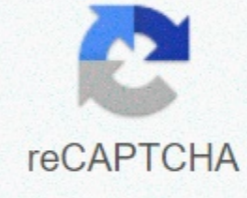




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Chelsea boots with formal suit

Chelsea boot is a true design classic. Over the years, it has become something like uniform for some of history's most discerning subcultures. This modern classic stormed festival scenes at the peak of rock music's golden era; it strode around south-west London in the 1950s on the feet of the city's coolest young musicians and artists; it adorned the deck of many a Vespa in the 60's and 70's; and has spent every year since cementing his place as a men's fashion icon. To say that the Chelsea boot is ingrained in the fabric of men's clothing is an understatement. But despite its runaway popularity and shoe-rack-staple status, it's something that a significant amount of men still have styling problems correctly. Sartorial confusion is not uncommon when shoes ventures north of the ankle. But styling Chelsea boots is actually quite simple. The trick is to know what works and stick with it. With this in mind, we have broken down six important ways to wear this shoes hero so you can nail it every time. Suited (And Booted) DigelEveryone's heard the phrase suited and booted, but it's not really meant to be taken at face value. Suits and boots are rarely mixed in modern menswear, and for good reason: a pair of large bulky winter boots with dress pants will never be a well-balanced look. However, there are a couple exceptions to the rule and Chelsea boots happen to be one of them. The low-profile shape and elegant silhouette mean that Chelsea's is a viable option when it comes to teaming up shoes and tailoring. What's more, they offer something a little different to standard Oxford or Derby shoes and can add a touch of personality to an otherwise traditionally stuffy outfit. Stick to slim-cut costumes for balance's sake. A Chelsea boot is a slim-fitting piece of shoes and too wide leg openings or wide shoulders can throw your proportions off. The other thing to keep in mind is color. Black leather is a timeless choice that goes with everything from classic navy blue and grey tailors to camel or beige summer costumes. Business CasualYes, it's called dress-down Friday. No, it doesn't give you carte blanche to rock up to the office in board shorts, flip flops and your old high-school leavers hoodie. What it really means is to make your regular work outfit a little more relaxed, and replacing your Derbies for a pair of Chelsea boots is a great way to get the ball rolling. Admittedly, Chelsea boots may look a little out of place worn with your usual 9-5 wardrobe. Especially if your office is on stuffer, corporate side of things. The key to nailing business casual lies in replacing formal inclined clothes and making some casual tweaks. Top-down, think of stocks. Instead of a simple shirt and blazer, why not incorporate some knitwear – a roll neck is a sophisticated piece that works on its own, or you can combine an Oxford shirt with a crew-neck sweater for a foolproof combination that feels feels as far as legwear goes, don't worry if it matches your jacket. Separating is a great way to tone things down without looking sloppy and the contrast creation adds depth to the overall look. Again, make sure the pants are cut narrow to match the shape of the boots and top it with an overcoat or parka on colder days. Smart CasualOne of the great things about Chelsea boots is how versatile they can be. Yet there is one area of menswear where they really excel: smart casual. Not too dressy, not too relaxed, the Chelsea boot sits directly on the line that divides the two, making it a solid option for things like dates, dinner out or evening drinks. They look the part with everything from jeans to dress pants and have a way to instantly lending even the simplest of clothes an air of refinement. Working from scratch, the first thing needed is a pair of high quality Chelsea boots in dark leather. Suede will work too, but it leans a little further towards the relaxed end of the spectrum. Next, jeans: a slim cut is important, which sticks to either very dark shades of denim or very bright - stonewash and mid-wash have no place here. Last but not least, stock. Think fine meter knitwear, an unstructured blazer or light jacket and accessorise thereafter. Night OutA's dress codes continue to relax, the days of nightclubs and bars that run no-trainers' policies are way behind us. Still, if you feel like giving your joint projects a night off, a pair of Chelsea boots is the perfect option. Sure, Chelsea boots are stylish, smart and streamlined, but they are also bona fide rock 'n' roll icons. Use that thought as inspiration as you style them for a big night out and deploy other edgy staples to bolster their rebellious streak. All black is a good way to go. If it's a little too gothic for you, add a tonal element with a few different shades of gray, or even a pop of white. As for clothing, think leather and denim jackets, skinny jeans, and don't be afraid to go for a printed shirt if it's in need of spice up. WeekendAll too often, men take casual as a synonym for boring. When the weekend comes, the same battered old pair of Converse called from the shoe shelf, the trusty jeans go on, along with a regular T-shirt, and that's pretty much how it stays until bedtime on Sunday night. When you spend a week dressing for work, it's all too easy to get stuck in a style rut come the weekend. So here you can use a pair of Chelsea boots to get your sartorial mojo back in time for Saturday. Starting with shoes, leather or suede boots are both great options. Stick to dark colors for leather, but dare to venture into lighter territory when it comes to suede. Slim- and straight-fit leggings are always a winner this weekend, whether jeans or chinos. If it's denim, stick to casual washes like