



Chelydra

"Dancer With An Attitude"

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PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

The "Complete Costume" is not neck to hem, but head to toe. And a dancer's most important asset is always her feet. (If you can't walk, you can't dance!) Your choice of footwear, or the lack of it, can affect both your health and your appearance. The correct choice will leave you safe and secure and never distract from your costume. The incorrect choice can interfere with your choreography, cause you injury, or detract from your overall "look".

A number of decorative and utilitarian footwear alternatives exist in a wide range of prices. A few are described here, including variations on the ubiquitous (and much maligned) ballet slipper. Some styles may be available through your local dance supply store. If not, ordering information is provided.

BARE FEET

Definitely a low-budget option. However, choosing to bare your soles to the elements does not mean that you have to leave them naked.

Nail Polish The least you can do to say that you care about your appearance.

Anklets Can't sew? Purchase an ankle bracelet, or glue a few sequins to a satin ribbon and tie it around your ankle. Barely sew? Use snaps as your fasteners for a more finished look, or make a stretch sequin band. Costumer extraordinaire? Bead a matching anklet while you're making the wrist bands and neckpiece.

Footies Decorate the tops of your feet. Footies can be crocheted, or made from fabric or trim in oval, rectangular, or triangular shapes. The fabric is anchored with a toe loop and ankle strap. Minimal sewing expertise is required. You may even bead your footies to match your bra and belt. However, do not decorate them heavily if you routinely incorporate floor work in your choreography. Grinding beads into the top of your foot can be exceedingly painful, not to mention being hard on the beads.

ALMOST BARE FEET

Sandasol Suede, half-sole sandals by Capezio. Protects the ball of your foot while leaving your toes and heels free. Great for Tunisian! Most suitable for folkloric costumes. Available in black or tan suede. Whole sizes 4-12 (order at least one size smaller than your shoe size; half sizes should round down, then subtract one size). \$17 plus \$3.75 shipping and handling. Catalog #H03, Baum's (1).

THE BALLET SLIPPER

Gymnastic Shoes Canvas with crepe or rippled rubber soles. Inexpensive and durable. Great for outdoor performances on asphalt or badly weathered wood. Buy white, then dye them in tea to approximate your skin tone. Can also be decorated. Sizes 8 1/2 Small (child) to 9 Large (adult). \$11.99 plus \$3.75 shipping and handling. Catalog #S139 (DeLuco Tumbler), Baum's (1).

Metallic Slippers Leather with suede soles. Suitable for smooth or carpeted performance surfaces. Available in gold or silver. Whole sizes 5-10. \$31 plus \$4.25 shipping and handling. Page 13, item S, Touch of Class (2).

THE SANDAL

Hermes Sandal Lace-up sandal with full sole by Capezio. Most suitable for folkloric costumes. Durable. Available in black, white, or tan. Whole sizes 4-10 (order at least one size smaller than your shoe size; half sizes should round down, then subtract one size). \$34 plus \$4.75 shipping and handling. Catalog #H14, Baum's (1).

Metallic Sandal Leather, low heel (1 1/4") dress sandal in narrow and wide sizes. Requires addition of a ribbon or braid across the instep for added security. Dressy, durable, and suitable for any surface. Available in gold (#87), silver (#86), or black (#40). Whole and half sizes 7-10N, 6-10M, 6-10W. \$39.99 plus \$3.95 shipping and handling. Catalog #48074, Old Pueblo Traders (3).

Copper Metallic Sandal Leather, low heel (1 1/4") dress sandal in unusual combination of copper/gold/silver. Lots of hard-to-find sizes. Versatile, durable, and suitable for any surface. Whole and half sizes 6-11S (AAAA), 5-11N, 4-11M, 4-11W, 4-11WW. \$49.99 plus \$4.25 shipping and handling. Catalog #4600B, Hill Brothers (4).

(1) Baum's, 106 South 11th Street, Philadelphia PA 19107.

(2) Touch of Class, Huntingburg, Indiana 47542

(3) Old Pueblo Traders, PO Box 27800, Tucson AZ 85726-7800

(4) Hill Brothers, 99 Ninth Street, Lynchburg VA 24504-1466