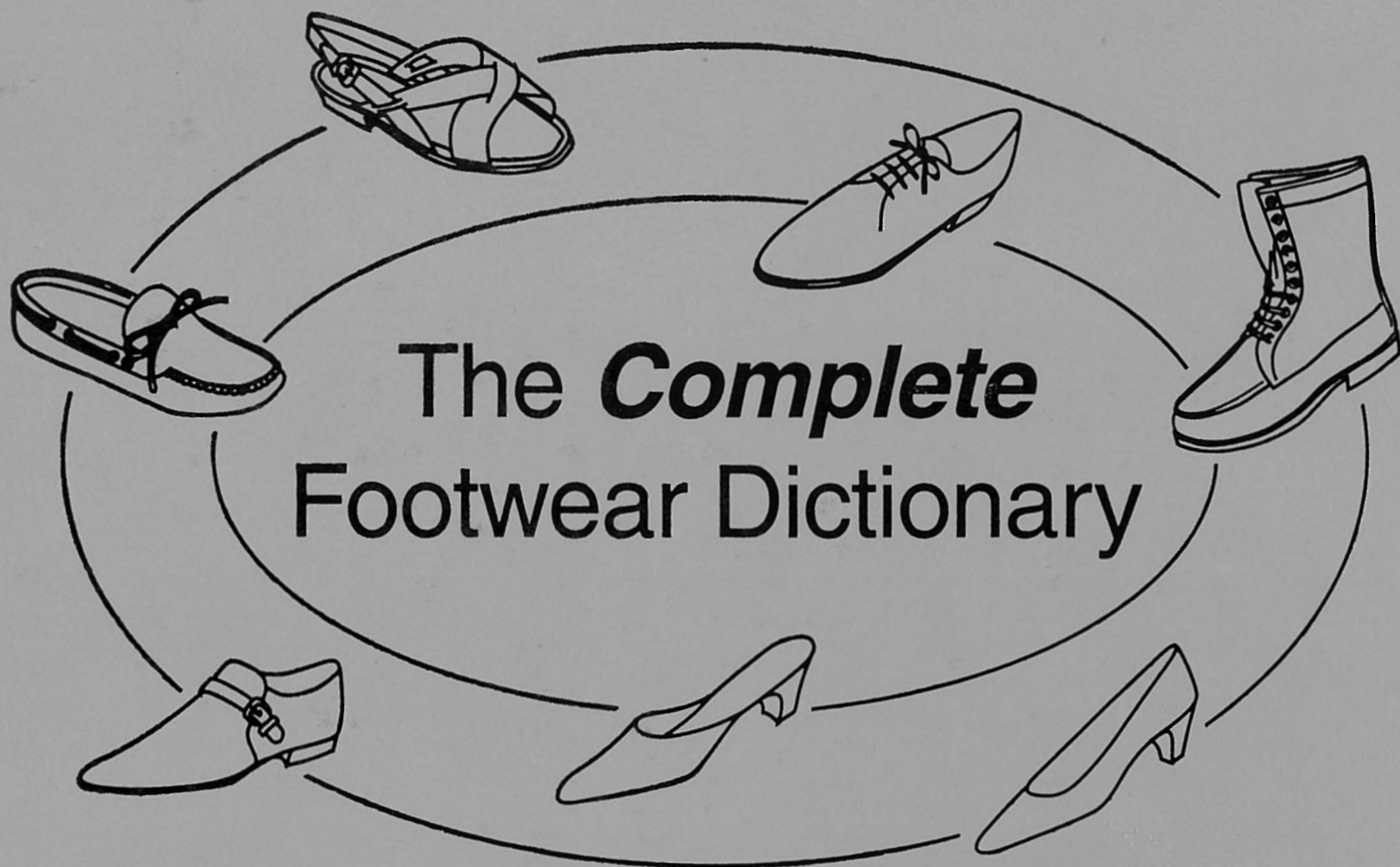


SECOND EDITION

The *Complete*
Footwear Dictionary

Second Edition

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Second Edition

Compiled and Edited
by
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give-away

taken on the last, such as around the ball, waist and instep; or similar measurements on the foot used for custom-made shoes.

give-away. See *premium*.

