

# 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 March 2026 exchange rate. Recent changes to tariff laws will impact the actual prices paid by US buyers. This is not included in the prices presented here in most cases. 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 3/7/2026**

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

| Maker/Dealer  | Country-<br>& Maker<br>or Vendor | Authenticity<br>rank | Quality<br>rank | Positive features  | Negative features  | Grade | Price                |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--|--|-------|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Lederarsenal</a><br>-Jan Berger   | Germany<br>- 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>High Shipping costs</li> <li>Long shipping time</li> <li>Custom construction takes time</li> </ul>  | A+    | \$343                |
| <a href="#">At the Front (Texled)</a><br>These are the new <b>high-quality</b> Mexican-made boots, not the old Chinese-made ones. | USA-<br>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 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+    | \$399                |
| <a href="#">Fredericci</a><br><br>Sold by Nestof, Epic Militaria and <a href="#">Kelley's Miliaria</a>                            | Poland-<br>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<br>To<br>\$339 |
| <a href="#">Obuwie Historyczne - U Szewca</a>   | Poland-<br>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     | \$600                |
| <a href="#">Replik</a><br>Reenact-store   | Russia-<br>Maker                 | 1                    | 1               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off the shelf and ready to ship</li> <li>Has half soles secured with pegs</li> <li>Natural leather</li> <li>Correct heel irons, hobnails &amp; toe plates</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping costs and delivery time may be high</li> <li>Dyed brown</li> </ul>   | A-    | \$445                |

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="#">Kelley's Militaria</a>  | USA-Vendor                 | 1                 | 1.5          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off the shelf and ready to ship</li> <li>• Pegged and sewn soles</li> <li>• Correct toe plate</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hooks which is only correct for 1944+</li> <li>• Appears to be well made though all evaluation is based on photos.</li> </ul>  | A-    | \$199         |
| <a href="#">CressleyCo Craft</a>    | Pakistan - Maker           | 1                 | 1.5          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custom Made</li> <li>• The price is low.</li> <li>• Steel hobnails</li> <li>• Has half sole secured with pegs</li> <li>• Steel heel iron</li> <li>• <b>Shipping included</b></li> <li>• <b>Can make up to size 18!</b></li> <li>• <i>I have ordered two pairs of custom boots for my own needs. They have been very open to feedback.</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custom made so delivery time may be high</li> </ul>   | A-    | \$160         |
| <a href="#">Chronicle Militaria</a> | Pakistan - Maker           | 1                 | 1.5          | <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> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custom made so delivery time may be high</li> </ul>   | A-    | \$120 shipped |
| <a href="#">Hessen Antique</a>      | USA-Vendor                 | 2                 | 2            | <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 but this is an easy repair.</li> <li>• Incorrect style of heel iron though it is steel..</li> <li>• Vamps are smooth side out and a bit blocky.</li> </ul> | B+    | \$204         |

|  |              |   |   |  |   |    |                |
|--|--------------|---|---|--|---|----|----------------|
| <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. The boots pictured are clearly made by Nestof) Nestof also carries 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>• For the last few years 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. <b>I have recently seen an increase in boots with blow outs of the sides of boots where the sole is attached to the upper.</b> I have lowered the grade from A to B to reflect this.</li> </ul> | B  | \$144 to \$188 |
| <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> </ul>  | B  | \$295          |
| <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          |
| <a href="#">Man the Line</a><br>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>• Hooks appear flimsy</li> <li>• Zamak (Zinc Aluminum alloy) hobnails will fall out.</li> <li>• Aluminum heel iron.</li> </ul>   | B- | \$99           |

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> <li>• Some boots have hooks</li> <li>• Boots are available in black or natural</li> <li>• Some soles are pegged</li> <li>• They appear to have a new maker mixed in with the old boots so buy carefully.</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>• Some boots entirely flesh side out construction</li> <li>• No half sole on some pairs</li> <li>• Aluminum heel iron.</li> </ul> | C- to D depending on the pair | \$125 |
| <a href="#">Soldier of Fortune Military</a><br>TR778 Made by FAB | England-Vendor             | 3                 | 3            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price is relatively 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-                            | \$132 |

My recommendation is as follows.

1. Buy from a top-tier maker if at all possible. Their price is VERY similar to a tier two dealer and their quality and authenticity are far superior. My recommendation would be **Lederarsenal** above all if you have time to wait for custom boots. If you need boots quickly, then off the shelf boots from **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. I personally like the boots from **Hessen Antique** very much as they are easy to repair and maintain. I have recommended these boots for members of my family. I have also personally bought boots for my own use from **Chronicle Militaria** and **Crossley Co.**