

A MAKE-OVER SHOE IN

By Blair Sabol

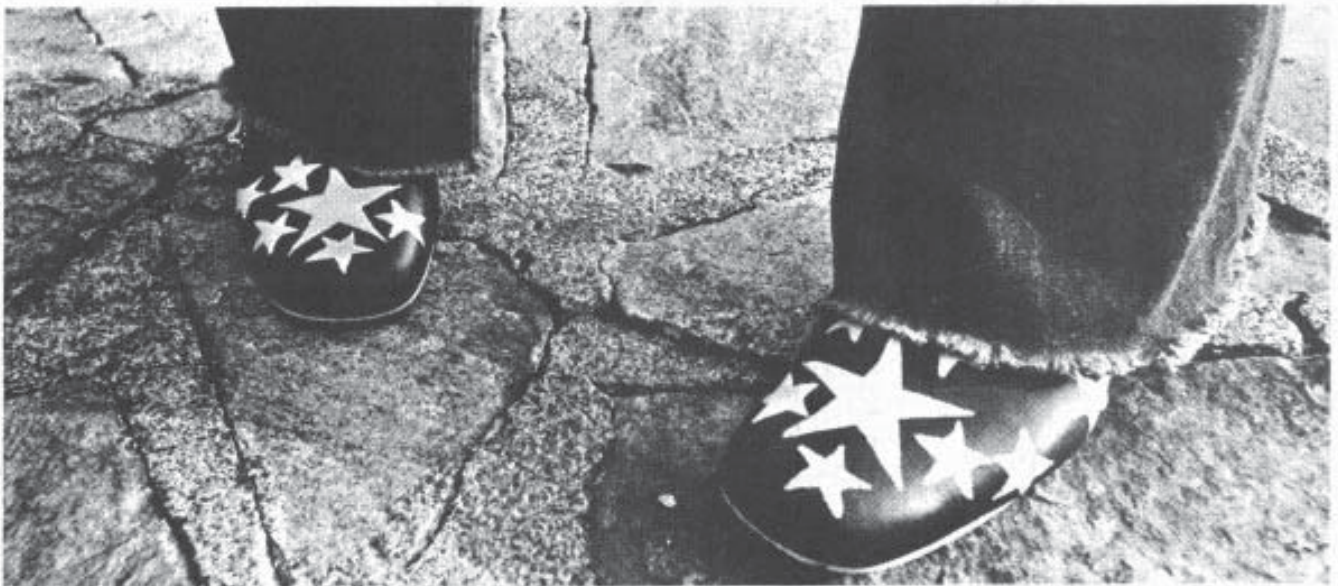
The latest therapeutic do-it-yourself-creative plaything is painting your shoes. Actually shoe paints have been around for years (remember those white raw silk prom pumps dyed putrid pea green to go with the total look of your putrid pea green chiffon formal and putrid green pocketbook?). But only recently with the tie-dye bonanza and cartoon T shirt blast have people really taken the brush to their soles. Actually the craze took off when the English patchwork and star appliqued boots (a la Joe Cocker) invaded American shores and shoe

stores last spring. Many flipped over the look of them but freaked over their price—\$90. It seemed so easy to do the same on a pair of \$16 Becks or Wise knee-highs with a \$1.50 shoe coloring kit.

With a little research and a creative eye anything beautiful can happen. If the commercial shoe coloring range doesn't groove with your shoe, go to your nearest art supply store and check out the acrylic shelf. Also, while you're there invest in some sable brushes for detail work and a set of children's stencil books with basic cross, star and circle motifs. Actually, it's best to invest in one commercial

packet since it contains the specially chemically compounded conditioner (it's not just turpentine)—a must for paint adherence—plus a clear set of directions. And have no fear . . . you can dribble and draw on suede and patent, old or new shoes, providing you always remember to "condition" them before you rainbow them. So give your soles a soul injection.

These are some samples created by our staff members (sorry we aren't brought to you in living color). Remember it's almost impossible to screw up a pair of shoes since sloppiness can always be rationalized to look funky.

