

# Product Profiles

## Merchandise Review

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### Russell Moccasin Company *Russell Tracker*

This autumn marks my 22nd year of chasing critters afield with a bow in my hand. Over the years, I've tried and worn just about every style of so-called hunting footwear out there. There's no shortage of footwear brands that offer mass produced, big, bulky, "hunting" boots with thick, aggressive soles all with varying degrees of insulation and water repellency.

That's all well and good for sitting in a treestand or a blind for hours on end. But when it comes to getting down to stealth and the sneaky demands of still-hunting with a bow and arrow, nothing beats a great pair of simple, quality moccasins. And I've learned that nobody does it better than the U.S. based company Russell Moccasin Co.

I've heard great things about them for years. From the moment I visited their web site [www.russellmoccasin.com](http://www.russellmoccasin.com) I could tell that RMC was a very unique company. First off,

I was excited to read "100% made in the USA." And not just made, but *handmade*, two features rarely seen in this day and age. Top that off with the fact that they have been doing it this way since 1898, one-hundred and nine years for those of you who are counting, and my interest was piqued to the point that further investigation was required.

After reviewing the countless styles and options they offer, I decided that I needed the *Russell Trackers*, a lightweight, rugged, smooth sole version similar to the ones worn for thousands of years by the natives of our great land while they stalked game with stick and string in hand. But the customization did not stop there. In order to assure a truly custom fit, measurements from ten locations on my foot and leg had to be recorded on their easy to understand order form. With the help of my wife, my foot tracings, measurements and order form were on the way to RMC.

My patience was rewarded as I slipped my new *Russell Trackers* out of the mailing package and onto my feet. Wow! I've had a few pair of "comfortable" boots in my life but the *Trackers* truly showed me what I had been missing. I wore them around to break them in but they already *felt* broken in right out of the box. I couldn't believe the dexterity and freedom of movement that accompanied the wearing of a boot! It was like they were an extension of my feet as opposed to just a covering.

The true test would come on an upcoming south Texas bowhunt for hogs and javelina. I've hunted there a few times, and



between the rocky ground and every form of plant life having a thorn or other poking device attached, you better have some protection for your feet. And to sneak up on a hog or a javelina that makes its living dodging coyotes, bobcats and cougars, the footwear better be quiet as well.

You can see the results to the left. Hunting with traditional archery equipment requires us to get close to the critters we pursue. Quiet, light, rugged footwear is a must and RMC delivers.

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