

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Cruikshank et al.**

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- (54) **HOCKEY SKATE**
- (71) Applicant: **Bauer Hockey, Inc.**, Exeter, NH (US)
- (72) Inventors: **David Cruikshank**, Delafield, WI (US);  
**Aky Hung**, Taichung (TW); **Dmitry Rusakov**, Van Nuys, CA (US); **Ian Fung**, Van Nuys, CA (US); **Will Keegan**, Van Nuys, CA (US); **Mike Snow**, Van Nuys, CA (US)
- (73) Assignee: **BAUER HOCKEY, INC.**, Exeter, NH (US)

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 672 days.

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*Primary Examiner* — Ted Kavanaugh

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- (52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **A43B 5/1625** (2013.01); **A43B 5/1616** (2013.01); **A43B 5/1666** (2013.01); **A43B 5/1691** (2013.01); **A43B 23/0225** (2013.01)
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A hockey skate includes a composite boot form having a rigid lower portion and a less rigid upper portion. The upper portion may be made of a thermoformable material that conforms to the shape of a wearer's foot and ankle. The construction of the boot form—particularly the lower portion of the boot form—may be varied across different size ranges by, for example, varying the fiber angles in the composite material. Varying the stiffness of the lower portion of the boot form in this manner allows the flexibility of different sized boots to be substantially equalized. A skate quarter and other skate-boot features may readily be attached to the upper portion of the boot form via stitching, rivets, or other connectors. The boot form also may include an integral toe cap having a flange or other element to which the skate tongue and other elements may be connected.

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**15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

