

Check Out Those  
Shoes!

Behind the Obsession

Fall of an Empire

Choo's Shoes

The Red Sole

Women & Shoes: An  
Abusive Relationship

The Quest for the  
Perfect Children's Shoe

Men's Shoes: More  
than Meets the Eye

Step Into Good Health

# THE P e r f e c t F i t

December 2008

Issue 1 Vol. 1

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### Check Out Those Shoes!

by Sarah Bang, Patricia Cady, Elizabeth Foster, Meagan Kitchens

Discusses the evolution of platform shoes and stiletto high heels, as well as our current fascination with the merger of the two styles.

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# THE Perfect Fit

Issue 1 Vol. 1

**S**hoes—we can't live without them. Nancy Sinatra sang about how hers were made for walking; Elvis sang about his blue suede ones; an old woman has even lived in one with a bunch of kids! The American love affair with our foot apparel is, literally, the stuff of fairy tales and pop culture. Not since Dorothy clicked her heels together three times has the power of shoes been felt like it is today. The popularity of the television show, and subsequent movie, *SEX IN THE CITY*, brought foot fashion to the forefront of the fashion consumer's awareness. Like so many of you readers out there, I adore shoes! I proudly and unabashedly proclaim it from the rooftops, as my neighbors yell at me to be quiet, but I can't. I will admit I have far too many shoes to reasonably wear, but there are so many designs, colors, and functions to choose from. Whether your soft spot is for the flirty, wooden, flip-flop, or whatever, thank you for joining us in declaring WE LOVE SHOES!!!

*Patricia Cady*

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# Check Out Those Shoes!

by Sarah Bang, Patricia Cady, Elizabeth Foster, and Meagan Kitchens

**S**now, clown, tap, athletic, dress, toe, wooden: we all own a pair of shoes, in some form or another. In existence for over thousands of years, the shoe has continued to evolve due to new materials, design of shoes (let's hear it for distinctive right and left shoes!), as well as trends and public taste. Intertwined in shoe history is the stiletto platform heel. This design developed from a merge of two famous styles, the platform shoe and the stiletto heel.



<http://www.ballshooring.com>

## Platform Shoes

When you dress for work, what do you do? Grab some comfortable clothes and ugly shoes or go for those sexy heels, the ones that will show your cute boss you mean business. Women have faced this problem of comfort vs. sex-appeal in the workplace for centuries, and the 1970s produced an answer: platform shoes. These shoes are cute and make a girl feel "above mere mortal status" (Newman). Though they started at an

inch in depth, it wasn't unusual to see platforms soar to eight or nine inches: the higher, the sexier! But for the 1970s working girl, an inch was just right, with the levelness of the shoe maintaining the wearer's comfort.

The 1970s were literally the 'anything goes' decade...the uglier and clunkier

the fashion, the better" (1970s). High-heeled platforms, booted platforms, dress shoe platforms, men's platforms: these clunky creations added to height and demeanor. Texture, jewels, sequins, designs, and patterns – imagination

was the only guide. All Americans stood tall and proud during this riotous time declaring: we are here and we are not afraid.

However, platforms could also be used as a statement of femininity. Gillion Carrara, a professor in the fashion department of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, put on some platform high-heels and remarked, "The breasts go out; the derriere juts back; the leg elongates...men find that very attractive" (Newman). Even dressed in a suit with your hair in a bun, these shoes served as the perfect accessory to produce a confident, sexy look, and they provide an alternative to a different type of high-heel.

## Stiletto Heels

A pair of shoes walks into a room. Everyone hears the slow clicking on the stone floor and turns to admire. Because of the increased popularity of the stiletto, more women can attract this type of attention simply walking down the street or into the office. The stiletto heel has become the trademark of the fun, flirty, fashionable female.

From the 1970s to the present, the perception of the stiletto has

“Texture, jewels, sequins, designs, and patterns – imagination was the only guide.”



changed. In the 1970s, the shoe was worn primarily by hookers and punk rockers (Monitor) (not as something more respectable women would wear). However, by the 1980s, women were using the stiletto to display their feminine side at work. This helped the shoe become more main stream. Women, who were making their mark in the corporate office among men, could show their pride at accomplishing such high achievements, while happily reminding the men that they were still women, but with power.

In the 1990s, the stiletto became high fashion. Women took to the designs hot off the runways, and incorporated them into their wardrobe. Although some women found the idea of the stiletto a mark of submission anti-feminism, others saw it as a great way to show off a woman's drive. Linda O'Keefe, the author of *Shoes*, stated, "You can't tiptoe into a room in high heels. You have to stride" (Kulman). And, women kept on striding right into the 21st Century.

Today, thanks to shows like "Sex and the City" stilettos are "THE symbol for the urban, independent, extremely fashionable and unquestionably sexy woman" (Monitor). As a result, women in all class ranges have added or are



<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00011U060/ref=as>

“You can’t tiptoe into a room in high heels. You have to stride.”



[www.geocities.com/platform\\_diva/1990.html](http://www.geocities.com/platform_diva/1990.html)

adding stilettos to their wardrobe. So, the next time you want to make a head-turning entrance, no matter what the circumstance, the stiletto is the shoe that will have this effect, while showing off the woman you are.

### Merging of Platform Shoes and Stilettos

While Americans in the 1970s encompassed free love with the platform shoes and the 1980s brought sexuality in the stilettos, it was the merger of both that created an even newer and edgier look—the stiletto platform heel. The platform portion of the shoe projects a carefree, laissez faire female while the stiletto portion maintains sexuality and allure.

Initially accepted as a part of fetish footwear, these heels gave the wearer an opportunity to flirt with the forbidden in the late 1990s. This footwear appeared primarily in the form of fetish boots, or “kinky boots” as they are known in the U.K. (“Kinky boots”).

Breaking the invisible wall between the private and public life, stiletto platforms eventually spread into the general population. Though this trend was fleeting in the 1990s, it didn't become main stream until now.

### Shoe Fashion Today

Despite their history, the platform heel continues to rage in the fashion world. This season's designers experiment with this style's versatility through color and texture and by applying it to the stiletto heel. They find the beauty of this style in the ease of creating ridiculously tall heels without additional discomfort or strain on the foot. This simple engineering allows



**NOT** your  
mother's high  
heels



*VintAgeShoe.com*



www.mandyshoestillettos.com


designers to put more brain power towards aesthetic aspects of the shoe, creating a wave of new styles ranging from dramatic to elegant, grungy to professional, and everything in between.

For aesthetic pleasure, designers have released varying textures for this season's look as well.

Patent leather continues to stock the shelves adding a sense of comfort and wealth to any style. Crocodile and python also add a popular and exotic streak perfect for muted outfits.

As for colors, fall's looks keep black in exile, but compensate with combinations of deep cherry, blue, chocolate brown, olive, violet, and chalk. To add flash to

these colors, designers also incorporate different types of platform heel blocking, metallic fading or sequins. Each adds a dynamic to the foot and creates a sensation wherever the heightened stiletto may step.

Both the platform and the stiletto heel, so popular in today's fashion magazines, have adorned trendy feet throughout the ages. Only recent endeavors; however, ingeniously fused the two for a more dramatic look. In doing so, designers allowed themselves and fellow shoe-lovers the opportunity to flaunt their talents and tastes with these flashy high-steppers. Though platforms have seen a modification and are seemingly threatened by flats and regular high heels today, they have stood the test of time and are here to stay. 

“New styles ranging from dramatic to elegant, grungy to professional, and everything in between.”

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*Dear Shoeaholics,*

*Another day another pair of shoes. I wish I could find a great pair of shoes as easily as Cinderella. Never fear fellow shoe lovers! I found the perfect pair of shoes made by DKNY!*

*DKNY can be my fairy godmother anytime!*

*Love,*

*A fellow shoe lover*



## Behind the *Obsession*

by Shanelle Baxter

### Shoe inventory:

**Heels:** 6 pairs of black, 3 pairs of white, 2 pairs of gray, 1 brown, 1 camel, 1 red.

**Flats:** 1 pair white, 1 red, 1 purple, 1 brown, 2 black, 1 pair of clear jellies.

**Sneakers:** 2 pairs of Converse (black/pink velour and black/white hemp), 1 navy, 1 pair Avia athletics, 1 brown herringbone slip on, one white slip on.

