

A GOOD BUY, IF YOU CAN FIND THEM

Along with our other products, we also tested RedHead's 8-inch All-Cordura Gore-Tex Sport Boots. In our view, these were the best items in the test, but Bass Pro Shops has discontinued them. However, you may be able to find them as close-out products, and if you can, they are worth the money. They offered nearly all the performance qualities we want in boots, and they serve as guides for what hunters should demand in footwear.

Built for comfort and longevity, the 50-ounce Sport Boots were better than the other products reviewed nearby. They are made from 1000 denier Cordura nylon for durability and lined with 200 grams of Thinsulate for warmth. Outside the boot, Gore-Tex keeps the water out, while maintaining breathability; inside, a material called Cambrelle helps wick away moisture. The lug-cleated sole is made from polyvinyl chloride, and the toe and heel are reinforced for added mechanical protection.

The ankle and lower-leg risers are somewhat stiff for support and protection, but without sacrificing mobility and comfort. There are eight pairs of shoelace "anchors," consisting of (from top to bottom) one pair of eyelets, four pairs of D-rings, and three more eyelet pairs.

Waterproof testing showed no leakage. Temperature retention, though not the best in the test panel, showed good foot-warming ability.

Field evaluations were favorable as well. Our testers stayed comfortable throughout the designated hiking course. Traction over the rocky sections was firm and quiet. Hilly ascents and descents were easily handled, thanks to the flexibility in the risers. Encounters with brushy areas appeared to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the outer material or the shoelaces. They were also light, a welcome characteristic on hard, day-long hunts.

And at \$90, RedHead is one of the two least-expensive products in the bunch. We are confident in recommending RedHead's Sport Boots, but there is one drawback. The folks at Bass Pro Shops have informed us that this product has been discontinued. We think it's worth your while to try getting any stock remainders of the RedHead 8-inch All-Cordura Gore-Tex Sport Boots.