

Tap Shoe Requirements & Tap Care Tips - 2024-2025

Requirements for all levels:

Colour: Black

Screws: 3 screws in ball tap, 3 screws in heel tap (no rivots as they cannot be tightened)

Do not buy: Tyettes or Bloch Audeo as the shanks are plastic. No split sole shoes. Plastic bases tend to have the screws pop out more often and are not easily repaired.

Fit: Tap shoes must fit properly (with only minimal growing room - about ½ inch-1 inch at the toe) as the snugness of the shoe drastically affects weight placement, technique and sound.

Tap Levels	Recommended style
P3, Junior 1	Full sole - Capezio Mary Jane 3800C or a black oxford style shoe
Junior 2, 3, 4, foundations, adults	Full sole - Capezio Cadence Tap
5A and up, adults(optional) Leather shoes offer the best support, comfort and fit. Leather will mold to the shape of your foot.	Full sole - Capezio Cadence Tap <i>If feet are done growing strongly recommend:</i> Full sole -JSams TA200, TA800 they are a much better shoe & sound quality and can last for years

Tap shoes are initially a higher investment, but with good care usually last longer than ballet or jazz shoes. Tap dance is like playing an instrument with our feet. Investing in a higher quality instrument is going to achieve different results than going for the cheapest option. Less quality shoes have cheaper metal and have an impact on a child's confidence with their sound quality and ability to articulate their feet.

Tap dancers tool box to maintain your shoes and help them last longer:

- For lace up shoes it is recommended you switch to flat laces as the round ones tend to undo often. Keep an extra pair of laces in your dance bag in case they break during class.
- Small screwdriver - keep a small screwdriver in your dance bag to keep the taps tight. Clickers must be screwed in tight so the taps do not jingle and are not sticking out so they do not rip the tap floor.
- Keep your taps clean. For leather shoes, use a standard leather cleaner and the non-leather shoes a wet wipe works well. When you take extra care of the tap shoe you can maximize the lifespan and increase the re-sale value.
- Air them out of the dance bag regularly. It dries them out and can help remove odours.
- Do not wear them outside or on a basement cement floor as this can cause undo wear and tear on the shoe and impact the quality of the tap clicker.

Protect your floors:

- Tap shoes damage most regular house floors, it is not advised to practice in your shoes on them.
- A place to practice and hone the skills from class each week a spot for your child to develop their skills on a durable floor is recommended. (tap can always be rehearsed for the technique without footwear and all actions that travel can be rehearsed stationary. You can make your own floor - here's an idea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6jNEP6mYes> or if budget allows you can order a tap floor online.