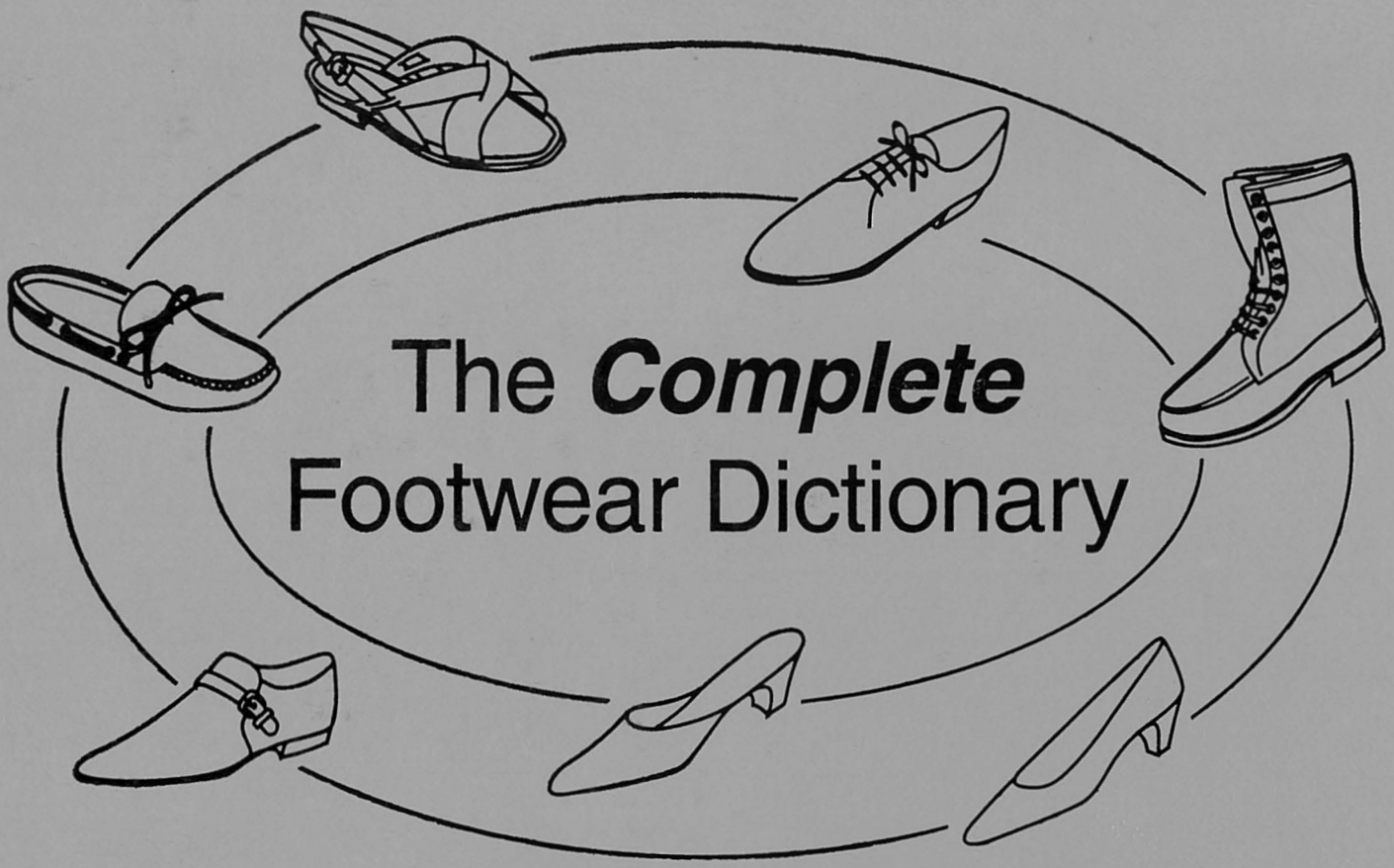
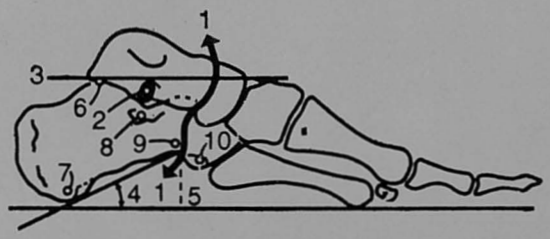


The *Complete* Footwear Dictionary



SECOND EDITION

Skechers EX1018-p.1
Skechers v. FAST IP

The *Complete* Footwear Dictionary

Second Edition

Skechers EX1018-p.2
Skechers v. FAST IP

The *Complete* Footwear Dictionary

Second Edition

Compiled and Edited
by
William A. Rossi, D.P.M.

KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY
MALABAR, FLORIDA
2000

Skechers EX1018-p.3
Skechers v. FAST IP

Original Edition 1994
Second Edition 2000

Printed and Published by
KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY
KRIEGER DRIVE
MALABAR, FLORIDA 32950

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Library of Congress Cataloging-In-Publication Data

Rossi, William A.
The complete footwear dictionary / compiled and edited by William A. Rossi.—2nd ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 1-57524–114-5 (alk. paper)
1. Footwear-Dictionaries. I. Title.
TS947.R67 2000 99–088751
685′.3′03—dc21 CIP

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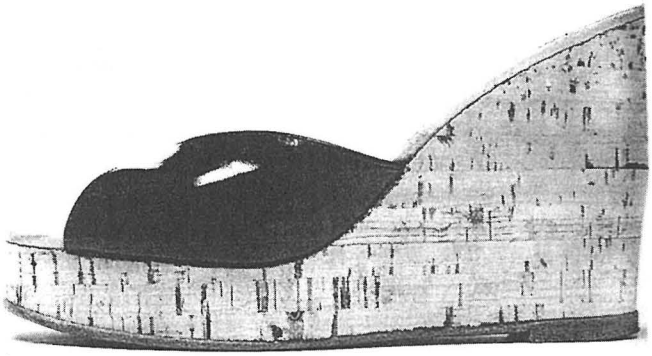


