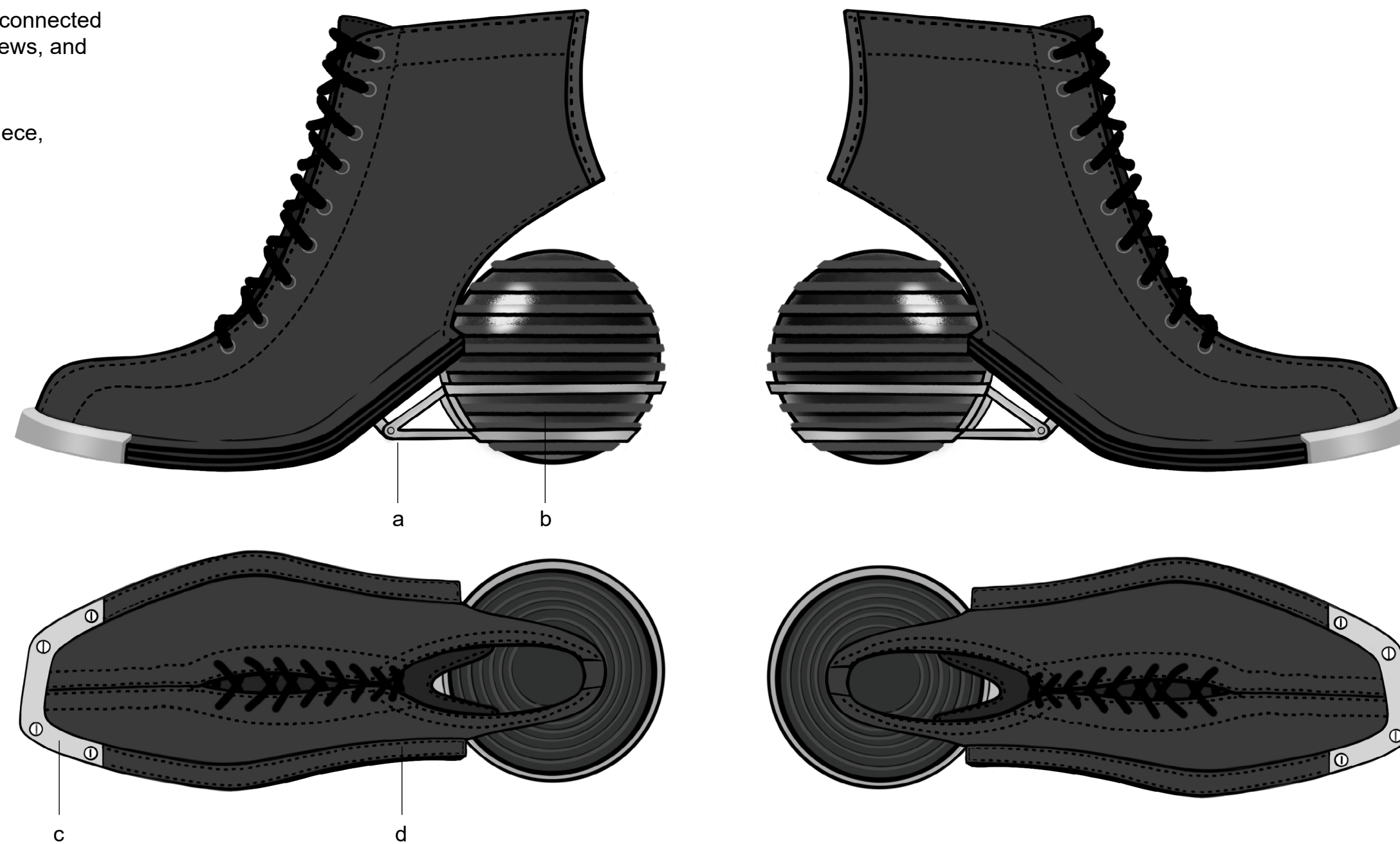
STAGGER SPEC SHEET					
Date	04-09-2025	Product Name	HEEL BALL	Insole	STAR HONGYE
Deadline	15-11-2025	Product Number	STAGGER II	Thread	Nylon 60 Black
Designer	Yiqiao Li	Sample Size	EU 42.5 / UK 8-8.5	Finish	Folded edges
Maker	Migaloo	Last Model	Custom Last I (Heel 6)	Eyelet	Ø3 mm - Silver

- a. Aluminium alloy component; connected using optical shafts, locking screws, and self-tapping screws.
- b. Hollow rubber sphere.
- c. Aluminium alloy decorative piece, fixed with self-tapping screws.
- d. Leather welt, 15 mm wide.