glacé. French for frozen or iced. For leather, it refers to a smooth finish on a glossy, polished surface, as in glazed kid or patent leather. See also *glazed kid*.

glazed kid. Chrome-tanned kidskin, usually in black, given a glazed or glacé finish.

glazed leather. Leather finished with a high polish by means of friction under pressure, a process known as glazing. Usually applied to kid and calf leathers to distinguish brightly finished leather from duller finishes.

glazing. Producing a bright, glossy finish on light leathers like kidskin by means of a glazing machine which rubs and presses the leather, generating heat and resulting in a burnished, mirror-like finish.

glitter fabric. See *fabrics*.

gloss finish. See *finish, patent*.

glove leather. Leathers such as cow or steer hide, kid, sheep, deer, pig, and horse treated with a special oil tannage to give the leather a soft, plumpish feel with a waxy finish. Used for some casual footwear, deck shoes, work and outdoor boots.

golden lotus. One of the many popular euphemisms for the Chinese bound or lotus foot.

gold kid. Kidskin with a thin gold leaf applied on the grain side so that the grain shows through. Used for women's evening shoes, handbags and accessories.

golf shoe. See *sports shoe*.

golfer's foot. Discomfort under the outer border of the foot, or under the ball, experienced by some golfers.

golf spike. Special studs or spikes applied to the sole of the golf shoe for traction.

gondola last. A low-wedge, platform-type shoe with turned-up Turkish toe that gives the shoe a gondola like appearance.

Goodyear welt. See *shoe construction*.

goosestep. The stiff movement of the lower limbs marching in cadence, the foot slapping the ground and leg swinging like a pendulum. Used by 18th century Prussian troops as a military parade exercise, and later adopted by the troops of Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s.

gore panel. See *goring*.

gore panels. Double rows of stitching sometimes used where added support or strength is needed.

gore pump. A pump with an elastic goring, concealed or visible, at the throat or sides.

goring. A fabric woven with rubber threads to form an elastic material. Used in footwear in various applications. The main ones are as follows:

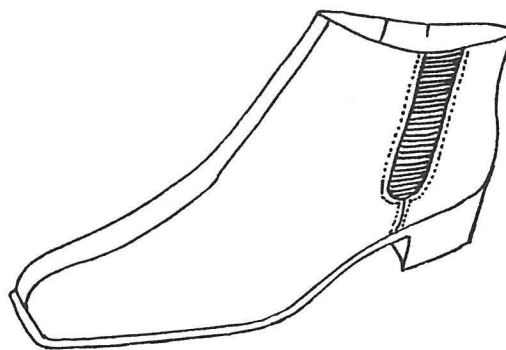
grain

finger. Used mainly in high-front shoe styles. The goring is used between the lining and upper leather.

front. Concealed, with a top opening of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, applied at the shoe's throat or instep for snug, clinging fit.

hidden. Hidden from view, such as the gore band over the instep and under the tongue on a loafer shoe.

side. Applied in V-shape or U-shape at the sides of the shoe.



Side goring.

sleeve. A single piece of concealed goring extended from one side strap around the back of the shoe to the end of the other side strap, for snug fit.

gout. A form of arthritis that attacks the big toe joint, causing severe pain and swelling. Sharp crystals accumulate from excess uric acid and settle in the joint. The cause is unknown but is genetic. The condition can be relieved but not cured.

grab. See *knock-down*.

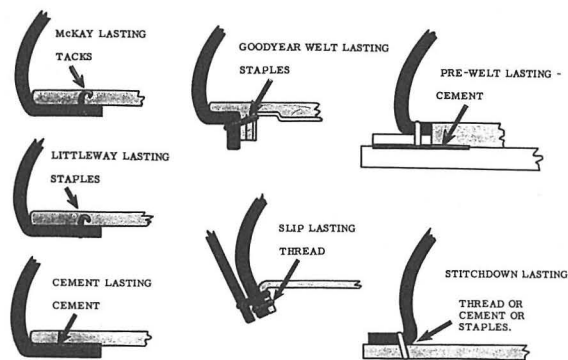
grade. 1) The change between sizes and/or widths of any portion of the last. 2) To increase or decrease the length of shoe patterns to form a set.

grade increment. The change per size or width on the last.

