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WELL DRESSED DAD

"IT IS A PROPER Blog. LIKE, WITH ORIGINAL WORDS AND OPINIONS AND SUCH LIKE."

(https://welldresseddad.com/)

Guides (https://welldresseddad.com/category/blog/guides/)

A comprehensive guide to Goodyear welted shoe soles (https://welldresseddad.com/2014/11/16/the-guide-to-goodyear-welted-shoe-soles/)

By nick (https://welldresseddad.com/author/nick/) | 16/11/2014

44 Comments (https://welldresseddad.com/2014/11/16/the-guide-to-goodyear-welted-shoe-soles/#comments)

In recent times I've had a couple of pairs of my quality shoes, the ones with Goodyear welted shoe soles, resoled. In the grand scheme of things makes me something of a know-it-all, with regards to what goes on on the underside of Gentleman's footwear. First I found a pair of custom-grade Church brogues (https://welldresseddad.com/2013/12/15/a-pair-of-brogues-with-my-name-on-them/), which I then had resoled with Dainite soles (https://welldresseddad.com/2014/01/09/how-to-improve-upon-brogue-perfection/), then a pair of lesser brogues resoled (https://welldresseddad.com/2014/09/25/i-know-youve-got-sole-my-first-brogues-redone/) with commando soles. This led me to believe quite firmly that I had a very solid idea what Dainite (http://www.dainite.com/flash.html) and commando soles were like.

At least until this photo popped up on Instagram:



(http://instagram.com/p/vBvHs0qzj-/)

To fully appreciate the shift this photo forces on my perception of reality, read on.

So I had to engage my massive resources into an investigation into this matter, to clear the confusion and regain order in the sole universe. To start with I visited the Dainite website, and they kindly offer only 4 different soles, the first being the "Studded" sole, which happens to be exactly what I have in mind when I hear "Dainite sole":



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/dainite-by-dainite.jpg)

This style of sole is also described as "lug sole", to add to the fuller picture.

When it comes to "commando" style soles you often hear them described as "Vibram" as well, so off there for my next piece of sleuthing. Vibram is a company that makes many a product, including the Five-fingers running shoes and a wide selection of soles for all manner of shoes. The list of soles available is longer and very much more varied than the conservative and traditional offerings from Dainite, and to be honest very much less interesting for the gentleman walker. Laboriously working my way down the list I came to the "Montagna block" (http://www.vibram.com/index.php/us/LIFESTYLE/Fashion/Products/Soles/Montagna Block-Sole), which is exactly the sort of serious sole I have on the underside of my Red Wing Ice-cutters. An excellent piece of rubber, and a good example of the commando style.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/vibram_montagnablock.jpg)

A proper rugged pattern and good soft rubber to enable both a grand grip and stealthy steps. An excellent choice for Sir.

So far, so good. We have the Dainite-style studded lug soles (let's just expand the descriptions a little) and the Commando-style availabele from Vibram and others. Now what was the problem with the soles that started me off on this post?

Well, Itshide (http://www.daviesodell.co.uk/itshide.asp) (which apart from anything is a remarkably stupid name for a company) do a Dainite-style sole which they proudly call the "commando". Clearly completely incorrect and bonkers. What sort of confusing piddle is this? A commando-sole looks nothing like this...

In order of preference though, these are the types of soles I would recommend:



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/goodyear-welted-commando.jpg)

1) Commando style – for the best grip, rugged look and decent wear. If there is a downside it is that they do have an unfortunate affinity for gravel and small objects, so carry a special tool to aid in their removal. A sneaky advantage for those dwarfish stature is that they add about a quarter of an inch of vertical height.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/dainite-soles.jpg)

2) Dainite style – solid rubber and hard wearing. The lugs or studs don't actually add much in the way of off-road traction, but they add a bit of heft and manly ruggedness to your shoes. And they'll be much better in the wet with regards to protecting your shoes than plain leather.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ridgeway-sole.jpg)

3) Ridgeway sole – should be a good bet for more rugged use and even handy in the snow. Similar in heft to the commando sole and unusual enough to be interesting.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/victory_sole-loake.jpg)

4) Victory sole – again similar to the ridgeway and commando soles. Used mainly by Loake, so likely the rarest of the three.