Cork-platform.

cork boot. See *boot.*

corkscrew heel. See *heel.*

cork wedge. The wedge on a wedge heel made of lightweight cork rather that wood. Used also for some platform soles.

corn. See *heloma.*

co-respondent. British term for two-toned (black/white, brown/white) spectator shoes.

corrected grain. Leather which has had the outer surface of the grain removed by an emery wheel to delete or "correct" blemishes. Also known as *snuffed finish* and *snuffed leather.*

corrected leather. See *corrected grain.*

corrective shoe. An orthopedic-type shoe with orthotic features designed to prevent or correct foot disorders. Sold in some specialty shoe stores. The term is now outmoded and is seldom used. See also *prescription shoe.*

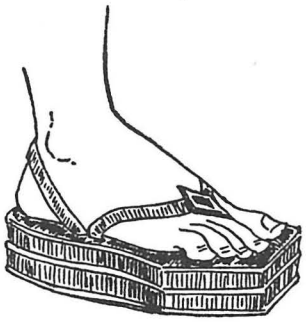
corset. See *ankle corset* and *arch corset.*

costing. A factory procedure used to calculate the cost of producing a product. The factory or wholesale price is determined by adding all production costs—materials, labor, overhead, plus sales costs, and profit.

cost price. The wholesale price paid by the retailer.

cothornos (also kothornos). The first shoe to use a heel and also the first platform shoe. Said to have been introduced by Aeschylus, the Greek dramatist, in about 450 B.C.E. to distinguish actors and roles by body height; the higher the platform the more important the actor and the role. The platforms ranged up to six inches in height. The cothornos started as a sandal with thongs and straps, then later evolved into a buskin or half boot.

cottage industry. A system of farming out certain factory operations, such as sewing of shoe uppers, to women who did the work in their homes or "cottages." A common practice among shoe factories or shops in the 18th and 19th centuries. It continues today in minor use in some segments of the shoe and apparel industries.

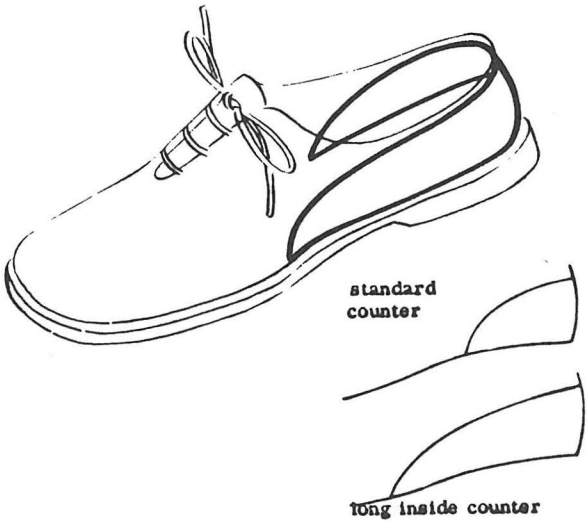


Corthornus. (Ancient Greece).

cotton. See *fabrics.*

counseling. A procedure of professional shoe salespeople in counseling customers about fashion, shoe care, foot care, product information, etc., as part of the selling service.

counter. The stiffener or reinforcement in the backpart of the shoe to retain shoe shape and offer stability and support to the heel of the foot. The counter may range from soft to rigid. It can be pre-molded or flat and then molded to the last by pressure.



Shoe counter or backpart stiffener.

counter lining. British for counter pocket.

counter pocket. A piece of lining material attached to the inside face of the counter to conceal the counter

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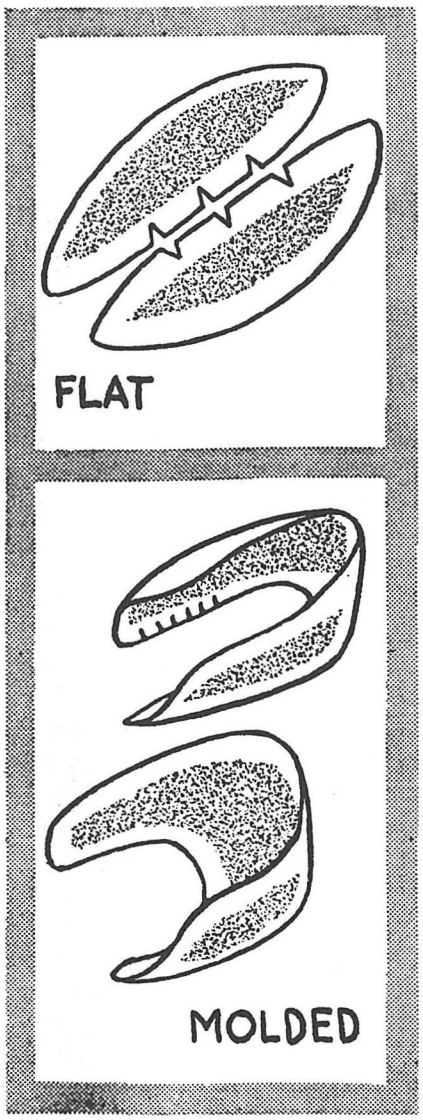

Counter. Flat, before molding; molded to shape.

which is in the "pocket" between the upper and lining.

counter splint. A strip of flexible material attached to the counter to limit pronation or rotation of the heel of the foot inside the shoe.

country hides. Hides produced by farmers from on-the-farm cattle slaughter. This is not a primary occupation of the farm, and hence the cattlehides tend to be lower quality with cut markings. See also *big packer hides*.

court pump. A plain, seamless pump.

court shoe. 1) British term for a plain pump style. 2) A shoe used for court sports such as tennis or basketball.

court tie. A men's oxford, usually in patent leather with black silk bow or tie, used for ceremonial dress in England and other countries. Also applies to a women's two- or three-eyelet tie shoe, usually on a blucher pattern.

couture. Sewing or needle work; the work of a seamstress; dressmaking. Also a collective term for French designer and dressmaking houses.

