

HANDCRAFTED

**-CORRAL-**



BOOTS

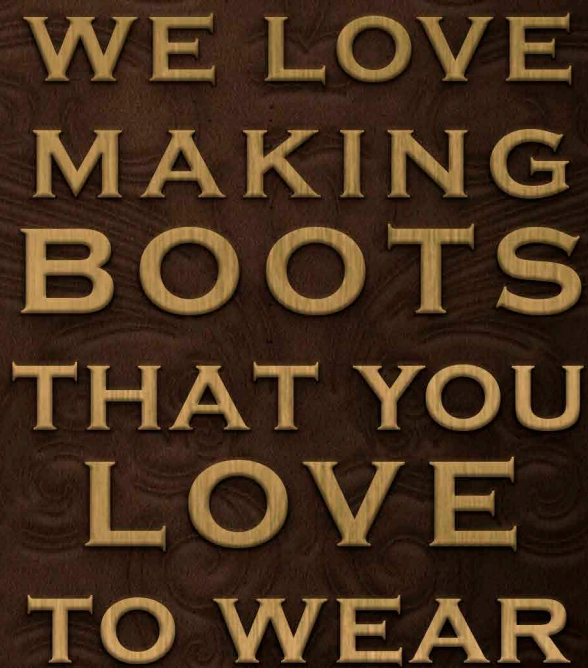
ANATOMY

BOOT FIT

BOOT CARE







WE LOVE  
MAKING  
BOOTS  
THAT YOU  
LOVE  
TO WEAR

# ANATOMY

## UNDERSTANDING BASIC BOOT TERMINOLOGY

**SOLE:** The inner sole is where your foot rests when wearing the boot. The outer sole is the bottom of the boot.

**HEEL:** Heels are usually leather, formed and glued together, fitted and shaped to the back portion of the outer sole. Heels come in different shapes, sizes, and heights, depending on the intended use of the boot.

**TOE:** The toe of the boot may come in many different shapes; some of the most popular are R, snip, square, and roper.

**VAMP:** The front lower part of the boot below the shaft, usually cut from a single piece of leather or skin. However, vamps are sometimes pieced and sewn together to give the boot a unique look.

**COUNTER:** The back part of the boot, just above the heel, usually matches the leather or skin used in the vamp.

**SHAFT:** Sometimes referred to as the top, upper part, of the boot or the boot-maker's canvas for expression. The shaft usually has different types of stitching patterns, designs, laser cuts, inlays, or other artwork, to make the boot unique. The shaft may also include laser cut designs, with or without exotic skin, leather, or other inlays underneath.

**PIPING:** The side seam that runs up the side of the boot from the bottom to the top, between the front and back section, of the shaft. Piping is usually found on the inside and outside of the shaft but may be used in other areas to add unique design appearance.

**PULL STRAPS:** Leather tabs or straps found at the very top of the shaft on both sides, usually on the outside of the shaft. However, on some boots, the pull straps may be found on the inside of the shaft. They are used to help pull the boot on. Some pull straps called "mule ears" may go partially or all the way down the outside of the shaft.

**LINING:** Found on the inside of the shaft. The lining covers the seam where the front and back half of the shaft is sewn together. All Corral Boots come with a full inside lining which covers the inside seam, adding to the boot's comfort.



# BOOT ANATOMY



# BOOT FIT

## HOW TO FIT YOUR BOOT

Each pair of Corral Boots are hand made by artisans, using the finest leather and exotic skins available. Every pair is inspected by the quality control department before they are packaged and shipped to the store.

Cowboy / Western Boots usually differ from traditional footwear in thickness of leather and materials, as well as, toe, heel, and shaft design. Let's discuss how to properly choose and fit a pair of boots as well as the proper way to put on a Cowboy/Western boot.



·Before you try on a pair of Cowboy/ Western boots determine your foot size. Most people have one foot that is slightly longer than the other, ask to try on a boot that is the size of the longest foot measured. You can always go down in size if the boot fit seems too large.

·You should also consider the type of socks, stockings, or tights you are wearing when fitting your boots. Thicker socks may require a larger size boot than your normal regular footwear. When trying on new boots, use the same style socks, stocking, or tights you will wear with your boots on a daily basis. This insures a proper, comfortable boot fit.

·When trying on a Cowboy/Western boot you should stand into the boot. To accomplish this, sit down on a bench or in a chair.



- Grab the boot's pull straps on each side of the boot and angle your foot downward into the shaft of the boot.
- Pull the boot up until you feel a slight resistance in the shaft, or your foot reaches the heel/counter area.
- Now, continue pulling the boot gently toward you using the boot pull straps.
- Carefully stand up and step down into the boot allowing your foot to completely enter the boot. (You can also sprinkle baby or talcum powder into the shaft area to allow the boots to slip on easier the first few times)

**REPEAT THIS ON THE OTHER FOOT.**

Once the boots are on, there should be enough room in the toe area for your toes to move slightly.

The heel of your foot should slip slightly and your foot should rest comfortably on the ball of your foot, this is normal.