**PANTONE Black C**  
C: 0 M: 0 Y: 0 K: 100

**PANTONE 447 C**  
C: 15 M: 0 Y: 27 K: 83

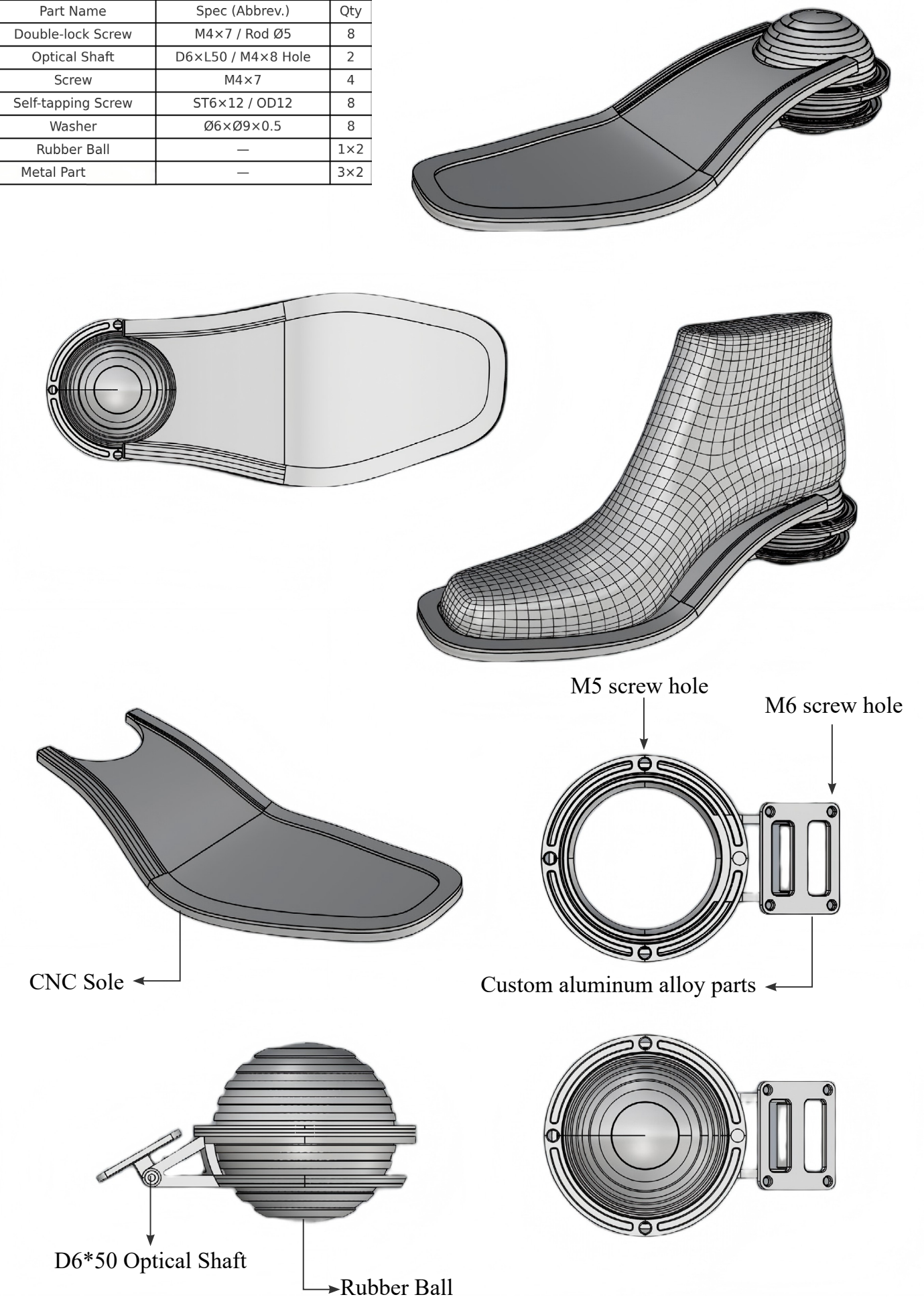
**PANTONE 877 C**  
C: 9 M: 6 Y: 5 K: 0



	Material	Description
Upper	Veg-tan horse leather	1.8 mm-black
Lining	Cowhide	0.8 - 1.0 mm-black
Welt	Veg-tan leather	2 mm thick - 15 mm wide-black

