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When You Can't Roll, Skoot!

Inventing a new tool for roller skater safety

Denver, CO: Roller skating has exploded in popularity in recent years. Skaters are taking to the roller rinks, streets, sidewalks, parks and trailways. But when a roller skater encounters an uneven surface what's the best way to stay safe? For many skaters, the safest method is to unlace their skates and walk until the surface is safe to skate again.

"It sucks!" says Denver roller skater Rachel Bogan. "It takes time to unlace your skates. It takes time to lace back up again. And you have to carry shoes for when you can't skate. It's exhausting! I got so tired of it and wanted an alternative way to stay safe."

But wanting a new way of staying safe and actually creating it are two vastly different skills. And Ms. Bogan is not an engineer or manufacturing expert.

A chance meeting with Adam Zimmer from Denver 3D Print Company suddenly made Skooties possible. Mr. Zimmer, himself an engineer and inventor, specializes in taking ideas and designing manufacturable and patent-able products. When he heard about Ms. Bogan's challenges, he immediately was intrigued.

The two started working with part models designed in CAD software, 3D printing molds, then casting prototypes in silicone.

The bootie idea was quickly killed. The next idea was a single loop of silicone that locked two wheels together.

The next iteration included an X shape, creating a double-wheel chock that grips both wheels in three directions at the same time. It became the foundation for the current design. Bogan and Zimmer applied for their provisional patent in January 2023.



“I’ll never forget putting that design on my feet and walking,” says Ms. Bogan. “It was exactly the feeling I imagined when I had the desire for a wheel locker in the first place. I knew then it would be a real product.”



Skooties will start crowdfunding in late February, 2023. The business model is to distribute Skooties through local skate shops around the US and beyond. For more information, visit www.skateskooties.com.

About Skate Skooties, LLC: Skate Skooties, LLC creates stability products for roller skaters. Their new patent-pending roller skate wheel locker is designed to give skaters walkable stability on uneven surfaces. Their slogan is, “Life is better on eight wheels.”

All images courtesy of Skate Skooties, LLC, 2023