Every effort is made to insure that Corral Boots retain their shape, form and fit from the first day you wear them to the last. Because leather and skins tend to stretch over time, it's important that you follow the steps in the Boot Care section of this guide to make sure your boots keep their proper fit.

# BOOT CARE

## 6 EASY STEPS TO GENERAL CARE

Cowboy/ Western boots whether leather, exotic, laser cut, fancy, or plain, when cared for properly, will allow the owner to enjoy their boots a long time. We will go over basic care for your boots in simple easy steps so that your boot becomes a lasting investment for years to come.

### **CLEAN / EACH TIME WORN**

1. Each time your boots are worn, wipe off any loose dust, dirt, or foreign debris when you take your boots off at the end of the day. Dust is abrasive to leather, eventually cowhide or exotic. Dust, dirt, debris or mud left to dry on your boot will eventually weaken the leather causing splits or cracks to occur. Failure to properly clean the soles, heels, or stitching can allow from the sole of the boot, eventually running the overall appearance of the boot / soft bristle brush or a damp cloth to remove dust, dirt, and debris from the general area of the boot shaft and vamp.

Use cotton swabs or an old well worn, toothbrush to remove dust and debris from crevices, stitching, heels, and soles. You may use a damp sponge to remove heavy mud on caked areas where mud has dried. A little extra effort may be needed to remove stubborn stains. Do not use solvents, gasoline, household or industrial cleaner to try and remove stains. Ask your boot dealer for a recommended boot stain remover. Do not soak or wash the boots in heavy running water. Remove any excess water as soon as possible with a soft dry cloth and allow to air dry.

Take care that the soles and heels are free of any mud, gum, or other foreign debris that may be stuck to the surface, before putting your boots away.

### **CONDITIONING**

2. To keep your boots looking their best, you will want to make sure the leather or skin does not dry out since most boots are made from skins or hides. Using a good boot or leather conditioner will keep the leather/skin supple after being worn or when storing your boots.

The added care will add years to the life of your boots. Apply conditioner with a soft cloth or use your fingers, rubbing the conditioner over your boot in a circular motion. You should not use large amounts of conditioner, soak or glob areas of the boot with the conditioner.

The skin can only absorb a certain amount before it comes saturated, oily or sticky. Wipe away any excess conditioner with a soft, clean, dry cloth.



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Not conditioning or cleaning your boots on a regular basis may cause the boot leather/skin to dry out. This can cause creases in the leather, eventually cracking or causing the leather/skin to tear. Do not use alcohol, household cleaners, solvents, or paint thinners to clean your boots, these items will dry out and cause the boot leather/skin to crack. Ask your boot dealer to recommend a reputable boot conditioner.

### **POLISH**

3. Most boot owners have stopped using wax-based or liquid brush-on polishes. While providing an amazing shine, wax or wet polish can cake on the surface, not allowing the leather /skin to breathe. This may cut short the life of your boots. You may want to try a boot cream instead. Boot creams come in many different colors as well as neutral for hard to match colors and may contain a conditioning agents as well. Apply with soft cloth or your fingers, using thin layers and multiple applications allowing the boots to absorb the boot cream. This provides a fresh new look and prevents the leather/skin from drying out. You may also want to use boot cream around the edges of the sole and heel to restore worn or scuffed areas. Boot cream or polish is not recommended for scaled boots such as rattlesnake or python. Only use a boot cleaner/ conditioner made specifically for scaled skins.

### **PROTECT**

4. Take care to not wear your boots into water, mud, manure, or other foreign debris when possible. If boots are exposed to excessive water or muddy conditions, take the following steps. Remove any mud, dirt, manure or foreign debris on the leather/skin as soon as possible with a soft brush, cloth or damp towel. Once the boots have been properly cleaned and excess water removed, boots should be dried with a clean, dry towel and allowed to air dry at room temperature. Do not leave your boots in front of a fire place, stove, oven, direct sun or use a hair dryer to dry. This will cause the leather/skin may become hard and ridged, which may cause it to split or crack.

### **REJUVENATE**

5. When boots become scratched or scuffed from normal wear, there are a few things you can do to make the scratch or scuffed area less noticeable. In this case look for wax or cream polish color which is as close as possible to damaged area. Using a soft cloth, apply thin layers of the wax or cream polish to the damaged area. After the wax/cream has dried, brush or wipe away any excess wax/ cream and repeat these steps until you match the damaged area, as close as possible, to the rest of the boot.

If boots have become stiff or dried out because of improper care, you may try using leather saddle soap to restore the leather. However, using saddle soap on a regular basis may dull or remove the manufacturer's designed finish. It should only be used when boots are in extremely poor condition because of lack of care.

Proper care also means making sure to repair and replace soles and heels on a regular basis, before the foundation of the boot is completely worn or broken down. Be sure and repair your boots before holes appear in the sole, the heel becomes damaged, broken or the heel pad is missing. Take your boots to a Professional Boot Repair Shop to insure the work is done properly.

