



OUT OF THE BOG: PART II
PATTERNING A ONE-PIECE
GERMANIC SHOE

Farolfus filius Richardi (𐀕𐀚𐀓𐀚𐀓𐀕)

Process

1

Measure

- Get dimensions from feet

2

Draft

- Paper and Tape

3

Test

- Bubble mailer trial

4

Make shoes

- Cutting Leather

Materials needed



STRING (COTTON OR
SOMETHING NOT
TOO STRETCHY)



PENCIL



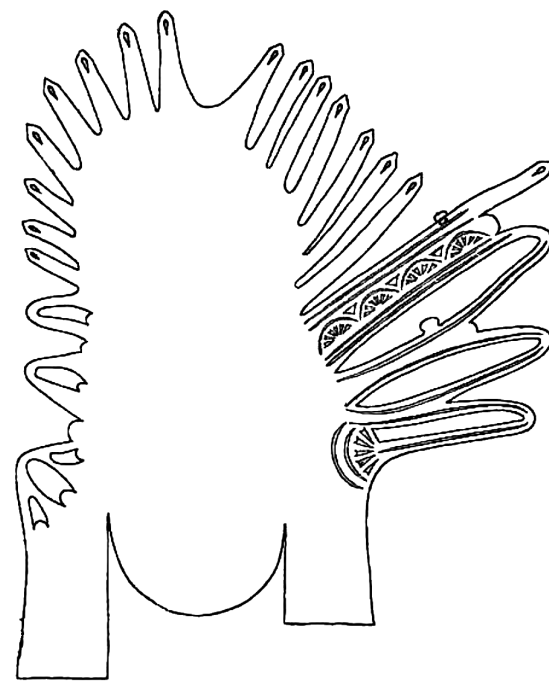
TAPE (BLUE TAPE,
DUCT TAPE, MASKING
TAPE)



PAPER (GROCERY
BAG, BUTCHER PAPER)



SCISSORS



c.380 CE

OBENALTENDORF Lower Saxony

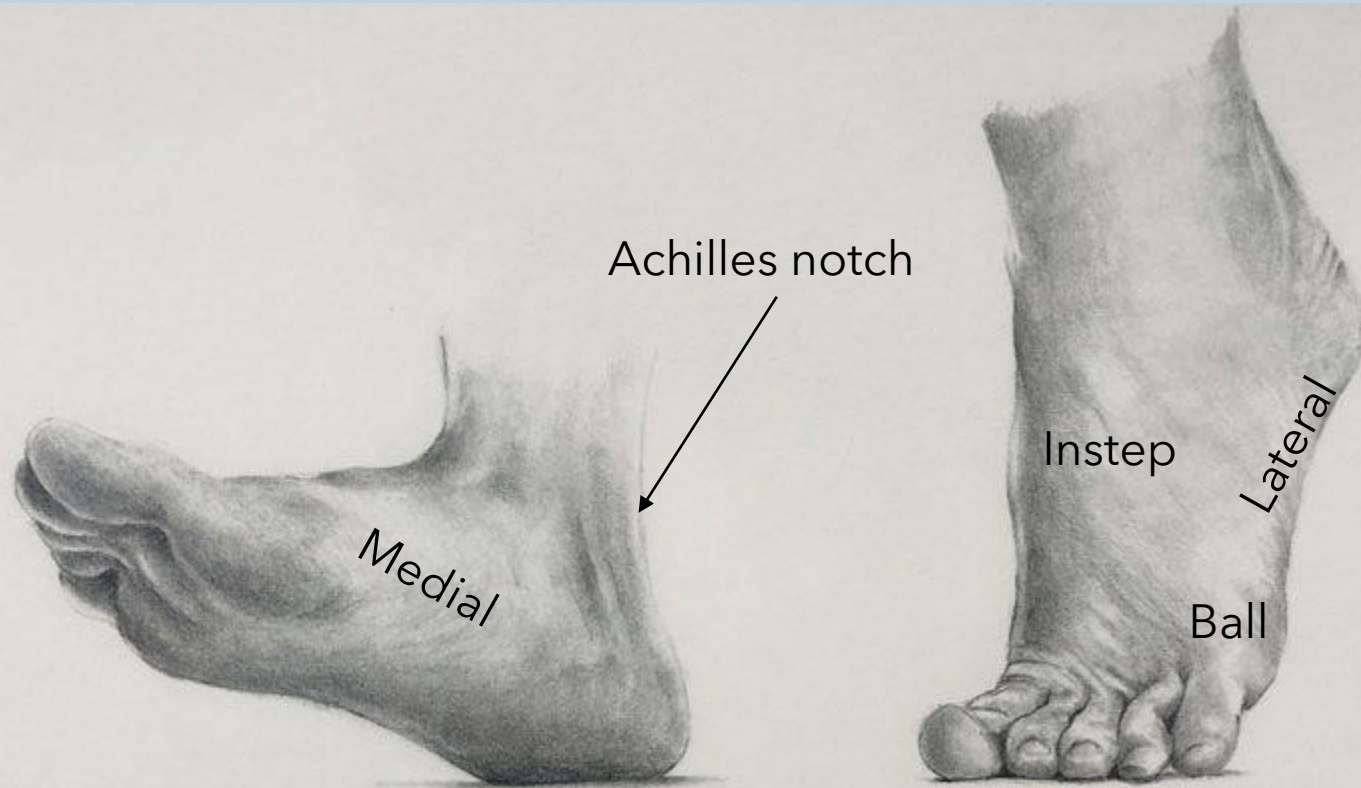
- Asymmetrical pattern
 - Single-end lace
- Worst of all possible worlds for complexity

