

Bootblacking 101

boy matt

Reasons To Bootblack

- Fetish
- Service
- Spirituality

As with most things, there is always more than one way of doing things. This is just one method, and the one I use.

Things you need to know...

- There are many type of boots out there in terms of cleaning and polishing, learn what is needed for those boots.
- You do not need a huge kit to be a bootblack, let alone doing your personal boots/shoes

The following describe some of the items one needs

In Every Kit



Three of the most basics are Cotton Towels to dry the boots. Water spray bottle to help with cleaning the boots with water. The toothbrush is to get into hard to reach areas to clean and get the dirt out before applying the grease or polish. If you clean a lot of boots, you can get a toothbrush brush that will last longer than a normal toothbrush that is made out of horsehair.

Saddle Soap



Saddle Soap is used to clean the boots. A lot of manufactures make saddle soap. i like to use Fiebings yellow, however go with what you can find. The easiest to find is Kiwi, and can be found in grocery stores or pharmacies.

Brushes/Dobbers



Daubers are the ones that have the circular bristles and are mainly used for cleaning the boots with Saddle Soap. Brushes are the rectangular ones, they are used to help buff polish boots. There are many different sizes of both, get the one's that best suit your need. Also have a separate daubers for Grease and Polish boots.

Polish



There are two main brands that i use. Kiwi is great for a beginner because it softer and able to coat the boot more smoothly. Lincoln is a harder wax, but in having so gives a better shine. Lincoln is also good for spit shines. It is preferable to the parade wax that Kiwi makes.

Flannel

- Flannel is used for final buffing on polish boots.
- You can buy flannel at local fabric shop cheaply instead of buying buffing cloths. Just wash the felt multiple times to get out the lint.

Dubbin



For grease boots I use this product. It is imported from Australia and is the only brand that I found to work great on refreshing the black color on grease boots. Dubbin does come in brown tints as well as neutral.

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Some Other Useful Items

Hubberd's Boot Grease

Lighter

Grease Pencils

Sharpie (Black)

Hand Sanitizer

Cleaning Boots

- Spritz Boots
- Spritz soap and brush
- Apply saddle soap
- Towel off

Grease Boots

- Take small amount Dubbin and massage in
- Depending on Customer apply Hubberd's in the same way

Polish

- Apply polish
- Let dry
- Brush
- Buff
- Repeat

Info

- <http://www.shoeshineexpress.com/>
- <http://www.simplyoz.com/>
- <http://www.equestrienne.com.au/>

- <http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/lacingmethods.htm>

- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BootblackForum/>

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