

German WWII Marschstiefel (Tall Boots) Evaluation

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 2020 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 1/16/2020

Tier 1 boots are 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
Fredericci on Facebook Fredericci Website	Poland-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made to order. High standard authenticity Excellent materials and workmanship Included polishing and maintenance materials. Available pre-blackened and dubbed for an additional \$40 Offers additional styles in a similar price range. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Shipping costs Custom construction takes time Possibly Long shipping time 	A+	\$280
Lederarsenal	Germany-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made to order High standard authenticity Excellent materials and workmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Shipping costs Long shipping time Custom construction takes time 	A+	\$384
Vlastislav Koutný	Czech-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made to order High standard authenticity Excellent materials and workmanship A wide variety of tall boot styles. Shipping costs included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom construction takes time Long shipping time 	A+	\$411 Shipped
Meister (Facebook Only)	Poland-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made to order. High standard authenticity Excellent materials and workmanship Offers additional styles in similar price range. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Shipping costs Custom construction takes time Possibly Long shipping time 	A+	\$346-391
At the Front (Texled)	USA-Vendor	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the shelf and ready to ship High standard authenticity Grain quarter and flesh vamps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most expensive boots on the list Costs more than custom made boots. 	A+	\$449

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct steel hobnails and heel irons • pegged soles • Natural dye able leather • Excellent construction 			
Sergey Yustas Facebook only	Russia-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made to order. • High standard authenticity • Excellent materials and workmanship • Offers additional styles in a similar price range. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high. 	A+	\$420
Obuwie Historyczne - U Szewca	Poland-Maker	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made to order. • High standard authenticity • Excellent materials and workmanship • Offers additional styles in a similar price range. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high. • Website is in Polish (Use Google Translate) • Heel irons and hobnails available at an additional cost. Figured into the price listed here. 	A+	\$345

Tier 2 boots are primarily 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
Schuster	Russia-Vendor	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain shaft and flesh vamps. • Pegged soles • Natural leather dyed black • Excellent construction • Correct steel heel irons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear seam reinforcement wraps over top edge • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • No hobnails. 	A-	\$270
Man the Line	USA-Vendor	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain shaft and flesh vamps • Has half soles • Good looking boots • Often has Free shipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. • Soles not pegged • Aluminum heel iron. 	B-	\$199

Nestof	Poland-Maker	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grain shaft and flesh vamps. ● Correct steel hobnails ● Pegged soles ● Natural dyeable leather ● Excellent construction ● Correct steel heel irons <p>Also available from Man the Line and on ebay if you don't want to order from Poland. Soldier of Fortune also sells these though they claim them to be made by Richard Underwood. They are clearly not.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shipping costs and delivery time may be high ● Website is in Polish (Use Google Translate) ● One pair recently showed premature wear but Nestof repaired them. ● Recently there has been evidence of them losing original hobnails at a high rate. 	B	\$199
SM Wholesale	USA-Vendor	2	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grain Shaft and flesh vamps ● Can be ordered in black or natural ● Can be ordered without the Zamak hobnails. ● typically delivered blackened ● Soles are pegged. ● Has half soles ● Good looking boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● Aluminum heel iron. 	B+ (If you order without the hobnails)	\$295
Hessen Antique	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uppers appear rugged. ● Has half soles ● Has steel heel iron ● Good looking boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will wear down quickly. ● Soles not pegged ● Incorrect style of heel iron. 	B	\$179
Chronicle Militaria	Pakistan-Maker.	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Custom Made ● Price is relatively low. ● Has half sole, steel hobnails, and heel iron ● Can make up to size 16! ● <i>I have provided him with a great deal of feedback and he was very receptive and made significant improvements.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivery time may be high (though recent delivery time has been less than a week) ● Shipping costs may be high ● Incorrect style of heel iron though steel. 	B	\$140
Voenspec	Russia-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has half soles ● Correct heel irons ● Correct hobnails ● Correct toe plates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shipping costs and delivery time may be high ● Soles not pegged ● One image shows incorrect round civilian hobnails. ● Website is in Russian (Use Google Translate) 	B	\$173

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
Soldier of Fortune Military Made by FAB	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. • Steel hobnails (British Style) • Has half sole • Steel heel iron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Incorrect style of heel iron and hobnails though both steel. • Poor quality looking leather • Toe plates are AWFUL! • Incorrect grain out vamp • White stitching 	D-	\$121
Military Tour Made by FAB	Canada-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. • Steel hobnails (British Style) • Has half sole • Steel heel iron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Incorrect style of heel iron and hobnails though both steel. • Poor quality looking leather • Toe plates are AWFUL! • Incorrect grain out vamp • White stitching 	D	\$159

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 recommendations would be either Fredericci, or Lederarsenal. If you need boots quickly and don't mind paying extra for off the shelf then At The Front is the best choice.
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.

Doug Strong, the [Kompanie Schuster](#)