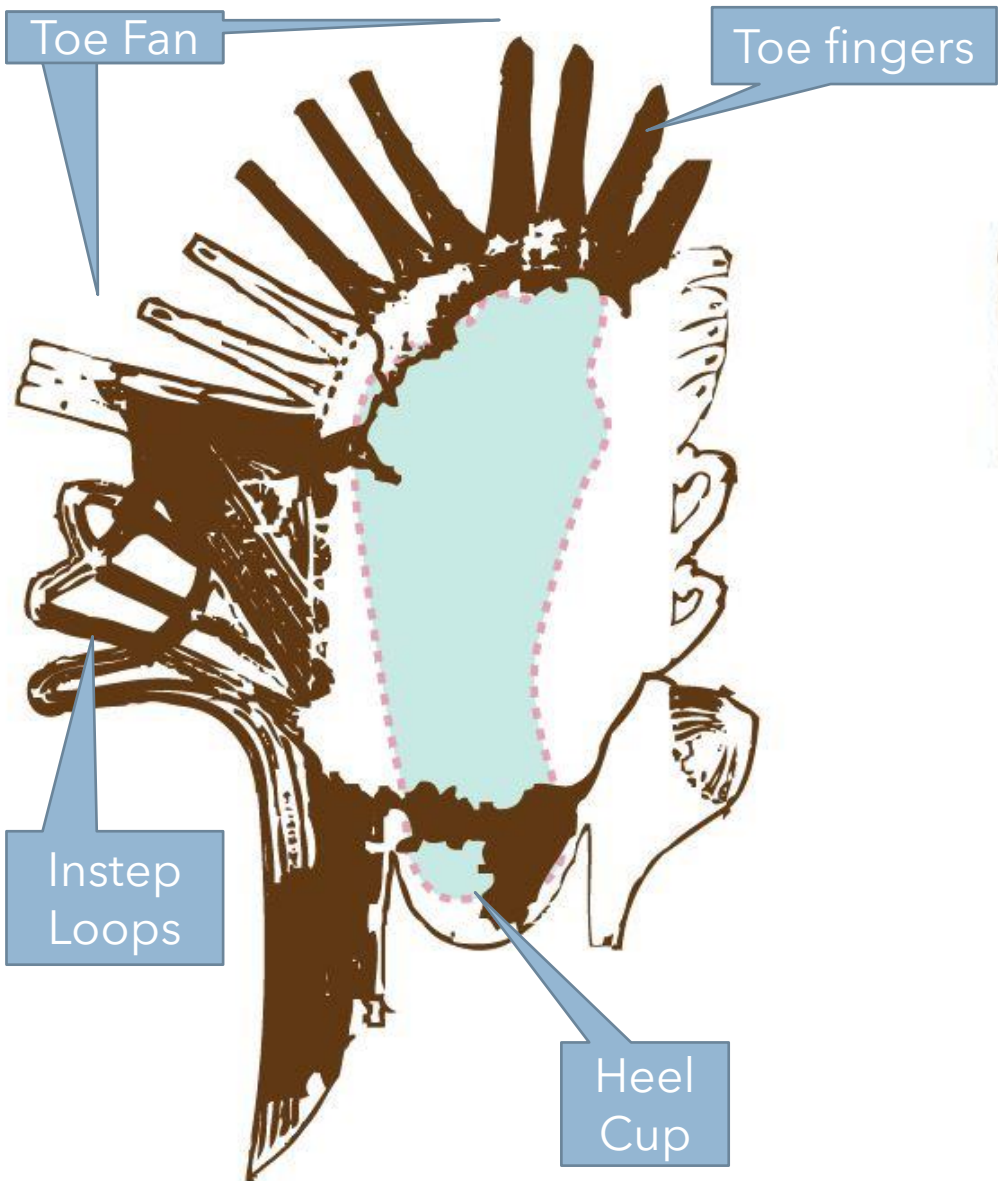


Reconstruction by Martin Moser

Foot Terminology

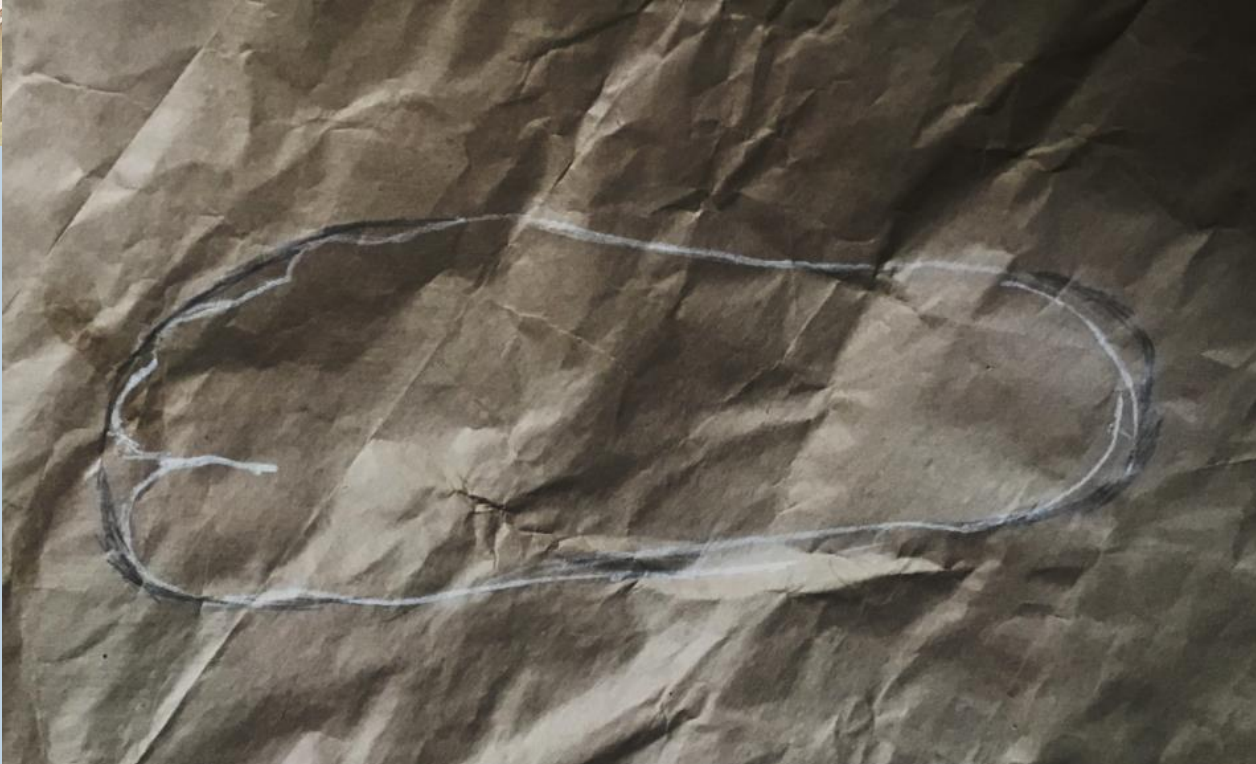
Medial (inside of foot)
Lateral (outside of foot)
Instep
Ball
Achilles notch





