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# Clean, elegant and minimal – black will be dominating the footwear fashions for autumn/winter 2014/15

Black and black nuances are clearly the winners when it comes to the colour trends for the autumn/winter 2014/15 season. And they are occasionally joined by brown tones like mocha, cognac and taupe. Deep blue adds the occasional accent. Brightening up this sombre colour palette are boot styles with a great material mix of smooth leather, suede and nubuck variations, which, in terms of their surface finish, could not be more diverse. Details like quilting, knit or rockstyle looks with metal chains, zippers and golden buckles are also making an appearance. The looks also experiment with light natural and sand tones – which are not used so much for the surfaces, but as lining or fur inserts for court shoes, sneakers, booties and other boot models.

## Knee-high and over-knee

Knee-high boots and over-knees are making a grand entrance this season and perfectly match the trendy must-have items: the swinging miniskirts which are bringing back the "Swinging Sixties", feminine, short dresses and skinny pants. The boots, which are mostly straight and clear-cut – in black, of course – stand out with their sophisticated details like quilted shafts or wide leather straps with large golden buckles. Surface mixtures of smooth leather, suede and ponyskin are new.

# Hello to grunge!

Sturdy boots, which appear more androgynous, are a fashionable highlight and are winning over the hearts of casual ladies everywhere with their cleverly used decorative elements. They are mid-height, to just above the calf, and have striking shark or saw tooth grip soles to ensure a solid, non-slip grip.

Deliberate contrasts to the rough-and-ready appearance are elegant looking, mostly golden buckles, stitched edges, lacing with dust flaps and zips that break up the black uniformity and direct all attention to the feet. The whole material mix aspect is making itself felt here too, combining smooth leather with suede, faux fur or knit.

## En vogue: ankle-high lace-ups and Chelsea boots

With their laid-back outdoor style, rustic flat lace-up boots are making their mark on fashion and conquering the hearts of the trend-conscious urban dweller. This functional, rather chunky look is becoming a fashion statement and combining functionality with a glamorous look and feel. Soles are still flat and treaded – it's all about being comfortable here. These boots are extremely stylish with cosy fur inserts, padded and quilted upper shaft edging, tweed and knitted cuffs as well as



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fold-down tops for a sporty, cool appearance.

Celebrating a comeback is the almost ankle-high Chelsea boot with its characteristic, elasticated inserts on the right and left sides of the ankle. The boot, which was originally designed for men, has long since conquered the ladies' footwear world and the classic flat variation is just as common as the version with narrow high heels. Chelsea models on a chunky block heel are very much on-trend at the moment. Detailing like straps, golden buckles, chains and perforations break up the chunky effect of the heels, ensuring that the feminine look always has the upper hand.

#### Court shoes or ankle boots?

Even though the summer trend for flat heels is continuing, court shoes and the new so-called "bootie pumps" – a mix between a pump (court shoe) and a bootie (ankle boot) – are going one step higher. They are straight-cut and feature minimal decorative details. But when it's time to up the ante, zippers, quilted elements, tweed borders, fold-downs and Chelsea-like elasticated inserts make an appearance. Matt, shimmering square-shaped studs or buttons are less common this season. The huge stud hype is over. Overall, the shafts are narrower and the toes pointier. Femininity is casual and elegant at the same time – perfectly showcased with shift dresses and pencil skirts.

### A laid-back, sporty look is defining the men's styles

The men's look has a modern, yet country style to it. The casual and sporty trend is continuing. Just like in the ladies' collection, contrasts are created with the use of material combinations as well as additional distinctive seams and stitching. Zips and fold-down tops are used – especially on sneaker boots and boots, which are, without a doubt, one of the must-haves for men's shoe cupboards. Sturdy treaded soles underline the robust outdoor look.

Very different to this and extremely elegant are the business shoes in black and brown nuances or a combination of both tones. Sophisticated brogues are made of high-quality smooth leather and stand out more for their simplicity than their opulence.

# Casual kid's style

The look of the kids' footwear collection for autumn/winter 2014/15 is also fashionable and laid-back. Short boots, rustic mid-cuts and vintage looks define the overall look. Eye-catching zippers, buckles and studs set fashionable highlights. Dominating the colour palette for the younger girls are beige, dusky pink, raspberry and blackberry tones, with fashionable black and occasional metallic nuances being added for the older girls. Patent leather inserts and



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diamond-shaped quilting add further fashionable highlights. Beige and brown tones, blues and greys are the colours featured in the boys' collection – but used in the mix and often with understated yellow, red or green splashes of colour in the form of appliqués or patches. Boots and sturdy sneaker models are also playing an important role here.

## Smart elegance for the bags

Functionalism and clarity are defining the bag trends for autumn and winter 2014/15. The palette ranges from linear, streamlined clutches down to small envelope bags down to laid-back pouch bags and classic angular models. Elegance and smartness are the keywords setting the tone and style. Contrasting metal details like golden buckles and zips, which are becoming a popular decorative element thanks to their functionality, reference the latest shoe trends, making the bags the perfect match for the corresponding shoes. Material mixes also play a role. Leather/textile combinations and quilted surfaces are proving popular.

Just like with the shoes, colours are still somewhat understated. They centre on black tones, but also include black/white contrasts, black-grey and grey down to very light grey-white variations. Brown and dark blue play a supporting role.

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