

Quadrant II – Notes

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Course Title: Fashion accessories

Unit 2: Understanding Categories, Styles and Production Methods of Fashion Accessories

Module Name: Brief history, common style, components, materials and production methods (Footwear)

Module No: 6

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Notes :

Shoe

A shoe is an item of footwear intended to protect and comfort the human foot. Shoes are also used as an item of decoration and fashion. The design of shoes has varied enormously through time and from culture to culture, with appearance originally being tied to function. Though the human foot is adapted to varied terrain and climate conditions, it is still vulnerable to environmental hazards such as sharp rocks and temperature extremes, which shoes protect against. Some shoes are worn as safety equipment, such as steel-soled boots which are required on construction sites.

Additionally, fashion has often dictated many design elements, such as whether shoes have very high heels or flat ones. Contemporary footwear varies widely in style, complexity and cost. Basic sandals may consist of only a thin sole and simple strap and be sold for a low cost. High fashion shoes made by famous designers may be made of expensive materials, use complex construction and sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars a pair. Some shoes are designed for specific purposes, such as boots designed specifically for mountaineering or skiing, while others have more generalized usage such as sneakers which have transformed from a special purpose sport shoe into a general use

shoe. Traditionally, shoes have been made from leather, wood or canvas, but are increasingly made from rubber, plastics, and other petrochemical-derived materials. The shoe industry is \$200 billion dollar a year industry. 90% of shoes end up in landfills, because the materials are hard to separate, recycle or otherwise reuse.

Types of Shoes

Oxfords or Balmorals – These shoes are meant for men. They are characterized by their round toes and are usually with a cap. They have a close lacing style. These shoes are considered good options for a formal business wear. These shoes are also known as Balmorals shoes named after the Queen's castle situated in Scotland.

Derbys – These are also formal shoes like Oxfords. Oxfords and Derbys are almost similar, except from one apparent and significant difference. Unlike an oxford shoe, the eyelet facings in derbys are stitched on thin top of the vamp. This style is also known as open front style.

Brogues – These shoes have perforations and this is the only requirement to be categorised as a brogue. It can be even a derby shoe with perforations which is referred to as a brogue shoe. They also possess separation at the visible edges of material. They are worn as outdoor footwear. Today they are also worn as casual shoes.

Espadrilles – These shoes are also known as alparagatas. They are mostly flat but sometimes come in high heel versions too. These types of shoes originated in the Pyrenees. They are made of material like canvas or cotton. The sole of these shoes is made from jute rope. The main characteristic of this shoe is the jute rope sole, as the upper section may differ from one shoe to another.

Monk-straps – These are lace-less shoes which use buckles and straps for closing. They are usually found in two versions – single strap and double strap. These shoes are easy to wear and look good when worn with suit or denim. They got their name due to their popularity among the monks in Europe.

Boat shoes – These shoes are also known as deck shoes or topsiders. These are generally made from canvas and leather material. The main characteristic of this shoes is that the upper section of this shoe is made in such a way that it repels water and also tends to be stain proof. They are hand sewn and top stitched. They come in both lace and lace-less versions. Herringbone pattern is carved into them.

Boots – Boots are special types of shoes which not only provide protection to the feet but are also designed to cover and protect ankles or sometimes lower legs. Tall boots are preferred for winters. They are known for their stylish look. There are many different types of boots like rigger boots, dress boots, Chelsea boots, fashion boots, cowboy boots, mukluks, etc.

Cleats – The underside of these shoes is equipped with a projecting piece of hard rubber or metal. This feature is added to the shoes for providing better grip to the shoes. These shoes are usually worn by players in sports like soccer, baseball, etc. These shoes also come in many different styles. These shoes with studded soles are also known as stud sometimes.

Sneakers – These shoes are also known as athletic shoes. These shoes are specifically designed for sports or physical exercise related activity. However they can also be worn as casual shoes. They are available for men as well as women. Sneakers fall in the category of soft shoes, which are mostly equipped with rubber soles. A good bottom sole can be made from different types of rubbers like solid rubber and gum rubber.

Flip-flops – These are very comfortable types of footwear which are often characterized by two thin straps joined in V-shape in their upper sections. They are categorized under casual sandals. They are known by different names in different parts of the world. There are flip flops for everyone irrespective of age or gender.

Sandals – These types of footwear are characterized by straps which pass over the instep and at times the straps are also available around the ankle. The toes are left uncovered in sandals. Sandals are worn in different occasions. However, they are preferred to be worn during warm season. For women, they come in different heel options.

Loafers – The term loafer is used for any type of shoe which does not have any kind of lacing or fastening system. They can be easily worn as foot is simply slipped on it. They are also known as slip-ons. The toes remain fully covered in these shoes. They are also available for men, women and even children.

Ankle straps – These shoes for women have one or many straps which are tied around the ankles. The straps are made from different types of materials. They may have heels or no heels. It gives a very stylish look.

Ballet flats - These have been inspired from the ballet shoes. These are usually flat and are enclosed types of shoes. They are very comfortable to wear. They may have many designs incorporated on them. They are favorite of ladies of any age group. They are good to be worn during the warm weather.