**Boots:** 1 pair mid shin black, 1 knee high brown wedge, 1 rubber black snow boot.

**Sandals:** Black imitation Crocs, 2 black rubber flip flop, 1 pink rubber flip flop, 1 multi-pastel rubber flip flop, 1 white flip flop, pink water shoes.

**Total: 37 Pairs**

“I have shoes I’ve never taken out of the box. I even have shoes that don’t fit. I look at them and go, ‘Oh, it doesn’t matter that I can’t wear them - they’re so pretty!’”

I could wear a different pair of shoes every day of the month, plus a week. There is no real reason to having this many pairs of shoes, except one: I adore them. I have some pairs of shoes that I have only worn two to three times. While this is semi-embarrassing, it’s not as embarrassing as the hours I can spend in a shoe store. There have been times I have walked away from a single store with three pairs of shoes; and then gone on to buy one more pair at the next store. I look at the shoe a page in catalogues until they are so worn color is flaking off. I once kept a picture of my ideal sneaker for three years (I never got the sneakers because I was 14 and didn’t have enough money for LUGS). My mother doesn’t help at all with this obsession. We have the same size of feet so we love to go to shoe stores and rotate who tries on what shoes. It is because of this woman that I own all my heels. She also goes on “shoe spurts” where magically three pairs of new shoes are in the closet after only 2 hours of shopping. This may sound extreme, but I am not the only woman who pays more attention to the shoes someone is wearing than to the person themselves, and I have proof.

Many female celebrities have been quoted talking about their shoe obsession. One of the most widely known celebrities with a shoe addiction is Sarah Jessica Parker. Much like her character, Carrie, on *Sex and the City*, Parker finds solace in shopping for shoes. She even has her own fashion line, Bitten, that boast shoes that are both designer quality, but affordable (FAQ’s). In Lise Hand’s article “SOD on...That’s Shoe Obsession Disorder,” she quoted many celebrities talking about their shoes. Hand referenced a



# High Stepping

quote by Kiera Knightly to Grazia magazine that said, "I have shoes I've never taken out of the box. I even have shoes that don't fit. I look at them and go, 'Oh, it doesn't matter that I can't wear them - they're so pretty!'" (Hand). While this seems incredulous it must be true of she wouldn't have said it. Another famous quote that Hand included was one by the ever popular Marilyn Monroe who stated, "I don't know who invented the high heel, but all men owe him a lot," (Hand).

Marilyn brings up a good point: heels are sexy. This must be another reason why shoes are such a big seller with women. No matter what shape a woman's body, shoes will always fit. Shoes do not make women feel fat; they actually make women feel thinner because they are taller. When a woman feels bloated shopping for clothes is not an option, but shoes, they don't care if you're retaining




water. Clicking down the street in a new pair of stilettos is exhilarating. The complements other women pay on your shoes can buoy you up for days. While I concede with Marilyn that men do owe a lot to whoever designed high heels, there has to be some other reason, besides feeling more beautiful, to why women are so drawn to shoes. The following are the top three reasons behind my rational for why I need all the shoes I own, and all the shoes I have yet to own.

**The Look** – Harking back to previous comments, I buy shoes because they make me look good. When I slip, shove, wiggle into those five inch stilettos I may be thinking, "No way," but as soon as I look in the mirror at how amazing my foot and leg look I am calculating how much money I actually will have to groceries that month. Now it's not just purely selfish of me to get my beautiful shoes, I want other people to think I look good too! Some days I roll out of bed before going to work, but I can slip on a cute pair of shoes and instantly it seems I look better. No girl has ever felt ugly wearing cute shoes.

**Variety** – I wear a lot of different hats throughout the day. I am a secretary at a tire store, a university student, a phone center employee, a runner, a water sport fanatic, the girl who abhors snow, and a potential date. For these different roles, and many others, I require a lot of shoes. I can't go to the tire store in cute white flats, but my heels aren't the best choice either, nor are my ratty tennis shoes, this is where the simple black flat comes in handy. On days when I walk fifteen minutes uphill to class heels may not be the best choice, not that I haven't done it, so I need my tennis shoes. Come evening though the heels are on, those lucky men. In addition to needing a shoe for every occasion, I need a shoe in every color. The shoes need to match the outfit and the bag, thus red shoes are a must to go with that ruby red clutch.

**Deals** – I can't pull myself away from a good deal. If a cute pair of shoes is under twenty dollars they suddenly become the most adorable pair of shoes in the world. I have many pair of black heels for that reason.

Those three reasons are the overruling factors for my shoe obsession, and reasons I feel many women can relate to. Those thirty-six pairs of shoes sitting on my closet floor are not the end of my shoe shopping days. There will be many more to come, and though I may never get into the thousands, I think a hundred pairs or so would suffice... 

“I am a secretary at a tire store, a university student, a phone center employee, a runner, a water sport fanatic, the girl who abhors snow and a potential date. I require a lot of shoes.”

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*Women with Class...*

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# Fall of an Empire

by Mallory Watkins

**M**y friends, I stand before you today to call your attention to a 20-year-long dictatorship. For too long has the rest of the world been held under shameful oppression—but no more! We will not stand for it any more!

Who, you may ask, is this dictator? You shall recognize her immediately, I am sure, for she lurks among us—on our streets, in our schools, even in our homes! Ultra-high, ultra-chunky heeled shoes!

You may not have come to a full understanding of the situation, so allow me to explain it to you. Chunky high heeled shoes came into fashion in the mid- to late 80s. Previously they had been worn primarily by strippers and street-walkers; and yet, they've popped

back up in fashion! They are back again on the virgin feet of attractive young women and svelte models

“Think to yourself, I want to look like \_\_\_\_\_”

alike, littering the closets of women all over the world. This ruler of fashion once had its place in the world, but it has been far too long a reign and has now turned to tyranny.

The determining question is what is attractive? Think to yourself, when I put on a pair of shoes, I want to look like \_\_\_\_\_. If you filled that in with anything other than hooker or stripper, you would agree with me that the shoes pictured here are not attractive and needs to be booted off the throne!

### An alternative high heel?

Certainly there is something other than hooker shoes that can be worn when women are looking for height and sass. Take stilettos for example. Stilettos can vary in height anywhere between one to eight inches, which means they can be worn by anyone, from conservative professionals to daring fashionistas. Not to mention, they weigh half as much!

Some women may think to them-

selves, well, an inch definitely isn't what I think of when I think conservative shoes. Really though, there is something to be said for height in a shoe. Perhaps we don't need a full eight inches, but a little bit of height can go a long way. High heels don't just make your whole being taller, but they actually make your legs themselves appear longer—and what kind of girl doesn't dream at one point or another of having

gams like Cameron Diaz? Of course we want

the height! But why do we need to find it in the smuttiest of shoes? Let's find a more dazzling, sophisticated look. That look is in stilettos.

### It's been a good run, but it's time to let go of the past.

Look, when giant, blocky, clunky heels came out, I had just as much of an affair with them as any other woman worthy of the



Photo from <http://en.wikipedia.org>




Photo from <http://shoes.about.com>

Bright yellow Zulas, from Paris Hilton — perfect for a disco-style dance.

Continued on page 16...

Continued from page 15...

name. And it was a good run! But just like the end of the Bush administration, things have just not worked out well in the last half of the reign, and it's time for a change. Chunky-heeled Mary Janes are darling for a walk down Memory Lane, and platforms even have their place at a retro disco party; but there comes a time for every fad to take a hike.

The two-decade-long rule of the ultra-high, ultra-chunky heel must come to an end. I solicit all women out there to clean out their closets. Toss those old clunkers into a dress-up box so their daughters can slip them on and laugh at our silliness when we were their age. Let's adopt a slimmer, sleeker style. 

## Are You In: Trends, Troopers, & Technology

by Ladawn Hall

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**S**hoes are a necessary part of any wardrobe; however, as time has gone on, shoes have become not only a necessity, but a fashion statement. With each new style of shoe, the question is asked, "Is this better, cooler, or worth any potential loss of comfort?" Some styles stay longer than anyone thought they would, while others fade quickly, and neither is dependent on one common aspect of the shoe.



www.crocs.com

first came out I thought for sure that it would fade faster than those eleven inch stiletto platform boots that came out in the nineties, remember those? Anyone own a pair? Or even better, does anyone remember the fashion no-no of the plastic, clear boots? However, the crocs are not only a trend that has lasted through the past couple of years,

“Some styles stay longer than anyone thought they would.”