Shoe terminology

- Toe fan
- Toe fingers/petals
- Instep loops
- Heel cup



Measure

1

Draw outline of foot

- Mark toe notch
- Generalized curve of toes
- Generalized heel slightly beyond initial tracing



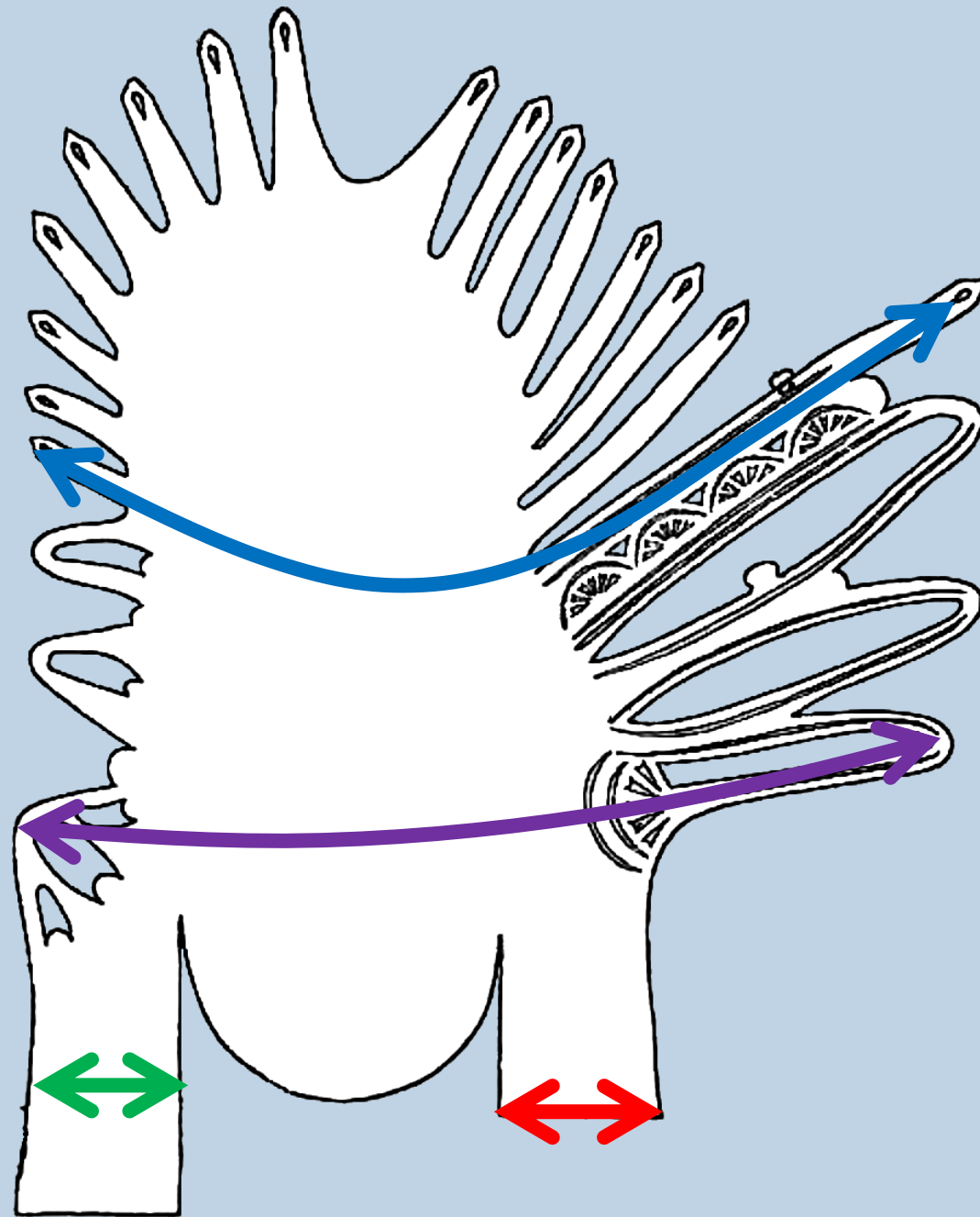
Measure

1

Place quarter/bottlecap on foot

- Represents the approximate loop of the lace that will gather the toe fan
- Centered or offset depending on the pattern

Transfer to paper using toe notch as reference mark



Measure

1

Critical measurements

- Ball of foot (blue)
- Instep (purple)
- Ankle bone (green)
- Achilles notch (red)

