

01 / THE HOUSE STORY

The people. The point of view.



THE BEGINNING

Manolo Blahnik

Manolo Blahnik's eponymous label dates to 1970, when the first boutique developed on Old Church Street in Chelsea, London. The family-run house is centered on footwear, with Manolo Blahnik continuing to sketch designs and working with specialist Italian factories; bags and accessories have expanded the product world. Use 1970 as the label anchor, then date by silhouette, heel, archival imagery and label/sole treatment. Museum collection records are valuable for vintage shoes because they preserve known examples with construction and markings.

FOUNDED

1970

ORIGIN

London, England

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Size and model/style information can appear on the shoe, box or retailer records. Use the exact reference to match the model and material, but no universal brand-published unique serial/date code applies to all Manolo Blahnik footwear. Before 'decoding' anything, identify what kind of identifier it is: RN/business ID, style/article number, size code, supplier/production reference, serial, date mark, season code, inventory barcode, RFID/NFC or digital passport. Different identifier types answer different questions and are not interchangeable. Read the Manolo Blahnik care label literally before trying to date it.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

02 / THE BRAND FAMILY

Names, lines & relationships

Manolo Blahnik

Parent luxury footwear and accessories house

Women's and men's footwear plus selected bags/accessories.

Manolo Blahnik main house; women's and men's collections are categories within the same brand.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item's authenticity.

A story in chapters

1970

Manolo Blahnik

House origins · Manolo Blahnik

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Manolo Blahnik's eponymous label dates to 1970, when the first boutique developed on Old Church Street in Chelsea, London. The family-run house is centered on footwear, with Manolo Blahnik continuing to sketch designs and working with specialist Italian factories; bags and accessories have expanded the product world. Use 1970 as the label anchor, then date by silhouette, heel, archival imagery and label/sole treatment. Museum collection records are valuable for vintage shoes because they preserve known examples with construction and markings.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

MANOLO BLAHNIK Size 6 Tan Suede X Strap Sandals

Marked size = the item’s original label. As a US company, Sui Generis lists a US size comparison; use the relevant brand/category chart and actual measurements to check fit.

THE LABEL / MARKING DETAIL



01 / WHAT YOU CAN READ

MANOLO BLAHNIK · 36

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The sole offers a readable house name and size. Keep the 36 marking in the record together with insole length and photographs of the upper.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

This stamp does not provide a collection date or full material description. Request interior markings and use the shoe’s construction to narrow model comparisons.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

SOURCES / SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

Research & image credits

Based on the existing Sui Generis guide research and credited references. Catalog photographs are Sui Generis images. Brand names identify the subject; this guide is independent and unaffiliated. Share complete sheets with their credits and a link to the guide.

<https://www.manoloblahnik.com/gb/the-company/>

<https://www.manoloblahnik.com/eu/the-journey>

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/80444/>

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

<https://www.manoloblahnik.com/us/the-latest/category/womens-collection>

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/manolo-blahnik-size-6-tan-suede-x-strap-sandals>

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

SIZING / HOW TO READ OUR CATALOG

Marked size & your US size

The marked size is the size printed on the item’s original label. Sui Generis is a US company, so our catalog uses a US size comparison to help our customers shop. A US listing size may therefore differ from the number on the designer’s tag; it does not change the item’s original marked size.

READ THE SIZING SYSTEM

FR or F means French; IT, I or ITA means Italian; JP means Japanese; UK or GB means British; US or USA means United States. D or DE means German. EU (or UE on some labels) denotes a European size where the relevant brand and category chart uses it. French and Italian clothing numbers are not interchangeable, and a manufacturing country does not identify a sizing system.

JAPANESE & BRAND NUMBERED SIZES

Some Japanese designers use their own numbered sizes, such as 1, 2 or 3. These are brand sizes, not automatically US sizes or a universal Japanese conversion. Use the chart for the specific brand, line and item.

MATCH THE CATEGORY. CHECK THE MEASUREMENTS.

When a tag prints several national sizes, retain the brand’s own size table instead of substituting a generic conversion. Women’s clothing, men’s tailoring and footwear need different charts. Letter sizes, denim and accessories also need their own fit information. Compare the original marking, the relevant chart and actual measurements. Vintage fit, alterations and cut can change the fit; a US comparison is a guide, not a guarantee.

If the sizing system or original marking cannot be confirmed from the available photograph, we say so rather than assigning a country or inventing a conversion.

REFERENCE READING

- Nordstrom: designer clothing conversion reference
- Maison Margiela: category-specific size guide
- Yohji Yamamoto: measuring garments

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.