

More Than a Shoe?

- 1 **Stylish, futuristic**, different — these are some of the words used to describe Manolo Blahnik's and Dave Graziosi's shoes. What makes their shoes so special?

The Shoe Designer

- 5 Born to a Spanish mother and a Czech father, Manolo Blahnik grew up in the Canary Islands near north Africa. In his twenties, he moved to New York City and began to design shoes for women. Today, his high heels (often called “Manolos”) are known around the world. “Women love my shoes,” says Blahnik. “Some never take them off.”

Why are his shoes so popular? Yes, they're beautiful. On the other hand, his high heels aren't always particularly **comfortable**. They're also **costly**; prices **range** from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Maybe the best answer is this: Each

15 **pair** of Manolos is a work of art—like a painting by Picasso.

But aren't they just shoes? “Yes, only shoes,” says Blahnik. “But, if they bring a bit of happiness to someone, then, perhaps, they are something more than shoes.”

The Shoe Engineer

- 20 At \$30,000 a pair, moon boots aren't cheap. But to walk in space, you need high-tech shoes—like those designed by Dave Graziosi. He and his team are making space boots for NASA.¹ “We're planning for the moon and **beyond**,” he says.

- The latest space boot is the M2 Trekker. These boots are
- 25 smaller and **weigh** less than the ones Neil Armstrong² wore to the moon. In them, astronauts can walk comfortably on the moon's **rocky** surface. M2 Trekkers also protect astronauts' feet from extreme cold and **heat**. They can be worn in temperatures ranging from -212°C (-350°F) to +177°C
- 30 (+350°F). They are truly more than just a shoe!

¹ **NASA** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is a U.S. organization responsible for space travel.

² **Neil Armstrong** was the first astronaut to stand on the moon, in 1969.



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—MANOLO BLANIK

*"We're planning for
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—DAVE
GRAZIOSI

