

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 2018 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 1/26/18

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

Maker/Dealer	Country of dealer	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
Mattimore Harness	USA	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made to order Excellent materials and workmanship Easy and clear communication USA made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom construction takes time No hobnails available. 	A	\$400
Vlastislav Koutný	Czech	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+	\$337-405 Shipped
Lederarsenal	Germany	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+	\$415-426
Fredericci (Facebook Only)	Poland	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the shelf or made to order. High standard authenticity Excellent materials and workmanship Included Polishing and maintenance materials. Pre blackedded Pre dubbed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Shipping costs Custom construction takes time Possibly Long shipping time 	A+	\$345-374
Meister (Facebook Only)	Poland	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

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 of dealer	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
Schuster	Russia	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
Nestof	Poland	2	2	<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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect external heel stiffener/reinforcement. • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Possibility of shipping delays due to international shipping. • 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	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
Man the Line	USA	2	2	<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

Hessen Antique	USA	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 fall out. • Soles not pegged • Incorrect style of heel iron. 	B	\$179
ZIB-Militaria Wehrmacht leather boots "Knobelbecher", cobbler rendered	Germany	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are modern German "Wachbattalion" boots that have had steel hobnails, and half soles with wooden pegs added to. • Probably quite durable boots • Hass steel heel irons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Incorrect grain out vamp • Incorrect style of heel iron 	B-	\$185
Voenspec	Russia	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. • Upper half of the shaft is incorrectly lined. • 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 of dealer	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
Chronicle Militaria	Pakistan	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. • Steel hobnails • Has half sole • Steel heel iron • Shipping included • Can make up to size 16! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery time may be high (though recent delivery time has been less than a week) • Incorrect style of heel iron though steel. • Poor quality looking leather • Poor design to boot overall. • <i>I have provided him with a great deal of feedback which may allow for an improved product.</i> 	C-	\$140 shipped

Soldier of Fortune Military TG382 German Mans Marching Boots (Jackboots) by FAB	England	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. • Steel hobnails • 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 • The only thing that saves these from a lower grade is the presence of steel hardware 	D+	\$121
Epic Militaria	England	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same modern German “Wachbattalion” boots as ZIB sells without the additional cobbler work done to them. • Probably quite durable boots • Hass steel heel irons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Incorrect grain out vamp • Incorrect style of heel iron • No hobnails, • Rubber half soles. 	C-	\$164

My recommendations would be either Mattimore harness or Lederarsenal. If you go with Mattimore I can add the heel irons and hobnails.

If you cannot do custom then buy one of the tier two pairs, send them to me, and I will fix them up for you.

Doug Strong, the [Kompanie Schuster](#)