couturier. French for a male costume designer, usually high fashion.

couturiere. A female costume designer, usually high fashion.

cover cloth. Fabric used to cover shoes during manufacture to prevent soiling.

covered heel. A heel with the same material and color covering as the upper, or in contrasting material and color.

cowboy boot. See *boot, western.*

cowboy heel. See *heel.*

cowhide leather. See *leather, side.*

cowhoof. A derisive name given to wearers of the 15th century chopines. See also *chopine.*

cow's mouth toe. A shoe with an extremely wide, squarish toe and padded "ears" at the corners. Popular in the 15th-century England. See *duckbill.*

crabkin. See *cracking.*

crack. The break so that fissures appear on the surface. Usually refers to leather under the strain of lasting, or on the surface of rubber resulting from weathering or deformation.

cracking (or crabkin). A term of the early 18th century, meaning to break into or burglarizing a shoemaker's shop, a common crime of the time.

crackowe. Originally an elegant soft shoe of fine leather and thin sole, sometimes protected with a removable wood slab under it, worn by the upper classes. Introduced in Crackow, Poland, in 1360, it gradually acquired a toe of exaggerated length to become a grotesque style. See also *poulaine.*

crafted. Made or constructed by hand, or as if by hand.

crazing. A surface effect, such as on leather or rubber, characterized by many minute cracks.

creasing. Deliberately impressing creases across the vamp of the shoe, either as a decorative feature or to make shoe flexing easier. Often done with western boots.

credit. 1) The acknowledgment of a debt paid, or a sum deducted from an amount owed, or added favorably to one's account as with a bank or vendor. 2) An allowance given to a customer for a previous purchase. 3) A loan given to a person on the basis of trust.

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that can be used for training purposes in two or more sports.

cross travelers shoe. An all-purpose shoe, though the term is now outmoded.

cross wedging. Combination shoe wedging; e.g., a medial heel wedge with a lateral sole wedge.

croupon. An untanned, whole cattlehide with belly and shoulder portions removed.

crown. 1) The lateral contour or convexity across the ball of the last on the bottom surface, creating a mild cavity bed for the ball of the foot. 2) The lateral curve or "flare" on the bottom of the last.

cruiser. A moccasin-front outdoor boot with a heavy sole.

crumbing. The deterioration of a cushion insole with wear, with sections breaking up into small crumbs.

crushed leather. A leather boarded in several directions to create a unique bumpy grain surface similar to a blistered fabric; a wrinkled, crushed effect. Usually refers to kidskin.

crust. A vegetable-tanned but not finished leather. In this state it is called *in the crust.*

crusting. A tannery operation whereby leather is conditioned after drying and before sammying. Skins or hides in this condition are termed *in the crust.*

cuban heel. See *heel.*

cuboid. 1) A squat, chunky bone of the tarsus section of the foot. 2) in the shoe trade, the curve or roll of the outside border of the last or shoe at midfoot, corresponding to the shape of the foot in that area.

cuboid pad. A cushioned or padded lift used in an orthotic or shoe under the foot's cuboid bone.

cuff. A band of leather stitched to the top of the shoe's quarter to increase its height or bulk; a collar. Also used in some boots as a decorative feature in contrasting material or color.

cuir bonilli leather. (French, pronounced *queer-boo-ee-yee*). Hard leather molded to shape while soft from soaking or boiling. Used during the Middle Ages for parts of armor, now used for some decorative leather articles. In French, literally meaning "boiled leather."

cuissade. A heavy, thigh-high leather boot with a military look. Worn by Joan of Arc and male rebels of her time.

cuissarde. See *boot.*

cult shoe. Any style or type of footwear that abruptly becomes a popular fad, particularly with the young people's market. Usually has a short life span as an insignia of the times or group.

cuneiform bones. Any of the three small, chunky bones (inner, middle, and outer) in the front section of the tarsus. These bones are jointed with the back ends of the metatarsal bones.

cup. On the last, the edge or rim around the heel seat.

cup of the golden lotus. A soft cup inserted into the heel pocket of the Chinese lotus shoe, used as a drinking cup by Chinese men for a toast or as a preliminary ritual to sexual foreplay.

cupped heel. A saucer-shaped heel seat that forms a comfortable and secure bed for the foot's heel.

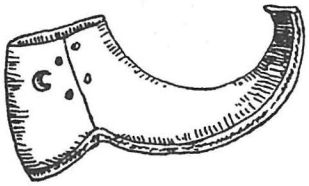
cupped sole. A saucer-shaped area on the forepart of the insole to provide a contoured bed for the ball of the foot. See also *shell sole* and *contoured insole.*

curing. The treatment of raw hides and skins to prevent putrefaction and bacterial decomposition. It includes the tanning operations of brining, green salting, and pickling.

curling. Curling of the edges of the insole, midsole or outsole with wear, due to heat, perspiration, chemicals, and pressure. It causes the shoe bottom to warp, curl, and crack around the edges.

currying. A tanning operation to soften, strengthen, or waterproof a lightly tanned leather. Performed by manipulating the material and adding fatty substances.

curule. A black and white leather shoe, usually kidskin, with turned-up toe and a side fastening. Worn by the magistrates of ancient Rome as an insignia of their profession.



Curule shoe.

curved last. 1) A shoe made on a last with a curved or flared design. 2) Any last with a flared or curved forepart. See *inflare last, outflare last.*

cushioning. The use of a resilient material, particularly as an insole or midsole, to absorb step shock and provide a comfort zone between the sole of the foot and the ground. The cushioning may be built into the shoe or may be used as a separate insert.

customer benefits. The particular benefits of a shoe accruing to the customer, such as comfort, wear satisfaction, style or design, fit, value, or price, as cited by the salesperson.

customer communications. Any form of communi-

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Ecclesiastic footwear. Variations in accord with clerical rank.