	Material	Description
Sock	Cowhide and EVA bonded	Custom sock with Logo
Heel	Aluminium and rubber	Silver and Black
Sole	Veg-tan leather	5 mm - black

Part Name	Spec (Abbrev.)	Qty
Double-lock Screw	M4x7 / Rod Ø5	8
Optical Shaft	D6xL50 / M4x8 Hole	2
Screw	M4x7	4
Self-tapping Screw	ST6x12 / OD12	8
Washer	Ø6xØ9x0.5	8
Rubber Ball	—	1x2
Metal Part	—	3x2



# STAGGER



ECHO HEEL



HEEL BALL



CONNECTED



WOBBLE GETA



DESYNC STEPPER



SEESAW SOLE



## LINE UP



### ECHO HEEL SOUND

**Mechanism:** A concertina-like compressible heel produces a whistle-like tone that shifts with each step.

**Sensory Effect:** Every step becomes audible, interrupting unconscious, mechanical pacing.

**Scenario:** Morning rush hour in a financial district – footsteps overlap into a single stream of motion.  
ECHO HEEL lets the wearer hear their own rhythm within the crowd, reclaiming attention from the city and returning it to the act of walking.



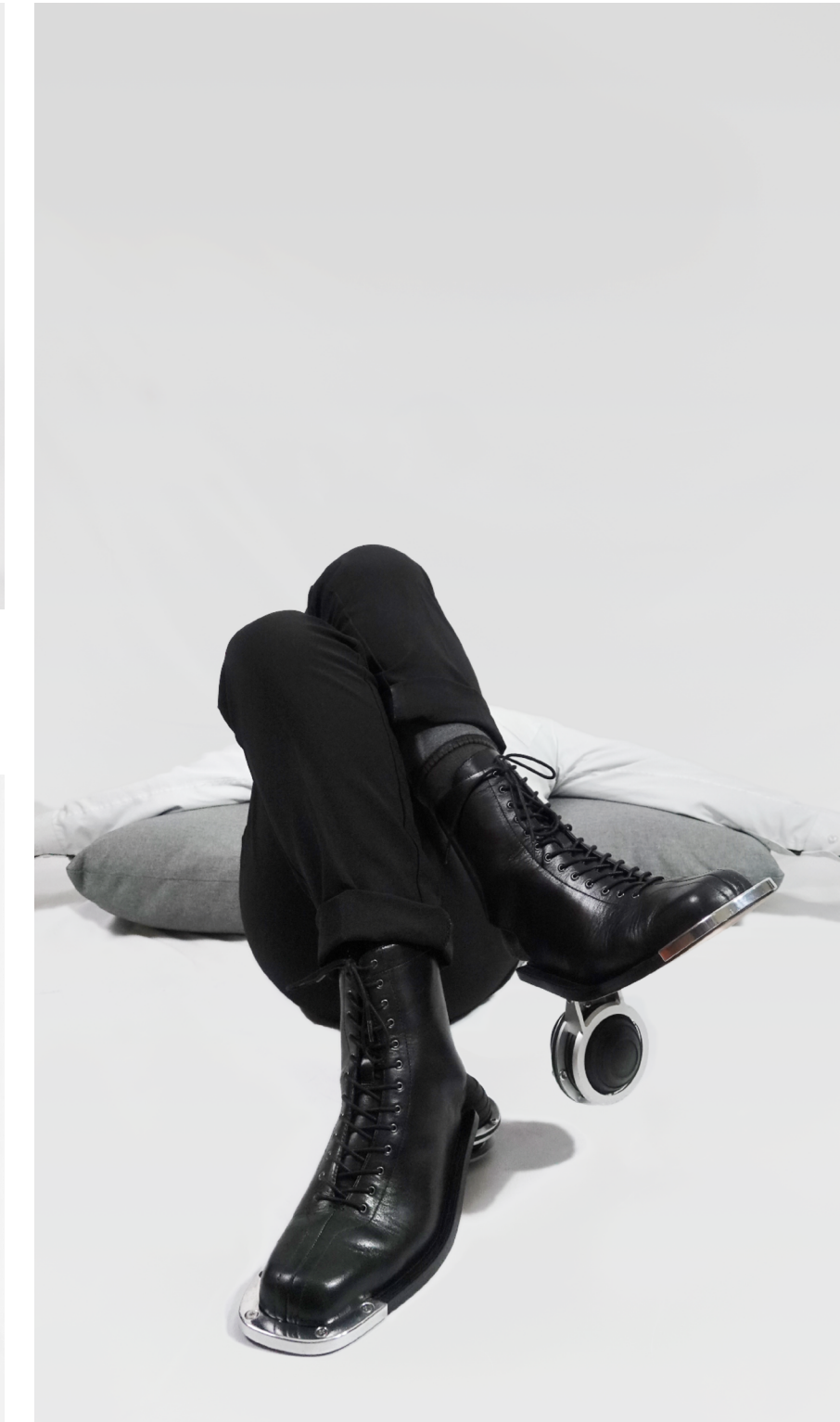
## LINE UP

### HEEL BALL TOUCH

**Mechanism:** An embedded elastic rubber ball creates a soft bounce and gentle wobble on impact.

**Sensory Effect:** It eases stiffness and disrupts the numbness caused by long periods of sitting or standing.

**Scenario:** After hours at an open-plan desk, the body falls out of awareness. HEEL BALL brings attention back to the soles during brief transitions.



### SEESAW SOLE BALANCE



**Mechanism:** A metal-supported see-saw sole separates forefoot and heel, producing controlled tilt and directional shifts.

**Sensory Effect:** Subtle deviations in landing and weight distribution become noticeable with each step.

**Scenario:** In evening shopping streets, people walk while absorbed in their phones. SEESAW SOLE disrupts this inertia through gentle tilt, pulling attention back from the screen to the feet, the ground and the direction of movement.

## LINE UP



WOBBLE GETA  