The croc is an excellent example of a shoe that lasted longer than I thought it would. When this shoe

but the spunky style, odor and mark resistant material and comfort of the

Continued on page 18...



Would you like to look like the Duke? We can help.

GUCCI



# Last Year's Fashion Fiasco



## New Year's Resolution:

1. Lose 10 pounds
2. Stop biting my nails
3. Shop at

**In-Step**

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# The Boot

Continued from page 16...

shoe has made it a permanent addition to the closets of many women and men.

The long lasting trend of the croc is not entirely unique. Other shoes have had similar success as the croc. Some of these include; skater shoes, unique shoes that are padded to not only to protect the foot, but to make a fashion statement, Nike Flights, athletic shoes that have springs in the heel, often fully exposed, so the wearer can jump easier, and wedge shoes, high heeled shoes, with the sole of the shoe extending from the toe to

ers are confident enough to not only continue to make the boots, but also make other styles of shoes out of the same plastic material as the trademark shoes. However, the question of whether or not this particular trend will last will depend on if the shoe is practical enough

“Shoe designers continue to create new shoes, improving on old designs and striving to create better shoes.”

the heel, creating a wedge look. These shoes have lasted through several seasons because of the unique design, comfort, or practicality. Meanwhile, shoe designers continue to create new shoes, improving on old designs and striving to create better shoes.

One example in current fashion is the improvement of the rain boot. Traditionally, this style has been used for people who work in wet conditions, fishermen, and others who value the cheap cost and rubber that effectively keeps water out. Designers have taken this boot and given it a makeover, producing them in various colors, patterns, and lengths.

While the trend is slow to catch on in some regions, shoe design-


to overcome the casual style and difficulty of finding clothing to match the boots.

Another shoe that has come into style, but may or may not last, is the ipod ready shoes from Nike.



Photo from <http://www.techshout.com>

According to techshout.com, these shoes monitor how many calories the wearer burns, the pace, and the shoes would transmit the information to the ipod, which would record the progress. The problem facing the shoe is not the appearance, they look much like regular sneakers, but the price, \$100 is the main obstacle for a shoe that offers the same features as a \$10 pedometer. If this shoe, and the six future designs Nike has planned for ipod ready shoes, we may see a trend in technology enhanced shoes. (Apple, Nike Team

As the shoe industry changes, the best advice that one can take when shopping for shoes, is to make sure the shoe is comfortable, suits the occasion, and is what YOU want in a shoe, not just the newest shoe on the shelf. 

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your shoe fit for  
the climb?

Georgia's Finest  
Shoe Polish for Men

# Man vs. MACHINE

By Katie Watcott

Every high heel in existence is either hand-made or machine-made. While the hand-made heels are wood, machine-made heels are the lightweight and less expensive plastic. Wood creates a feeling of solidity that machine-made shoes may seem to lack. Yet nine out of ten heels are made of plastic by machine.

Other materials that are involved in the making of a high heeled shoe may include cement, glue, tack, staples, leather, fabric, nails, and wood. The type of shoe, the style, and the process in which it is made determines what materials are used. Experts may also specialize and chose to work with only their preferred medium/type. The choice to use nails, tacks, or staples is simply up to the designer and the producer.

Both machine-made and hand-made shoes start out as patterns. These patterns can be done either on paper or on the computer, contingent on if the shoe is going to be hand-made or machine-made and the preference of both the designer and the producer.

## Machine-Made Heels

A machine-made shoe doesn't necessarily require a paper pattern but is usually done on the computer. This simplifies things because the pattern is then sent to the computer-controlled laser beam to cut the pieces out of the chosen fabric required, most often leather or fabric.

Of the pattern cut from the material there are three parts that make up the shoe; the sole, the upper, and the heel. These are assembled and stitched together by yet another computer-controlled machine, used in the process known as CAM, Computer Aided Manufacture. Altogether the part a person plays in making shoes, when using machines, is only on the computer. This allows for versatility in the

“Nine out of ten heels are made of plastic by machine.”



<http://www.modeltoox.com/Volumes/High-Heel.html>

quantity and type of shoe made in a day. A worker would simply have to change the programmed shoe pattern to start a different shoe.

The high heel is the final piece to be attached to the base of the shoe and is nailed to the shank of the shoe. For clarification: the shank is found in the base of the shoe that is comprised of either plastic or carbon fiber. It is there to support the arch of the shoe and fortify that natural arch of the foot. By connecting the heel to the shank there is a sturdiness that reinforces the strength of the overall shoe.

Machine-made shoes may be produced faster the quality can

Continued on page 21...



Dillard's



Continued from page 19...

sometimes slip through the cracks. If you really want the quality of a well made shoe the right shoemaker can make you the high heel shoe ideal for you.

“No high-tech gadgets but a shoe-shaped “cookie cutter” is pressed by the machine to cut neatly through the leather.”

## Hand-Made Heels

The overall process of putting the shoe together by hand isn't very different than a machine. However knowing that each step is completed by hand insures more minute, concentrated construction.

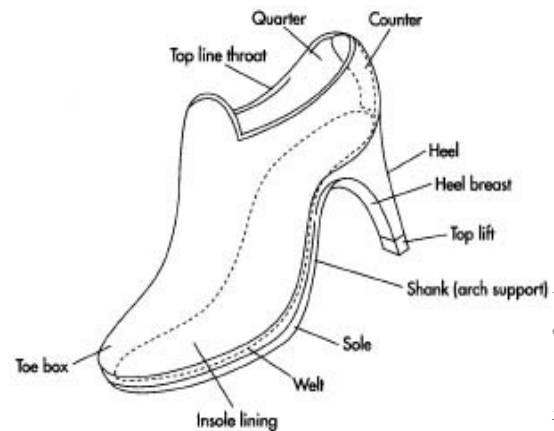
Each shoe requires a pattern; as does each size of each of those shoes. The pattern is drawn onto paper and meticulously cut. From there, the Clicking Machine utilizes 10 special knives to push through the leather based on the pattern. The main difference between this incredible contraption of Clicking Machine and the laser beam is that there are no high-tech gadgets but a shoe-shaped “cookie cutter” that is pressed by the machine to cut neatly through the leather.

To provide shape and support for the toe the shoemaker puts in the toe puffs. This unobtrusive piece of material is inserted between the layers of the inner and outer lining of the shoe. A toe puff can be leather, plastic, or steel. Steel-toed boots are essentially a boot with a steel toe puff. Following the insertion of the toe puffs, “stiffeners” are sewn into the heel for a firm solid heel. So you can locate a toe puff at the tip of the shoe while the stiffeners reside in the other end of the shoe. Again, this stiffener, usually made of leather board of fibreboard, is inserted in between the inner and outer lining.

Quality consumers expect a good shoe be formed around a “last,” which

is a type of wax figure that controls the shape of the toe, the shoe, and the size of each shoe made. Not only this, but every, individual shoe with a different heel height has a separate, corresponding last. One shoemaker can have thousands of lasts, depending on the size of his business and the range he offers in shoe sizes and heel heights.

The shoemaker then uses the Back Mold Warming Machine to warm up the leather to the right temperature and pulls the round backing of the heel into shape. After they let the leather



<http://img.allshoes.com/photo>

cool around the shape, it becomes permanent.

Lastly, the heel is attached to the rest of the shoe by a heel attachment machine which inserts the small steel nails to hold it in place. This is vital to the process of making a high-heeled shoe because if done incorrectly the heel could break. If the heel is too high a break could cause an injury to the wearer.

Based on the style of the shoe, and the height of the heel, different materials are used such as nails, screw nails, cement, staples, or sets of molded prongs. Some even use a combination of these to secure the heel.


Continued on page 22...



<http://gumstakera.com/index.cfm?>

# Step-by-Step

Continued from page 21...

