

Q Dear Marylou: I read recently about a sneaker that costs \$450. And it was not from one of the big-name designers—at least not one I’ve ever heard of. How in the world could that cost be justified? __A.C., Aspen, CO.



Dear A.C.: How about if the sneaker offered a tracking device that could locate your lost child, your grandmother with dementia or, especially in your neck of the woods, your favorite lost hiker or skier. **The new sneaker, designed by scientist Isaac Daniel for Fele Footwear,** is the first with a **Global Positioning System embedded in the sole.** Family members can track the person wearing the sneakers via Quantum Satellite Technology and for a monthly fee can be linked to up to 10 devices, including laptops, cell phones or emergency services. In case of emergency, security systems are alerted instantly. There are three product lines incorporating this new technology. First is the Traquer by **Isaac Daniel.** These sneakers sell from \$300 to \$450 plus a monthly monitoring fee of \$19.99. Sneakers in the second line, SGEO Compass, sell from \$450 to \$600 with a monthly monitoring fee of \$29.99. The third line, Isaac Daniel, is a trendier collection that “fuses fashion forward design standards with premium core structures such as traction-enhanced soles. These sneakers, such as the one illustrated here, sell from \$600 to \$1,500. For store information, write to Bonnie Bien, LaPresse Public Relations, 1 Penn Plaza, floor 36, New York, NY 10119, or check out Fele Footwear’s web site (info@felefootwear.com)

Q Dear Marylou: How can I make my white organza wrap dress look more fashionable? I feel it’s a little frilly for today’s more sober looks. __I.P., Staten Island, NY.

Dear I.P.: Don’t worry about a few frills. The resort/early spring collections that opened recently in New York are filled with clothes that are definitely more feminine than the fall selections. And the old **tough-and-tender combinations are still very much in fashion.** Try wearing your organza dress with a two-inch brown leather belt. Or try it with brown leather shoe-boots.

Q Dear Marylou: My leg is in a cast and none of my jeans will fit over it. Even boot leg jeans don't work. Do you know if anyone makes bell-bottom jeans? __K.R., Cleveland, OH.

Dear K.R.: I don't know of a source for bell-bottom jeans, but you might want to **consider jeans that zip open from knee to hem** to reveal a flaring pie-shaped wedge in the same denim fabric. They're made by **THIRTEENdENIM** (cq). For store information, write to the company at 24 Fifth Ave., #803, New York, NY 10011, attention Cindy Slater.

Q Dear Marylou: I call myself an environmentalist, and I'm constantly on the lookout for new developments in this field. Are there any new programs involving clothing manufacturers? (I know about Edun, Loomstate and other companies using eco-friendly fabrics and manufacturing procedures.) __E.T., Baltimore, MD.

Dear E.T.: According to a story in Daily News Record, a menswear trade magazine, **Patagonia** has become **the first global brand to initiate a garment recycling program**. Here's how it works. Customers may return old **Capilene** base layers (Patagonia's term for next-of-skin shorts, pants and T-shirts with fast-wicking properties that keep the skin dry) to Patagonia via U.S. mail, or at any of the 20 Patagonia stores nationwide. The base layers are then transported on container ships (which usually travel back to Asia empty) to **Teijin**, the Japanese textile company that produces the Capilene fabrics for Patagonia. There they are broken down and made into new Capilene garments, using Teijin's **EcoCircle** fiber-to-fiber recycling system, which breaks down the fiber to its molecular level and creates new raw material for polyester. The company claims that making new polyester fiber from used garments results in an energy savings of 76% and a CO2 emissions (greenhouse gasses) reduction of 71%. (Patagonia is known for its use of organically-grown cotton in its apparel and for using polyester fleece made of recycled soda bottles in many of its garments.)

(Marylou welcomes questions for use in this column, but regrets she cannot answer mail personally. Send your questions to info@tqi.org.)

© 2006, International Fashion Syndicate