To round off this piece I thought I'd mention a few words about some of the other types of sole available for your shoes, and why I think they may be poor choices.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/sole.jpg)

1) Leather soles. As mentioned, my Church brogues had plain leather soles. These are to be considered equivalent to slippers and are fine for poncing around in a sanitised and climatise-controlled office environment if you are wearing a suit and tie and find joy in spreadsheets. Totally unsuitable for venturing outside in, and especially so if you might risk running into weather. All is not lost though, as you could resole them with more manly and proper soles.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/stick-on-rubber-sole.png)

2) Glued on rubber sole covers. This is a true half-way measure to remedy the problem of the leather soles just mentioned. It will add a little traction to aid you in escaping pursuers in said office environment, but frankly it will be of almost no use at all when you're standing in a puddle or find yourself faced with a muddy path.



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/duluthoxford.jpg)

3) Christy soles, as very often seen on Red Wing, Grenson and others. These are the thick, heel-less foamy-looking white soles used on both work-boots and brogues alike now. They do provide a new look on old designs, which is nice, but do they really improve matters? Red Wing claim them to provide lots of traction in the workplace (not the same workplace as mentioned above, but an actual physically inclined workplace where there is real dirt, danger and un-curated facial hair).

In my experience though these soles have a couple of grievous issues:

- They have no grip at all. I see mention of people wanting to use their Red Wings for winter use and can only comment that they are useless on snow and ice.
- They have very poor wear characteristics, i.e. the soles wear out very quickly if used regularly (they'll last forever if you never use them though). When mine wear out enough to justify a resole, they'll have Vibram commando-soles fitted, which is a nice advantage of Goodyear welted footwear.

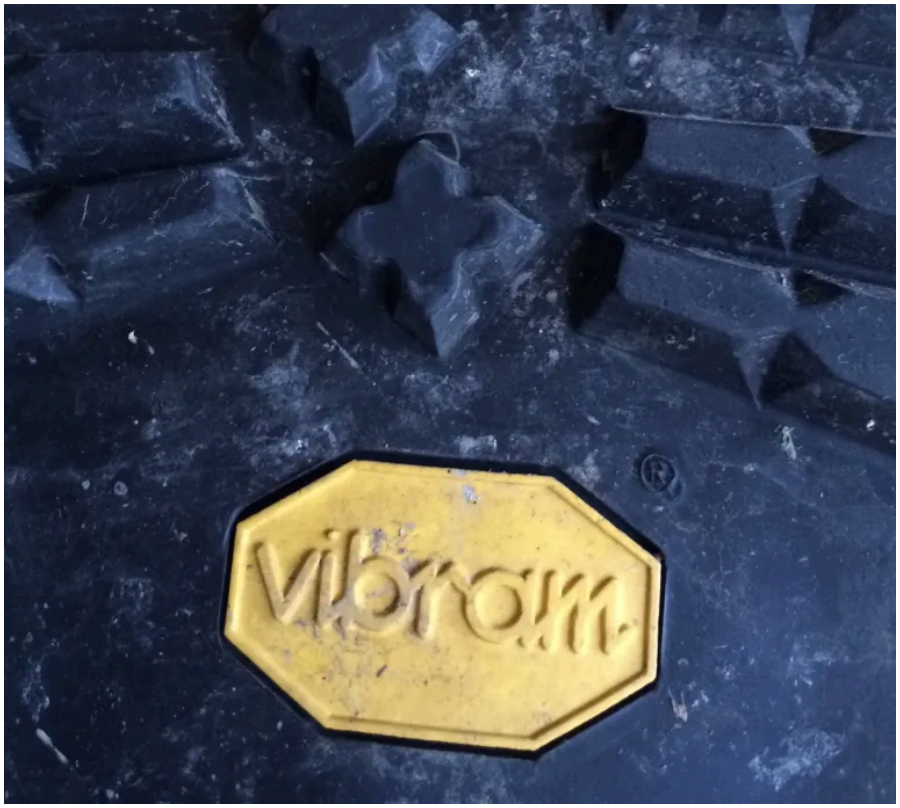
Oh, to add a final twist to an otherwise sordid story, it appears Itshide do in fact wish to redeem themselves, as they also do a commando-style sole that is marked as just that, "Commando". We are not amused!