BALANCE

**Mechanism:** Separated forefoot and heel platforms joined by rubber components create continuous micro-instability.

**Sensory Effect:** The body must make constant balance adjustments, pulling attention back to the feet.

**Scenario:** In a packed metro carriage, movement is suppressed and the body becomes static. WOBBLE GETA builds a small "play zone" under the feet, allowing micro-shifts that restore awareness of stance and weight.



DESYNC STEPPER  
CONNECTED  
RHYTHM



**Mechanism:** A parallelogram four-bar linkage connects both shoes, limiting pace and emphasising bilateral coordination.

**Sensory Effect:** The wearer is gently slowed down, making left-right collaboration more perceptible.

**Scenario:** In narrow urban alleyways, people rush through with destination-driven urgency. CONNECTED forces a slower rhythm, redirecting focus from speed to the cooperation between the two feet.

**Mechanism:** Lever structures separate at the forefoot and heel create slight temporal misalignment between steps.  
**Sensory Effect:** The footsteps become "not fully synchronised", prompting the body to recalibrate coordination and rhythm.

**Scenario:** In large campuses or airport corridors, people often walk at a fixed speed, as if on autopilot. DESYNC STEPPER introduces a subtle shift that reawakens the gait during long, monotonous routes.

PHOTOGRAPHY



CONNECTED  
ECHO HEEL

Photographer: Baoyi Huang  
Models: Simon, Rino



SEESAW SOLE



WOBBLE GETA



CONNECTED



SEESAW SOLE

PHOTOGRAPHY

DESYNC STEPPER  
ECHO HEEL



ECHO HEEL



WOBBLE GETA



WOBBLE GETA



SEESAW SOLE



Photographer: Baoyi Huang  
Models: Simon, Rino

THANK YOU

Contact me:

[chestnut.w.zee@gmail.com](mailto:chestnut.w.zee@gmail.com)

[y.li.03202424@arts.ac.uk](mailto:y.li.03202424@arts.ac.uk)

+44 7947045332