



The Royal Wedding: leather highlights

The royal wedding in April was surely the biggest fashion event of 2011, and with this in mind, we consider some of the shoes, bags and gloves worn by the guests.



Prince William and his bride, Catherine Middleton, wave to the crowds and an estimated worldwide television audience of three billion.

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

The wedding of Catherine Middleton and Prince William of Wales on 29 April is estimated to have attracted three billion TV viewers around the world. For many of these onlookers, the main event was not the ceremony itself but the fashions on display worn by royal and celebrity guests. From Princess Beatrice's controversial hat (designed by UK milliner Philip Treacy) to the Angela Kelly-designed primrose dress HM The

Queen opted for, every triumph and faux-pas has been hotly debated by the global fashion industry. As for the bride, her timeless dress designed by Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen brought gasps of awe from guests and statements of approval from designers (Karl Lagerfeld, creative director for Chanel, described it as "very pretty and relatively classic, with a little touch of the 1950s that recalls Marilyn Monroe or Queen Elizabeth II's dress").

The royal accessories

While the dresses took centre stage of the pageant, the leather shoes, handbags and gloves adorning guests played an integral part, and, as is often the case, tended to 'make or break' an outfit. Almost every female guest carried an on-trend leather clutch bag, and many teetered on elegant leather and suede high-heeled shoes. The most popular shoe styles were classic courts with a closed toe and narrowing stiletto



Miriam González Durántez, wife of UK deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, wore these beautiful black leather gloves and black Zara shoes to complement her cream polka dot dress.

IMAGES: ZARA/ASPINAL OF LONDON

heel, although a number of guests wore daringly high platform heels, including former pop star-turned fashion designer Victoria Beckham, who strutted into Westminster Abbey in black leather shoes by Christian Louboutin. Mrs Beckham complemented her navy dress with an exotic leather clutch handbag from her own label.

Sisters Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice made up for their theatrical (and somewhat unpopular) dresses with beautiful leather heels by Jimmy Choo, whose designs also adorned the feet of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Prince Harry's girlfriend, Chelsy Davy. Another popular footwear designer was Manolo Blahnik, with Irish aristocrat Serena Linley and UK Vogue editor-in-chief Alexandra Shulman both choosing to wear stylish leather heels by the designer.

Flying the flag

As befits such an event, patriotism was rife and several guests chose to fly the flag for their home country through their choice of attire. Australian prime minister, Julia Gillard, wore an outfit created entirely by Australian designers. She arrived at Westminster Abbey wearing a knee-length navy skirt by Anthea Crawford paired with a Carla Zampatti camisole, and oyster-coloured jacket by Perth designer Aurelio Costarella. To complement her outfit, Ms

Gillard chose navy leather shoes and clutch bag by Melbourne-based designer Alan Pinkus.

Similarly, Miriam González Durántez, wife of UK deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, stuck to her Spanish roots, wearing a suit by designer Miguel Palacio, a hat by milliner La Conchita and shoes by Spanish high street retailer

Zara. However, Ms González broke the Spanish trend with her long black leather gloves by Aspinal of London.

Leather gloves were sported by many-a guest, including HM The Queen, the Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, South African Olympic swimmer, Charlene Wittstock and her fiancé, Prince Albert II of Monaco. ©



A number of guests wore Jimmy Choo shoes to the royal wedding. Sophie, Countess of Wessex wore these 'Cosmic' heels in nude patent leather. IMAGE: JIMMY CHOO

Princess Victoria of Sweden wore these striking open-toe platform heels to the royal occasion. IMAGE: ELIE SAAB