

3-D Printed Shoes

3D printing is still a relatively new concept. In fact, some people may not have even known that 3D printing is possible. Now, though, it is not only being used in the fields of technology and engineering, but also in the production of the Futurist. This is a new training shoe that was recently released by Under Armour. According to the article, "[Under Armour's latest \\$300 3D-printed sneaker arrives March 30th](#)," which can be found on *Engadget.com*, this shoe can help athletes in multiple types of training.

The shoe is intended to be worn mostly during strength training, but like I previously mentioned, it can be worn in all kinds of training. The shoe is not completely 3D printed, but the midsole of the shoe is. This type of midsole is supposed to provide a more cushioned, yet steadier base for the athlete. The shoe also has a sleeve on the outer portion of the shoe that is equipped with a zipper. This sleeve is supposed to create a tighter fit for a more comfortable and enhanced performance.

There are not currently a lot of known issues with these shoes, but there are a few. Most of the improvements and differences in Futurists seem helpful. The first downside of this shoe is the appearance, which many people do not like. Another con is how expensive these shoes are, coming in at a price of about \$300 per pair. Lastly, 3D printing is not highly advanced yet. While it is making large advances by the day, it still is a slow process, so it takes a long time to print the midsole for each shoe.

The author of this article, Richard Lawler, seems to think that these shoes are only mediocre. Lawler seems to have a lot of background information about this topic. Not only does he give the pros of these shoes being 3D printed, but he also gives the cons. This shows me that he is not presenting us a biased opinion, but rather is just giving us the facts about 3D printing.

I agree with Lawler about these shoes. In my opinion, the shoes would definitely be helpful, but I do not think that they are worth the \$300 investment nor the time needed to properly print the shoes. Even if somebody did buy the shoes, they would hesitate to perform any strenuous activity in the shoes. When performing this type of activity, shoes tend to get damaged. After spending such a large amount of money on shoes, it seems

likely that athletes would feel worried about ruining them, and therefore getting distracted by the shoes instead of focusing on training. Also, I believe that the shoes are lacking visual appeal, which would turn down some potential buyers. Because of these reasons, I believe that 3D printing is an amazing technology, but it should not be used in the production of shoes.

I recommend this article to all athletes and people interested in the engineering field. As an athlete myself, I found it entertaining to read about shoes that could possibly change the way that the rest of training shoes are made. People that are interested in engineering could find it enjoyable to see a real-world application of the 3D printer. After reading this article, my mind is thinking about other possible applications for 3D printing. If this technology is already being used in the production of shoes, it will likely be used for the production of many other unexpected items in the near future.

Work Cited

Lawler, Richard. "Under Armour's Latest \$300 3D-Printed Sneaker Arrives March 30th." Engadget.com. 24

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