

# German WWII Marschstiefel (Tall Boots) Evaluation

The grading of the suppliers listed here is based solely on the personal judgment of Doug Strong. No insult is intended, nor does it reflect the opinions of any reenactment organization. The boots have been placed in three tiers. The list is made with US buyers in mind. All prices have been converted into US dollars at a January 2024 exchange rate. This evaluation does not take into account makers that have changed their designs multiple times and only accounts for the newest version as pictured on their website. Some makers may also have old stock from earlier runs with which they are still filling orders. It may also be possible that companies have changed their designs and not changed the photos on their websites.

**Updated 1/8/2024**

Tier 1 boots are usually made by the company, seller or individual selling them and are high in both quality and authenticity.

Maker/Dealer	Country- & Maker or Vendor	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
<a href="#">Fredericci</a> Sold by Nestof	Poland-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off the shelf</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Long shipping time</li> </ul>	A+	\$362- \$376
<a href="#">Lederarsenal</a>	Germany-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made to order</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The website is not currently listing these as available.</li> <li>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Long shipping time (8-12 Months)</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> </ul>	A+	\$384 (2021 Price)
<a href="#">Vlastislav Koutný</a>	Czech-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made to order</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> <li>A wide variety of tall boot styles.</li> <li><b>Shipping costs included</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> <li>Long shipping time</li> </ul>	A+	\$530 Shipped
<a href="#">Meister</a> (Facebook Only)	Poland-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made to order.</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> <li>Offers additional styles similarly priced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> <li>Possibly Long shipping time</li> </ul>	A+	\$346-391 (2021 Price)
<a href="#">Sergey Yustas</a> Facebook only	Russia-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made to order.</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> <li>Offers additional styles similarly priced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high.</li> </ul>	A+	\$520

<a href="#">At the Front (Texled)</a> These are the new <b>high-quality</b> Mexican-made boots, not the old Chinese-made ones.	USA-Vendor	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off the shelf and ready to ship</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Grain quarter and flesh vamps.</li> <li>Correct steel hobnails and heel irons</li> <li>pegged soles</li> <li>Natural dye-able leather</li> <li>Excellent construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-the-shelf boots are good for many but not all feet.</li> </ul>	A+	\$399
<a href="#">Obuwie Historyczne - U Szewca</a>	Poland-Maker	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made to order.</li> <li>High standard authenticity</li> <li>Excellent materials and workmanship</li> <li>Offers additional styles in a similar price range.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high.</li> <li>Website is in Polish (Use Google Translate)</li> <li>Heel irons and hobnails available at an additional cost. Figured into the price listed here.</li> </ul>	A+	\$345
<a href="#">Nestof</a>	Poland-Maker	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grain shaft and flesh vamps.</li> <li>Correct steel hobnails</li> <li>Pegged soles</li> <li>Natural dyeable leather</li> <li>Excellent construction</li> <li>Correct steel heel irons.</li> <li>Available in three color choices</li> </ul> <p>Also available from them on <a href="#">eBay</a> as well as <a href="#">Soldier of Fortune</a> (though SOF claims them to be made by Richard Underwood. They are clearly made by Nestof) They also carry Fredericci's off-the-shelf boots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibility of shipping delays due to international shipping. (My pair only took 6 days which is as fast as most US sellers!)</li> <li>Although some people have lost quite a few hobnails, and had other structural issues my personal experience with their low boots is quite different. My pair has lasted a long time and is quite comfortable</li> </ul>	A-	\$180
<a href="#">Replik</a> Reenact-store	Russia-Maker	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off the shelf and ready to ship</li> <li>Has half soles</li> <li>Natural leather</li> <li>Correct heel irons, hobnails &amp; toe plates</li> <li>Soles pegged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> </ul>	A	\$431

Tier 2 boots are usually made by someone other than the company selling them and are moderate in either quality, or authenticity, or both.

Maker/Dealer	Country- & Maker or Vendor	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
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<a href="#">SM Wholesale</a>	USA-Vendor	2	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grain Shaft and flesh vamps</li> <li>Can be ordered in black or natural</li> <li>Can be ordered without the Zamak hobnails.</li> <li>typically delivered blackened</li> <li>Soles are fully and securely pegged.</li> <li>Has half soles</li> <li>Good looking boots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zamak headed hobnails with steel shanks (Zinc Aluminum alloy). These hobnails will fall out but not as quickly as the all zamak ones sold elsewhere.</li> <li>Aluminum heel iron.</li> </ul>	B	\$379
<a href="#">Hessen Antique</a>	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has half soles</li> <li>Has steel heel iron</li> <li>Good looking boots</li> <li>Relatively low price.</li> <li>Easily repaired and lasts a long time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will wear down quickly.</li> <li>The soles are not pegged and the half sole will come loose.</li> <li>Incorrect style of heel iron.</li> <li>The uppers are a bit thin and may become floppy or saggy.</li> </ul>	B	\$169
<a href="#">Chronicle Militaria</a>	Pakistan-Maker.	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Custom Made</li> <li>The price is quite low.</li> <li>Has half sole, steel hobnails, and heel iron</li> <li><b>Shipping INCLUDED!</b></li> <li><b>Can make up to size 16!</b></li> <li><i>I have provided him with a great deal of feedback and he was very receptive and made significant improvements.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery time may be high (though recent delivery time has been less than a week)</li> <li>Leather may be chrome-tanned rather than natural</li> </ul>	B+	\$155 Shipped

Tier 3 boots are primarily made by someone other than the company selling them and are poor in either quality, or authenticity, or both.

Maker/Dealer	Country- & Maker or Vendor	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
<a href="#">Soldier of Fortune Military</a> Made by FAB	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Price is relatively low.</li> <li>Steel hobnails (British Style)</li> <li>Has half sole</li> <li>Steel heel iron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> <li>Incorrect style of heel iron and hobnails though both steel.</li> <li>Poor quality looking leather</li> <li>Toe plates are AWFUL!</li> <li>Incorrect grain out vamp</li> <li>White stitching</li> </ul>	D-	\$125
<a href="#">Military Tour</a>	Canada-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Price is relatively low.</li> <li>Steel hobnails</li> <li>Has half sole</li> <li>Steel heel iron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> </ul>	C+	\$169

My recommendation is as follows.

1. Buy from a top-tier maker. Their price is VERY similar to a tier two dealer and their quality and authenticity are far superior. My recommendation would be Lederarsenal. If you need boots quickly Consider off-the-shelf then At The Front is the best choice. Your most Budget-friendly option is Chronicle Militaria.

3. If budget is the biggest concern then consider a tier two pair and have a skilled cobbler (such as myself or Chris Chase) fix them and make them wearable for you.