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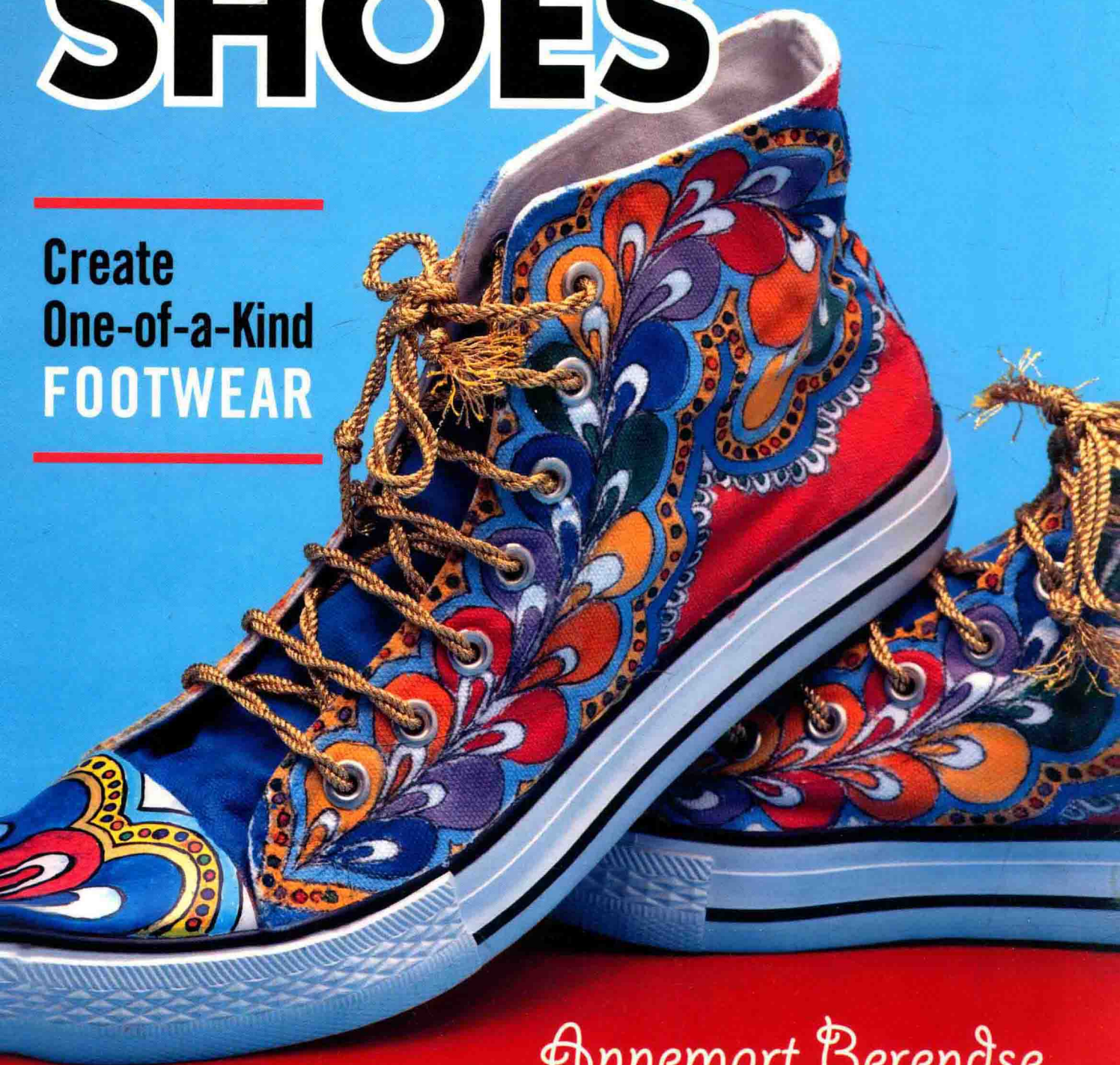


# Decorate Your **SHOES**

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Create  
One-of-a-Kind  
FOOTWEAR

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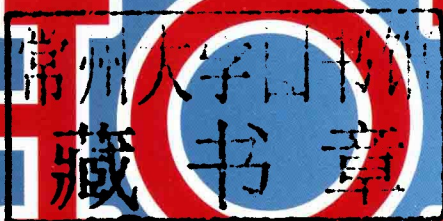


*Annemart Berendse*





# Decorate Your **SHOES**



Create One-of-a-Kind FOOTWEAR

Annemart Berendse



Located in Paducah, Kentucky, the American Quilter's Society (AQS) is dedicated to promoting the accomplishments of today's quilters. Through its publications and events, AQS strives to honor today's quilmakers and their work and to inspire future creativity and innovation in quilting.

