

KEVIN Leimkuhler, 31, ran the New York City Marathon (November 3, 2024) in Crocs and praised the foamy slip-ons as a “viable running shoe” according to *PEOPLE* newsletter.

He was comfortable all the way, finishing in 2:51:27 and breaking the Guinness World Record for running a marathon in the foam shoes.

Old record was 2:58:24

According to Citius Run Club, British runner Chris Howett previously held the WR for Crocs, finishing the UK Manchester Marathon in 2:58:24.

“It kind of seemed like a fun way to do New York,” American Kevin Leimkuhler, a 31-year-old software engineer from Denver, Colorado, told the free online *PEOPLE* newsletter.

“I know it gets a lot of spectators, and since I’m originally from the East Coast, I could have friends and family come up.”

5th marathon 13 minutes over PB

This was Kevin’s fifth marathon and his time was 13 minutes slower than his PB. To prepare for running in Crocs, he ran about 40 miles in a pair to ensure the size was right.

“My feet have been in worse shape after marathons,” he said, adding that when he’s run in carbon-plated shoes ‘super shoes’ “I have a really bad Achilles blister.

Crocs running WR set in New York City Marathon

“This time I didn’t feel like I had to grip anything, and I didn’t feel like my foot was striking the ground any differently.

“No issues with them staying on; I did not lose any toenails; I don’t have any blisters; just typical marathon soreness,” he said, adding that he finished the race just 13 minutes longer than his personal best.

‘Nothing special’

He didn’t do anything special during the run. He used an anti-chafe lubricant, Body Glide, as he always does, and wore his normal running socks.

Schools across USA are said to be banning Crocs as a tripping hazard but Kevin says he had no stumbling problems with the bulky shoes.

“I ran the entire way and stopped just once, to hug my sister. I don’t know if I will run my next marathon in Crocs, but I could certainly see myself running in them from time to time,” he said.

“I have actually found them to be a viable running shoe,” he says. “They are refreshingly simple and just feel comfortable enough.”



Pic: courtesy of Kevin Leimkuhler

... and 400m Crocs records

On December 13, 2022 Niklas Klei of Kirchleugern, Germany ran a new 400-metre world record, covering one lap of the track in 51.84 seconds - while wearing Crocs.

As far back as January 2020, Olympic 800m finalist Nick Symmonds popularised the Crocs 400m dash in a YouTube video. The veteran set the record at 54.64. Since then, other runners chased the Crocs 400m world record, including Will Eggers, who set the previous record of 52.06 in June 2020.

Klei, 23, told *Canadian Running* that he thinks the record could drop below 50 seconds - especially because his Crocs were a size too big!

Despite wearing three pairs of socks (and putting the Crocs in sport mode, where the movable strap sits behind the ankle to lock-in the foot), he started to slip out of the clogs by 100 metres.

Klei, who competes for Mississippi College, has 400m PB of 47.10 - when running in spikes. Eggers’ PB is 49.56. If wearing Crocs slowed them down just three to five seconds, could a sub-48 be in the offing?