

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Vibram sole wading boot

Re: Vibram sole wading boot

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URL:

I had a pair of Korkers first generation boots with whatever the marketing humbo-jumbo name was they had at the time for their rubber soles. They had studs on them as well and they stuck perfectly, in that I could trust myself safely walking in streams.

Everything I have owned since then has been rubber soled and they all have been sore disappointments to me. I have a pair of Orvis boots with their Eco-Trax rubber and studs built in. Over half the studs have ripped out; one ripped out on the first time I used them. This pair of boots at least lets me wade with a little confidence. I tried the Kold Kutter route on the Dan Bailey boots I had last year and while they added some nice grip, they were ALWAYS pulling out and I'd often find by the end of a day fishing that more than half of them were gone. They also seemed to wear down quickly. I have two other rubber soled boots that I have acquired but I'm still searching for the right stud to use in them. There is another brand of motorcycle stud (Grip Studs) that someone is also marketing as fishing boot studs (with the requisite markup) that may work, as they have a slightly longer shank and a better screw pattern. And if they worked, I'd be willing to pay what they are asking. But I'm not willing to shell out all the money for them, only to find out that they rip out just as quickly as the Kold Kutter screws, or wear down just as quickly. Maybe I just walk too many miles and my expectations for the life of the boot soles is too high, but I would like to find something that lasts more than a day!

I have slipped and fallen more times in the past two years (since the good gripped Korkers went to the fishing hole in the sky) than I have all the rest of the years I fished, combined.