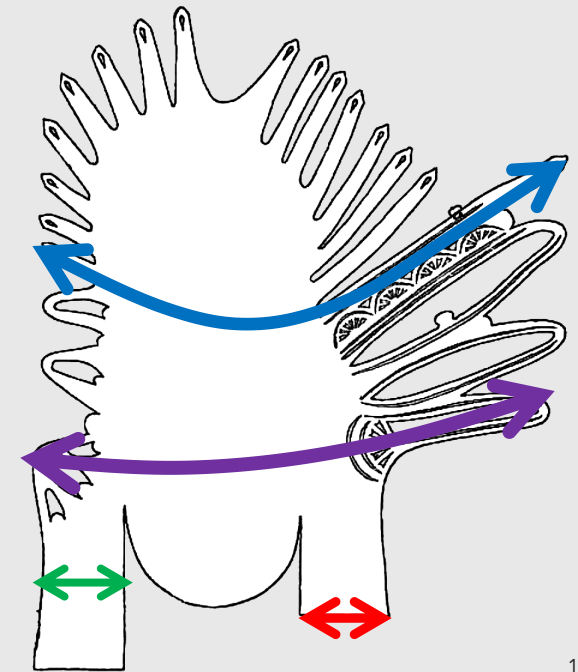


Measure

1

Critical measurements

- Ball of foot (blue)



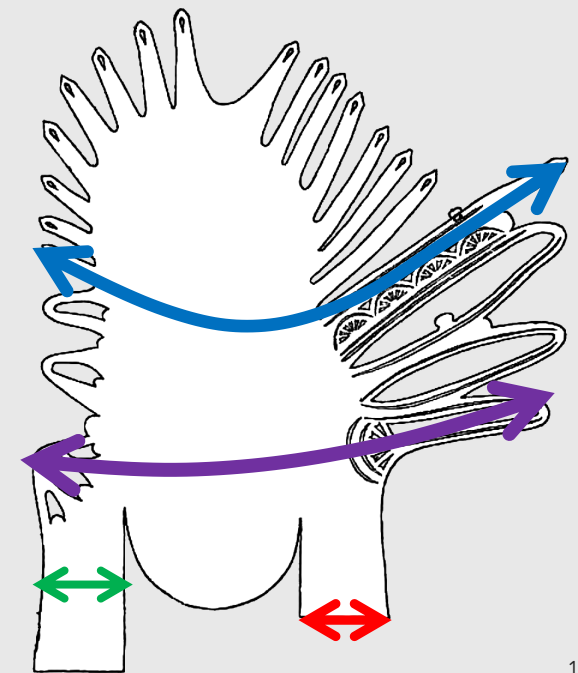


Measure

1

Critical measurements

- Instep (purple)



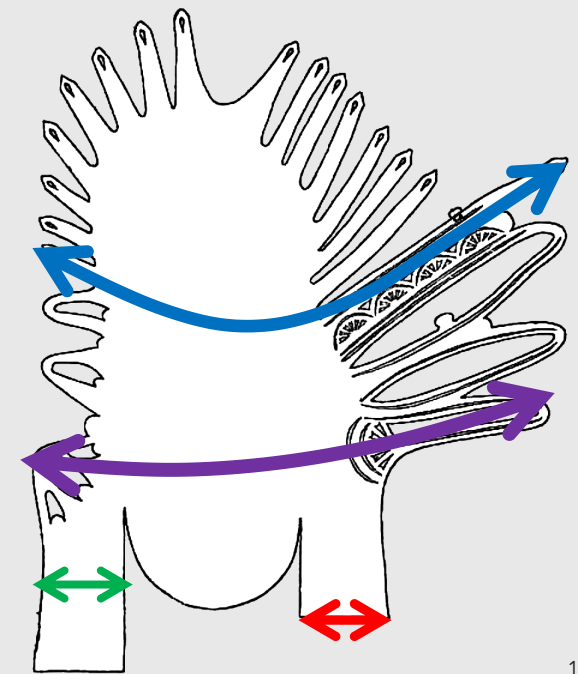


Measure

1

Critical measurements

- Ankle bone (green)



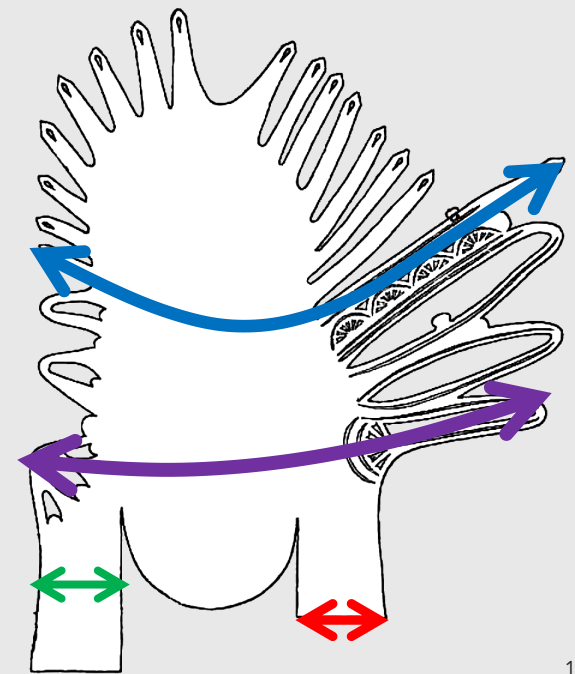


Measure

1

Critical measurements

- Achilles notch (red)





Measure

1

Toe wrapover

Use quarter/bottlecap circle as reference

Mark center of circle

Mark rays as straight lines from center point (12-13)



