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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

James G. Guspodin
David M. Reep

1-12-01

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies) Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC.

Internal Address: 1659 South Main St.

Street Address: 1659 South Main St.

City: Akron State: OH ZIP: 44301

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
- Security Agreement Change of Name
- Other

Execution Date: January 3, 2001

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: January 12, 2001

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

29/135521

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Thomas R. Kingsbury, Esq.

Internal Address: 1200 Firestone Parkway

Street Address: 1200 Firestone Parkway

City: Akron State: OH ZIP: 44317

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ 40.00

- Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account
- Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

06-0925

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Michael Sand

January 12, 2001

Name of Person Signing

Signature

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:

4

ASSIGNMENT

We, James G. Guspodin and David M. Reep, have made an invention which now is described and claimed in an application for patent entitled TIRE SHOULDER REGION, which application

- is being executed and filed concurrently herewith.
- was filed on _____ and now is designated as United States patent application number _____

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the obligations imposed by or arising under one or more of our employment agreement(s), state or national statutes, common law, and administrative regulation, I hereby do make the following assignments –

To **BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC.**, a corporation created and duly organized under the laws of the state of Delaware and having a place of business at Akron, Ohio, and its successors and assigns, we hereby

- assign, transfer, and set over the full and exclusive right to the above-described invention and to the above-described application for letters patent of the United States as well as any substitute, continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application filed thereon and to any letters patent of the United States that issues from such application(s) as well as any reissue application or request for reexamination filed on such letters patent;
- covenant and agree for ourselves and our legal representative(s) to
 - a) assist said assignee and/or its designee(s), to the extent requested, in the prosecution of said application for patent, in any interference declared on said application for patent or patent issuing therefrom, or in litigation which arises out of or is based on said application for patent or patent issuing therefrom, and
 - b) execute all papers related to said application for patent which said assignee or its designee(s) request to be signed,

provided that expenses relating thereto shall be borne by said assignee; and

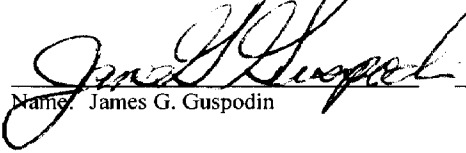
- authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any letters patent of the United States relating to the above-described invention in the name of said assignee.


To **BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.** a corporation created and duly organized under the laws of the state of Ohio and having a place of business at Akron, Ohio, and its successors and assigns, we hereby

- assign, transfer, and set over the full and exclusive right to any application for letters patent filed in any regional or national patent office other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office;
- covenant and agree for ourselves and our legal representative(s) to
 - a) assist said assignee and/or its designee(s), to the extent requested, in the prosecution of any such applications for patent or in litigation which arises out of or is based on said application(s) for patent or patent(s) issuing therefrom, and
 - b) execute all papers related to said application(s) for patent which said assignee or its designee(s) request to be signed,

provided that expenses relating thereto shall be borne by said assignee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have executed this document on the dates next to our respective names.

 1/3/01
Name: James G. Guspodin date

 1/03/01
Name: David M. Reep date

Name: _____ date _____

Name: _____ date _____

Name: _____ date _____

Name: _____ date _____

Name: _____ date _____

Name: _____ date _____

Other names included on additional sheet(s).