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Special thanks to shoe model: Marcelle Cashon

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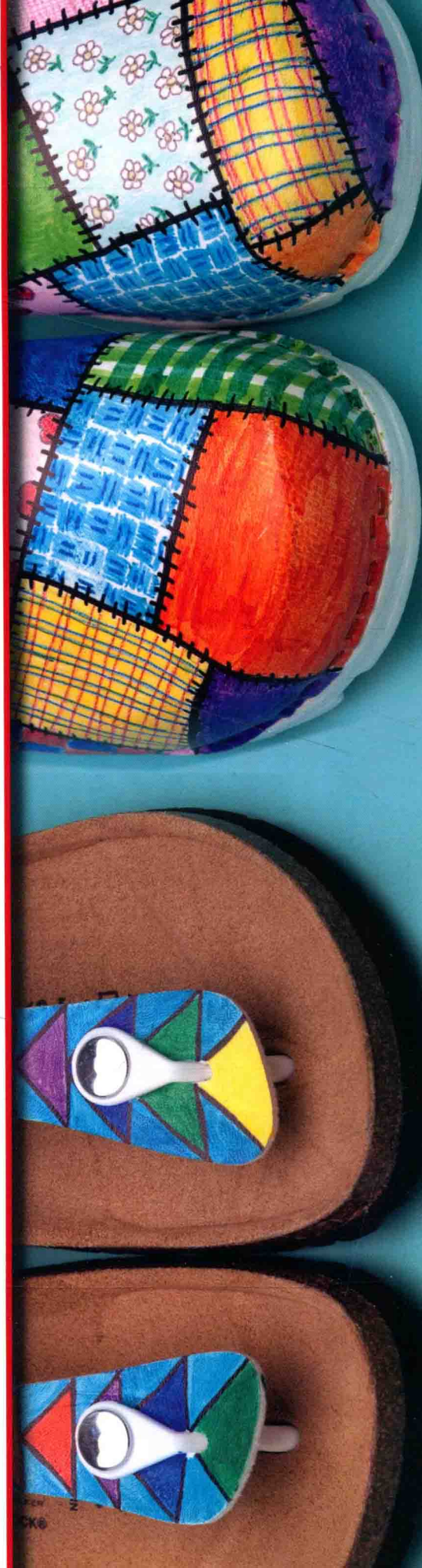
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**Annemart Berendse**



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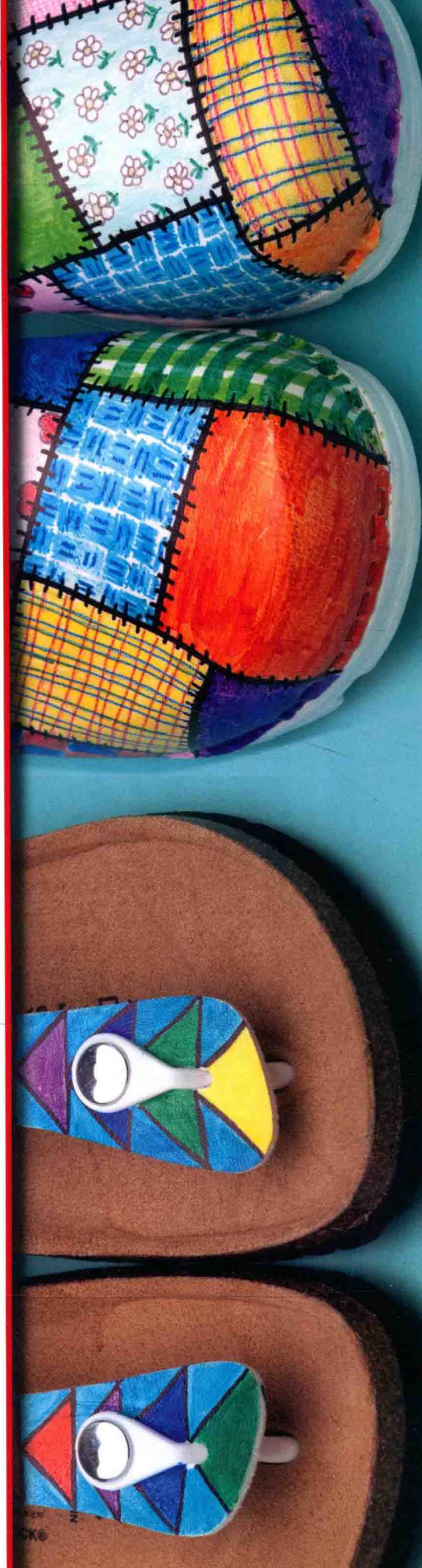
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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the quilters who  
dare to do something different,  
dare to be creative, and  
dare to have fun.