Measure

1

Toe wrapover

Sketch buffer from toe outline

Use string from buffer line over foot to edge of bottle cap along rays

Transfer measurement to paper

Connect in a curve



Measure

1

Toe wrapover

Sketch buffer from toe outline

Use string from buffer line over foot to edge of bottle cap along rays

Transfer measurement to paper

Connect in a curve



2

Drafting

Toe fan

Sketch in toe fan 'petals' or 'fingers' using rays as centerlines

Taper the fingers

Leave rounded space at base of gaps, just above your allowance/buffer line

Drafting

Toe fan

Sketch in toe fan 'petals' or 'fingers' using rays as centerlines

Rotate outermost (90-deg) fingers parallel to their neighbors

Add one more finger on each side parallel to these



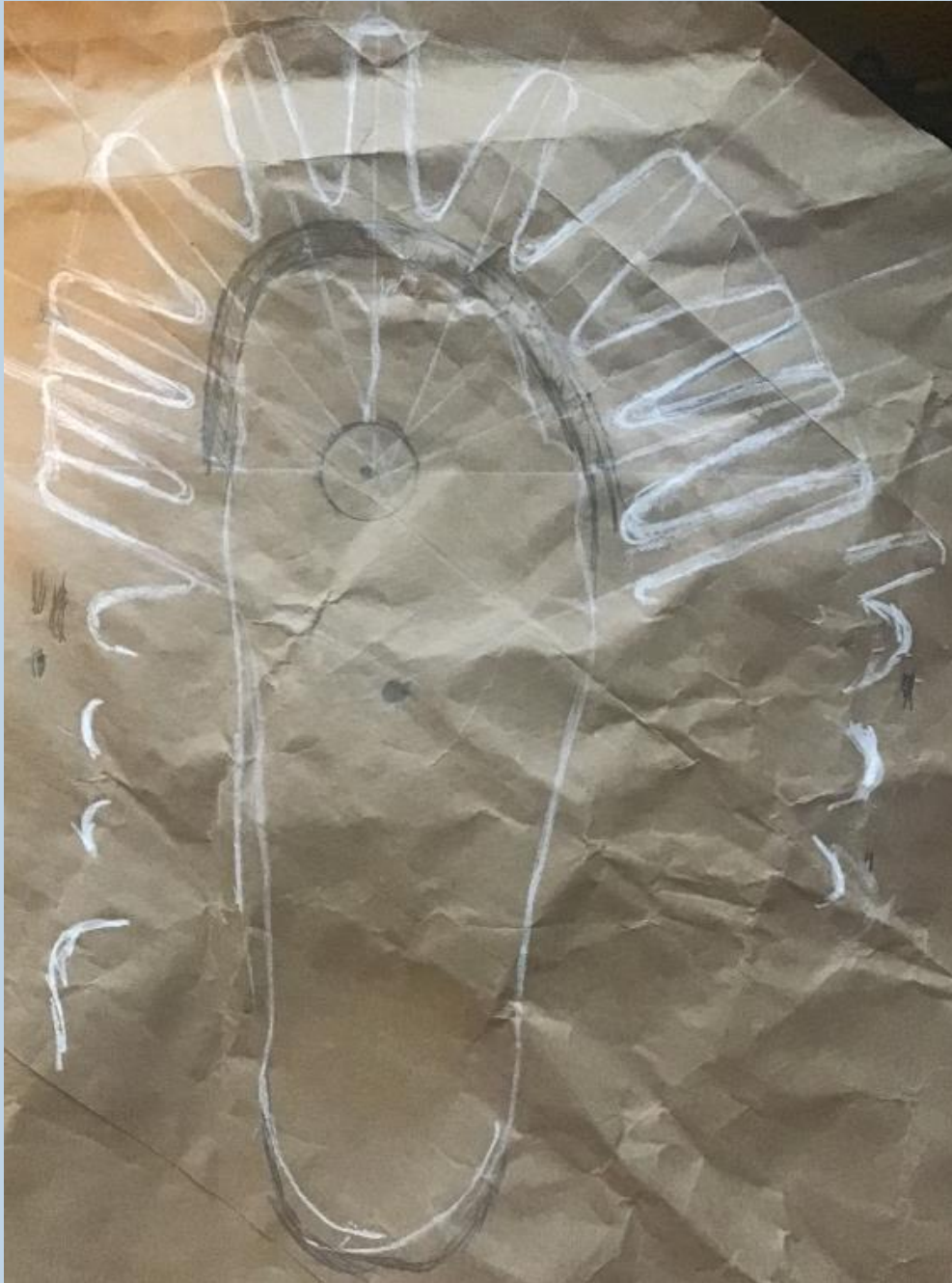


2

Drafting

Instep Loops

Slip of paper method

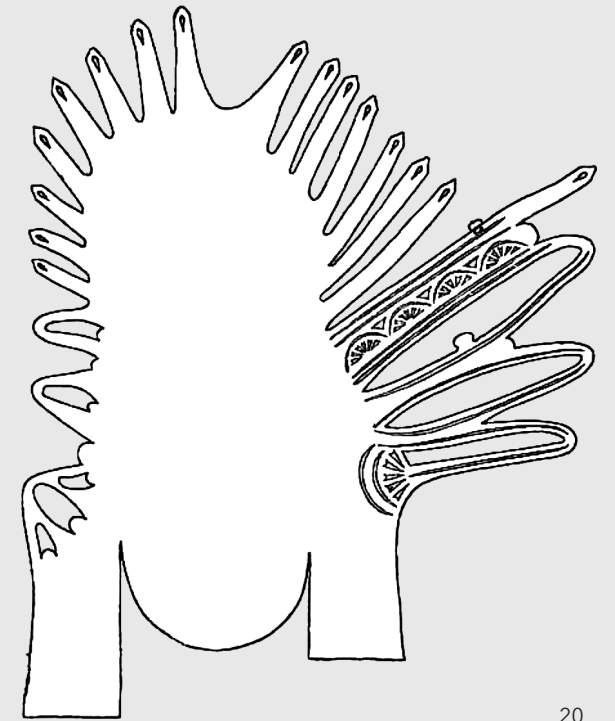


2

Drafting

Instep Loops

Slip of paper method



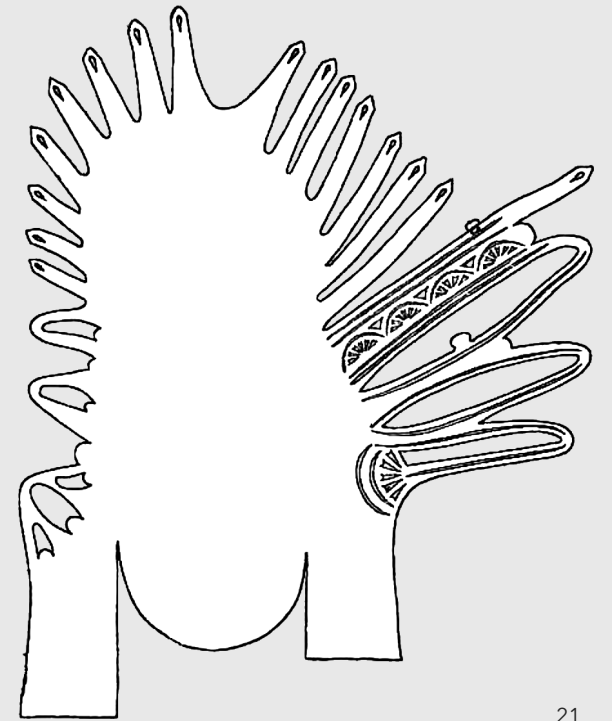


2

Drafting

Instep Loops

Lace anchoring tab

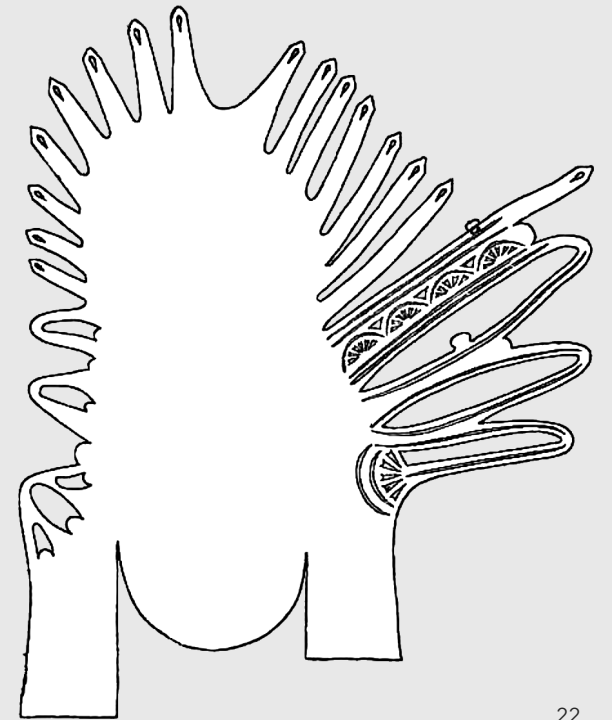




2

Drafting

Instep Loops



Drafting

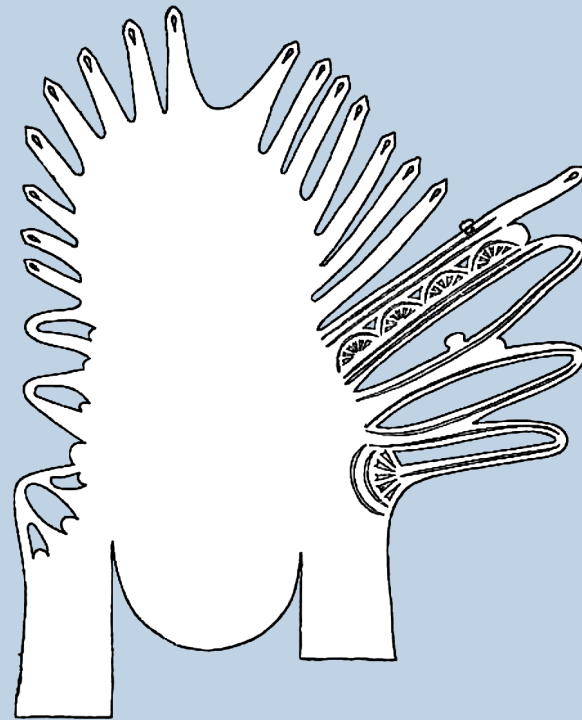
Instep Loops