Whether the shoe is made by machine or by hand there is a rigorous upkeep of product inspection in order to insure a reliable product. The possibility of a faulty heel is more probable with a machine because of the mass amounts of shoes produced daily. There is a chance that faulty shoes can slip through inspection and make it out to the buyers. Is it worth it to have all your shoes hand-made? The effort and art put into each shoe would make those shoes more valuable and more expensive yet you can request distinctive details in your specialized shoes. Both hand-made and machine-made shoes have reliably served avid high-heel fanatics as well as the occasional wearer. Either way all the work going into a high-heeled shoe is immense and essential to the quality of shoe each customer expects. 

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# CHOO'S SHOES!

By Rebecca Washburn

“Women all over the world melt at the sight of a pair of Choo shoes.”

**J**immy Choo is one of the most respected designers in the shoe fashion industry. Why? It is because he opened the door to this industry in London with something as simple as a shoe. This not only brought great profit, but also made London “the fashion center of the world” (ShoelQ). For this service, he was awarded the OBE, which is a British order of chivalry, from the Queen of England. Choo’s shoes are unique, glamorous, fashionable, and comfortable! There are women all over the world who melt at the sight of a pair of Choo shoes. His shoes are for all ages, types, and sizes of women. This allows all women to look fabulous, not just celebrities.

His knack for Shoemaking began when he was very young. Choo was born in Penang, Malaysia in 1961(Choo’s actual last name is Chow, but it was misspelled on a registry and Choo never corrected it). His father was a shoemaker and taught Choo the art of shoemaking. At age eleven Choo made his first pair of shoes. Choo left Malaysia and attended Cordwainers’ Technical College in London where he studied fashion. After he graduated, Choo eventually opened his own small shoe shop and was discovered by the world of fashion. He had only a few clients at first, but they were very loyal and adored his hand crafted shoes. His shoes had the

reputation of being fashionable, yet surprisingly comfortable. His talent for making four inch heels comfortable was simple: he used quality material and designed the shoe to fit the foot in a natural way. His high heels felt like tennis shoes (and still do). As time went by Choo was noticed by Vogue Magazine's previous accessory editor, Tamara Mellon. She recognized his talent and offered to help Choo with his business by featuring him in Vogue magazine during 1988. This gave Choo the big break that he needed to make is shoes a sensation. Mellon and Choo's Niece, Sandra Choi, bought 50% of Choo's company in order to produce his shoes in a larger mass in Italy. They started a line of shoes called ready-to-wear and soon Choo shoes were top of the line. Choo

shoes are adored by many celebrities and royal figures because of the posh design and comfort of the shoes. One of the most famous admirers of Choo shoes was the late Princess Diana. The company was eventually sold to Equinox Luxury Holdings Ltd. in order to expand globally, but Mellon and Choi remained with the company to design shoes and oversee the company. Choo, however, no longer works in the company. But he does continue to design his own hand-

“Choo has taken plain shoes and transformed them into vibrant statements of sophistication!”

made shoes on his own time.

Choo has taken plain shoes and transformed them into vibrant statements

of sophistication! The company designs flats, heels, sandals, bridal shoes, and boots that match the character of the women, but guarantee a vogue appearance. For each season, of every year there is a new collection of shoes that have been uniquely designed to fit the fashions of that time. Because of this, women's feet can always look amazing and feel great! Do you want your feet to be happy? Then put on a pair of Choo shoes! 

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# The Red Sole

By Stacey Smith

PAGE 28

**T**ake a look at your sole. Is it dark? Unattractive? Plain? Then, it's time for a change. Christian Louboutin is known for his signature sassy, red soles. His collection ranges from the everyday heel to

“One day his assistant was painting her nails a flirtatious red; he decided bright red would be a perfect finishing touch to his shoes.”

the formal heel with an occasional flat. With a pair Christian Louboutin's you're bound to be noticed. Because there are only five of his boutiques in the United States (Las

Vegas; Los Angeles; Costa Mesa, California (South Coast Plaza); and two in New York City), these shoes are a luxury and hard to come by; you won't find them on the feet of just anybody. Christian Louboutin shoes are very familiar with the red carpet in Hollywood. Stars such as Britney Spears, Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow, Madonna, and Sarah Jessica Parker are known to be big fans. Because of the quality and detail that is put into each shoe, the starting price is six hundred dollars. Those who crave the exclusive, trendy heel should definitely pay a visit to one of Christian Louboutin's personally designed boutiques.

Christian Louboutin became interested in design at a very young age. While visiting a museum near his house, Louboutin saw a sign



rymag.com


that asked women not to wear spike-heeled shoes because they damage the floor. This sign intrigued him because spike-heeled shoes were no longer in fashion during the 1970s (Brennan). It was then that he started sketching shoes. This passion stayed with him as he studied drawing and decorative arts at the Academie Roederer. In 1991, Louboutin started his own company in Paris. To draw customers into his store, he gave away free cups of coffee. The idea for red



<http://www.thepertbazzar.co.uk>

went back to all red soles.

When asked where he gets his inspiration, Louboutin said, "The last thing that would ever influence me is fashion. In fashion, things get dated extremely quickly"

(Brennan). His passion and talent have made Louboutin a world famous designer; his shoes are in high demand, and his success will continue to grow. 

soles came to him one day when his assistant was painting her nails a flirtatious red; he decided that a bright red would be a perfect finishing touch to his shoes. At one point, Louboutin started a line of blue sole shoes. These shoes were meant for brides-to-be to give them "something blue" to wear on their wedding day. However, this line didn't last long before Louboutin

“Take a look at your sole.”

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[designerhighshoes.wordpress.com](http://designerhighshoes.wordpress.com)

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# High Step



by Allison Doman  
all photos from stevemadden.com



“I remember the first pair of shoes I fell in love with.”

PAGE 32

I remember the first pair of shoes I fell in love with: they were black wedged sandals with little pink bows across the top, a Steve Madden classic. I wore them every chance I got. With jeans, a skirt, to church to school; every time I wore black or pink, those shoes were on my feet. Tears dripped from the corners of my eyes when I discovered one day that my new puppy had chewed them to pieces. I owe Steve Madden a lot. He helped me realize that heels can be pretty, functional, and overall comfortable. My feet to this day are adorned with several different pairs of Steve Madden shoes, and thank goodness they are blister free.

Madden got his start early in life when he worked at a designer shoe store at the age of 16. He loved his job and had his eyes opened to the



fashion industry, especially by his boss, “I was 16 years old, my boss was 26. He had his own business, he drove a Mercedes, he was this way cool guy. He was my idol.” Madden attempted college and eventually moved to Greenwich Village in New York, and started learning the business end of shoe design. He quit in 1988 to begin his business with a friend from his previous job.

Problems did come about for Steve Madden. Soon after he started his own business, Madden was arrested for drunk driving and admit-





ted to a rehabilitation center. He was soon back into shoes however, and started selling his first design, "Marilyn", from his trunk to various shoe stores. Madden soon industrialized the platform shoe industry in 1990. His company skyrocketed, and soon his shoes were walking most streets in the United States.


Life was great for Madden until 1997, when he was arrested for money laundering, and sentenced to 41 months in prison. His partner, Jordon Belfort, had produced a document that stated he owned the company, leaving Madden out completely. Madden, who supposedly signed the document, claimed that he was betrayed and had no

“From jail, Madden continued to design lovely shoes, raking in \$700,000 per year.”



idea what he was really signing. Madden was soon under investigation, and after a three year long battle, Madden was convicted. Belfort lost control of the company in that same investigation. Steve Madden resigned from his position as president, and reassigned himself the position of "creative design chief", since he couldn't hold an executive position at the time. From jail, Madden continued to design lovely shoes, raking in \$700,000 per year. Now in 2008, Madden can finally hold an executive position in his company once again.

Steve Madden is still looked upon as one of the most genius shoe designers in the country. His designs have gone much further than the original "Marilyn" wedge

he started out with. Madden is a master of the ballet flat and also boots. You can find his shoes at his signature "Steve Madden" boutique, or at discount stores such as famous footwear and DSW shoe warehouse. 

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# Good for the Sole

PAGE 34



# Step Into

New shoes are a girl's best friend and come in every color, shape and style. The style of shoes affects more than just how many compliments the wearer receives—they affect her very health. So, while picking a pair of shoes to cover (or show off) your pretty pedi, consider the following health impacts before you slip on that shoe.