## **STORE**

6. When storing your boots, you may want to use boot trees to retain the shape of the shaft and integrity of the last. Do not store your boots if they are damp or wet. Remove any dust, dirt, mud or other debris before storing and give them time to completely air dry at normal room temperature. Not doing so could result in mold, discoloration, or premature deterioration of the leather or skin. Lastly, take a little time to condition and polish your boots before putting them away. When not wearing your boots, store in a cool, dry place, out of direct sun or direct exposure to heating vents. Boots should be conditioned/ polished three to four times a year whether they are worn or simply being stored.



# BOOT CARE

**LEATHER, EXOTIC SKIN, INLAYS, DISTRESSED,  
SUEDE, LASER CUT/CARE**

Many different exotic skins are used in making today's Cowboy and Western boots. While the overall care for your boots may seem the same, caring for some exotic skins requires a little additional care and cleaning.

"We cannot emphasize enough, the importance of extra care for exotic skin boots"

Some exotic skins include: ostrich, alligator, crocodile, eel, lizard, python, cobra

## **1. OSTRICH**

Being a relatively durable skin, may be cared for much the same way as earlier discussed in basic care. When polishing you may want to try and find a cream polish that is the same color match as the boot. However, in the event that the color match is not available, you may choose a neutral color to bring back the luster of your boot.

## **2. ALLIGATOR, CROCODILE, EEL, LIZARD**

Are considered reptiles.

Your boots should be cleaned from dust, dirt, and debris and have a light application of boot conditioner applied each week when being worn. If storing your boots for extended periods of time it is good to keep the skin moist by applying frequent applications of a good boot conditioner, or boot cream, usually three to four times a year. This is extremely important on boots made with exotic skin. Lanolin based conditioners usually work the best. Unless the boot leather is extremely dried out, try to stay away from saddle soap which will moisten the leather, but can also dull the finish with over use. Letting leather/ skins remain with dust, dirt or other debris will cause the boot to deteriorate, eventually causing cracks in the leather/skin. If at all possible, try not to wear exotic skin boots in extremely wet weather conditions, stand or wade in water. Should your boots become extremely wet or damp refer to **BOOT CARE / 6 easy steps**, for instructions on properly drying boots.

## **3. RATTLESNAKE, PYTHON, COBRA AND OTHER SNAKES**

Are also considered reptiles. Boots with scales require a different kind of care. As we have stated earlier, each time your boots are worn, they should be wiped clean of any dust or dirt on the surface, stitching and other areas. Never wipe or clean scaled boots against the natural grain of the scales. Always wipe with the grain.

From time to time you may want to use a reptile spray foam cleaner and conditioner on your boots, to lift dirt or debris from the scales, wiping away any remaining residue with a soft cloth. Check with your boot retailer for a recommended reptile cleaner and conditioner made specifically for these types of skins.

#### **4. DISTRESSED LEATHER**

Generally does not have a bright or high gloss finish. Thus, you probably do not want to use a wax or cream polish on this type of leather. If you desire a little more luster on this type of finish, try applying a neutral color boot cream and buff with a soft brush. Otherwise, keep your boots looking as they were designed, by using a soft damp cloth to wipe away any dust or debris.

#### **5. SUEDE**

Requires a little extra care to keep clean and remain soft and supple. Use a suede brush to clean everyday dirt, dust, or loose debris from boots each time they are worn. Periodically you may want to use a suede brush to keep accumulated dust off the boot when boots are stored and have not been worn for a period of time. Try not to wear your suede boots during inclement weather conditions including rain, sleet, or snow. Should your boots become wet or damp, use a dry terry cloth towel to remove the wet/damp areas, allow the boots to dry at room temperature. Placing boots near a fireplace, stove or other heat source will cause drying too quickly. Once the suede has dried, at room temperature, you may use a suede brush, or dry terry cloth towel to gently rub the suede back and forth to raise the nap. Do not use any harsh cleaning solvents that are not recommended by your boot retailer when cleaning suede.

**6.** Where boots have been **LASER CUT** and **HAVE SPECIAL OR EXOTIC INLAYS**, take the same steps when cleaning your boots. Use cotton swabs or a soft bristle brush to remove dust, dirt, and debris from the laser inlay areas. Do not use polish, wax, conditioner or other cleaning agents on stitching or embroidery work done on the shaft or vamp of your boots. To clean, use a clean damp not wet cloth and clean around the sewn areas. Using a mixture of water and white vinegar in equal parts, on areas other than stitching or embroidery, may help remove stubborn stains. A good practice, especially for exotic boots, is to wipe your boots clean from dust, dirt, and debris every time they are worn. This is a simple step, along with the other recommendations in 6 easy steps/boot care, but will add years of life to your boots.



# NOTES

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We hope this guide will help you understand basic boot care, fit and boot terminology as well as the importance of proper care and maintenance.

Please refer to the picture guide on the inside cover for more terms in the construction of the Cowboy / Western boot.

**ENJOY!!**



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