Examples of simple, ancient Egyptian sandals.

elasticized leather. Shoe upper leather backed with flexible, yarn-woven fabric whose threads contain rubber to give stretch and contraction.

elasticized materials. 1) Elastic goring used as shoe panels or inserts. 2) Upper leathers or fabrics backed with elastic-thread materials.

elastomers. 1) Any substance or mixture containing natural rubber and having rubber-like qualities; 2) Synthetic rubber.

electric foot massager. A small mechanical device on which the feet rest while being massaged with vibrators.

electric shoe shiner. A mechanical device with black and brown brushes which revolve and polish shoes held against them.

electrodynogram. An electronic apparatus using sensors for testing stance and gait pressure points on the foot. Used by gait laboratories, podiatrists, and other medical practitioners for testing and diagnosis of foot and gait problems related to foot balance, tread, faulty pressures, etc.

electromagnetism. Magnetism produced by an electric current. The earth's surface is covered with a subtle flow of electric currents believed to be a constant source of energy feeding into the system of all

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other fleshy parts are removed from raw hides and skins.

fleshy foot. A foot with a thick covering of tissue, including fat, especially on the top surface.

flex angle. 1) The angle across the ball of the foot, or across the ball of the shoe corresponding to the foot's flex angle. 2) The line across the ball of the foot, first to fifth metatarsal heads, forming an angle at which the foot flexes in taking a step. The angle varies, person to person. See also *flex line*.

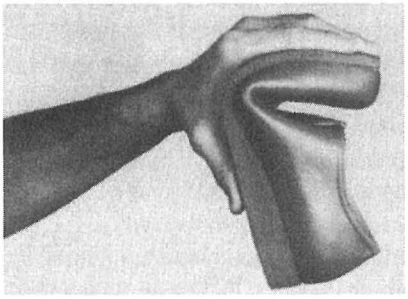
flex energy. The amount of energy expenditure required for the foot to flex the shoe through the bending cycle at the ball with the step.

flex grooves. Strategically placed grooves in the midsole or outsole under the ball area to increase shoe flexibility.

flexible flat foot. A foot that is mildly arched with the foot at rest, but whose arch flattens on weight bearing without foot distortion. Usually it is a normal foot anatomically and functionally.

flexible shank. A shoe shank that yields or flexes under pressure; a shoe without a rigid shank piece.

flexible sole. A shoe sole that flexes easily with the flex action of the foot. The foot's flex angle at step takeoff is about 55 degrees. For a shoe to be fully flexible it would have to flex to about the same 55 degree angle with the same natural ease as the foot.



Flexible sole.

flexion. The bend action of the foot across the ball, or of a shoe or outsole across the ball and vamp. The degree of the flex action is an indication of the functional normalcy of the foot or the walking ease of the shoe.

flexion energy. The propulsive energy released when the foot takes a forward step from a fixed point. Also, the relative ability of a material or shoe to withstand repeated bending stresses.

flex line. The line across the ball, bottom or top, on which the shoe bends or flexes in taking a step. Also known as *toe break*.

flight boot. See *boot*.

floater. A customer in a store who leaves while the salesperson is in the stockroom getting shoes. Also, a customer who habitually shops from store to store seeking the merchandise he or she wants.

floating wedge. The extension of a thick wedge sole under the arch but not extended under the heel. The wedge sole is essentially heelless.

flock. A short fiber of cotton or wool used as filler for molding materials.

floor manager. The person in charge of the selling floor or a department, and responsible for personnel, department procedures, and stock.

floor space. Total square footage of a store or other business. It may be divided into selling space and storage or stockroom space.

Florentine leather. Fine-tooled leather often worked with gold and another color. Used for belts, handbags, book bindings, and decorative accessories. Originally made in Florence, Italy.

flow embossing. See *flow molding*.

flow molding. 1) Shaping heated, viscous plastic with a mold. 2) The process of molding a design into the surface of a plastic or vinyl shoe upper, using a silicone mold under pressure to emboss a leather grain design on a man-made material. Also known as *flow embossing*.

fluffing. Producing a soft texture on either the grain or flesh side of leather.

flute heel. See *heel, spike*.

fluting. A narrow pleating applied to the flat surface on the upper; a series of parallel channels cut into the upper.

flying buttress. See *heel, flying wedge*.

flying wedge. See *heel*.

foam. Any of various resins in sponge or cellular form with an open or closed cellular pattern. Softer foams such as polyurethanes are used for shoe cushioning, while denser foams are used for midsoles and outsoles to provide resilience and shock absorption.

foam rubber. Spongy rubber made from latex by whipping or foaming the rubber before the vulcanization process. Usually used for shoe cushioning in insoles.

focused retailing. See *niche retailing*.

folding. Turning over the edge of a shoe upper to form a finished edge. Also called *pressing*.

follow-up sale. Any additional sale following the initial purchase by a customer.

folly bells. Small, tinkling bells attached to the tip of a poulaine shoe with its exaggerated toe length. Bells drew attention to the shoe and the wearer. Crit-

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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.

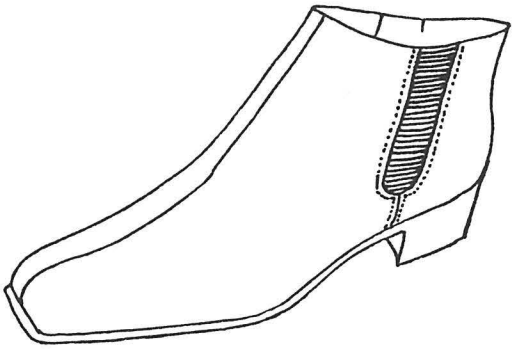
goring. A fabric woven with rubber threads to form an elastic material. Used in footwear in various applications. The main ones are as follows:

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 ¾ 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 accumlate 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