The underlying difference of why some shoes are good for feet and overall health is distribution of body weight when walking. A normal, bare foot first puts weight on the heel, rolls it along the outside, and distributes the pressure to the heel pad. Different kinds of shoes are designed to disperse this weight—some try to mimic the way the body achieves this naturally, some try to change the weight distribution to

have never gone out of fashion. This elevated heel pushes all of the body's weight to the heel pad of the foot, or completely on the heel of the foot. Either way, none of the weight is distributed to the arch of the foot.

While many women wear high heels for the nice curves they give to their legs, doctors say these high kickers are not healthy. One Podiatrist, Doctor Teisha Chiarellis says that "while these shoes may make the leg look good, it's not a normal anatomical position." According to research done by the American Podiatric Medical Association, heels are proven to cause a multitude of

woman is tipsy and wearing a high heel she will be unstable. In the event of a fall the damage will often include a dislocation of the ankle, torn ligaments and even a break.

“While high heels may make the leg look good, it’s not a normal anatomical position.”

These injuries are the equivalent of a serious injury from a rugby tackle.” The most disturbing of all the suffering heels can cause is a shortened calf muscle.

This means that after wearing heels so much, some women can never switch back to flat shoes or walk comfortably in bare feet.

Don't panic and don't throw out your high heels just yet—doctors suggest some ways feet can still sport these killer shoes without completely killing your health. High

# Good Health

work specific muscles, and some shoes are designed solely for looks and pay no attention to the way the shoe affects health.

The high heel is a perfect example of footwear that pays no attention to health purposes. High heels are shoes with a heel of 2 or more inches and can reach as high as five inches or more! Invented around 1500, with stiletto heels emerging in the 1950s, high heels

health ailments. Such examples are knee and back problems; the shoe gives the wearer and unnatural gait; they cause calluses and bunions; and greater injuries can occur if a high heel wearer falls. Another Podiatrist, Doctor Rupert says, "If a

By Jennifer Olson



Continued on page 36...

# Good for the Sole

Continued from page 35...  
heel shoes are better if the toes are squared off and the heel is chunkier and shorter. Also, these health risks can be avoided just by limiting time wearing high heels.

Due to the harm heels can cause, it would appear flip-flops would be good for the feet—after all, it's like walking barefoot—doctors have also voiced concern for health problems induced by these shoes. Basically, they do the opposite of a high heel and stretch the Achilles tendon, causing pain in the ankle. In addition, the thong between the toes offers the wearer no support, so doc-

with injuries due to flat shoes. He explains: "the problems are due to overuse. When people wear flip flops all the time they are constantly scrunching their toes

ly between walking shoes, running shoes, tennis shoes, etc, the concept

**“Injuries can be the equivalent of rugby tackle injury.”**



is generally the same. This footwear provides a support for the arch of the foot; thus distributing the weight evenly over the foot. They are good for the body because this allocation of pressure prevents flat feet and can support high arched feet. The shock from running, jumping or bouncing is also prevented from affecting the feet, legs and spine when wearing these shoes.

Some shoe companies recognize the possible adverse affects of some shoes and have invented footwear meant to improve your health just by standing in them. While these shoes may cost a bit more, the health benefits are worth any


**“Getting a “killer body” or “killing your body” depends on your shoes.”**

tors recommend shoes with a back or proper straps to hold the foot in place. Foot surgeon Barry Francis sees up to six patients every week

up into a claw. That can cause problems such as tendonitis and even shin splints. People go to work in them and stand in them all day.” Less time in flip-flops equals happy and healthy feet.

Tennis shoes are considered the number one shoe for health and comfort. While sneakers vary great

price.

So never fear shoe lovers! Remember that picking out a pair of shoes shouldn't just be about the way they look. How they affect you physically—beyond your shapely calves—is important too. Getting a “killer body” or “killing your body” depends entirely on you and the shoes you wear. 

**Chung-Shi** (with Foot Solutions) has invented a shoe that curves the toe and the heel upward. With the 15 degree angle at the heel and a 20 degree angle at the toe, a wearer must constantly balance in this shoe. These shoes give a work-out the whole time they are on the feet. For this reason, many people in the medical field, who are constantly standing, have begun using these shoes as part of their personal workout. Chung-Shi claims their shoe improves beauty, health and fitness. The shoes are designed to increase calorie consumption with each step. Muscles work harder to balance in these shoes, thereby burning more calories. Chung-Shi states their shoe improves the respiratory and circulatory function, and even improves the appearance of cellulite. The curve promotes a natural walking or jogging gait, which strengthens core muscles and tones the feet, legs, buttock and back. Stress reduction and reduction to shock of the spine are also promised benefits of sporting these special sneakers. A different shoe designer, MBT (also known as the "anti-shoe") uses the same technology and requires the use of the muscles without even walking. MBT has expanded their design beyond just "tennis" and have this technology available in boots, Mary Janes, and other fashionable styles.



The company **Earth** has designed an even newer idea to pamper the feet and benefit the body. Each of their shoes is equipped with Kalso Negative Heel Technology. This technology positions the toes higher than the heels, thus directing pressure to the heel pad and shifting the weight backwards. Unlike Chung-Shi or MBT shoes, this 3.7 degree incline is incorporated into the foot-bed and not visible from looking at the outside of the shoe. However, their shoe promises many of the same benefits as Chung-Shi, including burning calories, better breathing, stronger core muscles, tighter thighs and better leg and calf toning. These shoes also promote a natural and straighter posture. Wearing these shoes forces the wearer to keep their shoulders back, head straight over the body, and helps the spine and the pelvis align. Earth sells Kalso Negative Hell Technology in sandals, boots and walking shoes.



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# The Quest for the Perfect Children's Shoe

By Taunya Campbell

PAGE 39

**M**ost parents find the quest for finding nice children's shoes can be quite the adventure. Inadvertently, children often become your greatest opponent in this quest. Their little bodies grow so fast, that if you are not careful, you'll be out shopping for a new pair of shoes every two months to replace the already outgrown ones. Also, children are rough on footwear. A

new pair of shoes can look like they were last decade's hand-me-downs in a matter of days if they're not built for the task. Perhaps the most frustrating battle occurs when your perfectly well-behaved child transforms into a thunderous, wailing, fit-throwing beast, all because you decide a practical pair of tennis

shoes will work out much better than the drastically over-priced Dora ones she wants. As a mother of four children I have overcome these obstacles in my pursuit of the perfect

**“Your child turns into a thunderous, wailing, fit-throwing beast.”**

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# First Shoe

Continued from page 39...

children's shoe by sticking to these three important qualities: The right

fit, durability, and cost effectiveness. fit, durability, and cost effectiveness. Many shoe stores have instruments to help you find your child's correct shoe size. Typically these devices come in two forms. The first are little footprints on the ground marked with a shoe size. Your child

name brand shoes which have worn out quicker than less expensive brands found at Payless Shoe

**“Shoes made out of cheap, flimsy materials will last no longer than most Hollywood marriages.”**

fit, durability, and cost effectiveness.

Many shoe stores have instruments to help you find your child's correct shoe size. Typically these devices come in two forms. The first are little footprints on the ground marked with a shoe size. Your child



you risk having them outgrow it too quickly.

It's also important that the shoe is not too big. Big shoes are awkward, making it easy for your child to trip. Big shoes can also cause blisters. If you can fit more than one finger width between their heel and the back of the shoe, it's too big. Although this method is not foolproof (my son's feet once grew over an inch in a few months so we had to buy new shoes anyway) it's the safest method against premature shoe shopping.

Even if you buy shoes that miraculously fit the whole school year, it won't help you if they wear out too soon. Durability is a necessity. Finding quality shoes takes some experimentation. I have purchased

Source, so you can't always count on a name. A close examination of the shoe usually reveals a lot about its quality. A sure sign of a shoddy shoe is the material it is made out of. Shoes made out of cheap flimsy materials, such as canvas rather than leather, will likely last no longer than most Hollywood marriages. Unfortunately, apart from a close examination, you are in the hands of fate.

If you end up buying duds despite your inspection, just don't buy that brand or type again. If you continually end up with poor quality from a particular store, avoid it in the future.

