

# A contemporary canvas!

The good old canvas shoe takes on funky colours, designs and graffiti



After having spent many years wearing canvas shoes to school, the very thought of wearing them again makes many of us cringe. White, flat and often reeking of shoe whitener, the humble canvas spent most of its time crawling about in the playgrounds, slush and mud or nervously beating against a table in a quiet exam hall, never really managing to become a style statement. Just as it was about to give up on its plain Jane appearance, somebody came up with the brilliant idea of giving these shoes a makeover. Bright, funky and chic, these pairs are immensely comfortable too and a must-have.

Twenty-year-old Anushka Mayne, who gave up her job for designing canvas shoes, says, "The canvas' in their colourful avatar are fun, bright and make me happy when I wear my pair," says Anushka, who was introduced quite accidentally to this art. "At a friend's party I was playing with a string of sequins. I put it on my friend's Converse and it looked quite lovely. So I decided to design canvas shoes," she smiles.

Anushka mostly uses Converse shoes for designing and charges anything between Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,700. She is currently working on a pair she calls 'Bollywood shoes.' It has a silhouette of Amitabh Bachchan and colour scheme of the movie "Johnny Gaddar".

Of all the pairs she has designed so far, her 'Disco shoes,' are the bestseller. With blue and silver sequins on the soles, blue clouds all over it and a blue satin lace sitting daintily on top, the pair sure is a show stealer. Sequins, lots of colours and a little bit of imagination are her mantra to transform those insipid pairs into funky footwear.

Lavina Mahbubani too paints on canvas shoes. She sports a pair that has virulent shades of pink, green and yellow with an image of a man with a thick meesai. The left pair reads Left-aa and the right pair reads Right-aa. It's very Chennai. The yellows depict the summer and the autos, the green and pink stand for the watermelons and the left-aa right-aa synonymous of the infamous auto drivers of this city. The ones Lavina designs have stuff such as 'run-ok-please', 'jai-bata-di', 'loosa-kutty', 'Autoshankar' and loads of other things graffitied all over them. She charges around Rs. 700 for a pair and uses white canvas shoes. "There is a lot of satisfaction in graffiti-ing all over a pristine white pair of school shoes," she grins.

The shoes are hassle-free and to clean them all you have to do is wipe with a damp cloth. And the best part is the colours don't wash off.

There's nothing like having a limited edition pair. Who doesn't like flaunting something funky, innovative and unique? You could try painting a pair yourself. If you lack such talent or want to evade the hard work, just order a pair. Ok so you want a pink pair with blue butterflies or perhaps a green pair with wisecracks all over it, you can have it all. Both Lavina and Anushka take personalised orders as well. Though both the girls are based out of Bangalore, they cater to clients from Chennai as well. Those interested can get in touch with them and browse through their designs online or request for the specific design they have in mind. To get in touch with Anushka mail her at [anushkamayne386@gmail.com](mailto:anushkamayne386@gmail.com) and Lavina at [lavina.rm@gmail.com](mailto:lavina.rm@gmail.com)

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