

Your athletic career entails no more than an annual turkey trot, this setup probably serves you just fine. But for serious runners and world-class athletes it can be a major source of frustration.

So this year, Nike decided to redesign the bib, and get rid of safety pins while they were at it. The AeroSwift Bib, as it's called, adheres to clothing or skin, like a big sticker. No safety pins, no wind drag. Just slap it on and go. Our job is to eliminate distractions, to help unleash athletes to their fullest potential, says Michelle Miller, an Olympics concept director at Nike. She says athletes have been telling the company for years how much they dislike standard bibs. But it wasn't until recently, when Nike designers were finalizing another new Olympics product, AeroSwift Tape, that they realized how to make the new bibs work.

Brian Tobin/Nike AeroSwift Tape is like kinesiology tape, but dotted with tiny 3D-printed plastic teeth. Nike calls these teeth AeroBlades, and according to wind tunnel tests, taping them to a runner's legs and arms can make them more aerodynamic. The tape also gave Nike designers the a-ha moment, for the bib, Miller says. Both products are made from a four-way stretch, perforated, breathable, polyester knit that can cling to fabric as well as skin, which makes it a great, low-profile substitute to paper and safety pins. Miller and her team tested the bibs in a range of conditions in the shower, in high humidity, on sweaty athletes and say it sticks fantastically.

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