Closely related with durability is price. Like I said, it is not always necessary to buy the expensive

stands in the footprint that matches their size foot, and you have the size shoe to fit them. The other tool is an actual metal shoe-sizer which adjusts to your child's foot. However, remember these methods are only guides.

In order to get the right shoe for your child, you never, ever buy the exact fit for your child; otherwise it's likely they will outgrow them within a few months. Instead, it's best to pick shoes one half, to one size bigger than their normal size. Have them try the shoes on and walk around to make sure it feels comfortable to them. Feel the tip of






“Never, ever buy the exact fit for your child.”

name brand to get quality, but likewise it is not cost-effective to buy overpriced shoes with Batman or Hannah Montana on them when others are comparable in quality and looks, but more economical.

Your child may beg, plead, and even throw a tantrum, but there's usually a compromise that can be made. I try to help my kids understand that if we don't spend an insane amount of money on one pair of shoes, maybe we can afford to get them two pairs instead of one, or maybe we can use the money we save to go out to lunch or to a movie. Not only do I save more money for shoes this way, but my children are learning how to use money more effectively.

Shopping for children's shoes is definitely a battle which often takes a lot of years full of trial and error to overcome, but it can be done. Although the journey may seem daunting, the quest for finding the perfect shoes for your children is possible through utilizing the compass of proper size, durability, and cost as your guide. And who knows, maybe these tips will come in handy when you go looking for a pair of shoes for yourself! 



## What to Look For:

### The Right Fit

- Use the sizing tools shoe stores provide
- Never buy the exact fit—half to one size bigger is better
- More than one finger width between child's heel and shoe is too much

### Durability

- Name brand shoes not always the smarter buy
- Check material of shoe: canvas lasts longer than leather

### Cost Effectiveness

- Expensive not always equal quality
- Teach children responsible spending early



Start them out on the  
right foot.

RALPH  LAUREN

# Saving the Memory

by Jessica Gower


**Y**our child's first everything is important. You've got pictures of their first hair cut, first steps, first smile, and memories of their first word. You still have their baby blanket or favorite stuffed animal, but what about their first pair of shoes? A picture just doesn't do the memory justice or show how small and precious they were when they were little. Never fear, we've got the best ways to preserve that special memory.

One popular method is bronzing your baby's shoes. Bronzing children's shoes started in the 1930s.

Different companies offer a variety of styles. Along with bronzing, a parent can choose to have a pewter, silver, or gold coating. There are unmounted shoes, mounted, mounted shoes with a picture frame attached, and bookends. The mounted shoes, with a picture frame attached, allow you to put a picture of your little one with their bronzed shoes. Prices for these precious keepsakes range from \$40 to \$244.

A new method of preservation is porcelainizing. Porcelainizing leaves a porcelain-like finish, baked onto shoes several times over, like a ceramic finish, to create the appearance of fine china. The finishes come in white, pastel pink or blue. This method is about \$34 a shoe.



Memory Lane, a preserver of baby shoes in Watertown, Mass., uses a patented material during the porcelainizing process. This material is called Dresdenite. This material allows the shoe to look like the original. 

“What’s the best way to preserve your child’s first step?”

### Baby Shoe Preserving Companies:

- [www.abcbronzing.com](http://www.abcbronzing.com) This company has produced bronzed shoes since 1934.
- Bron-Shoe Co., 1313 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus, OH 43209. (614)252-0967. Bron-Shoe is the biggest and oldest provider of shoe bronzing in the US.
- [www.memoriesinbronze.com](http://www.memoriesinbronze.com) Their normal turnaround time is six to eight weeks.



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## Women & Shoes:

**T**here are many things about women that I don't really understand. I don't really understand why women like curtains so much. I have never had very strong opinions about curtains, or any window covering for that matter. I

“Come with me, women, on a journey.”

don't really notice them when I walk into a room, other than to see if they are opened or closed or exhibiting some other problem. Curtains, unfortunately, are just the beginning of a long list of things I don't understand about women. I don't really want to talk about curtains—so stop bringing them up.

Shoes. I want to talk about shoes. Shoes are definitely in the top-ten things I don't understand about women. They rank at number 7. This is somewhat directly

between number 10, “Why do women need ‘gourmet’ pizza?” and number 3, “What is the point of the movie *Steel Magnolias*?” These are good questions, but as I said, today's question is, “Why do women buy shoes that mangle their feet?”

Come with me, women, on a journey. I will take you to a magical, pain-free land where all are happy and comfortable. I'm taking you on a journey into the world of male shoe selection. When a man enters a shoe store he doesn't look at any-

The right price range



Comfortable

<http://imgas.become.com>

one. In fact, he pretends that he doesn't see people at all, because as amazing as the world of male shoe selection is, men don't like spending more than twenty minutes there. This is important. Anyway, once a man has walked past every person in the shoe store, without looking at anyone, he is ready to begin the selection process.

First, a man looks at the shoes. This does not violate rule number one because shoes aren't people. Second, after looking at the shoes and seeing if the shoe is carried in his size, a man checks the price. He does this because it doesn't matter how well a shoe fits if it is ridiculously expensive. Third, if the shoe is in the right price range, he will try it on. On the right foot. Men do not take the time to put both

shoe is intended for—it must pass the bounce test. The bounce test is conducted by reverting body weight on to the ball of the foot, and after crouching down, the body weight is pushed from the ground just far enough to get a gravity-less feel-

[http://img.slate.com/media/66/0205/09\\_BigFeet\\_mam.jpg](http://img.slate.com/media/66/0205/09_BigFeet_mam.jpg)




ing. The shoe should not leave the ground during the bounce test.

After assuring that the first shoe

a man will then look at the shoes on his feet. Men do not conduct an initial "do these shoes look nice" inspection, as women are so prone to. This is where, I believe, women go wrong. A man conducts preliminary testing to insure that an uncomfortable shoe never gets a chance. Women will look at the shoe prematurely, then, knowing that any movement may prove excruciating and may eliminate certain shoes from plausible buy-ability, they make sure not to move.

**“Pain can be avoided if women follow men’s example”**

They then remove the shoes and check the price, already having decided on purchasing said shoes. After making such financial sacrifices to obtain shoes, a woman is then compelled to mangle her feet and complain to whatever unfortunate male they may have brought.

All this could be avoided if women follow the men's example: Check, bounce, bounce, jump, look, buy. Because ladies, to men shoes are like curtains—we don't really look at them, unless there is a problem. 

## An **ABUSIVE** Relationship

By Jesse Thorson

shoe candidates on their feet if the first shoe candidate does not pass the initial comfort



test—the bounce test. It does not matter what the potential

is comfortable (by means of said bounce test), a man will then put on the left shoe candidate. The bounce test will then be repeated with both shoes. After both shoes pass the bounce test, a man will then proceed to the jump test. That is, jump. If both shoes remain comfortable,

# Men's Shoes: More than Meets the Eye

By Matthew Watkins

**W**hen most people think fashion, they don't think of men's shoes. How hard can it really be? They need to be black, and they need to shine. However, a man's outfit needs attention, just like a woman's. Because men's outfits are usually similar, it is important that each element of a man's outfit be coordinated correctly. The main focus is to balance the entire outfit along formality lines. The three most important elements in a man's shoe design are toe shape, lace straps, and leather grain.



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## Round Toe



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## Square Toe

## Toe Shape

There are two main toe shapes: square toes and round toes. Square toes usually look antiquarian; they harken back to the square hats and necks of puritan outfits. This casts the wearer as someone out of touch. Round toes, however, look sleek and trendy. Though a square toe may be acceptable in the most formal occasions, round toes are usually regarded as more stylish in every occasion. Often, shoes will not fall to one extreme in the toe shape. There are squarish round toes and roundish square toes. This can make shoe

purchasing difficult, but the important principle is that round is always more versatile than square, though round toes that are slightly squarish have a more formal look. They are therefore better for high class events.

