

THE CHELSEA BOOT

The Chelsea boot is a type of riding boot dating from the Victorian era. They were known as Jodhpur boots (a reference to the Polo playing days in colonial India) or Paddock boots at the time.

The distinguishing features of the boots are the elasticated side panels, or gussets, in place of laces or other fastenings. This was a very innovative design at the time, as it allowed the Victorian woman to slip on her tight fitted ankle-boots more easily.

Based in the countryside, these boots slowly made their way to the city, where they reached the elite club of shoe designs, joining the Derby Boot, Oxford and Brogue as quintessential British designs.

It was in the 1960s that the Chelsea boot saw a rebirth with the rise of the Dandy attitude in British Fashion.

It was renamed Chelsea after the suburb of Chelsea that gentrified and well heeled corner of Kensington in London. With the trend headed towards the pointed style winklepicker, it was not long before the Chelsea style became popular with the modernists and the successor Mods.

Men as well as women Mods could be seen wearing them: it was the shoe style of the 60s. It was also synonymous with some of the great rock acts of the time like the Rolling Stones and the Beatles.



In the 70s, the Chelsea boot saw service amongst some of the punks on Kings Road and again in the 80s it was popular amongst the New Romantics.

The rock heritage of the boot has never been lost and it remains a classic choice amongst contemporary bands including the Kings of Leon etc...

The Underground Chelsea Boot is available in a selection of materials and colours for men and women.



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