

Review: Glasgow Motorcycle Boot

Written by Becky Shimek



Footwear is a complete fetish of mine. Wrap me in a paper bag for all I care*, but if the shoes aren't fly, then I'll resolve to stay home. This ultimately presented a fashion hurdle when I first took to riding just five short years ago. Sure, protection has always been my first concern when choosing a riding boot, but I didn't want to compromise style. Nevertheless, that's exactly what I was forced to do thanks to my finicky foot nature.

Then in 2006 Santa brought me the badest motorcycle boots ever! Icon had just recently launched their Bombshell boot. A wedge heel no less. And the best part – they were real riding boots; complete with a suede protective patch for shifting. Life was good.

Fast forward to the present. My Bombshell's are still in good condition, but a girl's just gotta have more than one pair of shoes in her riding closet. To my surprise though, it was the Harley-Davidson brand that I would add to my collection.

I'm a "sportbike" girl, so naturally I gravitate towards a style that doesn't exactly match the HD image**. But after thumbing through their latest catalog, I found more than one pair of riding boots that fit my taste (and budget). I decided on the Glasgow.

The Glasgow is a 14" Equestrian style boot with lace detailing. It has a European flair, hence

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the name Glasgow, but the real beauty is that it's made in the USA, another reason so many gravitate towards the HD name. Unlike my Italian moto boots, these are a guilt-free pleasure.



Beyond Appearance

Although the Glasgow was true to size in length, I found them a bit wide for my narrow feet (size 6) so I wear two pair of socks to compensate – an easy fix. The upside to its wider characteristic is that I can finally tuck my pants into the boot, which is not an option with my Bombshells.

Another huge plus going for the Glasgow is that it is very comfortable. I wore them for nine hours each day while working a hectic three-day weekend during a motorcycle event; I was on my feet 90 percent of the time and when I got home my feet weren't even throbbing as usual.

Sometimes with new riding boots, your feet have to get reacquainted with the pegs, shift, and back brake. It really didn't take many miles though, until my boot and machine were in sync. By the second ride, all were in perfect harmony. Check plus!

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As far as durability, I've only had the boots for a couple of months now, but I suspect they will have a long life because they are made with a process called "Goodyear® welt construction," which, according to my Internet research, is 'a procedure consisting of sewing, using a thread 12 strands thick, a strip of leather (welt) -- the leather and the lining altogether with the insole, to which previously a crack is made in all its contour where the seam is fixed.' Sounds impressive anyway.

So the Glasgow has won my affection for their function, their comfort, and most importantly (grin): their appearance.



Boot descriptions as per the catalog:

- Full grain leather uppers. Full length cushion sock lining. Inside zipper. Rubber outsole. Goodyear® welt construction. Riding Appropriate Footwear.*
- Width - Medium (B, M) Heel Height - Shaft measures 13 Inches, Circumference measures 16 Inches, and 1.5 Inch Heel Material

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Outsole Performance Ratings:

- Abrasion-Resistant: Good
- Slip-Resistant: N/A
- Oil-Resistant: Better

Pricing:

You can actually find these boots at a range of prices. I've seen them listed online anywhere from \$139.00 (retail) to \$99.99 (villageshoes.com), and even \$89.99 (Grapevinehill.com). Please note, I'm not advocating any of these sites and personally have not used them. Always read reviews of the site itself before making any online purchase.



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I have worn Glasgow boots for the past few years until recently I fell in love with the