## Lace Straps

The lace straps are the central element of shoe design, though they are often passed over by amateur shoe buyers. Shoes fall into three main lace strap categories: Oxford, Derby, or Monk. Oxford shoes are also known as Balmorals, while Derbies are often called Blüchers. The lace strap is the part of the shoe where the holes for the laces are placed. The difference between Oxford and Derby shoes are that with the former, the straps are connected at the base of the tongue, while Derbies are separated. Monk shoes do not have laces, but either have buckles or slip-on elastic. Oxford shoes look tighter along the top of the shoe just where the leg connects



with the foot, giving the overall shoe a more distinguished look. Derbies are looser around the leg and foot, which makes for a more casual look. They are, however, acceptable for semi-formal occasions. Monk shoes are almost always regarded as too casual for formal environments, but they may be sufficient whenever a suit jacket is not required. Generally the best shoes to buy are Derbies because they are more versatile.



<http://www.steriodelinks.com>


## Leather Grain

The final and most important part of men's dress shoes is the leather grain. However, judging a shoe's leather requires a lot of study and experience, which means this is the most difficult part of shoe shopping. Shoe leathers are generally described as being either fine or coarse. There are two factors to consider when judging the leather quality: shine and blemishes. Fine grained leather has a more polished shine and has less flaws or discolorations. Coarse leather is more blurry and may have a few noticeable marks or bumps. However, leather can be blurry and still be considered fine if it has no blemishes, while shiny leather

becomes coarse with just a few marks. Also, many shoes are made with less than 90% leather, so they may shine, but they are a lesser quality of shoe. Coarse leather is okay for more casual gatherings, but fine leather

is always better in either formal or casual environments. However, shoes with high grade leather are usually much more expensive, so it may be appropriate to fudge a little and get a slightly coarser grain.

## Conclusion

Overall, the best thing is to own both a pair of Derbies and Oxfords of high quality grain and round toes. However, since most quality men's shoes run from \$100 to \$300 dollars, it is difficult to buy that many pairs. The best advice is to get a good quality pair of Derbies with round toes. Derbies are more versatile than Oxfords because they are good for many different occasions, both casual and formal. However, those who are planning on attending many black tie events should probably have a good pair of Oxfords. 

“A man's outfit needs attention, just like a woman's.”

<http://www.leatherhoses.net.au/images/banner2.jpg>

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# Try These On

by Linsay Hymas

**H**ow many girls can say that their boyfriends are excited to take them shoe shopping? When I told my best friend, she said, "Ooh, take advantage of that!" How many girls would don't like shoe shopping?

My boyfriend, Jeff, and I have been dating for almost six years, and his love for shoes has grown in a way that I never expected, including buying a pair of brand new bright green Nike Cortez shoes. I have become better

with shoes (meaning I actually own three pairs instead of one), but one day, Jeff said to

**“Let’s improve your wardrobe. Shoes first.”**

me, “Let’s improve your wardrobe. Shoes first.”

That statement began a shoe shopping frenzy. We visited every store in Rexburg, Idaho, where there aren’t many. I tried on the shoes I liked, and he had me try on



<http://images.teamsugar.com>

the shoes he liked. I never realized how different our tastes actually were. Some of the shoes that he loved made my feet look like two boats. I guess I’d better explain: our styles are VERY different. I have a more romantic, old fashioned style, while he has a retro-contemporary style.

“Try these on,” he tried to persuade me.

“Okay, you know those are not my style.”





[http://inventionspot.com/files/images/shoe\\_ling\\_assist\\_custom.jpg](http://inventionspot.com/files/images/shoe_ling_assist_custom.jpg)

He raised an eyebrow, which meant “don’t be so difficult.”

Reluctantly, I slipped the flat white shoes onto my unwilling feet and, as I predicted, I was disappointed. I am the girl who wore the same pair of shoes every day for eight years. I will always buy a new fifty dollar book instead of a pair of twenty dollar shoes.

The shoe frenzy continued for two weeks. Almost every day, he would say, “Hey, you want to go shoe shopping?”

## “Hey, you want to go shoe shopping?”

Then, when I could think of nothing better to do, I’d give it. The constant battle of styles finally ended when, brilliantly, we decided to combine our styles.

We went into Payless and were bombarded by an intent salesperson trying to help us pick a pair of shoes. Little did she know, my boyfriend knew



<http://z.about.com>

what he was doing. Within seconds he had chosen three great pairs of shoes. I picked my favorite and when I donned them for the first time, he was grinning with excitement and so was I. 👠



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# *RUNNING* SHOES

By Katie Whatcott

**I**t's 6 o'clock.

Time to go! The sun is coming in through the crack at the bottom of the closet door. In a few minutes I'm sure the warmth of that sun will burst through as the door is opened and my wishes are answered. I sit in this closet, aching to be taken out of my coveted spot on the shoe rack and put on for a run. Even a little tiny run wouldn't be much to ask for. Would it? I can hardly wait to get outside and feel that cool smooth pavement. In only minutes I will be back on that springy grass with its dew wetting my soles and giving me energy to run farther and faster. I can almost see myself, a blur of white and red, against the crisp green ground.

Wish granted! Out of the closet and onto the floor waiting to be put on and tied. Then with my laces hastily tied I'm out the door, down the steps, and pulled onto the busy pavement. I jumble out a hello to all my friends passing by as I turn



single-mindedly to head over to the field. I try to slow down and stay with those around me but it's sometimes hard when all I want to do is brush on past them and hurry to my stretch of paradise.

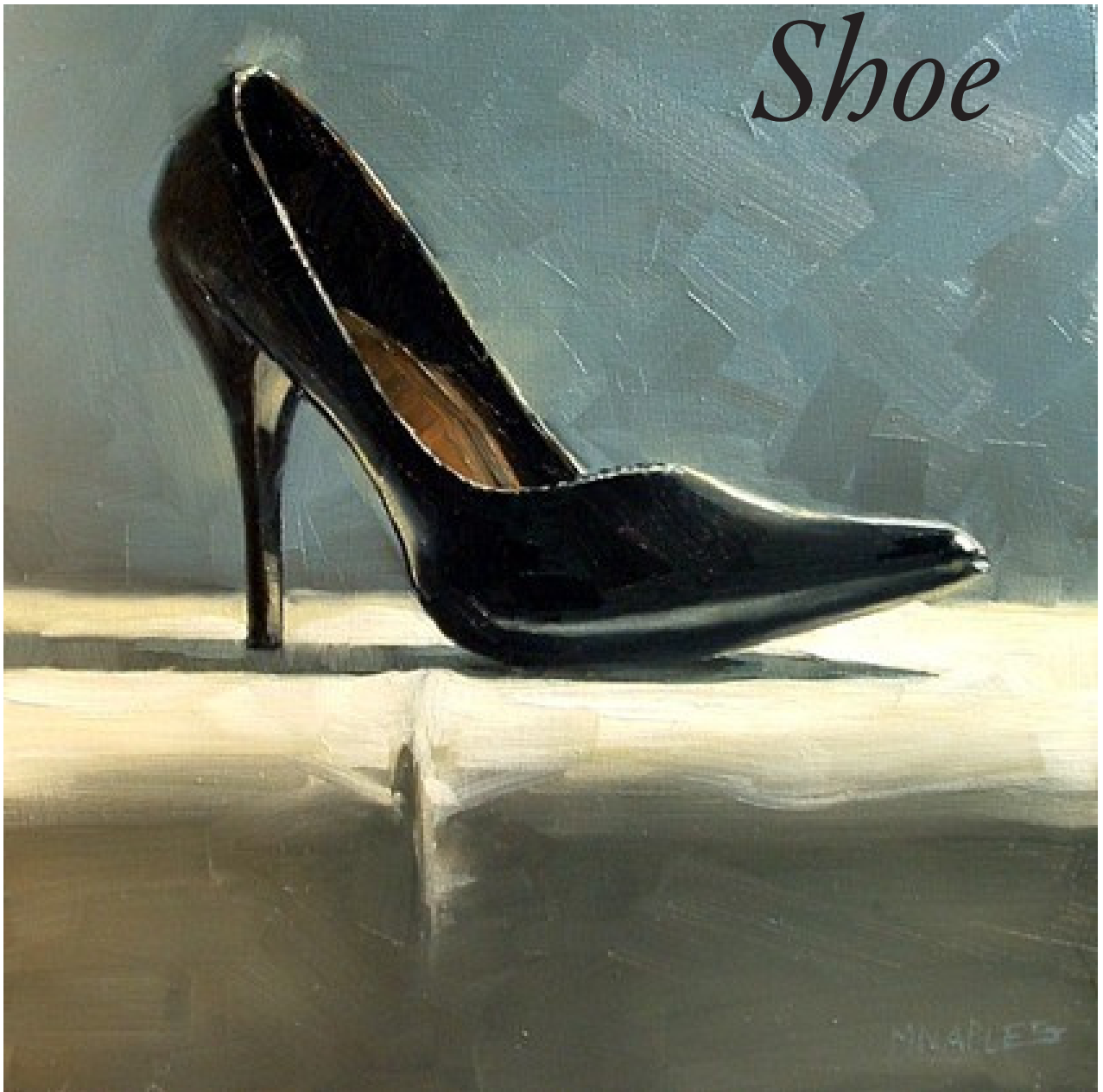
After an interminable amount of time, I finally step onto the grass and the dew sneaks up to drench every nook of my sole. Two more small steps and I'm completely off the busy, shuffling sidewalk and on the clear, open freedom of my grassy field and I take off, racing over tickly green grass. Finally I'm here, in the place I want to be, doing what I love most. I think I could run forever with only the sound of my soles hitting the soft ground in a steady beating rhythm.

