



STEPRITE FOOTWEAR – CUSTOMER GUIDE

Measuring

- Fully utilise the sizing chart. It is essential that clinicians fill in the measurement boxes at the bottom of the chart to record the sizes. It will help in future to check if the patient's size has changed.
- If ordering boots make sure that the ankle circumferences are noted as anything out with the regular sizes will need bespoke uppers to accommodate.
- There are a variety of lasts on offer to accommodate all foot shapes. Below is a table showing the name of the last in gents and ladies styles and the difference it has against the standard last.

Last	Difference in size
Donna/Albert	Narrow heel
George/Diana	Shallower forepart
Richard/Denise	Narrow heel and shallower forepart

- When measuring for shoes take the measurements both standing and sitting, sometimes there can be a size difference in both length and width.
- Trust your measurements, split sizes are available and if there are any doubts then rough fit the shoes. It takes an extra appointment but the result will be better.
- Be sure that if a T-strap is required for ankle control that the side and height is stated so it optimally controls the patient.

Materials

- There are different upper materials on offer. Stretch leather is great for accommodating high toes, wide joints and mild swelling changes.
- Neoprene is the best material for patients who have chronic swelling and can also be ordered with a toe puff to increase the depth at the toes
- There are different lining materials on offer, bambus has natural anti-bacterial properties. Go guard has been specifically developed for the diabetic foot.
- The colour of shoes in the catalogue can all be changed along with the stitching and panels.



Modifications

- Don't try to be too ambitious with modifications to uppers. If you are adding several major increases to areas then it may be worth considering bespoke footwear. The result will be better.
- Not only can the uppers be modified but the stiffeners can also be changed. The heel counters can be double stiffened and extended both medially and laterally to give more stability.
- If the tongue tends to fall to one side then consider a loop on the tongue or stitching the proximal edge to the upper.
- If the patient is diabetic and this box on the chart is selected modifications will automatically be made, these include
 - Seamless vamp
 - Rim toe puff
 - Padded collars

Insoles

- The inlays which come with the shoes can also be modified. For example they can be changed to pink poron, soft valgus poron insoles etc...
- When measuring for Steprite footwear and a bespoke insole is being incorporated, be sure to consider the thickness of the insole. Steprite shoes come with 3x 3mm insoles which can be replaced with the total contact insole.
- If ordering both custom total contact insoles and Steprite shoes they must be on two separate Buchanans 5 part order form, be sure to note on the order - link the two orders together so that the insoles are an intimate fit and returned to the hospital together.

Soles

- EVA soles are recommended if major sole adaptations/modifications need to be added. They are lightweight and give the best cosmetic finish for the patient.
- The new "Thru Wedge" sole unit for ladies incorporates a heel rocker and is very flexible. The construction also allows for easy modification and gives a good cosmetic finish.
- If the patient is very active consider changing the soling material to hard wearing. This will extend the time between repairs however will increase the weight of the shoe.



General Hints and Tips

- Try to keep it simple. Make sure that clear and concise instructions are given for the technical staff to follow ensuring that your handwriting is legible.
- Utilise stock shoes. There are a variety of styles, both ladies and gents in a selection of sizes, which can be used for the less complicated feet.
- Consider the contour last if the patient needs extra width in the toe box for accommodation of toes.
- The style of the shoe is always important. Low opening styles, such as the Michigan and street style, allow an easier entry for people who wear AFO's.
- Pay careful attention to the modifications you are requesting to uppers, certain sizes have limits on what can be done to them.
- Take into consideration the seams and panel placements on the Steprite footwear. Don't be afraid, if you know that a particular style might cause a problem due to a seam, to tell the patient you will get a better result in the end.
- If choosing Velcro and major modifications to the instep are also being utilised be sure to increase the strap length as well and always overcompensate, the straps come with 3 cut lines if required.
- If there is any doubt on what can and can't be done regards to materials and modifications, phone the technicians they are more than happy to help.