



# legendary boots

Story | KATHRYN HUNTER

Worn by presidents, kings, ranchers and rock stars, M.L. Leddy's boots have been renowned for their quality and expert workmanship since the company was founded in 1922.

At M.L. Leddy's location in the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District, thousands of handmade boots line the shelves in all colors, sizes and designs. Here, surrounded by the timeless smell of leather and rough-hewn pine, one can appreciate the history behind the Leddy's name. But it's the ledgers of customer details dating back more than 90 years that truly capture the scope and distinction of the business, which has been in the same family for four generations.

The company's boot-makers, some third-generation craftsmen themselves, still measure every custom boot by hand. The ledgers chronicle the footprints and precise fit of customers from many walks of life—from celebrity clients and London businessmen ordering alligator top and bottom, to locals looking for a high-quality work boot. A handwritten code inked

into the boot tops is traceable back to the original owner.

M.L. Leddy's only produces nine pairs of boots per day. Starting around \$700, custom boots typically take a year or more to complete, depending on the complexity of the design. If you're willing to wait, however, the sky's the limit. "We had one great customer who is an art dealer by profession that wanted a famous Picasso painting replicated on his boot tops," co-owner Martha Franklin says. "We more commonly do brands, initials, logos and even a 200-year-old family crest."

Also known for their custom saddles, belts, buckles and other Western wear, M.L. Leddy's is a Texas trademark. Locations include one store in San Angelo and two in Fort Worth, and M.L. Leddy's is one of the longest running vendors at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. [leddys.com](http://leddys.com) ↗

## ENDLESS CUSTOMIZATION

### PERFECT COMFORT

Leddy's boots are best known for their impeccable fit. Specifically tailored to your arch and calf, they don't require any "breaking in."

### OPTIONS GALORE

You decide all of the details, from the toe shape and type of pull strap, to the shape and height of the heel. A wide variety of leathers and exotic skins are available, including alligator, calfskin, crocodile, kudu, ostrich and stingray. To aid in the decision making, hundreds of leather samples are at your fingertips.

### DESIGN

If you can dream it, Leddy's can make it. Some customers provide personal design ideas, and others choose from more traditional patterns, such as those created by M.L. Leddy in the 1920s.