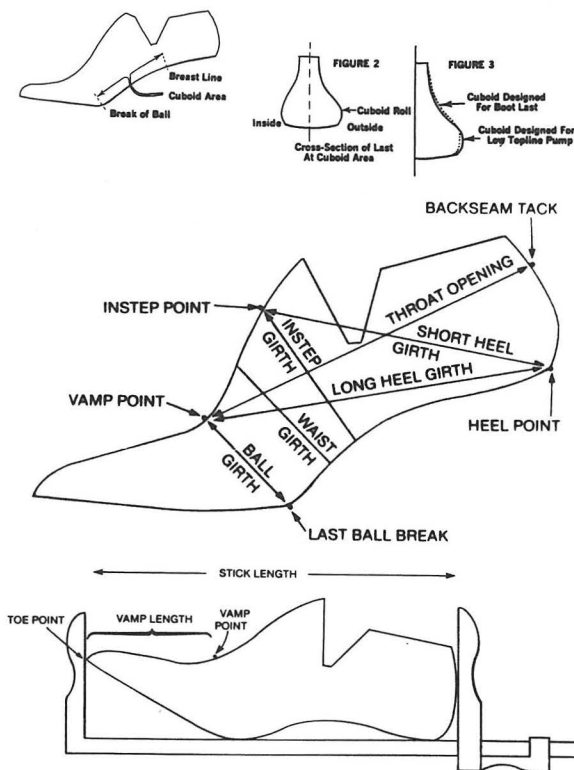
grading. 1) Appraising hides, skins, and leather by quality and size, which determine their value or price. 2) The process of grading the last proportionately by size, width, and other measurements. 3) The measuring method used by designers or pattern makers to size the original or model patterns of a shoe.

grain. 1) The outer surface pattern of a hide or skin which includes the hair follicles and pores just beneath the thin layer of epidermis. During the tanning process of unhairing the epidermis is removed and the underlayer becomes the grain surface. 2) On finished leather, the nature and design of the surface. 3) The grain character produced by special tanning

last measuring tape



BASIC LASTING METHODS



Examples of last measurements.

fants, children's, misses', boys', men's, and women's shoes. 3) The standard measurements designated for the girth of ball, waist, and instep for given shoe sizes relative to the type of footwear.

last measuring tape. A special tape measure to take girth measurements at the ball, waist and instep, plus the long and short heel measurements, on the last.

leather

The tape is 20 inches long, marked in increments of 1/16th inch, but also on a metric or geometric scale.

last pulling. The operation of firmly pulling the upper material over the last to conform precisely to every part of the last. Formerly a skilled operation done by hand, now done by lasting machines.

last remodeling. The repair of worn or damaged lasts, or the remodeling of the shape of used lasts.

last stick. A calibrated wood or plastic stick for measuring last length and other measurements.

last systems. Different methods of grading and sizing lasts, such as arithmetic, geometric, dynametric, Mondopoint, etc.

latchet. Any strap fastening on a shoe.

lateral. 1) Anything situated or done to the side. 2) The outer side. See also *medial*.

lateral long arch. The low, long arch on the lateral or outer border of the foot.

latex. The milky, sap-like fluid exuded from the rubber tree; a main ingredient of natural rubber.

laundry leather. A proprietary name for washable leather. See also *washable leather*.

laboratory bottom heel. See *heel*.

lawyer. A shoe trade term for a friend accompanying a customer to advise on the purchase when buying shoes in a store.

laying away. Storing raw hides in layer vats for a prolonged period to ensure completeness of tannage.

layout. The physical arrangement of a store: its fixtures, displays, aisles, decor, etc.

lease. 1) The contract between landlord and tenant for use of property for a specified time for a specified rent. 2) The process of drawing up such a contract.

leased department. A section of a large store leased by a tenant from the store owner to operate a specialized department, such as footwear, within the store. The arrangement can vary, but usually includes rent, a share of the sales income or profits, plus abidance to store policies or rules.

leasing. A system once unique in the footwear industry whereby the shoe manufacturer leased machinery on a per-pair-produced royalty basis rather than directly purchasing it from the machinery manufacturer. The system was started by Gordon McKay and the McKay Sewing Machine in 1861, and later became standard practice throughout the footwear industry. It is known today as the "unit system."

