

Tracks-foot and bicycle

The art of figuring out what shoe or bicycle is the art of being able to see mirror images. It is not nearly as easy as it sounds. The information abounds on these subjects. If you want to read a couple of excellent books on the subject, I suggest you check out:

McDonald, Peter, Tire Imprint Evidence, CRC Press, 1993 &

Bodziak, William, Footwear Impression Evidence, Elsevier, New York, 1990

Arthur Conan Doyle in the Sherlock Holmes adventure The Adventure of the Priory School in 1901 had Holmes state there were forty-two (42) different bicycle tire treads then. You can imagine how many more there are today. It is estimated that a motor vehicle is involved in 75% of the major crimes committed today. But because most of you do not yet drive a motor vehicle, we will confine our look at tires to bicycle tires. We will be examining some photographs of tires and impressions to see if we can figure out what tires made what impressions.

What things should you consider when trying to decide if a particular shoe or bike tire made a particular track? Is it at all possible that different sized shoes actually have the same bottom? How do you know the picture of the track and the picture of the shoe or bike tire are blown up the same amount? What can you tell from the depth of the track? What will happen to the track if the camera is held at an angle?





