

AEROSTICH COMBAT TOURING BOOT

INSTEP RATCHET STRAP REPLACEMENT KIT

Problem:

A few years ago, the company making the Combat Touring Boot for Aerostich (SiDi) decided to redesign the buckle and strap (also used on many of their boots) and suggested we change to the updated type, which we did. The new version of the strap and buckle, which CBT boots now use, works better and is more reliable, but many CBT boot owners have the earlier type.

Recently SiDi advised us that no more replacement straps for the original-type buckles would be available. As a result we looked at all the similar buckles and ratcheting straps (in snowboard boots, in-line skates and similar types of footwear), hoping to find a strap that could work. Unfortunately, none did. Next, we investigated replicating these straps ourselves, however this wasn't possible at a price that made sense.

Solution:

The conversion outlined below functions exactly as the original strap, and will last the life of the boot. It is a bit of work, but user results have been excellent. Conversion takes about 30 minutes. Instructions and listed items below.

Combat Touring Boot Ratchet Strap Repair Kit Instructions

The kit and instructions are 'do it yourself' or may be provided to an local cobbler for installation.

1. Prepare boot for new hardware -

a) Using grinder or cut-off wheel, grind head from center rivet from plastic strap adjuster on boot. Remove rivet. **b & c)** Enlarge rivet hole using 13/64" drill bit.

2. Remove clamp from strap -

a) Using grinder or cut-off wheel, grind head from rivet holding strap to clamp. **b)** Remove rivet with 1/8" pin punch. Hole needs to be drilled out with a 9/64" bit.

3. Prepare master link -

Remove and discard 2 center link plates from #35-2 master link.

4. Prepare strap assembly -

a) Push nylon bushing into looped strap end. **b)** Connect strap to clamp using master link.

5. Fit strap assembly to boot -

a) After checking which hole in strap will provide best fit, attach strap to boot using hex bolt. A drop of thread locker on threads is recommended to keep bolt from loosening over time. **b)** Close buckle to secure strap.

Contents:

1 - master link 1 - nylon webbing strap
2 - hex bolts 1 - nylon bushing

