

Advanced CROW from Tru-Mold Shoes Combines the Features of a Custom-Molded Boot and a CROW AFO

By Thomas Bowers

Tru-Mold's new Advanced CROW (for Charcot Restraint Orthotic Walker) is truly the best of both worlds, offering patients a true path to healing.

The Advanced CROW, developed recently by Tru-Mold Shoes, Inc., combines the comfort and mobility features of a custom-molded boot with the healing characteristics and off-loading of pressure of a traditional CROW walker. The Advanced CROW is indicated for Charcot deterioration of the foot and/or ankle, Charcot Joint, neuropathic ulcerations due to diabetes, metatarsal ulceration, and Osteochondritis Dissecans.



Tru-Mold can make that too. Simply send a cast or computer scan and separate order form along with the Advanced CROW order form.

Tru-Mold through its subsidiary Niagara Brace also has announced a new line of custom-molded Thermoplastic AFOs—customized to each patient's cast or computer scan. Depending on patient needs, practitioners can choose a Solid Ankle, Semi-Solid or Posterior Leaf Spring AFO, providing varying degrees of strength with medial and

lateral stability drop foot control.

Among its many other innovations, Tru-Mold was the first company to develop an exclusive double-orthotic system that captures the plantar aspect in both the removable insert and base. This unique feature greatly increases comfort while offloading pressure on sensitive areas of the foot. The company also created another first—the Thera-Medic Shoe package—offering the industry's most flexible, highest value shoe package for Medicare-eligible patients with diabetes.

In addition, the company, again through Niagara Brace, became the first custom-molded shoe manufacturer to introduce a family of high quality custom-molded AFOs available at any height, offering three levels of ther-

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Exclusive patent pending features place Tru-Mold's Advanced CROW in a category by itself:

TM Pressure Relief System. The Advanced CROW provides recesses both on the insert and removable base material, reducing plantar pressure on ulcerations, bony protrusions and other problem areas. In addition, if a patient requires additional relief at any of these sites, a poron plug can be removed from the base material to "cradle" the area and enhance comfort and healing.

V-Factor Plate. This device is not lasted into the Advanced CROW at the time of manufacture. Rather, it is intended to provide varus/valgus correction if a patient's condition changes over time. The practitioner simply lifts out the insert and removable base, uses double-stick tape to secure the plate to the desired location on the bottom of the inside of the boot, and places the base and insert back into the boot.

Other features at no additional cost include a triple density custom-molded Plastazote insert; Plastazote lining; choice of heel-to-toe or forefoot rocker; and choice of lace/speedlace or Velcro D-ring closure.

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mal molded polypropylene frame support, multiple color options, and a choice of various closure methods.

Ten years ago, product workmanship was taken to new heights, when the company introduced a computer aided design (CAD) system at its Buffalo, New York factory—the first of its kind for a custom molded shoemaker.

Today, every stitch, seam and styling line is crafted using 3D modeling techniques using a high-tech super computer capable of creating hundreds of customized casts per day, making modifications to lasts within 1 millimeter accuracy, and remembering each step so it can make a duplicate cast for a new pair of shoes, over and over again.

For more information, visit www.trumold.com and www.niagarabrace.com, call 1-800-THE-MOLD, or *click here*.