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/commandomain1.jpg)

Addendum:

Red Wing enthusiast and conspiracy theorist, Scratch, brings up a good point in the comments below. Does Red Wing buy their Christy-soles from Vibram, or are they an own-brand knockoff of a design that might have expired rights? They certainly use Vibram-branded soles for the Ice cutters, as show below, but have their own logo on the Looks-Just-Like-Vibram soles on 877 boots and their like. I will endeavour to get to the bottom of this...



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/vibram-sole-ice-cutters.jpg)



(https://i0.wp.com/welldresseddad.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/877-christy-sole.jpg)

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44 Comments



SCRATCH 16/11/2014 at 11:22

I do love a Dainite "golf shoe" sole. They are mustard and do provide great grip on wet streets.
It should be noted however RE the Christy. The official Vibram Christy sole wears quite solidly in my experience.
The "Christy" on a Red wing boot is not branded Vibram and I have no reason to believe it is anything other than a Red Wing version even or copy of the Christy sole. It is this that the quality is appalling on.
I have Yuketen Maine Guide boots with the real deal Vibram Christy on and they are great. An equivalent age Red Wing is worn so badly they are literally totally bald of tread and the heels have a quarter of an inch now missing. They are approaching unwearable.

RedWing remain utterly silent on this matter. I am sad to say that I can only conclude that these particular redwing boots are built to fail and to provide the most profit to RW by utilizing a vastly inferior outsole.

I say this with a bit of a heavy heart as RW appear to have a "built to last" "get what you pay for" ethos. Their production of boots that deteriorate within a year & that retail north of £200 indicates neither of these motto's are true.

Reply



WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM) 16/11/2014 at 12:06

Excellent comments! I have added a small addendum to the original post and will attempt to discover more about this possible conspiracy. I totally agree that for the price the RW soles should last very much longer than they appear to do. I wonder what the similar soles on Grensons last like?

Reply

SCRATCH 16/11/2014 at 14:42

Heh – I know not – but I suppose it begs the question, did RW develop this sole before Vibram or vica versa?

Eitehr way, it is a cheap trick to get people to buy more pairs of their boots as I'm sure you know, few people have the wherewithall to get their boots resoled no matter how much the idea appeals.

I'm sure the powers that be at Red Wing figured this out many moons ago!

Reply

GENE 08/05/2020 at 01:41

Vibram manufactures them both.
I am a Vibram Authorized Dealer, and put that question to one of the 'head honcho's'
The one made by vibram for RedWing looks similar, but is different composition.
I know guys who say one wears better than the other, but it may depend on sufaces the different guys wear them on, or miriads of different things, like does one guy rotate shoes, is one guy skinny, or the other guy....um, pleasantly plump.

Reply

SCRATCH 16/11/2014 at 14:53

Have a look at the reviews on here.
http://www.redwingheritage.com/USD/product/footwear/6-inch-boots/6-copper-1907-01907
(http://www.redwingheritage.com/USD/product/footwear/6-inch-boots/6-copper-1907-01907)

I cannot understand so many people are admitting that the soles are wearing out within a few months yet still recommending the product.

I do love the look of this boot but I will never, ever buy a new pair at anyway near RRP again. Absolutely & strictly sale fodder for me.

Reply

WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM)
16/11/2014 at 15:00

I had to giggle a bit when I saw one review describing them
"commercial construction". I'm sure it wasn't intentionally fu
read that as "soles that keep making business after the initi
It does appear that people are quite willing to forgive the pc
though!



