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Where to find chic women's shoes when you're a size 9 or above

How do you find stylish shoes when your feet are on the bigger side? Jane McFarland has the solution

Jane McFarland | Friday July 23 2021, 12.00pm, The Sunday Times

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As an aspiring fashion writer, my obvious pin-up was always Carrie Bradshaw — except I could never rival Bradshaw on the footwear front. I'm 6ft 11in, my feet are a size 9 and I've been shooed out of shops for as long as I can remember. "There's nothing for you here. Try Long Tall Sally." (Even my constant stream of business wasn't enough to keep LTS afloat — RIP.) What began as traumatic became increasingly frustrating: why, when clothing labels are working hard to diversify their size offering, are footwear brands not able to do the same? And for those that do offer larger shoe sizes, why are the prices often double — if not more — those of "regular" sizes?

Today, if you have the cash, the size 9 shoe situation has improved. At Manolo Blahnik a handful of the brand's signature styles, including the bejewelled Hangisi, are available in a 9. Yes, like Carrie, I also want Manolos. If you want a pair of pearl-embellished flats or sculpted sandals, Jimmy Choo has chic styles up to a size 10. It even has a handful of classic stilettos available in an 11.





5. Hangisi flats, £765; manoloblahnik.com

6. Chelsea boots, £370; fromthefirst.com

7. Block heels, £35, Asos Design; asos.com

8. Mules, £280; ateliervania.com

[@jane_mcfarland](https://twitter.com/jane_mcfarland)

Hair and make-up: Marisol Steward at Stella Creative Artists using Kevin Murphy and Suqqu. Nails: Joanna Newbold at Arlington Artists using Morgan Taylor Lacquer in All White Now; redcarpetbeauty.co.uk

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When the shoes (don't) fit

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Wardrobe Mistress

How do you find stylish shoes when your feet are on the bigger side? **Jane McFarland** (a size 9) has the solution

As an aspiring fashion writer, my obvious pin-up was always Carrie Bradshaw — except I could never rival Bradshaw on the footwear front. I'm 6ft 1in, my feet are a size 9 and I've been shooed out of shops for as long as I can remember. "There's nothing for you here. Try Long Tall Sally." (Even my constant stream of business wasn't enough to keep LTS afloat — RIP.) What began as traumatic became increasingly frustrating: why, when clothing labels are working hard to diversify their size offering, are footwear brands not able to do the same? And for those that do offer larger shoe sizes, why are the prices often double — if not more — those of "regular" sizes?

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I also love Roker, a London-based maker of gender-neutral footwear, creating bespoke platforms, boots and double-monk-strap shoes for men and women. (Just select the male or female fitting box, to ensure the width measurements remain in proportion.) Each pair — priced at £450-£600 — is made to order and takes about four weeks. Ankle boots remain the single most-worn style in my wardrobe, all year round: specifically From the First's rock'n'roll Chelsea boots, handmade in Italy.

Got a more modest budget? Fellow size 9 Laura Schofield founded Otto + Ivy, a small footwear brand catering to size 8 and up, after her own frustrations with shoe shopping. She launched the company last year, and many of her customers have bought multiple pairs of leopard-print pumps or the wrap-around high-heeled Lula sandals. The most popular style? The Tilly boots: double-buckle ankle boots available in black, tan and white.

The high street is (slowly) catching up too. And if you click quick, there's often a small but perfectly stylish selection of size 9 and 10 styles available on Asos. @jane_mcfarland



Jane wears Top, £430, Pleats Please Issey Miyake; fenwick.co.uk. Trousers, £220, Viktoria & Woods; selfridges.com. Heels, £460; rokeratelier.com. Ring, Jane's own. 1 Combat boots, £159; ottoandivy.com. 2 Ballet flats, £180; loefflerandall.com. 3 Lace-up sandals, £35, Asos Design; asos.com. 4 Studded slingbacks, £100; uterque.com. 5 Chelsea boots, £370; fromthefirst.com. 6 Block heels, £35, Asos Design; asos.com. 7 Mules, £280; ateliervania.com. 8 Hangisi flats, £765; manoloblahnik.com