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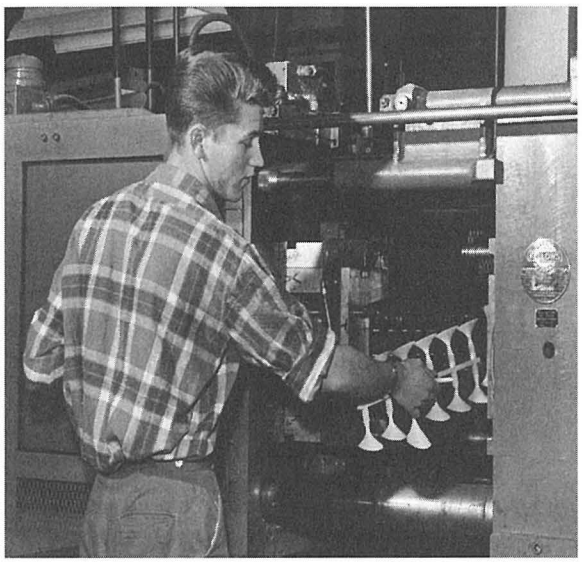
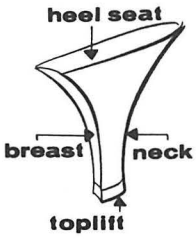
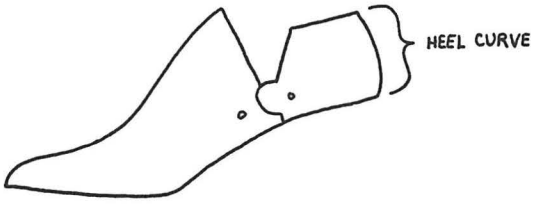


Heels in machine processing.

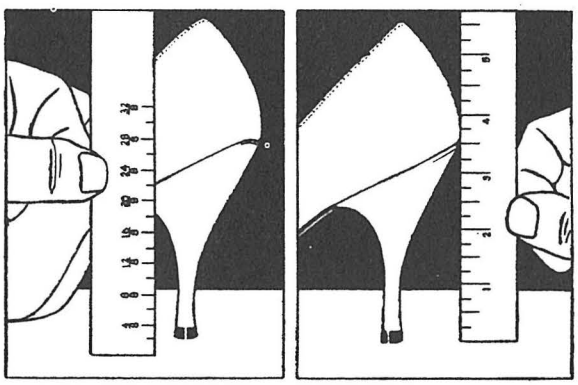


Basic anatomy of a heel.

the top rim to conform to the back curve of the foot. The curve shape varies in accord with heel height, style, or construction of the shoe or boot. The heel curve must be precise to avoid shoe slippage or biting at the heel. Also known as *back curve*.



Heel curve.



Heel height versus heel elevation.

heel brace. A right-angled metal brace attached to the heel breast and sole shank to keep the heel straight or to strengthen a weak heel.

heel breast. The front face of the heel.

heel breastline. The edge on either side of the heel breast.

heel burnishing. Polishing the inked, stained, or waxed heel to a hard finish.

heel cover. Leather, fabric or man-made material, matching or contrasting with the shoe upper, used to cover the raw surface of the heel.

heel cap. Another term for a heel lift or toplift, usually associated with western boot heels. See also *toplift*.

heel coupling. Matching the convex surface of the heel base with the heel surface of the last with a slightly concave or mildly cupped surface of the shoe heel for a snug-fit mating.

heel cup. A cupped-shape insert to cradle the foot's heel for motion control or cushioning.

heel curve. The back curve of a shoe from heel seat to

heel elevation. The height of the heel measured from the extreme rear. Not to be confused with heel height.

heel featherline. A line that defines the heel seat shape.

heel fetish. Having an erotic attraction to, or being erotically aroused by, the high heels of women's shoes. Heel fetishism is almost always a male addiction. The high heel, according to sexologists, becomes a symbolic "female phallus" which the fetishist translates into erotic fantasies.

heel foxing. The foxing around the back end of the quarter. See also *foxing*.

heel girth. The distance around the foot from the rear base of the heel to the top of the instep. A measurement taken on the last.

heel guard. A protective device to cover the back of the shoe heel and counter, especially on women's shoes, from abrasion while driving a car.

heel height. The height, floor to shank, measured at the heel breast. Heel height is measured in incre-

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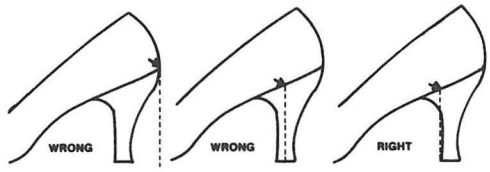
HOW TO MEASURE A HEEL.



ments of 8th inches. Hence an 8/8 heel is one inch, a 20/8 is 2 1/2 inches, etc.

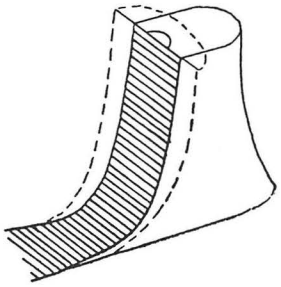
heel horn. An extended padding at the back rim of the heel collar as protection for the Achilles tendon. Used mostly on athletic footwear. Also known as an Achilles heel protector.

heel lift. A single layer of leather or other material forming part of a built-up heel. Not to be confused with top lift.

heel liner. A special lining around the inside back of the heel's counter, usually to prevent heel slippage.

Heel liner inside shoe to prevent slippage.

heel lip. The thin flap of heel cover material extending from the heel breast and attached to the shank of the shoe.



Side flap trimming. The dotted lines show the flap before trimming.

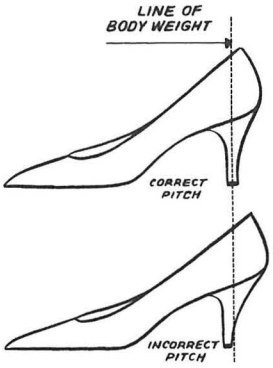
Heel lip (shaded area).

heel nailing. The shoe factory operation of attaching heels by means of machine nailing.

heel neck. The shaft or middle section of a high heel heel pad. A thin layer of leather or other material covering the heel seat to protect the foot's heel from chafing against the rough surface beneath. Also, a thicker cushioned pad for shock absorption on heel strike.

heel paring. In shoemaking, removing the excess material from the shoe rim to give the heel its correct shape.

heel pitch. The vertical slant or angle of the heel at the rear from heel seat to floor. Not to be confused with the heel angle.



