

Getting the Boot in

Often considered too big and bold to notch up the kind of style points you should be collecting, **combat boots** are, in fact, the first step towards transforming a demure entrance into something that quickly turns heads. They're the perfect contradiction: a functional item that magnifies your best, most beautiful attributes, and a great platform for whatever wardrobe choices you make through the seasons. The **chukka/work/combat makeover** is the good girl's way of putting her foot down in style, while remaining true to her natural (and practical) self.



Boot up: Get Down, Get Floral, Get Out

From chukkas to Chelsea's to combats to heels – all variations provide strong foundations for what goes above by adding definition, volume and a high polish utility stamp. Here are three key looks for your wardrobe ...

Look 1: Easy Does It



An oversized wool sweater with slim fit jeans provides the perfect contrast for those 'as it comes' afternoon street jaunts. All color schemes are go, but look for faded blue denim and a muted top before going high contrast with black or brown boots to match your sunglasses or hair.

No Cutting Back

As with all boot set-ups, go high-end on the core items. Leather soled boots are (as your boyfriend will attest) a sign of good workmanship and an indication that you'll spend a decade or more walking them in.

Yes, rubber soled Dr. Martens are the go to brand (and with good reason – their [Serena Fur Lined](#) boots are beautiful beasts) but a pair of [Loake Brogues](#) in tan offer a second color alternative that is particularly savvy if you avoid pairing with navy. For the jeans, push the envelope with [Givenchy's](#) swinging 70's vibe from Paris Fashion Week - ripped, faded, bleached (but still refined) with a thick and baggy cable-knit for an insouciant approach to walking the block.

Attack The Block

Mix and match is a key feature of a semi casual to athleisure take (there are no hard and fast rules in terms of how to wear combat boots). [Gigi Hadid](#) regularly opts for a jog pants/ boots mashup, proving that – even to the gym – there are gutsier footwear alternatives to *New Balance*.



Covert Operations

A long winter coat (or a buffed denim jacket for a slightly hipper vibe) work just fine, as will black leggings. To smarten the silhouette, try a monochrome business jacket, from where you can add the go-to stamp for combat boot outfits: camouflage. [Sacai](#) influenced layers of jungle green, an Afghan scarf (blue is a more formal look), or a heritage Burberry vibe in Brit greens, tans and their statement [Chelsea Boots](#). Never skimp on quality just because you're not heading straight to the office, and be a little adventurous; safe in the knowledge that boots have a protective purpose, so you can shine in all conditions without having to watch your step.



Look 2: Power Flower

Dreaming about what to wear with combat boots on warm summer evenings outside that bistro or during a cab ride from your place to the city – a look that is carefree but strong, comfortable in cotton and maybe a no-fuss cardigan - but confident enough to not stand for anything, in boots that have figured showers (with puddles to jump in!) are on the way.

You can forget all that and go all out [Christian Dior](#) for a utopian take on summer fair, but in terms of floral prints, short and light is generally best with – again – a no fuss color scheme (red dresses might just spoil the show) that directs all the noise properly from your (ruby red or black) boots to your hair.



Of course, you're still moving in casual circles, but get serious in a Reformation wallflower dress, which seduces in dark blue with a flower print to compliment your skin tone. High heeled boots speak more strategy meeting than battle ground and with minimal appendages (jewelry or bag), it's clear who's making all the decisions around here. Equally jaw dropping (although slightly unhinged) with Dr. Martens; less unhinged (although slightly less jaw dropping) in Reformation's own [Suede Sienna Boot](#).



Look 3: Lights Out, Nights Out

A leather jacket is not just a warm fix for a long taxi line, but can be - when matched with high quality statement steppers - a relatively low-fi way to dress better than the whole queue.

Try layering the jacket with a faux-fur body warmer for balance. Below, that little black dress is mighty fine with matching or red Docs. It's brave (and cold) but a tartan mini with boots once again emphasizes the need to keep the core components symmetrical and high contrast at both ends.



As Darkness Falls

The jacket has to be the best quality and fit you can darn well afford – [Saint Laurent's](#) lambskin offering is a slim blend of smarts and ease, while the more biker you lean, the more you're heading back to casual territory. For a smoother leather journey, reference [Kendall Jenner](#) in head-to-toe monochrome. The boots should say the same about your preference for the finer arts of battle - [Church's Cammy Brogue's](#) really are the last word in how to wear combat boots as an act of tough love.

Ultimately, and with no affectation, boots can turn an attractive look into an all pistons firing, punk-fused, urban classic that take you into and through the city night. While that may be a dangerous thing to some people, it is - when all is said and done – a beautiful thing indeed.



Further references

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<https://www.ilovemrmittens.com/>

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953 Words