BRIAN IN ALBERTA 16/11/2014 at 17:04

Do you realize that you are committing a menswear blasphemy by suggesting that leather soles are unsuitable for use almost everywhere! That said, I will stand with you. I have one pair of leather soled boots left in my collection. I wear them regularly but they will likely be the last pair of leather soled footwear I own. It's my understanding that leather soles continued to be used after the development of useable rubber versions largely because the shoe makers didn't want to have to maintain stocks of rubber ones. And then of course leather soles became "traditional" and rest, as they say, is history.

Another type of sole which can be very nice are made by Reltex of France (http://lactae-hevea.com (http://lactae-hevea.com)). I have owned boots with these soles and they were great to walk on. My favourite American maker is now offering Reltex soles as an option on some of there products (http://www.rancourtandcompany.com/blog/2013/02/12/the-best-rubber-soles-in-the-world-lactae-hevea/ (http://www.rancourtandcompany.com/blog/2013/02/12/the-best-rubber-soles-in-the-world-lactae-hevea/)).

Reply



WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM)
16/11/2014 at 17:10

Many will probably think it blasphemy, but I'm an engineer and tend to look at things in terms of whether they are fit for purpose. Plus it's my own and sincere opinion and I never wear a suit or fancy indoor shoes. Thankfully!

Just had a brief look at the Lactae Hevea (now theres a brand name that will be tricky to go international with!) and I hope they work better than they look. Certainly in the light colour they look like porridge 🙂 Would certainly be interesting to try some though. There is always room for progress!

ED SHRED 28/03/2018 at 01:04

I think you may possibly be missing two things about leather soles. Firstly, many people find that they are far and away the most comfortable, none of that horrible hot burning feeling you get with rubber. Secondly, there are leather soles and leather soles. A good quality sole like a Rendenbach can wear very well indeed if treated properly. Rubber soles have their place, especially in the wet, but there is a reason why leather has been the sole of choice for good shoes for a long long time. If you want to see some very rugged outdoor footwear with leather soles, have a look at William Lennon. One more thing, I do second the view on stick-on soles, an absolute disaster for the reasons stated and one more, which is that every time a stick-on sole is fitted you need to abrade away some of the width of the welt, which can make proper re-soling impossible without a re-welt.

Reply

NICK 29/03/2018 at 21:29

Odd you should mention William Lennon. I was at the factory just two weeks ago. Indeed the triple leather soles are super rugged, but looking at a pair of boots that were in for a resole, I asked how old they were. Totally wrecked soles. I was expecting to hear something like 70 years, so imagine my surprise when the answer was three.

Reply

JOHN ROGERS 09/02/2021 at 19:08

A bit late to reply here. Nevertheless, IMO, leather soles are great to wear, and very hard wearing, but not recommended for wet conditions, certainly not snow, in fact not rain either. Choose some other pair for that. Good shoe makers will offer double, even triple (e.g. Trickers) leather soles that will last almost a lifetime. That's a personal experience – I'm 66 now and can't wear the damn

things out! I actually wish I could. Even though the exterior v
may wear down, the soles will hold (in my experience). The s
the leather becomes glass-like with tiny silica embedded gra
comfort is excellent, also the flexibility.
So that's my two cents. But to be noted, not for wet weather
thing, well I quite agree there. The one-thickness leather-sol
often v expensive, are just made for that – walking around a



THATS ABOUT IT 28/11/2014 at 16:33

"[..]manly and proper soles."

Yes, perfect for the 'city outdoorsman', 'urban sailor', 'chic lumberjack', or other urban dwellers trying to stylize their life that is mainly spent in an office work environment, as being 'rugged and manly'. If extra 'manliness' is needed, one can always add a full beard and a bunch of tattoos.

Reply



WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM) 28/11/2014 at 16:48

Perfect for the person that lives a real life, to my mind, though I see where you are coming from. For me, shoes that can't be worn outside in average weather are really of no more use than slippers. Whereas proper footwear makes life less arduous and fraught, I fail to see how a full beard and any number of tattoos can do the same. Tweed, however, is a different matter!