leather. The end product of a hide or skin after conversion by a combined chemical and mechanical process known as tanning. Leather itself comes in numerous varieties and forms, depending upon the original hide or skin, plus the method of tanning and

updated

no counter or box toe and often no lining, so that the upper has a deliberately “collapsed” look.

updated. A product, style or line that has been revised or revived to fit into contemporary trends, tastes or lifestyles.

upper. All the parts or sections (vamp, quarters, linings, etc.) above the shoe’s sole that are stitched or otherwise joined together to become a unit, and then attached to the insole and outsole.

upper cutting. See *cutting*.

upper fitting. In the shoe factory, fitting together and stitching or seaming the various parts of the upper.

upper leather. Any suitable leather used for footwear uppers, usually lighter leathers.

upscale. Refers to customers or markets with above-average incomes and education who buy or can afford to buy better quality, higher priced merchandise.

U-tip

upstanding counter. A counter extending vertically above the ankle bones and used for added ankle support in some boot-type orthopedic shoes.

urethane. A cellular elastomeric material combined with polyols to become polyurethane, a hardwearing material used chiefly for shoe soles. It can also be chemically manipulated to become urethane foam for shoe cushioning.

urethane patent. A leather or man-made material finished and coated with urethane compounds for an improved glossy finish service to provide durable, crack-resistant, blister-resistant wear.

U-throat. A U-shape throatline on a shoe, such as a pump.

utility footwear. Any shoe or boot designed and used chiefly for service or utility wear.

U-tip. See *tip*.

V

vacuum forming. The use of a vacuum pump to blow or pull in air to form a material, such as a plastic foam, to the exact shape of a cast or mold, to make a custom shoe.

valgus. A deformity or abnormality in which the anatomical part is turned or forced outward. Example: hallux valgus in which the great toe is bent outward toward the other toes.

valgus knees. Knock-knees.

value pricing. See *market price*.

vamp. The lower forward part of the shoe's upper, covering the forepart of the foot. There are various types of vamps:

choked-up. Cut high and closed up rather than a shelled-out silhouette.

circular. The vamp extending from the toe to the heel breast. Similar to a three-quarter vamp.

cutoff. Cut off at the toe slightly below the toe-tip line. The cut-away portion is completed by the toe tip which is seamed to the vamp.

gypsy. Split down the center from the throat to the toe with a closed seam, frequently piped.

moccasin. A vamp having a genuine or imitation moccasin seam.

ombre. Made of narrow strips of leather of graduated color shading.

patch. Made by stitching together leather patches of various colors into a complete vamp shape. plug. A circular vamp with a plug insert at the throat, extending upward in a split piece to form the eyelet stays.

seamless. A whole vamp that extends from toe to heel on both sides without a seam.

split. A vamp that has been split into one or more parts which are seamed together with a closed seam and frequently piped. A combination of leathers or other materials are frequently used.

three-quarter. A whole vamp which extends from toe to heel on the outside only. The inside is cut

off at the shank and a separate piece of foxing is seamed to complete the inside of the vamp.

whole. See *vamp, seamless*.

woven. Made of narrow strips of leather or other material which have been woven together. See also *huarache*.

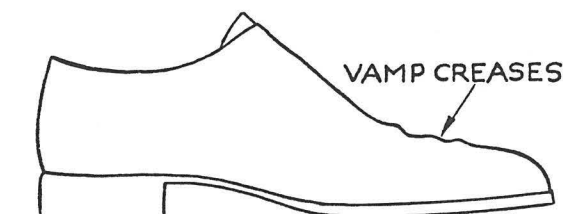


Woven vamp.

