[ TEXAS MADE ]

## **DECONSTRUCTED**

# OLUCCHESE BOOT ON

ucchese Bootmaker was born in 1883, when Sicilian brothers Salvatore "Sam" and Joseph Lucchese opened a shop at Fort Sam Houston, a U.S. Cavalry School in San Antonio. Word spread that the brothers made quality boots, and the company grew. In 1986, Lucchese moved its operation to El Paso, where today more than 100 employees work amid the hum of sewing machines. Now, Lucchese is staking its claim as a luxury brand with a showroom in Dallas' Design District. Here's a look at the Randall boot, inspired by the original created and wom by Sam Lucchese. lucchese.com. —C.J.D.

#### Made in the U.S.A.

Any pair of Lucchese boots with this stamp was made in El Paso. Lucchese also has a factory in Mexico that produces less expensive boots.

#### Shaft

Front and back quarters combine to form the boot's shape. Because the boots are still made the way they were 135 years ago, any gluing, stitching, or studding must be done by hand. Lucchese employee Fernando Hernandez, a third-generation boot maker, works on a sewing machine that's more than 100 years old. Says Lucchese's Mario Vega, "We'll take his knowledge and expertise over any piece of machinery any day of the week."

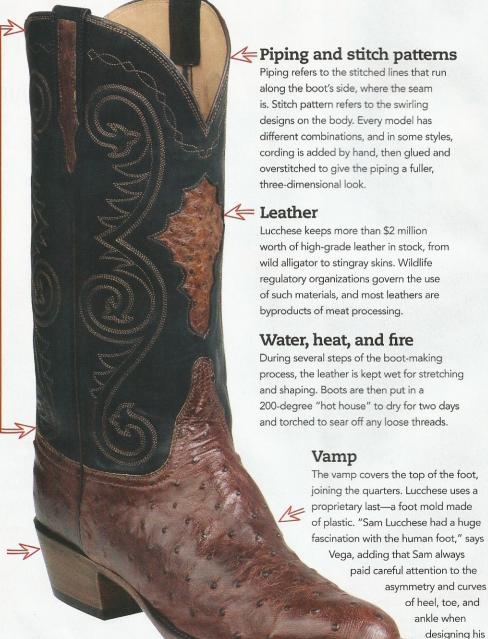
#### **Custom work**

Lucchese will customize any pair of boots. For example, many Texas legislators get their names and districts stitched into the shaft.

### Fit

What's an ideal fit? Boots should be snug but not uncomfortably tight. "We compare it to a firm handshake," Vega says. "You'll feel pressure, there will be give. And when you walk, the heel should lift up."

**FUN FACT** The largest boot Lucchese ever created was size 25, for professional wrestler and actor André the Giant.



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boots.