

Worksheet: Designing your first custom boots

What words would you use to describe your ideal cowboy boots?

For each word pair below, circle the number that most closely matches your style preference.

tough	1	2	3	4	refined
traditional	1	2	3	4	unique
vintage	1	2	3	4	modern
masculine	1	2	3	4	feminine
wild	1	2	3	4	tame

Where are you most often going to wear your boots?

Do you have any favorite colors? (If not for your primary leather choice, maybe consider these colors for the thread or inlay?)

What, if any, exotic leathers are you considering? (Prices vary greatly with leather choice!)

What's the most you're willing to spend on your boots? _____ (or circle below)
 Under \$600 \$900 \$1800 \$2500 doesn't matter

What's the longest you're willing to wait for your boots? _____ (or circle below)
 Under 5 months 10 months 18 months as long as it takes

Are you willing to travel to get your feet measured?

Yes No Maybe

Would you want boots with pointy toes if you knew they'd be comfortable?

Yes No

Finally, create a "rough draft" of your cowboy boots* (choose one for each.)

Toe Width	<input type="radio"/> Wide	<input type="radio"/> Narrow
Toe Shape	<input type="radio"/> Round	<input type="radio"/> Square
Heel Height	<input type="radio"/> Tall	<input type="radio"/> Low
Leather Choice	<input type="radio"/> Exotic	<input type="radio"/> Traditional
Top Height	<input type="radio"/> Tall	<input type="radio"/> Short
Design	<input type="radio"/> Stitching	<input type="radio"/> Inlay

* Turn to the next page to learn more about the advantages of each style choice.

Style Choices:

Boot Top		Advantages
Tall Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More room for design & inlay. • More protection from snakes & brush. • Pant legs never get caught on tops while sitting/standing. <p>NOTE: Most bootmakers charge extra for boot tops over 14 inches tall.</p>	
Short Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooler in hot weather. • Easier to get boots on and off. • Best choice for folks with large or “athletic” calves. 	
Toe Shape		Advantages
Wide Toes (Round or square)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best choice for most work boots. • Don’t show scuffs, dents and wear as much. • Can often “fly under the radar” for most office dress codes. <p>“Wide” toes are usually 1¼ inches wide and larger. (If square, think Frye boots.)</p>	
Narrow toes (Round or square)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized easily as cowboy boots. • Make your legs look longer. <p>“Narrow” (pointy) toes are usually ¾ inches wide and smaller. In a custom or well-fitting cowboy boot, your toes won’t get squished.</p>	
Heel Height		Advantages
Tall Heel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds 1-2 inches to your height. • Most wearers report increased self-confidence & “attitude.” • Your butt looks better...it’s just a fact. <p>A custom cowboy boot with a tall heel can be very comfortable, because your foot’s arch is well supported and your bodyweight is balanced, not crushing the ball of your foot. Discuss comfort and heel height with your bootmaker.</p>	
Low Heel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to buy longer jeans. • Acceptable within most corporate dress codes. 	
Leather Choice		Advantages
Exotic Hides (ostrich, alligator, lizard, stingray etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their high-sheen finishes make a nice dress boot. • Eye-catching looks... many times these boots become conversation-starters. 	
Traditional & Non-Exotic Leathers (calf, bullhide, domestic leathers, roughout etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable and long wearing. • Easy to care for. 	

Color Choices		Advantages	
One color (Top & Bottom)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to wear with “non-western” street fashion. 	
Contrasting (Top & Bottom)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add color & style to a plain, durable boot. <i>(For instance, a boot with a brown bullhide vamp/foot, and a bright red top.)</i> • An affordable way to get exotic leather <i>(For instance, a boot with an alligator bottom and a top made of French calf costs much less than “full alligator.”)</i> 	
3 (or more) Colors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truly unique & custom work of art. • Conversation starter. You’ll make new friends. 	
Design		Advantages	
Stitching		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong graphic designs. • Often more affordable than inlay. 	
Inlay		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boots look “custom made.” • Inlay can be simple or ornate. • Symbolic. Send a message with your boots. <i>(See pages 85 - 262 in my book, Cowboy Boots: The Art & Sole for more information and inspiration.)</i> 	

Visit http://falconhead.com/custom_concepts.php to see color photographs of each of these style choices. Don’t forget to print out the photos of your favorites.

The *Falconhead* website also has photos of fancy scallops, boot pulls, toe stitching and wingtips. These are all “advanced” style choices you can make later, or you can entrust them to the expertise of your bootmaker.

For the past 10 years, **JENNIFER JUNE** has been providing folks with the inspiration and information they need to find their next great pair of cowboy boots. Visit her *Cowboy Boot Web Page* at www.dimlights.com and be sure to get yourself a copy of Jennifer’s book, ***Cowboy Boots: The Art & Sole*** (Rizzoli/Universe, 2007.)