

Thank you for purchasing Aerostich Combat Touring or Combat Lite Boots. This guide can help you get the most from your new boots. If you have questions or comments, please call us at 800 222 1994 or 218 722 1927.

FITTING/SIZES

Combat Touring boots and Combat Lites are available from US sizes 7.5 to 15, in full and some half sizes and in a medium (about C or D) width. Because of the micro-adjustable arch buckle and inner speed laces, width does not seem to be as critical for a good fit as it is with street shoes. These boots run fairly true to size, but if you find your big toe touching the inside tip when standing, they are half a size too small. The shape of the toe area is not quite as roomy as some non-riding work boot styles, so if your toe does not have enough room, walking any distance will be uncomfortable. Walk a short distance to make sure you have the right size. A sizing insole can help a loose-fitting boot feel like it is custom made. See catalog #1452, #1454, #1455 and #1456 for several options.



EXCHANGES

All sizes are stocked. Free Shipping on all size exchanges. Send returns and exchanges to: Aerostich, 8 South 18th Ave. West, Duluth, MN 55806, USA.

REPAIR AND RESOLING SERVICES

Your boots are warranted for two years against defects in materials and workmanship. For non-warranty repairs, resoling and other services, Sole Performance (165 S. El Camino Real, Suite K, Encinitas, CA 92024, phone 800-944-2755), and Fremont Boot Repair (124 Stewart, Fremont MI 49412, phone: 231-924-0190) specialize in Italian-made off-road type motorcycle boots. They stock matching soles and other matching materials. Replacement soles, straps, buckles, and laces are available from us (Grey Cleated Sole #408, Amber Wedge Sole #410, Boot Straps #411, Boot Buckles #413, Boot Laces #412).

HOT WEATHER

Although these boots are slightly warmer than lighter or thinner boots, most riders find they are comfortable in all hot weather riding situations.

WET WEATHER

Combat Touring and Combat Lite boots are not waterproof by design, but keep feet dry better than most riders expect. Regular applications of leather waterproofing products makes a noticeable difference. When properly treated, you should not need rain boots. Depending on your local climate and application, apply waterproofing at least once a year, following the manufacturers directions. Before longer multi-day rides, apply waterproofing as part of your trip preparations. When regularly treated, these boots should keep your feet dry for all-day rides in continuous, medium or intermittent rains, but the boots may leak after an hour or two in extreme conditions (it is not recommended that you stand in any deep water, either...) Varying motorcycle designs also influence wet weather boot performance. Some machine designs direct a hard spray of water from the front tire right onto your boots.

SOCKS/LACES

A medium weight cotton, wool or athletic type sock is recommended for all wear. The inner speedlace is one length for all boot sizes. It is easier to tuck in when cut and shortened about 6"-12". Melt the ends so they don't fray. Replacement Competition Laces (#416) are available and are designed to be more durable and convenient to use than the standard laces. The tighter weave nylon material frays less, and the shorter overall length means less excess lace to tuck under the outer flap.

PROTECTION

Combat Touring boots are heavier than most street boot designs because they are based on an off-road type boot. This provides relatively higher levels of protection from abrasions and impacts than lighter boots. Inside the boot, between the inner and outer leather, are several areas protected by dense foam padding and/or hard plastic layers

BREAK-IN

Because CBT boots are made of thick leather, they take more time to break-in than most boots. In addition, the design has fewer seams than most – there are no inserted accordion panels or flexible gussets of thinner leather to help make ankle movement and break-in easier. Wear new CBT's for shorter periods for a few days, until a few 'hinge' lines begin to develop in the area around the ankle.

(Continued on back)

BREAK-IN (CONTINUED)

After these flex lines become established, apply a leather treatment generously around each one. The leather dressing will absorb into these areas and function as an internal lubricant. Two applications are better than one. After about a month of regular wear, treat the entire boot with a good waterproof leather dressing. To speed the break-in process, some CBT wearers have 'cased' their boots. This technique involves soaking the boots in water for an hour or more, then draining and wearing them until dry, or nearly dry. A walk of about three miles will help the boot mold around your ankle and increase flexibility. To help drying, the upper portion of the boots can be propped open and a fan can set up to direct more air across the top of the boot. Crumpled newspapers placed inside the boots also help speed drying. Do not use a direct heat source to speed drying. Allow the leather to dry slowly, at room temperature. After the leather has dried fully, a leather dressing can be applied.