Thump,  
thump,  
thump,  
thump.



# *The Life of a Favorite*

By Breanna L. Trost



**A**nnie awoke with a start from the weirdest dream ever. In the dream her favorite shoe, the right high-heel in a set of black pumps from Macey's, threatened to ruin the job interview she had today. The stylish black pump told her she had a terrible habit of twisting its very elegant heel from side to side while grinding the sole to the ground. The pump claimed that it was very painful and threatened Annie. "If you don't stop," the pump informed her, "I will break my own heel to teach you a lesson!"

Annie shook her head. "Odd, I'm dreaming about shoes...I must be a girl."

After a frantic rush to get ready for the important interview, Annie ran out the door, dream forgotten, wearing her favorite black pumps. She raced to her Ford Focus and quickly got in, panicking in apprehension for the always-bad traffic.

As she drove down the interstate, she twisted her heel and grinded her sole, nervous about the time—she might be late for her big chance. It had been set up weeks ago with the Walt Disney Company. She wanted to be a character performer and was hoping to impress the interviewer with her use of rhetoric.

Annie took a deep, calming breath and drove up to the building where the interview was to take place. She parked the car and leaned her forehead against the steering wheel. "You can do this," she whispered to herself. "You are an amazing dancer, a pretty face, and have some really cute shoes." With one more deep breath, she got out of her Focus and walked, confidently, into the building. "I'm here for an interview," she told the receptionist at the front desk.

**"If you don't stop," the pump informed her, "I will break my own heel to teach you a lesson!"**

The receptionist looked at her and asked, "Name."

"Annie Haggland."

"Go ahead and have a seat while you wait." The receptionist paused, leaned forward, and smiled. "I like your shoes...very cute."

Annie smiled back; she was going to be just fine.

The wait was long, too long. As she stared at the clock, her ankle nervously twisted the slender heel it held firm to the floor. Annie thought about what she would say if the interviewer asked her about herself. A squeak




**"I like your shoes...very cute."**

sounded below. "Odd," she thought, "My shoes never squeak."

"Annie Haggland," the receptionist called.

Annie threw her shoulders back, relieved, and walked confidently into the interview room.

That was when that graceful pump sprang to life. As Annie, the shoe twister, took her first step into the room the heel snapped. She went down in a tumble saying something that the pump couldn't quite understand but caused the interviewer to flinch and gasp.

"Ha," the sleek, damaged pump thought as it lay parallel to its detached heel, "she'll never walk all over me again!" 



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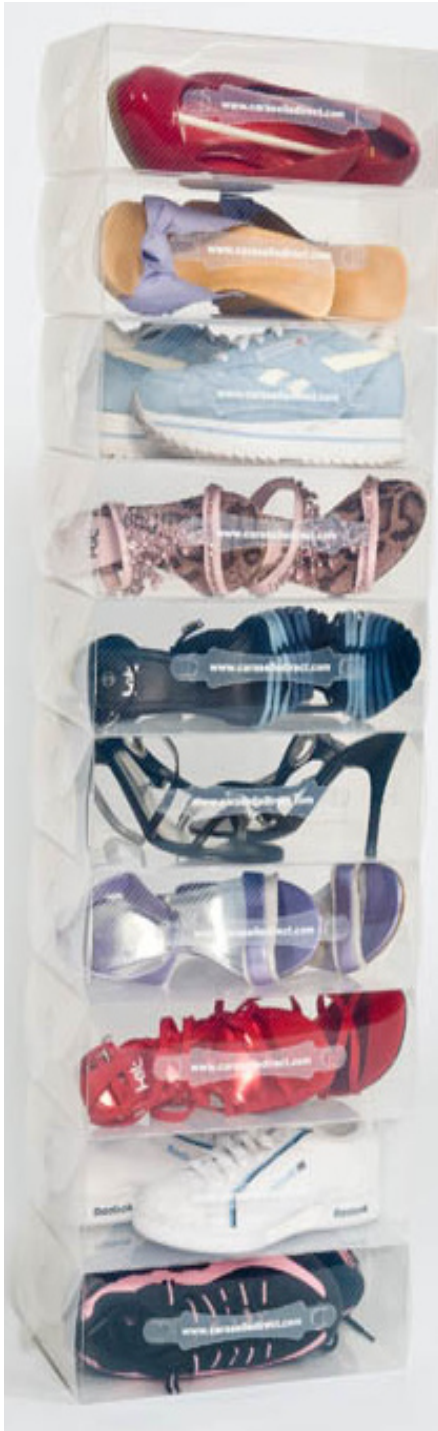
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# A Lifetime's Closet

By Janet Wilcox



<http://caraselle-clearshoebboxes.com>

**S**hoes, shoes, so many shoes!  
 They spill out of the closet;  
 They litter the floor;  
 They must be gone by dinner,  
 Or I'll be kicked out the door!  
 Each shoe is a reminder  
 Of days long past and gone:  
 Of dreams and wishes, wannabes  
 And many a victory won.  
 First are the little booties  
 Presented by the nurse  
 To put on little toe cuties,  
 For when my mommy saw me first.  
 The baby shoes still look new:  
 Shiny, white and small.  
 They remind me of the pictures  
 Of when I learned to crawl.

Shoes, shoes, so many shoes!  
 They spill out of the closet;  
 They litter the floor;  
 They must be gone by dinner,  
 Or I'll be kicked out the door!  
 The next mountain signified  
 The growth spurts of the years,  
 As each new pair of tennis shoes  
 Next to the old appears.  
 On to my grade school days,  
 When "Happily" shoes do blink  
 With princess's "ever afters,"  
 And every step a bright pink.  
 My ballet dancing shoes  
 Dangle from above;  
 The soles are salt and grime  
 From the ocean and brother's shove.



<http://pericasa.co.uk/z/images/465655-2.jpg>



<http://www.practicalprincess.com>




# of Shoes



Shoes, shoes, so many shoes!  
 They spill out of the closet;  
 They litter the floor;  
 They must be gone by dinner,  
 Or I'll be kicked out the door!  
 In Junior High I found my love  
 In light shoes made for running;  
 I pushed myself to the brim,  
 But lost all to Sarah Dunning.  
 High school I discovered cleats  
 And a round leather ball;  
 I kicked and ran around the field,  
 At least, until that one fall.  
 My first heels were made of gold  
 And glittered bright and true.  
 Though prom that year was glorious,  
 My feet didn't last the whole night through.



Shoes, shoes, so many shoes!  
 They spill out of the closet;  
 They litter the floor;  
 They must be gone by dinner,  
 Or I'll be kicked out the door!  
 These next are white and full of love.  
 Elegant, my feet were made,  
 As I walked with dad down the aisle  
 To where my bridegroom bade.  
 These last are even dearer to my heart.  
 So tiny and soft are they,  
 Not yet worn, but blue and new  
 In the cradle where they lay.  
 Shoes, shoes, so many shoes!  
 They spill out of the closet;  
 They litter the floor;  
 They must be gone by dinner,  
 Or I'll be kicked out the door! 



*Who said these shoes  
were for your little girl?*

So you don't step on **her** toes



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