

Need TAP SHOES? Keep reading:

If you need tap shoes and are not in the position to buy them for the show, stay tuned with what we are able to grab from other sources.

*Right now, if you are a size 9.5 or 10 street shoe, Hayley has tap shoes that you might be able to borrow for the show.

*If you can tell me after reading this if you are unable at this time to purchase tap shoes, please message me on Facebook or catch me next week at the dance rehearsal. I have your information already, and at this point it would be helpful to know who is going to buy them and who isn't. Thank you!

If you are going to buy tap shoes, there are a few things you can do. Patterson's in Burlington has a nice selection of shoes to choose from, and you are guaranteed to walk out with shoes that will work for the show. If you want to try spending a little less and waiting about a week, I love using www.discountdancesupply.com. Try to search for cheaper or clearance taps, and see what the total would be with the shipping and handling. If it costs about the same as it would to go to Patterson's, then I would just go to Patterson's.

*If you are going to order online, it would be nice to go to Patterson's or another dance store anyway to try on different sizes so that you see what size you are.

*Dance shoes have a history of running small (typically a half size). I wear a size 8 street shoe and have a size 8 tap shoe, which is weird. Or maybe I have an 8.5 tap shoe and they're so old that the size wore off. I hope you get the picture anyway!

*Also consider that your character may be wearing socks, although we can always just cheat and get some cheap, sock-like pantyhose for this one number.

OK if you are in the Patterson's store, first thing is to not panic. Walk in there like you own the place and politely ask for some help locating the tap shoes.

*Consider your character when deciding on a style. The buckle style would be more for a traditional lady role and the laces would be for a non-gender-specific or traditional man role. Also consider with what you are more comfortable with wearing.

***YOUR TAP SHOES MUST BE BLACK! IF THEY ARE TAN, LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW TO MAKE THEM BLACK!**

*If this is your first experience with tap shoes or if you are a little concerned about your mad skillz at the moment (which don't worry, you will acquire all necessary skills by March), you should avoid character tap shoes (although I must say that Lauren is rocking the character in rehearsal). These are the ones that have so much of a heel that they look like a little pump shoe (although I must say that Lauren is rocking the character in rehearsal). Your shoe will probably look like a buckley or lacey Mary Jane (chunky, low heel)

*I personally enjoy the **Bloch** (sounds like "Block") brand. OK I'm biased because I own Blochs, and I can honestly say that I've tried out other brands and they're just not the same. They don't sound very nice (again, my opinion!). Blochs have a full, thick sound.

*Ask if they have any shoes on clearance or on mega-sale or something. For three months time, we don't want to break the bank. Expect to see prices between \$40 and \$75 for the taps.

*Your shoes should have laces or a buckle, and should feel fairly comfortable when you walk in them. They will be stiff. Also, I'm fairly certain that tap shoes don't come in wide sizes, although it doesn't hurt to ask. **Check the taps. They must have screws. If they have rivets, put them back in the box immediately.** Rivets are horrible and should be treated like an infectious disease.

*At the register, pretend that these are for dance or theater, or whatever trickery you have to perform to get a 10% discount. They will give it to you.

Now you have tap shoes, rejoice! They are going to be so stiff and uncomfortable for now. Take them out of the box and remember how nice they smell (at this moment), and then bend them a lot. Make those shoes pretend to go on their tippy toes. Wear your shoes walking around the house. Practice the dance in them even if you don't have a tapping surface (and only tap on parent/guardian approved surfaces - I speak from experience haha). The absolute last thing you want is to be at tech week with stiff shoes.

If you have any questions or if you think I forgot something, please let me know. I'm so excited to be tapping with you and I'm happy to help you get that standing ovation in the middle of the song!