

ALL ABOUT  
KATE'S FAVORITE BOOTS

Penelope Chilvers, designer of Kate Middleton's signature casual boots, reveals the secrets behind the bestselling (and royal-approved!) style

**W** Kate Middleton is known for violating the celebrity rule of not wearing something more than once, and there is no better example than the equestrian-inspired brown leather boots that she has been sporting for nearly two decades!

The handcrafted knee-high riding boot, with its distinctive tassel, was designed by Penelope Chilvers, who launched the brand in 2004 from her kitchen table. Kate “has been a customer for a very long time – one of my first!” says Chilvers.



THEN  
2004



NOW  
2021

**MAKING THEIR DEBUT**  
Kate wore the boots publicly for the first time on a photo shoot at Blenheim Palace in

**STILL GOING STRONG**  
Visiting a farm in County Durham with Prince William in April 2021, Kate wore her

GUTTER CREDIT  
GUTTER CREDIT



The boots are sewn by experienced artisans partially by hand, and partially by machine

Stitching

Leather

Made of 100% vegetable dyed leather from a Spanish tannery, the boots come in

Tassels

The signature tassels are made from tough cow hide leather and are detachable.

The soles feature a hidden layer of cork for added comfort. A strip of rubber along the

Sole



Born and raised in England, Chilvers was living in Spain at the time, working as an artist in Barcelona. In her free time, she loved to ride horses but struggled to find a suitable boot - so she asked a local artisan to make a pair that would fit close to the ankle and elongate the leg. When she returned to England, Chilvers says that her friends wanted the boots, too - so with her art school training and passion for craftsmanship, she created her first collection. The tassel boot was her very first design. Retailing for \$695 (<https://penelopechilvers.com/us/boots>) it is still one of the brand's best-selling designs today.

Chilvers credits the boots' appeal to the quality construction. Made in Spain using traditional manufacturing techniques each pair of boots takes two days to make. Skilled artisans, working on machinery that is over 100 years old, "are absolute experts at making boots that last a long time-- and I'm keen to keep this craftsmanship alive because it's stood the test of time," says Chilvers. "The boots become like a second skin, they mold to your foot and become like dependable old friends."

**'Kate is the epitome of our customer who loves the healthy, outdoor life'**  
— PENELOPE CHILVERS

Not only does Kate have several pairs in her closet, she also commissioned a special version for her daughter Princess Charlotte as a Christmas present WHEN TK. "We don't usually do children's shoes but we added them and they have been selling well — they are a great style for autumn/winter as they're fleece-lined," says Chilvers, who is also launching the adult version in a wider calf size this fall.

As for what it feels like to have such a loyal fan in Kate, Chilvers says she couldn't be happier. "We feel so lucky that she wears them so regularly - she's the epitome of our customer who loves the healthy, outdoor life. Whether it's Kate, a woman in Texas on her farm or a landowner in Africa, our buyers are out there, working hard, kicking dust!"



### Meet the Designer

*Chilvers launched her first collection at Paris Fashion Week in 2014 with just six styles, including Kate's favorite boot. "I believe in buying good leathers which are made to last," she says.*



## These Boots Were Made for Walking... A Lot!

*While her long tassel boots in brown conker have clocked up the most miles, Kate also has the classic flat boot in navy suede and dark brown suede. "I honestly don't know how many pairs she has!" says Chilvers.*

### OCTOBER 2018

Kate chatted in comfort with students and staff at London's Sayers Croft Forest School on her first official engagement after the birth of Prince



### AUGUST 2005

Kate wore the boots to the Gatcombe Park Festival of British Eventing in Gloucestershire where she browsed the clothing stalls.



### SEPTEMBER 2016

The Duchess took the boots on tour with her to Canada and wore them to visit the remote island of Bella Bella.