

German WWII Schnürschuhe (Low 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 mid 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 4/19/2021

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 Sold by Kellys Militaria in the USA as well as other vendors in Europe.	Poland-Maker.	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off the shelf and ready to ship • High standard authenticity • Excellent materials and workmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No longer taking custom orders • Some customers have had communication difficulties regarding custom orders. Should not be an issue when dealing with a vendor such as Kelly's 	A+	\$299
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+	\$306
Wehrmacht Shoes	Czech-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+	\$267
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 low boot styles. • Shipping costs included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom construction takes time • Long shipping time 	A+	\$267
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 similarly priced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Shipping costs • Long shipping time • Custom construction takes time 	A+	\$286

At the Front (Texled) These are the new high-quality Mexican made boots not the old Chinese made ones.	USA-Maker	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the shelf and ready to ship High standard authenticity Grain quarter and flesh vamps. Correct steel hobnails Soles pegged Natural dye able leather Excellent construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most expensive boots on the list Costs more than custom made boots. 	A+	\$379
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 similarly priced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Shipping costs Long shipping time Custom construction takes time 	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 similarly priced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipping costs and delivery time may be high. Website is in Polish (Use Google Translate) Heel irons available at an additional cost. Figured into the price here. 	A	\$255
Nestof.pl	Poland-Maker	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grain quarter and flesh vamps. Correct steel hobnails pegged soles Natural dyeable leather Also available in pre-dyed Excellent construction <p>Also available from them on ebay as well as Soldier of Fortune (though SOF claims them to be made by Richard Underwood. They are clearly made by Nestof)</p> <p>They also carry Fredericci's off the shelf boots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility of shipping delays due to international shipping. (My pair only took 6 days which is as fast as most US sellers!) Although some people have lost quite a few hobnails, my personal experience with these boots is quite different. I have not lost any hobnails at all despite years of wear. I also find them to be exceedingly comfortable-- possibly more comfortable than my custom boots. 	A	\$151
Replik	Russia-Maker	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the shelf and ready to ship Has half soles Natural leather Correct heel irons, hobnails & toe plates Soles pegged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipping costs and delivery time may be high Dyed brown 	A-	\$240

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
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Voenspec	Russia-Vendor	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has half soles • Natural leather • 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 • Website is in Russian (Use Google Translate) • Toes are a little blocky 	B+	\$155
Man the Line 5th Generation	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain quarter and flesh vamps • Has half soles • Pegged soles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooks appear flimsy • Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. • Aluminum heel iron. 	B	\$209
Chronicle Militaria	Pakistan - Maker	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom Made • Price is quite low. • Steel hobnails • Has half sole • Pegged sole • Steel heel iron • Shipping included • 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) • Incorrect style of heel iron though steel. • Leather may be chrome tanned rather than natural 	B	\$110 shipped
SM Wholesale	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain quarter 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 	<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. • Toe shape is very blocky. • top hook is an eyelet 	B+ (If you order without the hobnails)	\$245
Hessen Antique	USA-Vendor	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uppers appear rugged. • Has half soles • Available in Black or natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zamak headed hobnails with steel shanks (Zinc Aluminum alloy). These hobnails will wear down but fall out but not as quickly as the all zamak ones sold elsewhere. • Boots entirely flesh side out construction which is only correct for 1944+ 	B	\$159

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incorrect style of heel irons. ● No hooks which is only correct for 1944+ ● Aluminum heel iron. 		
Nicholas Sekela	USA-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pegged and sewn soles ● Correct toe plate ● Leather appears to be oiled in photograph ● Appear to be well made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most expensive boots at this tier ● Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. ● Boots entirely flesh side out construction which is only correct for 1944+ ● No half sole ● Incorrect style of heel irons. ● No hooks which is only correct for 1944+ 	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
Militaria-Net	England-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. • Steel hobnails • Soles partly pegged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boots entirely flesh side out construction which is only correct for 1944+ • No half sole • Incorrect style of heel irons. • No hooks which is only correct for 1944+ 	C+	\$103
Man the Line 4th Generation	USA-Vendor	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel hobnails • Free shipping • Soles sewn on • Frequently have significant 20-30% off discounts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect two piece hobnails • Chrome tanned leather quarters seems to be poor quality. • Toe shape is very blocky. • No half soles • Soles not pegged 	C-	\$169
ZIB-Militaria	Germany -Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are very prone to failure. • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. • Boots entirely flesh side out construction • No half sole, hooks, pegs • Aluminum heel iron. 	D	\$132

Soldier of Fortune Military DL145 German Schnurschuhe Black Ankle Boots by Mil-Tec Sturm	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are very prone to failure. • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. • Boots entirely flesh side out construction • No half sole, hooks, pegs • Aluminum heel iron. 	D	\$128
Epic Militaria	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are very prone to failure. • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out. • Boots entirely flesh side out construction • No half sole, hooks, pegs • Aluminum heel iron. 	D	\$103
Soldier of Fortune Military TR778 Made by FAB	England-Vendor	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is quite low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Glossy chrome quarter leather • No half sole, hooks or pegs 	D-	\$103

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 a good choice.
2. 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](#)