

Air of Feminine Elegance Characterizes New in Shoe Fashions For This Spring

Both Open And Closed Toes Shown

Both sides are winning in the open-and-closed battle of shoe fashions for this spring and summer. Most women are going to buy both. The open shoes are so pretty, so flattering, so seductive, let us say, that they are quite irresistible. And lots of women haven't even worn them yet. They are far from being out of the picture.

However, there is a trend toward a slight modification of the extremely naked look, an appearance of a little more shoe without in any way detracting from the delicacy of the pattern. Sometimes it's a closed back, sometimes a vamp which covers the toes but is opened up in a pretty pattern above it. Sometimes closed toe, with just a halter strap to keep the shoe in place.

There is also a slight indication of moving away from the very wide toe opening, or putting the opening on an asymmetric line which is still airy and graceful but hints at a little more shoe.

Slings, graceful fluid lines and T-strap sandals are the big favorites in open shoes, but in many the extremely wide toe opening has been modified.

On the Right Foot
The backless shoe refuses to be downed. In fact it is more popular than ever. The little magic gadget which makes the shoe cling to the foot has encouraged a lot of women to try the daring backless fashion. As a matter of fact, it's extremely smart and sophisticated on the right foot at the right time with the right costume. Otherwise, the less said the better.

The bareback is both tailored and dressy. Black patent is a favorite in the town backless shoe, suitable for wear with suits of silk or the fine linen-weave worsteds. The front may be simply crossed bands or narrow patent strippings knotted to form the vamp, but the effect is that of an elegant town shoe in the mood of the current season.

For dressier wear, draped or pleated kidskin, metallics, patent or suede take graceful lines in the new sandals or pumps—the height of feminine charm with afternoon or cocktail dresses. Sometimes these dressmaker shoes are just a matter of line and manipulation. In other cases they add a touch of decoration in buckle, bow or jeweled ornament.

The U. S. marriage rate in 1954 was 9.1 per 1,000 people.



GLOWING ELEGANCE OF THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD is reflected in a fragile-looking late day pump of softly polished calf with distinctive black scrolling.



GAY SPRING ENTICEMENT, a "glass slipper" sling pump of clear vinylite over the toes, and a sparkling lucite flower-designed heel.



T-STRAPPED TOESGAYS for an exotic sandal of white pearlized calfskin. The flowers of pastel kidskin emphasize the cut-away vamp.



ITALIAN INSPIRED black magic is a gleaming satin evening pump whose slim tapered heel is threaded with rhinestones and a tear-drop pearl.



THE LOAFER LOOK, always popular, is new this year with a wedge heel. The ones shown are hand-sewn in calfskin.

The British railways print 1,800,000,000 tickets a year.



DRAMATIC APPROACH TO A SPRING EVENING is a bare sling-back sandal of black satin, heeled and buckled with glittering rhinestones.



THE EASTERN INFLUENCE shows up in flattering flats, as the curlique peaked vamp makes good in the Western World.



HIDDEN COMFORT is a 1955 highlight, represented by this kid-covered foam cushion, topped by glowing straps.

Swedish shipbuilders launched a record 67 ships with a gross tonnage of 550,000 in 1954.

The number of farm tractors in Sweden rose from 18,000 in 1939 to 100,000 today.

Smart Tanners Give New Fabric Look to Shoe Leather

It's the new switch! We've had fabrics acting like leathers in shoes for quite some time. But who would have thought that smart tanners would toss the ball back by reproducing fabric designs and textures on some of their finest leathers.

Polka dots, stripes, plaids, flower patterns, are reproduced with amazing clarity on smooth leathers by the new silk screen process. You can almost feel the texture of a tweed, a linen, a shantung.

Some of these exotic leathers are in the party feeling. Shoes for cocktail or dinner wear, to add that certain touch to the costume. Take for instance a high beeled, open toed sling of black leather, with matching bag, sparkled all over with white stars. Even the high spike heel wears its star decoration.

Stripes and polka dots are other popular patterns, both for casual and dress wear. Or you may have a sandal in softly muted plaid — you touch it to find that it doesn't have the feel of fabric!

A new trick, and a smart one to add to the most exciting spring and summer shoe fashions we've had in years.

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