Reply



ISKANDAR 04/06/2015 at 03:14

Those crepe sole has a purpose for comfort sole as most RW do not have insole to pad the feet for a long day of walking. RW crepe sole are more sturdier and lasting than the Vibrams. Have use both but the vibram's are more comfortable as they are more softer. U can feel the difference while walking in them. Yes they do wear fast but they aid the breaking process. love them.

Reply

WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM) 04/06/2015 at

07:56

I've actually been in touch with both Red Wing and Vibram, and Vibram supplies the crepe soles that Red Wing uses. Why the Red Wing soles wear faster than the ones supplied to say, Yuketen, is still a mystery though. And also, why Red Wing would chose to use a sole that wears so poorly on a pair of premium boots is also a mystery. We do love them though!

Reply

RIDDLYWALKER 06/01/2017 at 14:41

Red Wing Chukkas in the UK have two types of sole- the 'old stock' of which there seem to be thousands still in stock? – and the new sole, which is solid foam without the rubber outer. The rubber outer version will last five years of constant use only if you protect the heel with regular smears of ShoeGoo – otherwise expect to get about 200 miles out of them.
RedWing replaced the soles of a new pair with their heavier work sole for me (foc) after one sole's outer perished.... I'm not throwing out the shoe goo yet.....

Reply

ANITA E 06/01/2017 at 16:11

That is a good use of Shoe Goo since the tube is so large and lays around doing nothing then when you need it its useless.

Reply

NICK 06/01/2017 at 16:27

Shoe goo is very useful stuff!

WOLF 23/06/2015 at 16:24

Just wanted to share my experiences from the white Red Wing soles (Christy). They are the same as yours. They are nice during summer, but on ice and snow they are down right dangerous. I brought mine to a skiing holiday last year and I fell several times. For use in snow I would not recommend at all.

Since I am planing to use my Red Wings the next winter up in Sweder given them in to my shoe repair guy to have the sole replaced with a Montagna block (just like the one above). Hope that should work bett



WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM)
23/06/2015 at 17:37

Oh my, snow and Christy soles? That can only be disaster. A less grippy sole would be difficult to design, unless it was one of their totally flat leather soles, which would be even more useless on snow. My Red Wing Ice Cutters have a proper rubber Vibram commando soles which is terrific on snow and ice. Then again, the Ice Cutters are made with winter in mind, something the Christy soled boots obviously are not. The lack of any lining is a clear hint, and they are miserably cold at even modest temperatures.

Reply



RIDDLYWALKER 03/01/2016 at 23:23

I kept a pair of redwing chukkas going for five years with a regular smear of clear 'shoe goo' on the heel every few months- they were my go-to work boots in all that time... Of course the replacement pair are hideously uncomfortable because of bad construction.... Argh.

Reply



WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM)
04/01/2016 at 14:03

Shoe-goo is a good idea indeed! I have been keeping my sons skateboarding shoes alive with the goo (otherwise they tend to last a few weeks, which is totally unacceptable). I agree that not all Red Wings are all that well made. My 877 are not very comfy, but the Ice Cutters and Super Soles are much better.

Reply



MR BADGER 03/02/2016 at 16:20

Interesting post.

Spent most of my school hols working on an uncle's farm. Summer 1
fifth and Lower Sixth, I worked in a Jones the Bootmaker (or whateve
called then) shop.

I inherited the skills to polish, or "bull" shoes and boots, and to care f
from my father, who had been in the RAF. This was helpful when, in 1
the school CCF.

I learnt heaps that summer about shoes, their construction, mainten
usage, terminology…

I must, I am afraid, take issue with you over your second suggestion:
rubber soles.

They, said my mentor that summer, unbalance the shoe, create a thi
with a relatively lower heel, and also unbalance the gait of the weare

And yes, water still penetrates the sole.

I spent 10 years as a recce officer wearing a variety of boots (DMS, de
boots + c) and Sanders' Oxford in brown. Indeed, I am wearing a pair
today. Worn on rotation, and repaired each three times or so, this pa
16 years. Shoe trees help, too.