Heel pitch

heel plate. 1) The metal plate covering the heel seat on the last during shoemaking as protection against machine pounding. 2) A flat piece of metal, usually crescent shaped, applied to the rear-outer corner of the toplift to resist wear abrasion. Used mostly for men's and boy's shoes.

Heel plates.

heel plug. A section or spot of hard rubber or plastic on the heel surface (usually the outer rear rim) for extra wear or durability.

heel point. The rearmost and center point of the heel on the last; a reference site in measurements.

heel position. The position of the heel under the shoe; of considerable importance for properly engineered heel support and balance, especially with higher heels. It is dictated to some degree by the type or style of heel.

heel rand. A narrow strip of leather or other material

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coarsely tanned leather upper, worn by English farmers during past centuries but rarely today.

landed cost. The amount that an imported pair of shoes or other product costs the buyer or importer after all duties, tariffs, and other charges are paid.

language of fashion. The fashion terms, phrases and expressions used by designers, buyers, retailers, or salespeople, and understood within the trade or by the consumer. A mode of communicating the concepts of fashion.

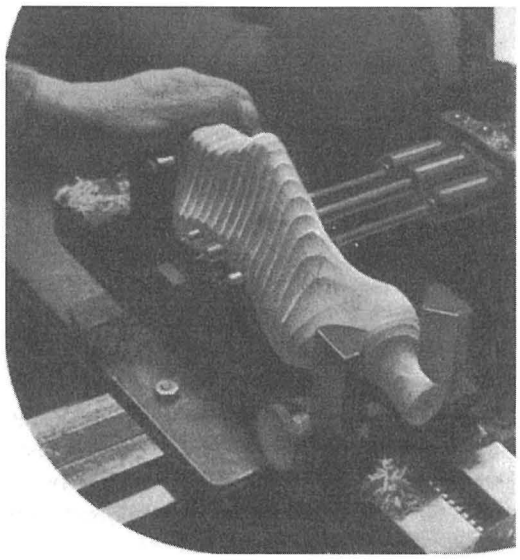
lap seam. See *seam.*

lap stone. A slab of stone, slate or iron resting on the lap, upon which the old shoemaker craftsmen beat sole leather or seams or folded edges with a flat-faced hammer.

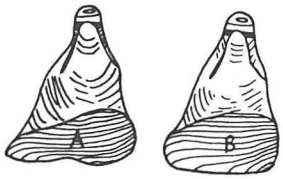
larrigan leather. See *leather.*

laser cutting. A method of cutting out shoe patterns or components with a laser beam.

last. Used as a noun, the plastic, wood or metal foot-shaped form over which the shoe is made to conform to the prescribed shape and size of the shoe. The term is from the Old English "laest," meaning a footprint. Used as a verb, it refers to the process of shaping the shoe to the last. The last is the single most important element in the shoemaking process.

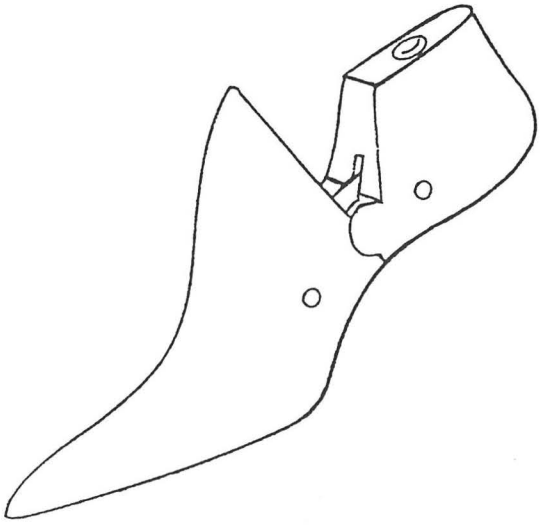


Last in "raw" form on way to finishing.

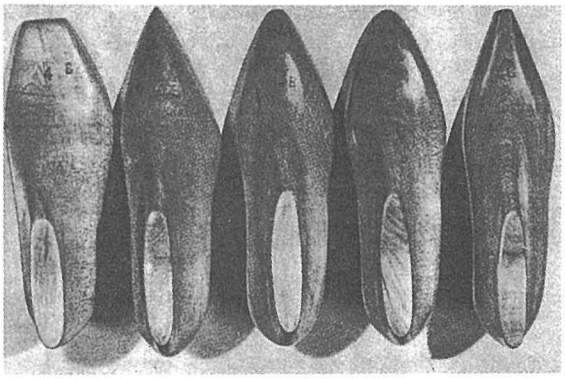


A. Cross Section of Last with Wide Tread Area

B. Last of same Size and Width with High Waist and Narrow Tread Area



The last over which the shoe is molded or made.



Last styling focuses on toe shapes. The toe may be square-snipped, round-flat, oval or crescent, pointed or blunt-squared, depending upon current mood or mode. And each single type of toe may have many subtle variations, such as narrow-snip or wider-snip, single needle or triple needle. The main styling character of the last and shoe is usually in toe shape, and its character may wear many faces.

last block. The block of wood or plastic at the initial raw stage, prior to being shaped by the model marker or lathe to the desired last form and dimensions which are precalculated on the turning lathe.

last bottom centerline. A longitudinal line defined by connecting the toe and heel points.

last bottom featherline. A line that defines the bottom shape of the last; The last bottom pattern.

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and second toes, worn with a tabi-like white linen sock with divided toes to accommodate the strap between the toes. Worn by both men and women of ancient Rome, and also known as a *udone* shoe. Our word "sock" is derived from it.

sock. See *hose*.

sock liner. As distinguished from sock lining, a insole insert contoured to match the sole of the foot, often cushioned. Frequently found in athletic-type footwear or walking shoes.

sock lining. See *lining*.

soft goods. Merchandise of soft texture such as apparel and footwear, in contrast to "hard goods" such as furniture, household appliances, etc.

soft sell. A restrained, nonaggressive approach to selling strategy in contrast to the more pushy "hard sell."

soft-sole moccasin. A moccasin without a firm slab of soling, and whose sole is either a continuous part of the leather upper, or an extra soft, reinforcing layer of sole sewn to the upper.

soft-sole shoe. Any footwear without a firm sole, such as a soft-sole slipper or moccasin.

