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Restyle Your Old Shoes

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1. Remove heel cap with the screw-driver. Loosen leather strip from inside the heel all the way back to where heel is attached to the sole, being very careful not to tear the strip. It can be peeled back with either the knife blade or the single-edge razor blade, depending on how firmly it is glued down.



2. Pour a little glue in a small container so the rest won't harden with exposure to the air. Some bottles have a swab in the cap, making a small container unnecessary. Begin at the toe, covering area completely with glue (about 2 square inches.) Center fabric over the shoe, using lengthwise straight of the goods. Smooth over glued toe area. With point of fingernail file gently push fabric between upper shoe and sole.

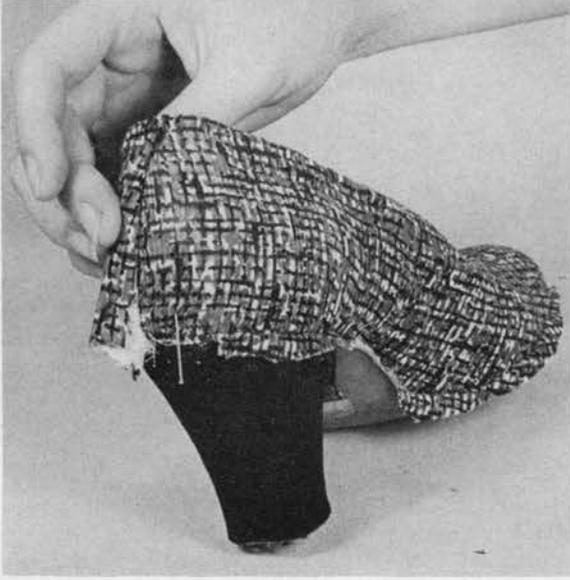


3. After entire toe area has been covered, cut fabric down the middle to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the shoe upper. Continue covering on each side of the vamp. There will be an excess of fabric at the back of the shoe. Hold it out straight and measure off 6 inches to use for covering the heel.



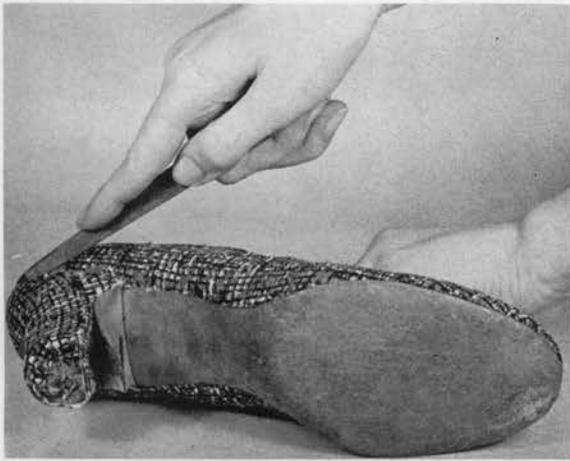
4. Continue working on each side of the shoe until reaching middle of shoe back. (Be sure to clean glue from fingers so as not to get it on right side of the fabric.) Trim fabric to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of sole all the way around. Bring fabric from inner side of shoe across center-back line about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, marking center-back line with a pin as shown. Now turn in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch over lap from outer side, ending exactly at center-back.

Restyle



5.

Use single-edge razor blade to finish off edges around sole of shoe. With the scissors, cut inner edge of the fabric to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from shoe upper, slashing to get a good turn. Apply glue to wrong side of fabric and turn over top of upper, working with small areas at a time.



6.

To cover heel, apply glue evenly to entire heel surface. (If heel is patent leather or suede, the old leather can be removed before applying glue and recovering.) Smooth on fabric, beginning at center back and using straight of the goods. Use fingernail file to push fabric between sole and upper; cut away extra fabric with razor blade.

Cut fabric to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from inside edge of heel. Glue this $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of lap to inside of heel and glue down leather strip. Replace heel cap, using the hammer.

Use damp cloth to remove any glue on the sole. Stuff shoes with tissue paper until thoroughly dry (Overnight). Your "new" shoes are ready to be worn!

Does your closet contain shoes which are still wearable, but "just too delapidated looking" to wear anymore? Don't put them back to collect more dust — you can recover them yourself to match or compliment your favorite outfit with just $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of material!

The supplies needed to do the job are simple: scissors, single-edge razor blade, costume glue, or other casein-type glue, table knife, fingernail file, screwdriver and small hammer.

Select fabric that has good body and doesn't ravel easily. Suggested types for casual clothes are flannel, tweed, corduroy, linen, cotton, Indian head or gabardine. For dressier wear you can use velveteen, faille, heavy taffeta, lace over fabric, metallics or brocades.

Before starting to work have all supplies together and within easy reach on the work table. Cut the $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of 36-inch material in half to make two pieces — each 9 inches x 18 inches. Clean and brush shoes thoroughly and you're ready to begin.

Your Old Shoes

by Ruth Abbott
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