

# German WWII Schnürschuhe (Low 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 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 and ready to ship</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+	\$323
<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>Website is not currently listing these as available.</li> <li>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Long shipping time</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> </ul>	A+	\$306 (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 low 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+	\$440
<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>Long shipping time</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> </ul>	A+	\$286 (2021 Price)
<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-Maker	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</li> <li>Soles pegged</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+	\$379

<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>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Long shipping time</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> </ul>	A+	\$515
<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 similarly priced.</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 available at an additional cost. Figured into the price here.</li> </ul>	A	\$255 (2021 Price)
<a href="#">Nestof.pl</a>	Poland-Maker	1	2	<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	\$157
<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> <li>Dyed brown</li> </ul>	A-	\$398

Tier 2 boots 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
<a href="#">Man the Line</a> 5th Generation	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grain quarter and flesh vamps</li> <li>Has half soles</li> <li>Pegged soles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These may not be available any longer. No prices are listed on the website.</li> <li>Hooks appear flimsy</li> <li>Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out.</li> <li>Aluminum heel iron.</li> </ul>	B	\$209 (2021 Prices)

<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>● Steel hobnails</li> <li>● Has half sole</li> <li>● Pegged sole</li> <li>● Steel 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+	\$115 shipped
<a href="#">SM Wholesale</a>	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grain quarter 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 pegged.</li> <li>● Has half soles</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>● Toe shape is very blocky.</li> <li>● top hook is an eyelet</li> </ul>	B+	\$295
<a href="#">Hessen Antique</a>	USA-Vendor	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Uppers appear rugged.</li> <li>● Has half soles</li> <li>● Available in Black or natural</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="#">Nicholas Sekela</a>	USA-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pegged and sewn soles</li> <li>● Correct toe plate</li> <li>● Leather appears to be oiled in photograph</li> <li>● Appear to be well made.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most expensive boots at this tier</li> <li>● Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out.</li> <li>● Boots entirely flesh side out construction which is only correct for 1944+</li> <li>● No half sole</li> <li>● Incorrect style of heel irons.</li> <li>● No hooks which is only correct for 1944+</li> </ul>	B-	\$299

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="#">Epic Militaria</a>	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Price is relatively low.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are very prone to failure.</li> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> <li>Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out.</li> <li>Boots entirely flesh side out construction</li> <li>No half sole, hooks, pegs</li> <li>Aluminum heel iron.</li> </ul>	D	\$103 (2021 Price)
<a href="#">Soldier of Fortune Military</a> TR778 Made by FAB	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Price is quite low.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> <li>Glossy chrome quarter leather</li> <li>No half sole, hooks or pegs</li> </ul>	D-	\$103 (2021 Price)

My recommendation is as follows.

- 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.
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- 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.