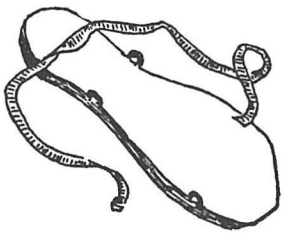
soft support. A soft arch cushion or a cushioned, semi-flexible orthotic in contrast to a rigid support.

soft tip. A shoe having no box toe, or a very soft box toe, under the toe tip. Also known as a *soft-toe shoe*.

soft-toe shoe. See *soft tip*.

sole. Derived from the Latin "solea," meaning soil or ground. See also *outsole*.

solea (or soleae). A simple sandal with a slab leather sole, worn mostly indoors in ancient Rome.

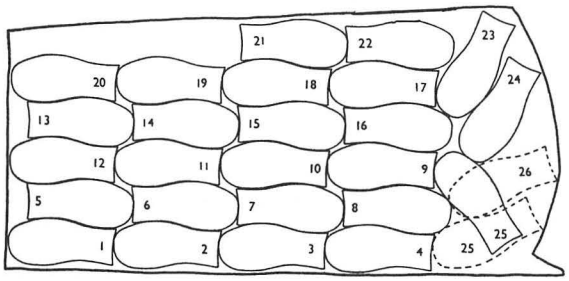


Solea.

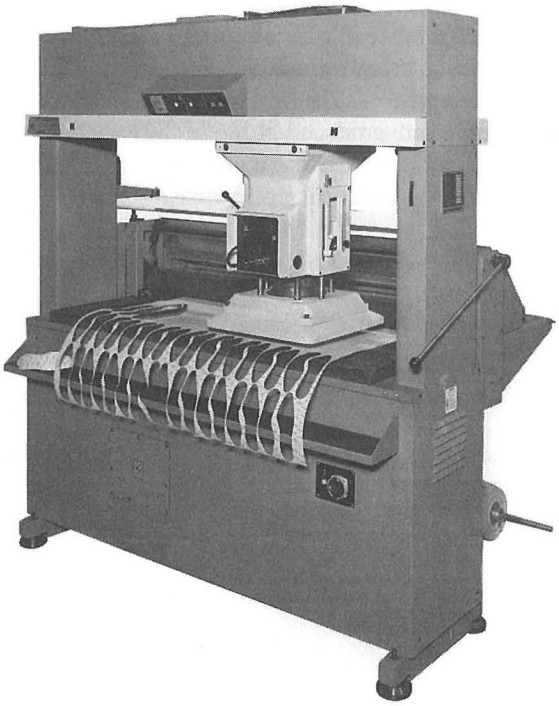
sole cutting. The cutting of leather soles from large sheets by machine, the dies in accord with the size and shape needed for particular styles or types of footwear. A very exacting operation to keep waste cutting to a minimum.

sole laying. Temporarily attaching the outsole to the shoe with an adhesive after bottom filling and prior to sewing.

sole leather. Any heavy leather, usually cattlehide



Sole layout on a bend of leather for maximum cutting economy and minimal waste.



Sole-cutting machine.

leather, dry-finished and used for shoe soles. The leather can be produced from any of several tannages, though generally vegetable tannage, or can be impregnated with other substances such as rubber compounds to increase durability.

sole leveling. Leveling the outsole of a shoe after lasting by means of pressure to flatten and smooth the bottom. Done by machine.

sole stitching. Machine attaching the outsole to the insole and upper by stitching. In earlier times a tedious hand operation.

sole tongue. In shoemaking, the rear or heel section of the leather outsole, either as it is or split in two lay-

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shoes were adapted for sprinting and called "spike shoes." The spikes or nails were punched through the sole from the inside, then the nailheads were covered with a light metal plate as an insole for the foot protection.

spina pedum. An outmoded term for the hard pain center or "root" of a hard corn. It is extracted with special surgical instruments. Also called *nucleus*.

splay foot. A loosely jointed, flabby, spready foot. See also *flaccid foot*.

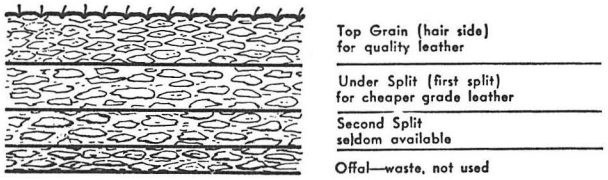
spliced heel. In hose, a heel of double thickness.

splint. See *counter splint*.

split foot. Hose having a white, usually cotton sole, contrasting to another color above.

split leather. See *leather*.

MAGNIFIED ILLUSTRATION OF THE CROSS SECTION OF A HIDE SHOWING HOW IT IS SPLIT INTO LAYERS



Split leather.

split regent pump. Similar to a three-quarter regent pump except that both inside and outside quarters have collar extensions that meet and are seamed at the center of the vamp throat. See also *three-quarter regent pump*.

split vamp. The vamp is in two parts so that the shoe can be laced to one tension and closed. The vamp part over the instep is then laced separately. Used to accommodate differences in foot shape, such as a high instep. See also *vamp*.

sponge. Natural sponge is obtained from sea corals. But artificial sponge—for many years used as a shoe cushioning material—consists of foam-type rubber filled with air pockets. Has low stability and rebound capacity. It has been replaced by much improved cushioning materials.

spool heel. See *heel*.

sporthotic. A coined term for an orthotic insert used in athletic shoes.

sportive look. Women's apparel and footwear with an outdoorish, sporty (though not athletic) motif for casual wear.

sport shoe. A sportive, casual shoe for nonathletic wear. A semi-dressy classification, not to be confused with a sports shoe.

sports medicine. The branch of medicine dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of sports injuries, including those of the foot.