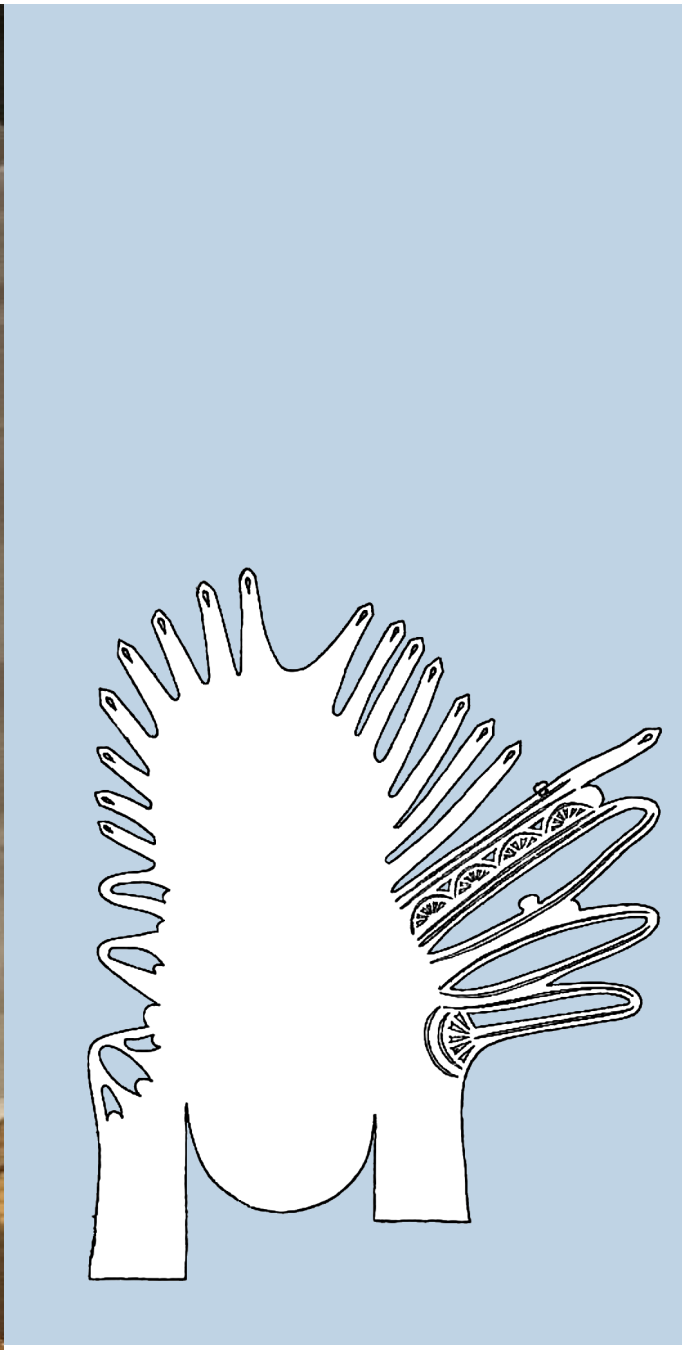
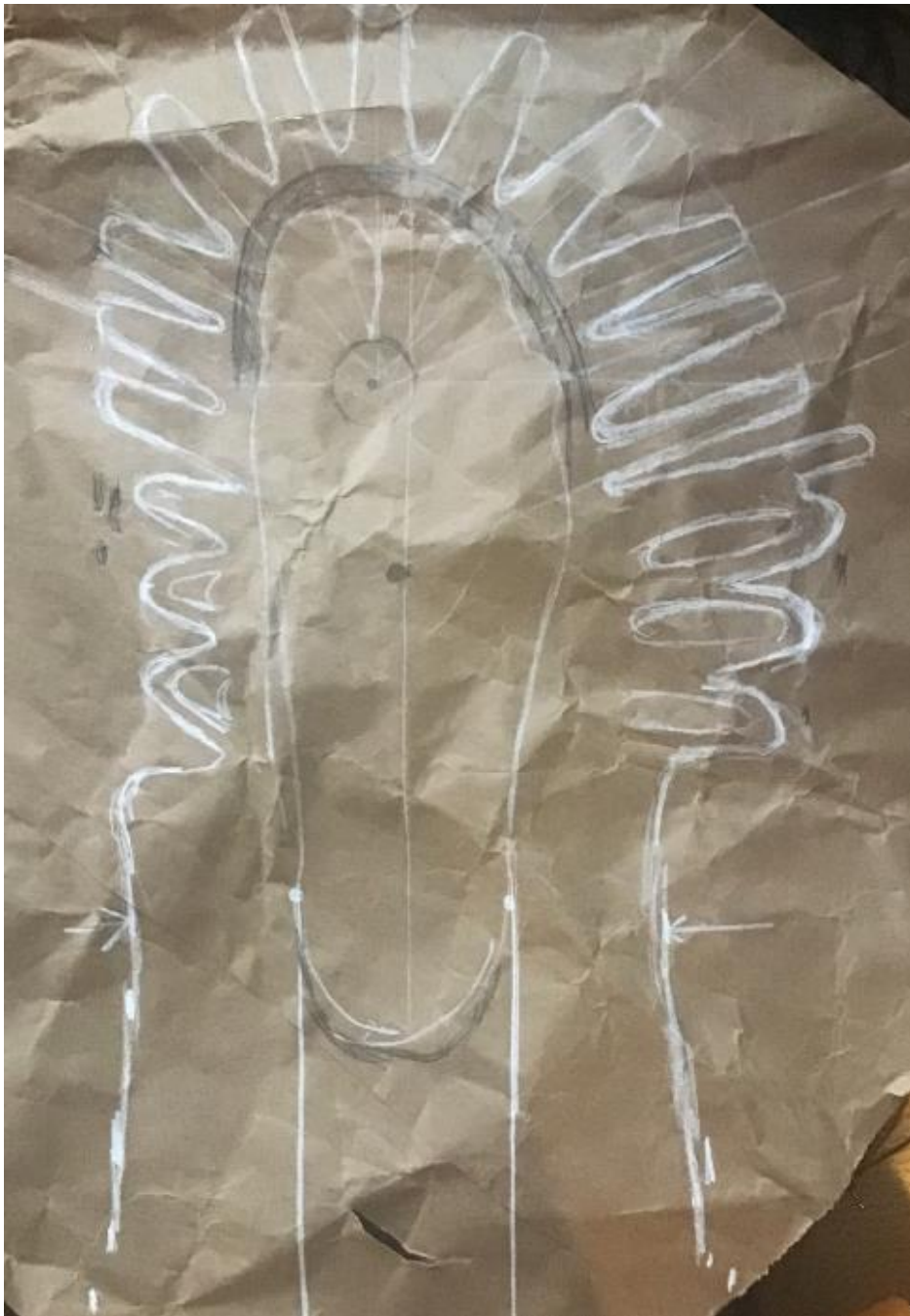
Marks are just a guideline

Draw in more details based on your exemplar

Some differences are likely due to foot shape, others are result of leather stretching during use

Err on the side of what works on your foot





2

Drafting

Heel Cup

Ankle bone and Achilles notch measurements

Mark heel seam where transition to straight line begins

Draw a line straight back, parallel to long axis of shoe

Measure perpendicular to that line and mark for the two heel measurements



Paper pattern
done!