Mules – These shoes are usually closed toed types but are characterized by their backless portion. They may have any type of heel. They are very comfortable to be worn. They usually work as casual shoes but can also be worn in professional work environment. This shoe is usually meant for woman, however some mules are also designed for man.

Pumps- The word is used for any shoe which has closed toe form and heels. They may be made from any type of material ranging from leather to canvas. Heels usually vary from half inches to 4 inches. These are different from the platforms which bear thick soles on them.

Platforms – These shoes are also known as disco boots or simple platform shoes. These shoes have thick soles and heels. This shoe was popular in ancient Greece and was recognized as a symbol of wealth. However, these days it is considered to be a fashionable item.

Peep toes – The name of this shoe has been derived from its design in which the front of the shoe bears a narrow opening. This opening exposes toes and therefore the shoes are known as peep toes. They may or may not have any heels with them. They look elegant and stylish.

Wedges – These shoes have got their names from their heels which have a shape similar to a wedge. This heel is different from other heels as it covers the shoe throughout in its lower section. Usually they come in the form of sandals, but many types of wedge boots and wedge pumps are also available in the market.

According to heels women shoes can be categorized under –

Kitten heels – Shoes with less or equal to 1.5 inches of heel are categorized under this group. This heel is little bit set forward

Low Heels – The upper limit for heels of these shoes is 3 inches.

Medium Heels – Shoes with heels ranging from three to five inches are categorized under medium heels

Stilettos or high heels – These are shoes with high heel which is tapered and narrow. The heel is known as spike heel too. These are usually above five inches are recommended for an elegant look.

Materials Used to Make Shoes

1. Leather

Leather is flexible yet durable, as sturdy as it is supple. It's elastic, so it can be stretched yet it resists tearing and abrasion. It's a breathable material, and it insulates heat, helping to

regulate temperature. This all makes leather shoes conform to the feet of the wearer like no other shoe material can. It's no surprise, then, that leather is one of the most common materials that shoemakers use, particularly in making men's dress shoes.

2. Textiles

Fabric is also quite commonly used for making shoes. Like leather, textiles are available in a wide array of colors and varieties. With textiles, the possible variations include different fibers, denier (or fabric weight), weaves and knits.

The most common textiles used for making shoes are:

- cotton
- polyester
- wool
- nylon

Textile shoes can also be found in rayon, lycra and polypropylene. One key advantage of textile shoes is their versatility in styles and designs. Each textile also has its own physical properties that must be considered when choosing whether or not to own or wear it, such as variations in breathability, support and temperature control (ie. hotness or coolness).

3. Synthetics

Synthetic materials go by many different names— PU leather or simply PU, synthetic leather or simply synthetics— but they're all the same in being man-made composites of two layers: an external surface adhered to a backing layer composed of polyester fibers. All types of synthetics used to make shoes are also the same in making for supportive yet affordable sports shoes. Like their textile counterparts, synthetic materials also come in a variety of colors and textures.

Factors in the composition of the two layers comprising synthetic materials, such as whether the polyester used for the backing is woven or non-woven, or the method of adhesion used, whether a wet or dry process, determine the quality and durability of the resulting synthetic. Lower quality synthetics may not have a perfectly smooth surface, even possibly showing creases and wrinkles.

The advantage of shoes made from synthetics is that they tend to be comparatively quite inexpensive for both the manufacturer and consumer as compared with other types of shoes. Because the material is less durable than its leather and textile counterparts, however, synthetic shoes tend to degrade faster and need replacing more often.

4. Rubber

Rubber is most commonly used in shoes to make soles. While not the only material used to make outsoles, it is among the most popular in sports shoes, like running shoes and tennis shoes.

While most shoe rubber over the years has been made from polyester, a more environmentally-sound natural rubber is increasing in popularity as an alternative.

5. Foam

Foam is the most common material used to provide support in the uppers of shoes of all sorts, be they leather, textile, synthetic or even rubber. The different types of foam used for this purpose are innumerable, though they're all generally divided into two categories: open and closed cell. All foam is made from plastic. In open cell foam, the material is permeable, allowing water and air to pass through; in closed cell foam, these open cells are sealed, preventing the gasses inside them from escaping.

Open cell foam, also known as KFF or KF foam, is made of polyurethane plastic and tends to be softer than closed cell foam. Open cell foam can often be found in the collars and tongues of shoes. There are many different types of open foam, the most open of which is reticulated foam, frequently used to create ventilation features in shoes.

Closed cell foam is a denser material commonly used to make shoe midsoles. Types of closed cell foam include polyurethane and polyethylene, EVA foam, Neoprene and Latex. Each type of closed cell foam features its own properties, such as waterproofness or elasticity.

Knowing the various materials most prevalent in shoes helps immensely in choosing the right shoes to match your needs at the time. Understanding the variations in type, considerations of quality and maintenance, and the prospective benefits and drawbacks of each type will help ensure that you wear every pair of shoes you buy with pride.

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