sports shoe. 1) The first official rules regarding footwear for sports use were established in 1863 by the English Football Association (actually soccer), prohibiting the use of spikes or metal or gutta percha (rubber) soles. The modern era of sports footwear began in Germany with the Dassler brothers, Adi and Rudy, in the early 1920s. 2) An athletic shoe designed for any particular kind of active sport. Each sport usually has its own shoe design requirements. Many sports shoes are variations of others, usually with one or more additional features to adapt to the special needs of the particular sport. Also known as an "athletic shoe." The main types of sports shoes are as follows:

baseball. An oxford with lightweight upper of kangaroo or quality cowhide leather, though sometimes combining nylon/leather uppers. Soft or semi-soft toe cap, firm counter, padded collar, round toe, shawl tongue overlapping the laces, the sole with cleats. Usually a cement construction. Some professional players now use hightops.

basketball. The shoe may be either hightop or lowcut, with upper of canvas, nylon/canvas, or leather/canvas, laced to toe, reinforced toe tip, padded collar, cushioned insoles, or sometimes a removable orthotic insole insert. The traction sole is either rubber or polyurethane. Air holes are in the upper for added ventilation.

bowling. An oxford laced to toe, upper of leather or leather and nylon mesh, round toe, firm counter, man-made soling with relatively smooth surface.

boxing. A hightop with soft leather, laced to toe, lightweight with thin sole and moderate traction, firm counter, padded collar and arch cushion.

cross-trainer. See *training*.

cycling. For race cycling these shoes are made on special lasts with semi-pointed toe, wide ball, narrow waist and heel, high toe box, and extra toe spring. Uppers are light leathers perforated for ventilation. U-throat with lace-to-toe design, or with velcro closure, unlined, padded collar and tongue, cushion insole. The sole is rigid (reinforced with wood or steel shank), cleated for traction. Shoes for tour or distance cycling are uncleated and more flexible.

football. The style can be low-cut, demi-boot or full boot, depending on playing position. Uppers of leather or leather/nylon mesh, rigid counter and box toe, studded rubber soles, padded collar and

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spur. A metal, wheel-shaped piece with sharp, serrated edges, extending rearward from the back end or counter of the riding boot. Used to press against the side of the horse and "spur" it to greater speed. See also *heel spur*.

spur rest. A small ridge or shelf at the back of a western boot on which the spur rests. The spur ledge or rest, popular with younger wearers of western boots, is spurned and disdained by working cowboys.

square. A person not attuned to current times or contemporary lifestyles. Originally derived from or applied to a person who was still wearing square toed shoes long after they had gone out of fashion.

square edge. A sole finished with sharp edges top and bottom as a decorative feature.

square heel. See *heel*.

squeaky shoes. Shoes that emit a squeaking sound in walking, due to the rubbing and friction between leather outsole and leather insole, or outsole and insole rubbing against the shankpiece between. This is much less common today than in years past because of shoe construction improvements.

stability. The normal balance of the foot inside the shoe without excessive or abnormal motion during walking or running.

stabilizer. 1) A design feature or orthotic insert to help stabilize the foot and shoe during vigorous foot action such as in sports activities. Used mostly in sports footwear. 2) Any mechanical or biomechanical or orthotic device, separate or built into the shoe, designed to stabilize or rebalance a destabilized foot. An example is a special shoe wedge.

stabilizer cup. See *heel cup*.

stacked heel. See *heel*.

stadium boot. See *boot*.

staggerers. A euphemism for high heels because of the unstable gait of some women wearing high heels. The term is more British than American.

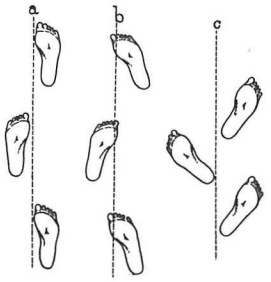
staining. Applying a stain to a shoe part such as a sole or heel edge or the bottom surface of the sole. Also called *inking*.

stain resistance. The ability of a material or component to resist staining, usually by incorporating a chemical or coating, such as with shoe upper, insole or lining materials.

staircase heel. See *heel*.

stalking. A tannery operation whereby light leathers are stretched and softened and the fibers flexed by mechanical means. This is done after sammying. See also *sammying*.

stamping. Imprinting sizes, stock numbers, brands or other markings on sock or quarter linings, heel pads, etc.



Stance: a) toes straight ahead stance; b) in-toeing; c) out-toeing.

stance. The angle made by the two feet when positioned side by side in standing or walking, such as in-toeing or out-toeing or pointing straight ahead.

stand. A store display fixture for holding shoes or other merchandise.

standardization. Any system of sizes, weights, shapes, dimensions, etc., adopted and accepted by an industry, trade, profession or science as a standard for use of a product or process. For example, standard measurements for lasts, or shoe sizes, or certain shoe components, or leather weights. While such standards exist in footwear and the shoe industry, certain liberties are sometimes taken to veer from the fixed standards.

standard last. See *universal last*.

standard mark-on. The generally accepted, contemporary level of retail markon for any given category of footwear or other merchandise. Also called "full markon."

standard screw process. See *shoe construction*.

standard tannage. Leather that has been tanned by ordinary methods without special care or processing that might command premium prices.

staple. 1) A small piece of U-shape metal wire or brad driven into the shoe by machine as a fastener for sole attaching. 2) At retail, a basic shoe not usually vulnerable to markdowns or seasonal change in style or demand. A moderate but steady seller.

starting inventory. The quantity, makeup and value of the store's inventory at the beginning of the month. See also *B.O.M.*

startup. A kind of buskin worn by country folk in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries. In more stylistic form, footwear popular with the gentry or upper classes of 16th-century England. It consisted of a combination of shoe and legging. When the lower classes adopted it the gentry was displeased with this social impostering, and from this rose our term "upstart" for a pretender or parvenu. See also *Appendix II, upstart*.

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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.

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 hard-wearing 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*.

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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 carriage 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 instep 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 "shooys," 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

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