As Katherine Hepburn said,  
*"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun."*





# Acknowledgments

This book has been a joy to write and would have never seen the world without the contribution and support of so many others.

First and foremost I would like to thank Gloria Bolden and Meredith Schroeder from the American Quilter's Society. I met them in Paducah during the 2011 AQS quilt show. They saw my shoes and asked me to design a pair of quilt shoes on the spot and to send in a book proposal. See here the result! If you are thinking about a book, submit a book proposal. Book proposals are welcome at AQS; check [www.americanquilter.com](http://www.americanquilter.com).

I would also like to thank JoAnne Louis from [www.paperpieces.com](http://www.paperpieces.com) and [www.feetofcreativity.com](http://www.feetofcreativity.com). She was so enthusiastic about my shoes that she introduced me to Gloria from AQS. And then she said I owed her nothing. Sure! Welcome in the new adventure!

Like making a quilt, starting a book is great; finishing it can sometimes be a more difficult phase. The

support of my quilt mates—Agnes, Marianne, Debby, Karin, and Ted—was very important, especially in the end. Your enthusiasm, great remarks, and our quilting time filled with joy and laughter are very precious to me.

My mother-in-law, who taught me the first steps in quilting, is now bragging about my quilting. I hope I do her proud.

My spouse and our cat, Splinter, support me in more ways than I could imagine, far above and beyond their call of duty. I think I'll keep them.

But most of all I would like to thank all of the quilters in Paducah who were so enthusiastic about my shoes—and all of the great people I met who told me they would like to read how to make them. Thanks to your inspiring reactions, here's the book.

**Enjoy and have fun!**







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# Introduction



The inspiration for my quilt shoes came when I was packing for a big quilt show. I would be at the show for a few days and on my packing list stood, right below the credit card, comfortable shoes. And then I looked at all the shoes I had. Most of them were suitable for an office environment and fine dining, and only two pairs were the ones I could walk in for ages. One pair had open toes. I don't know whether you have ever been to a big quilt show, but open toe is a no-go area unless you particularly like blue toenails! (I advise nail polish for that.)

And there they were. The white leather clogs; I could walk in them forever. But I did not wear them, as they were white. Very white. And I wanted fun shoes, because quilting is fun for me, and going to a show is the ultimate fun. I had a few days before I would be leaving for the US. And then I got it. I would decorate them into fun shoes for show myself! I grabbed my permanent markers and drew a patchwork pattern on them. Done! Now my suitcase was packed to leave.

During my flight I thought about some more designs I could try and was getting more enthusiastic about the idea to wear my own designed shoes.

In Paducah at the AQS quilt show I was not prepared for what happened! People kept stopping me to look at my shoes, asking to hold them next to my head for a photograph. Imagine that, shoes by my head after walking 3 full days in them!

Sweet people, enthusiastic people, fun people—all of them just coming up and asking. Many of them asked for a book, a pattern, ideas. Some ladies even kept talking to me for 45 minutes, just to know all about it! I met the dearest ladies because of my decorated shoes. They all inspired me to write this book.