3

Bubble Mailer pattern

Lace up with string

Add or subtract material as needed

Determine position of vertical heel seam while taping

Tape over and recut any incorrect slits



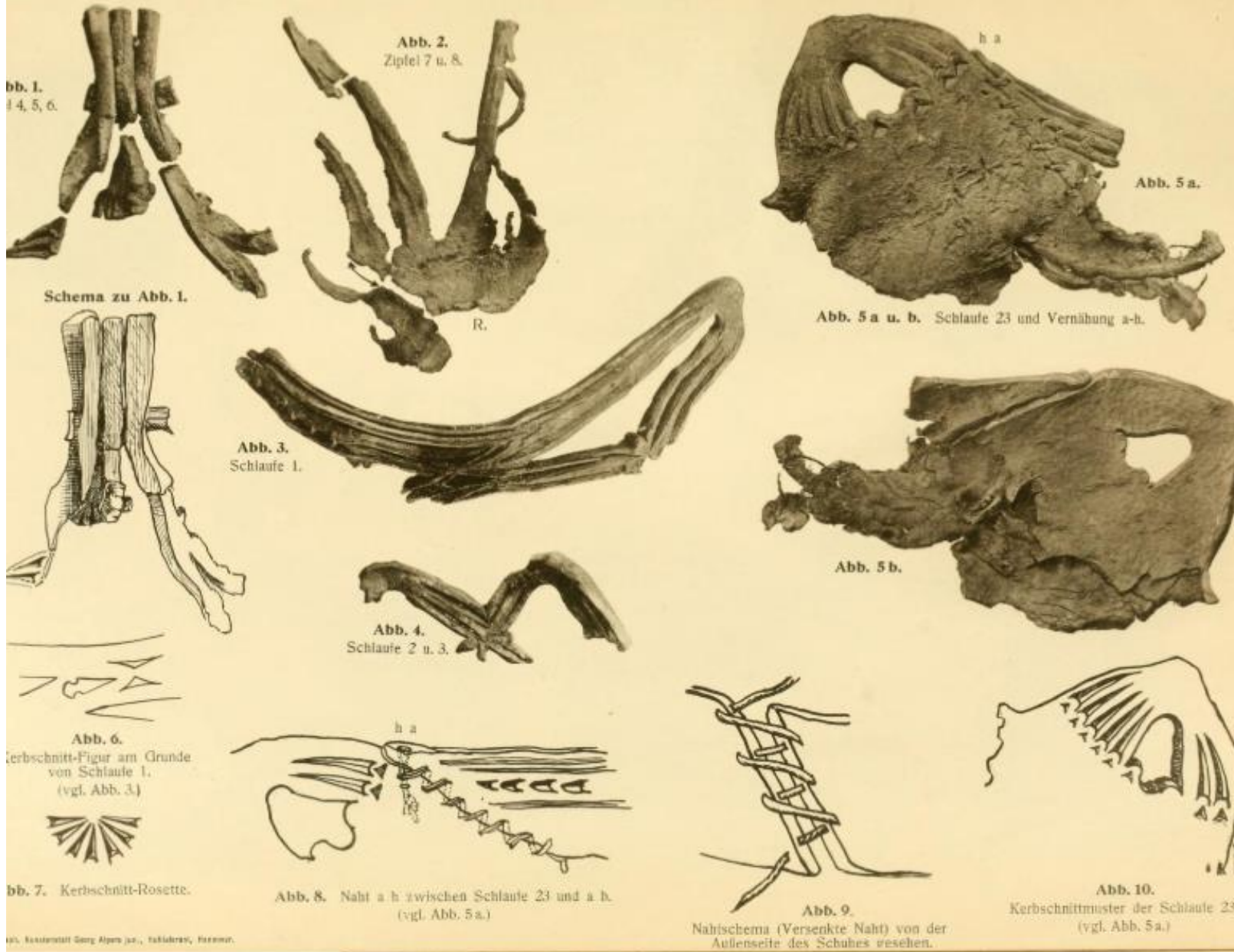
3

Bubble Mailer pattern

Now is a good time to draw on details if you want to plan cutouts



Tafel V.
Die Moorleiche von Marx-Etzel, Kr. Wittmund, 1817.
Der rechte Schuh. II.



Materials, construction, care

Veg tan leather - can be molded while wet and will stretch to your foot

Spiral whipstitch (linen thread, very thin thong, artificial sinew)

Decoration - gouged into the surface

Seal with oil, fat, and/or Sno-seal and reapply to fully dried shoes any time they get soaked.

Troubleshooting

1

Heels rising?
Curve the back
seam more

2

Heel seam
dragging on
ground? Soak
leather and
smash a heel
pocket in sole

3

Bulky toe box?
Taper the
'fingers' to
avoid bulking

4

Toe fan not
smooth? Use
slits rather than
holes in fingers

5

Toe fan
gapping? Use
hole punch at
base of 'finger'
notches



Learn from
my mistakes!

Thank you!

- **Download slides and transcript:**

- <https://farolfus.wordpress.com/outofthebog>

- **Contact:**

- farolfus@gmail.com