

Air of Feminine Elegance Characterizes New in Shoe Fashions for Spring

Open and Closed Toes Prominent In New Designs

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 open 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 ended the daring backless fashion. As encouraged a lot of women to try 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—



GLASS SLIPPER—Gay Spring enticement, a "glass slipper" sling pump of clear vinylite over the toes, and a sparkling lucite flower-designed heel. (By Palter DeLiso).

the height of feminine charm with afternoon or cocktail dresses. Sometimes these dress-maker shoes are just a matter of line and manipulation. In other cases they add a touch of decoration in buckle, bow or jeweled ornament.

In closed shoes the pump on slim and elegant lines is still the Easter shoe par excellence. With heels slimmer, more not pointed. Delicately tapered, curved. There's a bit of perforation on many of the pumps. Sometimes a flat buckle. Sometimes an underlay of contrasting leather which suggests a buckle without interfering with some instances a rising line, the clean line of the vamp. In square, curved or point on the instep, suggested by the court shoes worn by the ladies of Versailles.

Beautifully Tailored
The spectator pump is beautifully tailored this spring and is usually all in one color, with polished leathers or reptile preferred. It may be in black, brown, deep or lighter navy—or in the new scarlet red or one of the lovely new softer browns. These are really high fashion. They have new names—Milk Chocolate, Coffee Frost, Penuche—names as tempting as the luscious colors themselves.

They're divine with spring tweeds in light tones, and handsome fairs for some of the darker town colors.

Here too are discreet touches of decoration. Perforations around the collar, a narrow tailored strap and buckle right across the vamp. Something new, different, sophisticated which makes the Spring '55 spectator a high fashion shoe and a far cry from the brown-and-whites and black-and-whites of other days.

There are some combinations in spectators, but they are new too. Two colors combine, but they're different, more subtle. Two materials combine—one of the muted spring shades perhaps in suede or reptile, with tip and fox of exactly matching polished leather.

Of course, when it comes to summer and resort shoes, the sky is the limit. Let your purse and your imagination be your guide. As little shoe as you want, as long as it stays on your foot. A chance to try all sorts of new things—in colors, in materials, in patterns. The very sight of a case filled with these delectable trifles is enough to make any woman throw caution to the wind.

These are shoes that make a costume—shoes that are conver-

Low Heel, High Style In Shoes Aid Posture

Shoe designers have really caught on for this Spring. Perhaps it's the new lengthened-torso silhouette that did it. A girl just can't teeter and tilt on spikes with these suave and elegant costume lines.

Whatever the reason, instead of tip-toed noses at medium heels we now have the smartest of new designs, with just as much high-style thinking and know-how as ever went into the most extreme of the formal town shoes.

What a relief—to have pretty feet and able to walk with ease and grace at one and the same time. And there's a choice for every taste and every costume.

The closed pump is a leader in this modified heel division—because every woman wants at least one pump for her spring town costume. Instead of looking clumsy on the lower heel, it

has a slim, sleek graceful look of great elegance, due to the tapering of the toe, the slimming of the heel.

Practically every one has a distinctive touch of detailing, delicate, never intrusive. Typical, a town pump of black, blue or chestnut brown polished leather, the top delicately etched with stitching on either side of a fine pintucked row. Another in smooth calf with matching medium heel has contrasting luster trim around the throat, and a string vamp bow.

Patent is very important in the picture of the lower heel town pump. It's slightly dressier than the polished leathers, will go with silks as well as wools. The shaped slender heel complements the narrow slender look of the vamp. Most effective for Easter, the black patent pump with topline of white grosgrain, tied in a tiny pert bow at the back.

Really dressed up, the medium heel patent leather sandal, in modified, T strap or open halter design, open toe, with touch of decoration, perhaps a flat ribbon bow, or a square or oval patent buckle with a sparkle of white nailheads to match crisp white glaze gloves.

Black patent also combines with white suede in some new spectators that are smart indeed. Heel, quarter and tip of black patent low cut sides and vamp of white suede with overlapping rows of perforations for tailored trim. Something for the new black and white tweeds and suitings that are headlines this season.

Luster Leathers Give New Look for Shoes

There'll be lots of navy shoes this season. There always are, come Easter. But luster leathers give a completely new style look to navy footwear. Lights up the classic coat or suit of navy silk or wool, and adds a pretty feminine touch to the paler colors, the neutrals and pastels which are appearing in spring tweeds and worsteds.

Thus the navy shoe moves from a staple to an appealing fashion in line with the most colorful season we have had in years.

It prolongs the life of the shoe too. Because these blue lusters, when made in the smart open patterns of sandal or pump, can carry forward into summer, no longer restricted to just the Easter season.

Typical of summer styles in navy luster are such nude types as a three-banded mule, backless of course, with high heel, instep band, and two circlets making the vamp. Light enough in design to wear with any summer frock. Charming, too, a T-strap sandal, open toe, sides and



SHOE-DESIGNS—A pin-stripe pattern for spring on screen printed leather, top photo, features open toes and a sling back lous heel. The center photo shows the Italian inspired black magic in a gleaming satin evening pump whose slim tapered heel is threaded with rhinestones and a tear-drop pearl. The lower photo shows T-strap Toesgays for an exotic sandal of white pearlized kidskin. The flowers of pastel kidskin emphasize the cutaway vamp.

back, with graceful curved heel, slim ankle strap, and pleated vamp of the luster leather. Another adaptable warm weather fashion for silk suits and spring dresses. Watch for luster navy to add new lightness and charm to a basic spring color that most women like.

Flowers Trim Smart New Shoes for Spring

Right from sunny California came the first rage for flower trims. Starting with flats and casuals, in fabrics and woven straws and straw cloths, their freshness and young look quickly caught on until the vogue for flower trims is nation wide.

It isn't restricted to casuals any more. Some of the prettiest party shoes, particularly the open sandal types, and a cluster of blossoms on the vamp for that new feminine look.

Some of the blossom trims are really wonderful—delicate ceramic blossoms in Dresden blues and pinks with gleaming green leaves. Some are made all of

jewels—rhinestones, fake sapphires and emeralds for dazzle. Pearl-finished blossoms match the shoe, pick up the new luster tints.

A far cry from these exquisite trifles, but just as smart in their place, are the flowers in the new hot colors, made of felt, exotic straws or what have you, in the blazing hot tones of orange, violet, pink or Oriental yellow. Sometimes it's just a single huge blossom planted on a wide open patio or cabana backless sandal in linen, canvas, cottons or straws.

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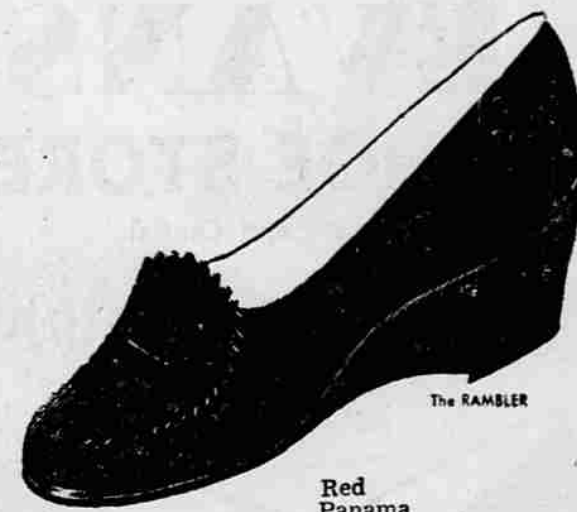
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