This book is not about the finest appliqué, how to get more stitches in an inch, or what you absolutely must and must not do to be that blue ribbon, multi-award-winning quilter. This book is for every quilter who wants to start a fun project; reuse those comfortable once-white shoes; or needs a great project for her guild, quilt bee, or retreat. All of the projects are designed for people who do not have experience decorating shoes. There are simple and more advanced projects; projects for leather, canvas, and vinyl shoes; projects created with paint, and projects made with markers.

When you begin, starting with canvas shoes and simple fabric markers is a great choice. Once you have more experience, leather paint on leather shoes is a good option for a more durable result. Although most projects can be done on all types of shoes, Ribbon City is advised to be executed only on canvas.

Just have fun, and I hope you use this book as an example for your own creativity. As Charlotte Angotti told me during a quilt class:

*Like the cab driver in Boston who was sitting next to three other cars in front of a traffic light when only two lanes were available: "The lines are only a suggestion."*

Have fun making and wearing your decorated, one-of-a-kind shoes!





# General Instructions









# Choosing Shoes

**B**efore decorating your shoes, you first have to check the material they are made of. Then think, what are you going to use your shoes for? If it's just for a few days, you don't want to spend too much on your shoes, so shop accordingly. And how will they be used/abused? Will they get wet?

Some shoe materials offer several decoration options, some hardly any. Leather and canvas shoes are preferred when decorating shoes; synthetic shoes of all kinds offer different obstacles that might or might not be overcome. It does not matter whether the shoes are new or old. As long as they are clean and sound and preferably white, you can decorate them as the material dictates.

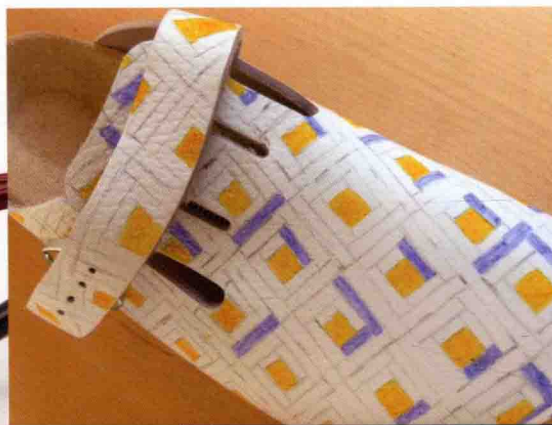
Material	Pros	Cons
<b>Canvas</b> (natural materials) (Like Toms®, Keds®, Converse®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Durable result</li> <li>Decorate with beads and ribbons more easily</li> <li>Low cost option</li> <li>Light weight for traveling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubber soles and front have less durability for decoration</li> <li>Not suitable for all weather conditions</li> <li>Less foot support than vinyl or leather, so less suitable for pounding the pavement</li> </ul>
<b>Rubber or vinyl</b> (Like Crocs™, Nomad®, parts of running shoes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick result because of less preparation</li> <li>Relatively low cost</li> <li>Suitable for all weather conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Color only with permanent markers</li> <li>Color will probably fade</li> <li>Color might smear, bleed, or shed</li> <li>Less ventilation than canvas or leather</li> </ul>
<b>Manmade leather</b> (Check the inside or sole of the shoe for this word; manmade leather is not the same as vinyl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Durable result</li> <li>Stable and smooth surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher cost option</li> <li>Material can differ among manufacturers; test-driving necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Leather</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Durable result</li> <li>More foot support and foot comfort</li> <li>Suitable for all weather conditions</li> <li>Stable and smooth surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively more expensive</li> </ul>

**Each material needs a specific treatment. However, they all need:**

- **Preparing:** In this stage the shoe is cleaned and primed for decorating.
- **Decorating:** Specific paint or markers are used to bring out the design.
- **Finishing:** A finish is applied to the paint to secure the design and protect the shoes against dirt, grease, and all the kicks they will have to endure.

**Whatever you choose, get creative, have fun, and enjoy!**





# Markers vs. Paints

## Fabric Markers

Fabric markers can be found for a few dollars for a set of 12 at your local dollar store or for about \$3 per single professional textile marker in an art shop. Differences are found in the amount of colors offered, the quality of the pen and the ink/paint, and the different choices in tips. A starter set of 8 to 12 colors, including black, is great to begin with. Beginning is easy, because fabric markers can be used layered, and mistakes made with lighter colors are easily disguised. Prepare your shoes, get your markers, and just get started!

