

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 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.

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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
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 • 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+	\$290
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+	\$331
Wehrmacht Shoes	Czech	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+	\$290
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 low boot styles. • Shipping costs included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom construction takes time • Long shipping time 	A+	\$334

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+	\$286
At the Front (Textled)	USA	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 • pegged soles • 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

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
Voenspec	Russia	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+	\$153
Nestof.pl	Poland	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain quarter and flesh vamps. • Correct steel hobnails • pegged soles • Natural dyeable leather • Excellent construction <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"> • Possibility of shipping delays due to international shipping. (My pair only took 6 days which is as fast as most US sellers!) • 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	\$168

SM Wholesale	USA	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
Man the Line 5th Generation	USA	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
Hessen Antique	USA	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 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+ ● Incorrect style of heel irons. ● No hooks which is only correct for 1944+ ● Aluminum heel iron. 	B	\$159
Nicholas Sekela	USA	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 of dealer	Authenticity rank	Quality rank	Positive features	Negative features	Grade	Price
Man the Line 4th Generation	USA	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	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as old-run At the Front boots which were 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 • No hooks • Soles not pegged • Aluminum heel iron. 	D	\$150
Soldier of Fortune Military DL145 German Schnurschuhe Black Ankle Boots by Mil-Tec sturm	England	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Same as old-run boots which were 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 • No hooks • Aluminum heel iron. • Soles not pegged 	D	\$138

Soldier of Fortune Military TR778 WW2 German Brown Schnurschuhe Ankle Boots by FAB	England	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 quarter leather • No half sole • No hooks • Soles not pegged 	D	\$105
Soldier of Fortune Military DL145 German Schnurschuhe Black Ankle Boots by Mil-Tec sturm	England	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Same as old-run boots which were 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 • No hooks • Soles not pegged 	D	\$138
Epic Militaria	England	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price is relatively low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping costs and delivery time may be high • Same as old-run <u>At the Front</u> boots which were 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 • No hooks • Soles not pegged 	D	\$142

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 is 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 an 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](#)