

25 Meet Your New *SOLE* MATE

Whether it's a borrowed-from-the-boys brogue or a wow-worthy wedge, fall's standout shoes will make you want to build your outfit from the ground up

PHOTOGRAPHED BY **GREG MARINO**



STRAP HAPPY

This style really brings the sexy—from the foot-flattering flashes of skin to the pin-thin high heels—so the trick is to keep things otherwise demure. Low-key colors, such as a buttery tan or a cranberry, cut down the va-va-voom factor, as do polished-looking patterns. Skip the obvious clingy mini and opt for a girlie floral dress or a pair of tailored trousers.

From top:
Snakeskin,
Rebecca
Minkoff, \$295;
at Rebecca
Minkoff, 866-
838-6991. Kid
suede, Jessica
Simpson
Collection, \$119;
at Dillard's.
Leather, French
Connection,
\$140; piperlime
.com.



Clockwise from top left: Leather, Paul Smith, \$595; at Paul Smith, 646-613-3060. Leather, Boden, \$148; bodenusa.com. Leather, Rag & Bone, \$475; at Nordstrom. Leather, the Office of Angela Scott, \$550; theofficeofangela.com. Leather, Kate Spade Saturday, \$160; saturday.com.

GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

You've probably tried these menswear mainstays sans socks with rolled-up boyfriend jeans, but lace-ups and loafers also put a playful spin on dressier looks. "You need to soften it in some way," says stylist Anita Patrickson, who suggests showing off your legs by pairing the shoes with a skirt or shorts over tights. The final touch? A bold red lip.

WEDGE of GLORY

Way more walkable than your steepest stilettos—but just as leg-lengthening—the newest takes on the wedge have sculptural appeal. With slim heels (no chunky '70s styles here), they're a sleek counterpoint to ladylike shapes, like this season's must-have midiskirt. Another bonus: "They're a great day-to-night shoe," says Patrickson. Yesss, no more quick changes at the office!

Clockwise from top: Leather, Rachel Zoe, \$495; zappos.com. Suede and lizard, Elie Tahari, \$365; at Bloomingdale's. Leather, Ann Taylor, \$148; annaylor.com. Leather and suede, Nine West, \$129; amazon.com. Leather, Cole Haan, \$278; colehaan.com.



T PARTY

With a hint of vintage Gatsby glam, T-strap heels are a flirtier stand-in for polished pumps and a more grown-up alternative to mary janes. For an "office-sexy feel," Patrickson suggests wearing them with tights and a body-skimming pencil skirt. Avoid looking old-fashioned by leaving the top few buttons of a white oxford undone.



Clockwise from top: Leather and suede, Jill Stuart, \$485; at Jill Stuart, 212-343-2300. Leather, Marciano, \$198; marciano.com. Calf hair, Sam Edelman, \$175; samedelman.com.

How To MAKE YOUR SHOES LAST

We talked to David Mesquita, vice president of Leather Spa luxury shoe repair in New York (leatherspa.com), for some tricks on getting more mileage out of your favorite footwear.

REINFORCE THE SOLES

Add rubber guards to the fronts and backs ASAP. If the bottoms are too thin from wear, you'll need to replace them entirely before adhering a protective layer, says Mesquita. (\$34/pair)

REPAIR THE TIPS

The bottom of the toe area is the first to go, warns Mesquita, even with a guard. "It wears out much sooner than the rest of the sole." Have the worn section cut out and replaced to bring the shoes back to life. (\$20/pair)

KEEP 'EM CLEAN

Use an antibacterial shoe spray to prevent odor (our MacGyver hack: a cleansing wipe). Also, cedar shoe trees absorb moisture to prevent yuckiness. If it's a lost cause, you can swap out the insole, complete with designer label sewn back in. (\$40/pair)

CHANGE THE COLOR

Reinvent a tired pair by dyeing them a new shade. Leather can take any hue, but for tricky suede, Mesquita sticks to black. Any embellishment—grommets, jewels—is a deal breaker. "They make it impossible to do it right," he says. (From \$80/pair)