At a more advanced level, look for fabric markers with a wider range of tips. A chisel tip is your first choice for filling larger surfaces, a fine point is great for drawing details, and a brush tip is excellent for drawing with a fluid stroke.

Besides the choice in tips, most professional textile markers contain ink or paint that has more depth and is wetter, so you can create blended effects and mix colors more easily. Added to the difference in quality, the choice in colors and the options that different tips offer, these professional markers make the investment worthwhile when progressing in shoe decoration.

### *How to start with fabric markers?*

Fabric markers are as simple as working with crayons on a coloring picture. When you have drawn the design on the shoe with pencil, you can start filling in. As the marker is a bit opaque, start with a light color.

Mixing colors is not an option for the lower priced brands, but the higher range markers are suitable for blending by laying one layer over another.



With fabric markers the color is applied in lines. That gives you the opportunity to create color effects like a small rainbow within a flower.



On larger surfaces, fabric markers usually give a bit of an uneven result. However, at a distance, and usually that would be 5 feet from the eyes to the floor, it does not show.

### **What if you make a mistake?**

Fabric markers are usually based on acrylic paint. That means cotton swabs, water, and a little soap may save the day if you slipped with your marker minutes ago. Be careful not to spill water on the places that you want to keep, and let the spot you work on dry before putting on another layer of paint.

If you notice later the color is in a wrong spot, your cotton swab, water, and soap might still save you with pastels, but the brighter colors will have been absorbed fully into the shoe material. Putting a darker color on over a mistake is a second best option.

Your last option: Decide that the slip-up is part of your design and you wanted it to be that way. You reform the big blob into a flower, or you put an embellishment like a button or a ribbon on it. At 5 feet of distance, a lot can be hidden.

### **What to buy?**

For beginners a basic set of fabric markers from Edding®, a German brand; Stained! by Sharpie™; or Tulip® Fabric Markers™ fine tip are a great investment. These all have a color collection of 8 to 20 markers for a reasonable price. Very fine black contour lines are made with an ultrafine or fine permanent marker, such as a Sharpie® or a Bic®. If you wish to develop further or already know that you will need more colors and more artistic options than a starter set can offer you, FabricMate™, Rayher®, and Marabu offer a great range of colors and tips.

## Permanent Markers

**Note:** *Working with general permanent markers on canvas shoes might seem attractive but may result in disappointment. Permanent markers on fabric may bleed when wet, and the design might get a yellow halo around it. With special fabric markers you avoid that risk.*

The Sharpie website ([www.sharpie.com](http://www.sharpie.com)) states that a marker is defined as waterproof if the writing is still legible after it comes in contact with water. That definition implies that it doesn't mean the ink will stay on forever. However, with the right preparation, you will have a lot of fun for a longer time with this simple and low-cost option. Just do not expect to have a design for a lifetime and be aware of shedding and smearing.

The number of colors available is an asset, as mixing colors is not an option. Buy a set with fine tips that has all the colors you would like to use on your shoe. Because in all designs black is a must, an extra set of

black fine points for the outer contrast line is advised. If you are planning on coloring large surfaces and/or adding many very fine details, consider the purchase of a set of chisel tip markers and a set of markers with an ultrafine tip.

When working with permanent markers, wear clothes that have seen their best part in life a long time ago. Permanent marker ink is not removed easily. Ink on your hands is best removed with an antibacterial hand sanitizer with alcohol.





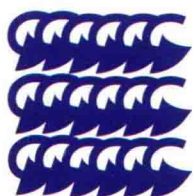
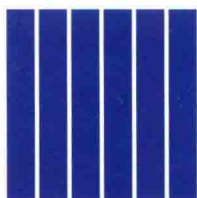
## Markers vs. Paints

### **How to start with permanent markers?**

Permanent markers are just like fabric markers: just fill out the design and enjoy! Thin layers do the trick. Just keep in mind that when an area of just-colored ink is not completely dry, it might bleed or mix with the color you are trying to put next to it. Therefore, as with fabric markers, start with light colors and keep on going darker, and let the ink dry before applying a color next to it. In the designs in this book, you will always end with a black marker for the contour lines. This will fix any small mistake or uneven line between patches.

