

**Purpose:** To attempt to find the manufacturer and model of tread design patterns on footwear outsoles and tires found in questioned impressions.

**Responsibility:** Forensic Science Examiners assigned to the Imprint Unit are responsible to follow the guidance of this procedure.

**Safety:** All proper personal protective equipment will be used as appropriate.

**Procedure:**

A. Solemate FPX

1. The Solemate FPX database can be searched for the tread design of footwear outsoles.
2. The computer containing the Solemate FPX will be password protected.
3. The database will be updated as updates are received from Foster & Freeman. The imprint examiner will update the database by following the instructions supplied by Foster & Freeman. The database will then be checked for proper functioning using a test image. This is recorded in a log book which is kept in the laboratory near the Solemate FPX database computer.
4. Before a search of the database is conducted, the database is checked for proper functioning using a test image. This is recorded in a log book which is kept in the laboratory near the Solemate FPX database computer.
5. If the database check is good, the database can be searched for footwear designs. If the database check is not good, then the test will be re-run. If this second test also comes back incorrect and the analyst cannot determine the reason and resolve the issue, the database search program will be taken out of use and clearly marked as such. Foster & Freeman will be contacted to resolve the problem. Once the problem is resolved and the database check is successful, the database search program will be put back in service and will return to normal use.
6. If a potential matching footwear outsole is located, the agency requesting the examination will be supplied with photographs of the outsole design and uppers as well as any other information on the shoe present in the database.

B. Other References/Online Searches

1. A search may be conducted for the tread design on the outsole or tire utilizing other databases as available. The Imprints Unit currently has the Tread Assistant Database, from Tire Guides, Inc. This database no longer receives updates.

*Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro*

2. Footwear outsoles and tire treads may be searched utilizing websites containing images of the tread designs (eg. Zappos.com, Michelinman.com, etc.).
3. Tire tread designs may also be searched using the Tread Design Guide books available from Tire Guides, Inc.
2. If a potential matching footwear outsole or tire tread is located, the agency requesting the examination will be supplied with photographs of the outsole design and uppers or the tire as well as any other information on the shoe/tire and the reference site information. A note should be placed in the report that the information provided was retrieved from a non-forensic database and that the information provided should be verified with the source.

**Sources of Error:** N/A

**Quality Assurance:** N/A

**References:** See bibliography.