Y-vamp. A vamp split into a Y-shape laced stay.

vamp (or vampay). A sock or short stocking worn in Colonial America.

vamp crease. 1) The deep or excessive crease or fold across the vamp of the shoe due to improper size or fit, or because the vamp has not been cut correctly. 2) The normal crease lines across the top of the vamp when the foot is flexed. 3) The crease deliber-



Vamp creases.

oxford. Up until the early 17th century most shoes used straps or buckles as fasteners. In fact, Birmingham, England, was the world center of shoe buckles, employing a then huge labor force of 20,000 making shoe buckles exclusively. In 1640, a radical new style, low black shoes with laced fronts, was mass-adopted by the students of Oxford University. The style spread rapidly and the Birmingham shoe buckle industry was devastated, despite pleas to the king to prohibit the new laced shoes. Late in the century Thomas Jefferson was one of the first Americans to wear oxfords. He was chided by his peers for succumbing to “the foppish French fashion.” While rawhide cords and ribbons had been used as shoe fasteners many centuries earlier, shoe lacings and the oxford style as we know it today did not appear until the middle 17th century. Shoe lacings were later to become a small industry. In the latter part of the century an Englishman, Harvey Kennedy, made a fortune of \$2.5 million (enormous in those days) after he patented and introduced the aglet, the metal tip at the end of the lacing to make it easier to lace the shoe. In the same century John Bunyan, when he was in prison for his controversial views (he was the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*), kept his family from starving by hand-fixing metal tips to shoe laces.

patent leather. Why do we call it “patent” leather? Actually, it isn't a kind of leather but a kind of special glossy finish that can be applied to almost any leather. Enamel coating of leather was a process developed in Europe about 150 years ago (though it had been used by the Chinese 2,000 years earlier on other materials). Bismarck quickly adopted it for his elite troops, providing them with shiny boots and helmets. The carriage horses of the rich were adorned with patent leather blinders and harness. But it was the British who gave it its name. They saw the glossy finish as something “patent”—meaning obvious, mirrored, as we refer to something being “patently clear.” And so it has remained.

pump. The pump style has been with us for several centuries—a simple, sleek slip-on shoe with a heel of various heights and shapes. The pump style itself has been subject to thousands of fashion variations and treatments. The pump received great impetus with the invention of elasticized goring in 1837 by J. Sparkes Hall, bootmaker to Queen Victoria. The new hug fit of the pump without benefit of fastenings delighted the queen and the pump rose rapidly in popularity. Why do we call it a “pump,” and how did the style itself originate? Perhaps the most acceptable version is that the name was derived from the car-

riage footmen of England, who were called “pumps” (they pumped the carriage brakes with their feet). They wore a standard uniform shoe, a plain, simple slip-on. When the British gentry adopted the style, though in much more elaborate form, they retained the word “pump.” In French, the word “pompe” means an ornament, though there seems to be no link with the pump shoe style. Also, there is the German “pumpsteifel” and “pumphosen” boots and stockings as narrow as water pumps or hoses, though the relation to the pump seems remote. In 1921, a number of prominent American women's shoe manufacturers tried to change the name “pump” to something more exotic, suggesting “cameos” and “pynsons,” neither of which made any lasting impression.

retailer. Why do we call a shoe merchant a “retailer?” The word is from the French “tailleur,” meaning to cut into pieces. For example, a fabric store cuts a bolt of cloth to sell in smaller pieces; a tailor sews small pieces into a whole garment for resale. They deal in small segments of a whole or large lot. Thus the retailer buys in multiple lots from the whole or large lot from the wholesaler, then resells in small amounts of “pieces” to the consumer. Retailer has also been linked to “detail,” a small part of the whole, and “tally,” keeping score of the small parts of the whole or eventual total.

saddle oxford. This term dates back to 1906 when the style was first introduced by A. G. Spaulding as a “gym” shoe. He added a wide overlay band of leather around the sides of the upper's waist and in-step for extra support for the arch and called it a “saddle.” The saddle oxford eventually evolved into a popular classic as a casual or sport shoe for men and women. Thus, what started out as a kind of orthopedic shoe became an established fashion.

sandal. Next to the moccasin the sandal is the oldest known style of footwear, dating back perhaps, 6,000 years. The root word for sandal is the Latin *sanis*, meaning a board. The “board” was a slab of leather sole held onto the foot with thongs. The ancient Persian word is “sandalon,” and the Greek word “sandalion.”

shoe. In English this term dates back many centuries, beginning with the Anglo-Saxon “sceo,” meaning a foot covering, and evolving into “schewis,” then “shoos,” and finally “shoe.” The German “schuh” has the same origin. Through the centuries the word “shoe” has evolved with at least 17 different spellings and some 36 variations of the plural.

shoe-in. A colloquial or slang term commonly used to mean an easy win or victory, such as “the horse was