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Courtesy photo

Ariat Boots were originally billed as the boot that was as comfortable as a tennis shoe. The company has hundreds of sizes, styles and colors for men and women.

Boots

Good footwear was a necessity for early-day cowboys. They needed to cover a good portion of the lower leg and be comfortable enough to wear for a full day in the saddle. Justin, Tony Lama, Dan Post and others were leading brands for decades. The boot market took a jolt in 1993 when Ariat introduced a line of Western boots that not only looked good but were comfortable and required little break-in time. Today styles for men and women, round and square toed, plain or fancy are available. An average pair of boots will cost around \$200. If you want to go all-out, you can spend \$13,000 for a pair of men's Lucchese Bootmaker Barons.



Courtesy photo

This bandanna by Rockmount is one of the wildest styles available and can be purchased in extra-large sizes to add to their utility.

Miscellaneous

- **Bandannas** are a nice touch to add panache to any ensemble. Scarves have long been a part of women's wear. Bandannas for men began out of necessity in the early going of the cowboy business. They were protection from the elements and could be used for a tourniquet if needed. Styles range from one-color to about as gawdy as you'd care to get and come in a couple basic sizes.

- **Belts and buckles** are another staple in Western wear. They can be plain leather or you can add as much bling as you'd like. Buckles come in a variety of types and sizes,



Courtesy photo

Belt buckles like this one from Montana Silversmith are considered a cowboy's business card, but are also a part of dress for women.

ranging from a modest clasp-type to a "pizza pan" version. They are generally made of gold and silver.

- **Boot socks** are a necessity if you're going to wear most Western boots. They generally come to midcalf or higher, and the latest styles are made from material that breathes for a comfortable fit all around.

Wahl is editor of the Wallowa County Chieftain and former editor of Tack 'n Togs Magazine, a trade publication that serves the Western apparel and products industry in the U.S. and abroad.

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