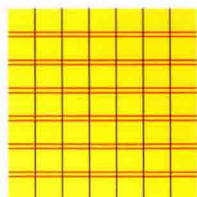
With permanent markers it is possible to create textures by the way you use the marker.

Take a marker with a fine tip, and of a light color, to make a plain color with straight lines for a lined background.



Take a marker of a light color, use the fine or chisel tip, and make a plain color by circling the tip around for a cloudy background.

When the background is dry, you can put on details with a fine or ultrafine permanent marker. Be sure to work with dark on light.

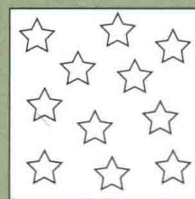


Working with light on dark will not work and the tip of your light marker might absorb the dark color.

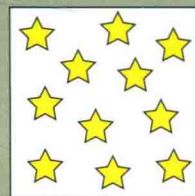
If you would like to work with light details on a dark background, plan your design upfront.

First, draw the details with pencil on the patch where you want to work (figure 1). Then start with the light color on the details you want to color (figure 2). Then color the background (figure 3).

All details are outlined in black to create sharp edges and contrast. Here stars are used, but maybe flowers or roses are more your style.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

### **What if you make a mistake?**

It may happen that you color on the wrong spot, or the cat jumped on your lap, causing you to slip with your marker across the shoe. Don't panic. That's where cotton swabs and alcohol come in. Take a cotton swab, dip it in the alcohol and squeeze it a bit, so it's moist, not wet. Then go over the area with the unwanted color with the cotton swab and carefully wet the ink with the alcohol. The alcohol will dilute the ink, whilst the cotton swab absorbs the color. If the area gets very wet, use a dry cotton swab. Each time use a new cotton swab to prevent shedding from the cotton swab to the shoe. The ink might not come off completely, especially not with darker colors, but enough to cover it up with a new color layer.



**What to buy?**

Permanent markers are widely available and nowadays loads of colors are offered. I prefer Sharpies because of their wide color range. The reds and oranges tend to fade more than the other colors. CD/DVD-markers and permanent markers for

transparencies are available in a very limited color range, but may hold better. For reds and oranges I use Staedtler® Lumocolor®, but you may try any regular CD/DVD-marker. Whatever you buy, don't spend too much on it. A project on rubber and vinyl shoes is just for fun and for the short term!

## Fabric Paint

If you have a steady hand, are an experienced painter, or want to experiment with mixing colors, fabric paint is another option. Fabric paint is available in monochromatic colors (unicolors, or unis, in some circles), and be certain to check out the metallic, glitter, and pearl varieties. With fabric markers it is simple to draw the design on the shoe and just starting filling in with the colors you have. With fabric paint you can experiment with a cloudy background brought on with cotton wool or a sponge, try different tones and hues, and even add transparency in your work.



and better adherence. At the same time you prevent dripping and smearing.

**What if you make a mistake?**

If your hand tried a move on its own and the fabric paint is not on the spot where you wanted it, use a cotton swab and dip it in water. Squeeze it so it's moist (not wet), and remove the paint as much as you can. Use a new cotton swab each time to prevent shedding. When ready, work on another area until the treated area has dried.

Other solution: use an opaque color on the area where your mistake occurred. As if nothing happened! And it's not a mistake—it's your artistic license.

**How to start with fabric paint?**

Working with paint gives you loads of opportunities and therefore requires more preparation when thinking about your design and which colors to use. Being able to create new colors is one of the biggest advantages to fabric paint. When you have mixed a color, you might not be able to recreate it for your second shoe. Mix enough of the color at once for both shoes so there will be no color difference. Before you start coloring, have both shoes ready with the pencil design drawn on both. Then you can apply the mixed color for both shoes at once.

It is important to work in several thin layers instead of one single thick layer to create a deeper color

**What to buy?**

For brands I prefer Talens textile paint (Dutch brand, available at <http://iartsupplies.co.uk/>, English website) because of their wide range of opaque and transparent uni (monochromatic) colors and the quality of the paint, and Textile Colors and Lumiere from Jacquard, especially for the wide range of metallics and pearl paint. Lumiere is widely available, and is also applicable to (manmade) leather. If you plan on working both on fabric and (manmade) leather shoes, Lumiere is a great choice.