stonewash, mid-wash and gray. On keep it simple with layered basics like a well-fitting T-shirt, a cozy mid layer layer a casual jacket (a bomber, top coat or chore coat would work fine). Blue CollarWhen thinks of workwear and Americana, it's normal work boots and cowboy boots that come to mind when it comes to shoes. These are great, bold styles, so where exactly does the comparatively neat Chelsea boot fit in among everything? Chelsea's boots have developed into different pressures over the years. Those with chunky commando soles and tough, sturdy leather uppers are perfect for part of a Western or workwear-inspired outfit. You know the drill. Flannel shirts, trucker jackets, mid-wash denim, twill chore coats and the like. Keep cutting somewhere between relaxed and narrow and the color palette muted, except in the case of checkered shirts. Chelsea boots have quickly become a must in leisure wardrobe any discerning gent. Whether for a winery weekend of a casual dinner, they are the ultimate shoe in terms of style and versatility. And with a brilliant descent stretching back to the British monarchy, it's no surprise that they are so well-liked today. Originally invented as riding boots, the style was later popularized by the Beatles and became a mainstay of the British bravery movement in the 1960s. Since then, the boot's appeal has been further broadened with a wide range of both fabrications and price points. Here we explain how to style and choose this staple, so that it can take you from a weekend trip to a night on the town and back again. Chelsea Boots With Jeans Chelsea boots and jeans are a recipe for a classic, casual look. Easy to throw on after work for drinks or dinner, a pair of these boots in a dark brown or black will instantly raise a pair of indigo jeans and a casual shirt. For best effect, make sure the jeans are narrowly cut (not skinny) as this allows the upper part of the boot to sit comfortably under the hem without being compressed. Pair this with a white chambray button-down shirt from the likes of Brooks Brothers or Ralph Lauren and a matching belt for a simple yet elegant outfit. If your style skew a little more to the likes of Yeezy, suede Chelsea boots can add a hint of Polish to distressed denim like nothing else. Pair this with a fitted plain khaki t-shirt and a black bomber jacket for a more sophisticated take on street style. Chelsea Boots With A Suit Harking back to the fitted suits and pointed boots of the 60's, Chelsea's boots are not just for weekend larks and after hours. In fact, you choose your pair well and this shoe may well take you from the office to the bar and then some. But when pairing boots with a suit, there are two key pointers to follow. Firstly, if you plan to pair a suit with boots, bring them when you have your pants hemmed. Since Chelsea's sits higher on the foot than a regular Derby or Brogue perhaps, the hem must be shorter to avoid multiple breaks on of the pants. Secondly, not all of Chelsea's boots are suit-worthy. Look for styles styles has a structured upper. These will look more along the lines of the suit and also prevent you from looking like you've schlepped into the office in yesterday's kicks. The likes of Loakes and R.M. Williams are great places to start and, if taken over, are well worth the investment. Chelsea Boots With Chinos More dressed up than jeans but less formal than a suit, chinos and Chelsea boots scream scarification. The trick here, understanding is fit and layering with the right pieces. Above all, avoid chinos that grip to your calves. This has the unfortunate effect of making you look like you have continuously skipped leg day. Instead, choose a pair of narrow cut chinos that fit comfortably over the upper boot. Styles in beige, navy blue and khaki are great basis for any casual wardrobe and you will be able to wear them all year round. When it comes to choosing your top half, casual shirts are a good bet. To add some personal flare, look for bold colors in controls and stripes that will add a point of interest to the outfit. Pair this with a half-zip jumper or a quilted jacket in the colder months for an inconspicuous look. Chelsea Boots With A Winter Coat Chelsea boots are perfect for winter, add the extra layer of heat and keep the wet weather out of your socks. This is the case, you will probably pair them with a winter coat at some point. As a rule, if I wear a collared shirt, I choose a more textured wool coat in either a navy or camel. Suit Supply has a large selection that makes retailers like Harrolds or Mr Porter. Look for either mid-thigh, occasional breasted styles or pea coats if you're vertically challenged. Alternatively, if you're going for a more casual look – with jeans and a tee for example – look at layering a light wash denim jacket or gilet over a chunky knitted sweater. This has the appeal of being both rustic and extremely comfortable. Chelsea Boots Care & Storage Chelsea boots can come with a hefty price tag – especially if you're going to choose an iconic label like Australia's own R.M. Williams. This is the case, knowing how to look after your boots is a must. Above all, Chelsea leather boots must stay hydrated. As with any leather product, when it dries out, it is more susceptible to cracking. I use a moisturizing cream on mine a couple of times throughout the year and this keeps them smooth and adds a good level of sheen. If you have a suede pair, a good shoe brush will keep them looking fresh will also help fold any stubborn stains. Finally, I cannot stress the importance of resoluing enough. If you buy a pair with leather sole, it is highly recommended that you head down to the local cobbler and get on totpy single applied. This is a thin piece of rubber that goes over the ball in the shoe and will extend its life significantly. Read next next