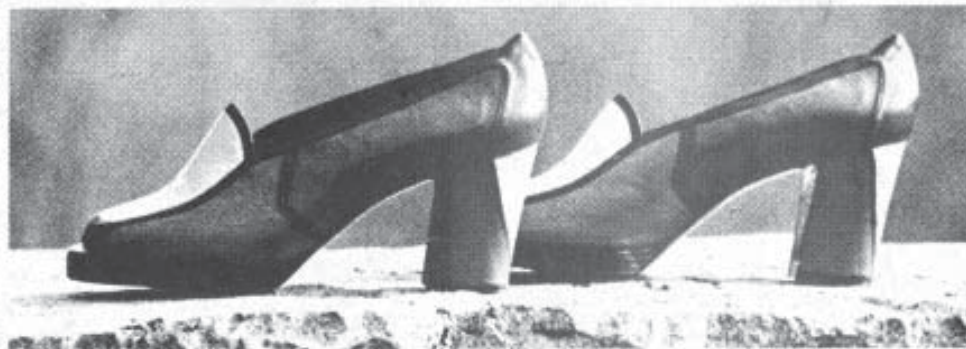


Joe Cockers: Copied after the Cocker star appliqued boots, only we did him one better by painting our celestial formation in silver (his stars were in bland white).

Photos by Richard Busch

Stella with Sole: Copied after artist Frank Stella's protractor paintings, these white clogs were revolutionized with concentric colored circles.





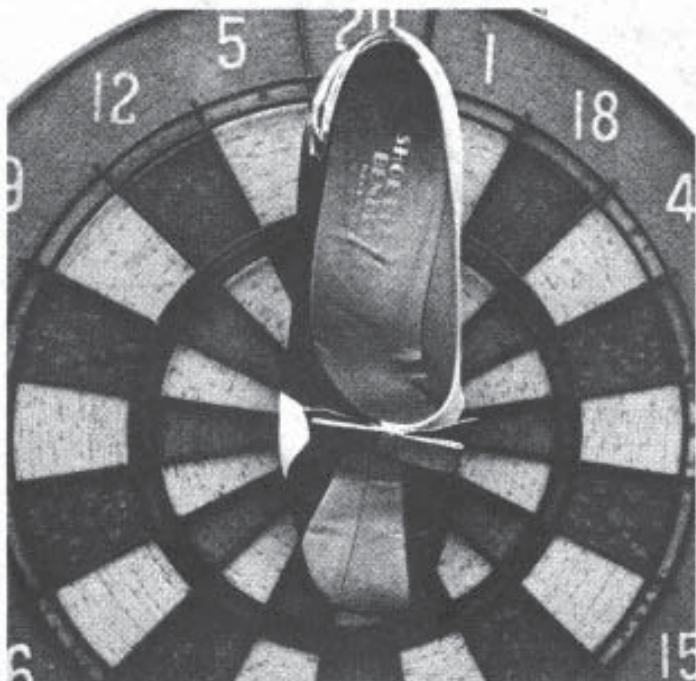
Basic Mondrians (above): Good for a first try is the Mondrian technique achieved by using nothing but the clearest of primary colors in large sectioned-off areas. Also, you can create the look of a platform by painting the sole in a contrasting color.

Bummer Boots (left): The black (above) is before, the psychedelic (below) is after. Unfortunately we got carried away. An example of how sloppiness can make it as solid funk.

SUPPLIES: A) Lady Esquire Instant Shoe Coloring and Conditioner, \$1.50. (I say Lady Esquire because they have the widest color range, and I find it the most adhesive and least bubbly shoe coloring.) Or any acrylic paints at hardware or art supply stores.

B) Stencils—hard to find booklets with groovy cut-outs . . . so if interested write Stencil Art Publication Company, Bedford, Ohio, and ask for their Holiday Book (\$1.80) or their Tiny Tots book (65c). Or make your own.

C) Sable brushes (the finest hairs) are a must, since Lady Esquire comes equipped with an applicator the size of a doll's mop. Too clumsy for intricate corners. Sable brushes range from 70c to \$1.



Right on Target in Rainbow (above): These Louis XIV heeled baby blues were a bore no more with the flick of a brush in graduated hues of the color spectrum.

Fred Astaire Freak-Outs (right): Fred Astaire never had it so good. Complete with the number thirteen in silver. A remarkable makeover in orange, green, skipper blue and scarlet red from the clodhopper brown of before (background shoe).