I now work in things rural and equine, and if smart-ish and outdoors,
beat a pair of veldtschoens in tan and with Goodyear-welted comma
Am also a fan, if shooting, of heavy, zug-leather boots such as the Ra
Hoggs.

And wellies, Aigle being my choice.

Tweed, corduroy, moleskin, wool and waxed cotton worn elsewhere.

A thoroughly enjoyable blog and a pleasant way to spend an hour or
office when I should be working!

Keep up the good work.



WELL DRESSED DAD
(HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM)
03/02/2016 at 19:04

Thanks for the long and detailed comment! With regards to the point you take me to task on, I will, in my defence point out that the mention of the glue-on rubber soles is prefixed with "To round off this piece I thought I'd mention a few words about some of the other types of sole available for your shoes, and why I think they may be poor choices.", so I'm hardly giving them any sort of strong recommendation! 🙂

D. TAYLOR 20/02/2016 at 21:21

I've always been a fan of Vibram soles but if they let Red Wing brand their soles it must have been a common practice over the years with other companies because if you peruse vintage boots and shoes on the internet it certainly looks like many have non-branded Vibram soles...a little history here for the American operations of Vibram. http://footwearnews.com/2015/business/mergers-acquisitions/vibram-acquires-quabaug-corp-33132/ (http://footwearnews.com/2015/business/mergers-acquisitions/vibram-acquires-quabaug-corp-33132/)

Reply

WELL DRESSED DAD (HTTP://WELLDRESSEDDAD.WORDPRESS.COM) 20/02/2016 at 21:34

I suspect the non-branded soles are counterfeits.

Reply

ANITA E 03/11/2016 at 20:25

I am glad to know that men have a hard time understanding the underground world of shoe/boot resoling. As a woman, I get sh** from cobblers. I ask for lug soles and I get wussy flat city lady non-grip soles on my combat boots! And don't get me started on what a mail away company did to my fav ECCO irreplaceable boots. Ok the long and short, they ripped out the shock core!! I got the BBB involved.

So what is a woman to do if men are having difficulty with this resole forest?

Reply

NICK 08/11/2016 at 08:44

Hi Anita, I think the problem might be finding a proper cobbler that actually knows his/her craft and is willing to listen. I use Shoe Healer in the UK as they do both great work and are willing to listen to me. For me this means not using the local cobbler (slow, expensive and less than impressive work) and instead sending my footwear to a different country!

ANITA E 08/11/2016 at 13:56

Nick, Thank you for your insight and advice. Why can't the US do it? What is our problem (on so many levels)? We turn to the UK and EU for quality.
I am going to go cobbler shopping in the nearest city about 50 mi. away and have each show me their soles (souls).

Reply

NICK 08/11/2016 at 13:57

I wish you the best of luck!

Reply

ANITA E 08/11/2016 at 15:28

Thank you Nick. I really appreciate you writing to me and the encouragement.

Our favorite shoes, our favorite boots (my thing) should not be throw away items. These are items that comfort our feet. Keep our feet healthy and therefore our minds. There are jobs for this craft to continue. As the quality shoe manufacturers make the price of shoe/boots/sneaker exorbitant, consumers need cobblers more than ever. sigh.

ANITA E 06/01/2017 at 16:36

I haven't gone cobbler shopping yet since UGG hijacked my 6 month old boots claiming them sole defective as I stated. I'm glad I bought another pair. UGG gave me a gift certificate worth the original value of my boots since they don't have my boot in their new catalog. $318.60. I didn't pay that and never would for a pair of boots, that includes tax. I did pick out a great pair of boot though hence also delaying me from cobbler shopping to preserve the other boots.

