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Bring agony to heel with fold-up thongs

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WOMEN risk being permanently crippled by walking around in 15cm heels made famous by celebrities such as Victoria Beckham.

So traumatic is the pressure they put on their feet, doctors have compared the injuries to those suffered by professional ballerinas.

And podiatrists and chiropractors report a dramatic increase in young women seeking medical help for painful foot, knee and back injuries.

However, instant relief from the agony caused by high heels will soon be available and it is even small enough to fit into a clutch purse.

Former Sydney lawyer Ben Lipschitz and industrial designer Rick Munitz have invented a pair of fold-up Flipster thongs.

The Flipster, an origami-like thong with a rubber sole and silk straps that fits easily into a small evening bag, will be launched next week.



HIGH STEP: Victoria Beckham wearing stiletto heels and, inset, a pair of Flipsters