

Ordering Wild Bill's CUSTOM BOOTS

wildbillsboots@sbcglobal.net
20 lakeside dr.
granby, ct 06035
860 844-8440

Now you can design the boots you've always dreamed of, from the ground up. The choice of colors and leathers; the shape and height of the tops and heels; the toe shape, and other details are all up to you. If you're not quite sure what you're looking for, I can provide photos of some new and vintage styles for inspiration.

Custom means your boots will be made to fit your feet only. Even if you have two different sized feet! But...custom boots do not correct problem feet. That requires a podiatric surgeon. However, any footwear that supports your feet correctly, can only be better in the long run.

Ordering a pair of custom boots will require a bit of imagination on your part. Boots can be mild, wild, or somewhere in between. Calfskin or alligator; black or purple...You get the picture!

Here are some details you'll need to think about before ordering a pair of boots...

Measuring

This requires a personal visit with the bootmaker. If you have them, bring an old pair of your boots. This can help determine how you wear your boots out, and what you have been used to regarding fit. Wear socks of the same thickness that you will be wearing with your boots. All measurements are taken over socks.

Fitting

After measuring, a last (the wooden form on which the boot is built) is selected, closest to your size. This last is altered



by building up or grinding down the surface to the measurements and contours of your foot.

A pull-on fitting shoe is constructed over this altered last, using leather and other materials. Any adjustments are made on the fitting shoe before beginning construction of your boots. Fittings can be done through the mail.

Toe Shapes

Boot wearers can be very particular about their boot toe shape. They'll love one toe and dislike all the others.



Boot toes can vary from very round to almost needle points. Pointier boots will always be longer than same sized round toed boots.

The toe shape of the traditional cowboy boot is called a box toe; a pointed toe with a flattened tip. The width of the flattened tip determines the size of the box toe, such as a 1/4 box, 1/2 box, 3/4..., the 1/4 box being the sharpest toe.

Heels

Western boot lasts are made according to size, heel height, and toe shape.

A 1⁵/₈" heel cannot be put on a last made for a 1¹/₈" heel. The height is measured at the front (breast) of the heel, from the ground to the sole.

My boots are available in 7/8", 1¹/₈", 1⁵/₈", and 2¹/₄" heel heights. The angle at the back of the heel increases with the height, (called 'undercut' heels).

Tops

You might decide on the smooth look of unblemished leather for your boot tops, or go hog wild with inlays, fancy pulls and contrasting stitching. Practically any design can be realized, utilizing the endless array of colors and leather textures available today.



Most people choose a vintage stitch pattern, or fancy pull or collar detailing. Tops are measured from the top of the sole at the heel (heel rand). The top edge can be straight across (stovepipe tops), or any shape and depth of a scallop on the front and back.

Leathers

All the leathers I offer are the absolute finest available. Most are imported, mainly from Great Britain, Italy and Germany. These Old World tanneries produce leather used by the finest leather goods companies world wide.

Most of these leathers are vegetable tanned with exotic plant extracts, a slow process. They are colored using penetrating aniline dyes, producing leather with superior wearing properties. Chemically tanned leathers with paint like finishes lack this depth of color and grain. Swatches are available on request.