I have a question. The boots that were sole defective, that wore out in 6 months, are going to wear on the identical new pair I was going to replace the soles on. I promised UGG I wasn't going to send them back. I love the boot, I just want a great sole. I was thinking of just

gluing a vibram lug sole right on to what exists. Not a great sole but v
the U.S. don't have many choices. What do you guys think about my s
Would ShoeGoo fill the crevices of the original soles? Is this a stupid i
a great sole in the UK that can be bought online that will last and I ca



HEATHCLIFF 03/09/2017 at 11:00

Having numerous pairs of Redwings , some now twenty yrs old with the Christie style sole and an owner of a pair of Grensons with a similar sole I can testify that the Grenson sole is far superior . I used to get my Redwings resoled at Timpsons for £55 but since Redwing opened a London store that appears to have ended and guess what ? The price has rocketed ! I love Redwing but their soles are hopeless , that being said my Grenson Archies after about 5 yrs use have now worn smooth and after a couple of nasty falls on wet London pavements I've just taken them in to be resoled to find they have also increased their prices by 30% .

Reply



NICK 03/09/2017 at 11:10

I find Shoe Healer in Docaster do quality work at a fair price. For me it's even worth the hassle of sending shoes and bots to them from Norway. Much harder here to even find someone to resole, let alone at anything resembling a fair price!

Reply



DAVE 11/07/2018 at 11:47

Hi, Can you tell me, do Shoehealer stock a number of Vibram options? I'm currently wondering weather to ask them to resole some Yuketen (as I'm in the UK) or to just send them off to Yuketen...

Reply



NICK 11/07/2018 at 11:57

Hi Dave, I've no idea! Best get in touch and see what they can do. In my experience they have a fair collection of different soles in stock, so they may well have something you're keen on.

Reply

QUINN 28/09/2017 at 07:51

Thanks you for the great article! I'm pretty young and have started paying attention to shoe construction, since I want shoes that last a long time, but anything I find online is always about men's shoes... Do you know any tips on how to tell if a sole and/or heel is resolable? I was always under the impression that only leather soles are resolable, but judging from this article I was completely wrong haha!

Reply

RON 10/11/2017 at 20:44

been wearing a pair of grenson london light weight brogues for last 30 years in the northeast of england. repaired a whole lot of times just recently had to have them rebuilt with new welt but once again absolutely a joy to wear in all weathers fair enough sometimes they take awhile to dry out but would not throw out

Reply

ANITA 02/04/2018 at 14:03

Well I didn't resole my fav boots yet. I sent back to UGG/Decker 2 pairs of boots now for short wear of sole and one leaked when it was supposed to be water proof. What is with UGG? Any way, I did resole the heal on another pair of UGG boots I chose with a lug sole. I sick of sending them back but love the look. Lug soles are relatively easy to replace but not as easy as YouTube.com will lead you to believe. Now that I know I can do it, I will go ahead with my fav boots but I have to shave off the lugs on the front sole because they are like your "Commando" where the lug doesn't go to the edge, where Vibram does. The heel is the part that is worn so it must come off completely.

I have a question. If anyone has attempted this: the footing on the boot has a curve, what would be the best way to keep the new sole attached to the boot while drying?

Reply



DANIEL SOSA 08/06/2018 at 20:55

A friend of mine makes mocs all by himself, trying to replicate original Red Wings. He uses original Christy soles from Vibram a official retailer and man, those are really nice soles for sure. They wear a tad faster, but this is due to the low density model he chose

to stitch onto the welts. A big plus is more silent and really soft steps my jaw drop. On the other hand, they give out my faulty walking patt

Great guide!! I just met this blog and will surely follow it from now on

NICK 08/06/2018 at 21:06

Thanks, Daniel!