Break-In Notes

My current CBT boots are five or six years old and well broken in. They'll soon need resoling. My residence is three miles from work and during the winter I often walk this distance. Even though the CBT boots are heavier than my regular street footwear, their ankle articulation is easy enough so that if I leave my motorcycle at work for some reason, I comfortably walk this distance wearing my CBT boots. Some customers report immediate break-in satisfaction, and others (like me) need a little time. I have broken in three pairs of CBT boots, and one pair of a similar boot. Each of the boots were fine after a week or two — and they were really great after about a month. Some riders like to add an insole with a better arch and heel cup. If there is not enough room in the toe area for a full-length insole, cut the insole in half, on an angle, just ahead of the arch. Throw away the front part and feather the cut edge from the bottom side of the insole with medium sandpaper. A small drop of glue under the heel will hold the half-insole in place semi-permanently - this will permit it to be removed later, if needed. – Mr. Subjective, 2004

LEATHER CARE*

Top grain leather is extremely tough and durable. Good leather 'breathes' through pores, ventilating your feet. New leather contains certain oils for suppleness. New leather's fiber bundles are long and strong, but as leather ages the oils dry out and the fiber bundles can stiffen and break. High heat, dry air, wetting, drying, sunlight (UV rays), humidity, bacteria, salts from the body, and abrasions all stress leather. Proper care will help your boots to be more comfortable and last longer.

- 1. Keep Leather Clean.** Wipe off dust and rinse off chemicals and salts as these materials injure leather. Wash off mud before it dries hard and fills pores. Use a semi-stiff brush and saddle soap if needed.
- 2. Dry Leather Slow and Easy.** Wipe wet leather dry with a towel and then hang upside down to air dry in an open, airy space. A shoe tree or boot form can be used to help retain boot shape. Do not dry next to hot stove, fireplace, radiator or in direct sunlight.
- 3. Dress/Treat Leather When Dry.** Repeated wetting and drying, as well as continued use in dry, dusty, desert areas, robs leather of natural oils. This causes stiffening and cracking.

Leather dressings provide both lubrication and water resistance. Choose a brand you prefer and apply as many coats as necessary. Then, allow the leather to absorb what it needs. Do not over treat the leather. Use your fingers, applying dressing to all leather surfaces of the boot. Place boots on a non absorbent surface at room temperature for a few days until dressing is absorbed. When completely absorbed, reapply a lighter second coat and wait another day. When dressing stands on the leather's surface, buff off with a clean cloth. Treatment frequency varies depending on climate and use. In dry climates, treat once every four or five months. In humid climates once every six or eight months may be adequate. Treat boots after a complete, penetrating water saturation. Boots must be completely dry when applying all leather dressings. Sometimes a harmless whitening occurs on the surface of treated leathers when temperatures change. This is hardened heavy oil components and it can be wiped off with a rag or shoe brush. Unless leather is treated correctly, it will dry rot. Once leather has been treated, further treatment will not be required for some time. Treating leather frequently can cause leather to become too soft to provide maximum foot support and protection.

Notes:

About Oils: One type is Neatsfoot oil... This is a pale yellow oil made by boiling the hooves and shinbones of cattle and horses. Most formulas have added thinning agents like kerosene which destroy leather and stitching. Petroleum based thinners 'burn' leather and this damage is irreparable. (Leather will become hard and brittle.) Other oils soften leather, but quickly wash away in wet conditions.

About Fats and Greases: Like oils, these soften leather more than is desirable and wash quickly away in wet conditions.

About Waxes and Polishes: Waxes do not penetrate the leather well and can plug leathers pores, sealing out both air and water. Leather is comfortable because it wicks moisture well. The goal is to treat leather to allow vapor to pass outward while preventing liquid water from passing inward.

* Leather care advice taken from the *Pecard Guide to Boot and Leather Care*.

ACCESSORIES

Greg Frazier Stash Pockets (Set of 3) #405 \$24.00
Replacement Wedge Sole #410 \$27.00
Replacement Cleated Sole #408 \$27.00
Replacement Laces #412 \$7.00
Boot Straps #411 \$12.00
Competition Laces #416 \$7.00

Chelsea Leather Food #1346 \$14.00
Pecard Motorcycle Leather Lotion #1339 \$6.00
Aquaseal Leather Waterproofing #336 \$7.00
Nik Wax Aqueous Wax Waterproofing #1338 \$8.00
Buckles #413 \$12.00