

style

These boots are made for gawkin'

BY ELISABETH STEINHARDT

Every time I slip on my detailed chocolate brown leather "Saddle" Steve Madden cowboy boots, I feel like a chic western girly girl — or an uber trendy European from last fall (they are so ahead of us).

This year, cowgirl boots are being shown with practically anything, and that's how I wear my brand-new pair: I wear them with all kinds of jeans, with short denim skirts, fun, flirty multi-tiered skirts, anything lace, my favorite denim jacket, chunky sweaters and shrugs.

Cowboy boots even look good when paired with western-inspired oversized and over-detailed belt buckles, lots of bangles, long fun necklaces and big, oversized handbags. They are haute.

"On the weekends we are selling 10 pairs a day, and considering the novelty of cowboy boots, that's huge," said Amanda Madison, manager at Sole Desire.

Sole Desire, 131 Swinburne Row, in Newport (where I got mine) is stocked and ready for this season's girly cowboy boots craze. They carry Steve Madden, Justin's, Frye, Rocket Dog and Dingo, ranging from \$79 to \$230. Their best sellers have been all of the Frye boots, vintage leather boots and various Steve Madden styles.

Originally a working man's boot developed to make riding and working safer, Western cowboy boots have certainly come a long way, baby. Far from home on the range, chaps and spurs,

and even farther from the rodeo circuit, Western-inspired cowgirl boots are fun, feminine, flirty and sexy.

Celebrities like Jessica Simpson, Paris Hilton, Mary Kate Olsen, Kate Moss and Sienna Miller also have helped reignite the trend this fall. They all have been seen swashbuckling around L.A., New York or London in cowgirl boots.

Look for oldies, but goodies like Frye, Dingo, Acme, Zodiac and Capezio. Newer designers like Steve Madden and Rocket Dog are contestants for this fall's best sellers.

At Laura Jean, 94 Williams St., Newport, look for not only cowboy boots, but also western inspired leather belts, with huge, fun, sparkly buckles. Laura Jean carries four different styles of cowboy boots by Caboots, a company out of the

heart of good ol' Texas. She carries one style of short boots and three of the tall boots, all ranging from \$230 to \$320.

Bellevue Shoes, 206 Bellevue Ave. in Newport carries cowboy boots by Kenny Loves Penny and oldie but goodie Frye. The Kenny Loves Penny are their top sellers and are a mere \$135. Owner Laura Carlyle said the Kenny Loves Penny sells the fastest because "it has the look that everyone is looking for."

Or visit Abigail and Magnolias, 3851 Main Road in Tiverton, where best sellers have been Frye, Diego and Area, which ring in anywhere from \$115 up to about \$400. The shop is way ahead of the trend, having carried these brands for four years.



PHOTO BY MEGAN RATHFON



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE MADONIE

So haute! A huge staple this season, cowboy boots come with choices, choices, and more choices. Take your pick with a stiletto or chunky heel, square or pointed toe, low rise or tall, fringed or buckled, even scrunched like the pair of Steve Madden 'Saddle' from Sole Desire in Newport shown above, or the Britney nubuck boots by Texas-based Caboots in bone with blue butterfly design at Laura Jean in Newport shown at left.