Reply

STEVE (HTTP://NONE) 09/04/2019 at 12:47

Even with good quality boots/shoes it's all about the mileage and care they get. I do about 70 miles walking in winter then the All purpose road bike comes out in spring and summer and autumn. When we have long wet spells the tracks turn to bogs with the horses and tractors, so it's on to tarmac roads. Doing high mileage you notice the heels wear down faster on roads than fields and tracks. The big problem with commando and deep tread boots is mud. Very quickly the grooves fill with mud and basically resemble a smooth sole after a mile or two. I have worked on muddy construction sites, farms and grew up in the countryside. So basically use different boots for different conditions. On dry country tracks and terrain wear a good pair of Vibram sole work boots. On tarmac roads wear vibram soles over leather sole with the horseshoe heels. If I walk the muddy tracks I wear cut down and folded over Dunlop wellies (resemble ankle boots). Good bang off and hose job. 70 miles a week will take it out of any sole on roads , I tried Blakeys then thought just go with the recessed horse shoe. The rubber on top of the leather stops slipping. I am a heel down first walker so soles go for ages.

Reply

PHILIP SANDERSON 04/10/2019 at 11:31

The Itshide range hasn't changed in decades, is very hard wearing and their Commando sole is great on fields, paths etc but murder on the pavement when it is unforgiving and clunky. Their Dainite sole is more suited to town use but again is made of a very hard rubber and so you get little bounce and tired feet. The Vibram Gumlite range which companies like Trickers use for their export shoes has the best of both worlds nice and springy and good grip making

walking a pleasure but it does wear about twice as fast as the Itshide your Vibram or Itshide sole is expensive, if you can find a cobbler to c from £35 to £95 pounds.

MVILLA 07/04/2023 at 13:01

Actually, Commando soles were probably created by Itshide for British military in the 40s decade... As far as I know, Vibram Commando came after.

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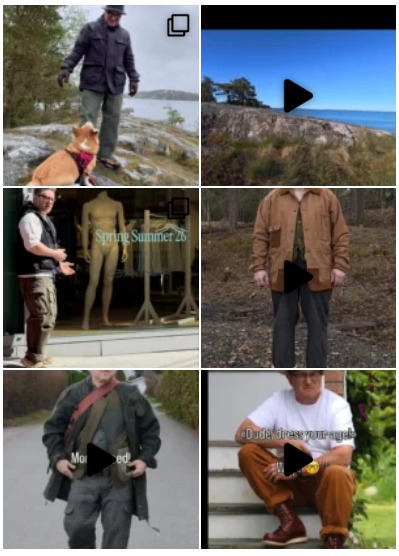
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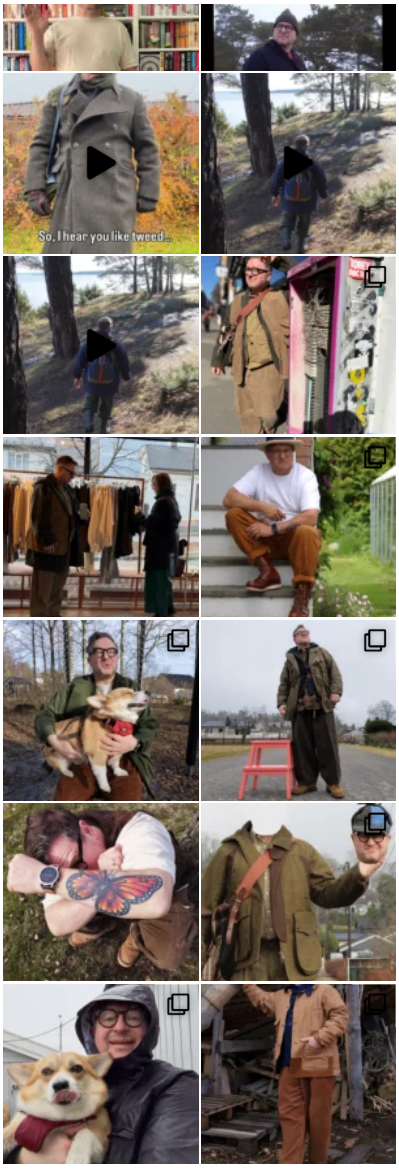
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Norway. Creator of @garmologypodcast. Consultant ethical, sustainable and slower fashion. CraftPunk hybrid «Final boss of tweed» Wool not polyester.

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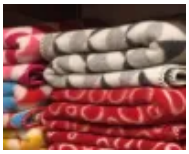


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