

# The Aviation Consumer

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## Detailing

For decades, owners have been using all sorts of household cleaners and waxes to try and make their deice boots shine. Shiny boots add a certain cache to any airplane, and some believe that the smooth and shiny finish lets them work better, too.

But nearly every previous concoction owners have tried has fallen short in some way. Some tried a variety of floor waxes, only to discover that they yellow in a short time. Worse, they build up. The result is a set of boots that look like hell. Others have tried furniture waxes, with about equal results.

Some have tried Armorall and like substances. This may leave the boots looking good, but it will eventually destroy them. According to Goodrich, these applications allow static to build up, eventually causing pinholes. It does no good to beautify and destroy at the same time.

Goodrich itself came out with the Shinemaster treatment not long ago. Shinemaster works fairly well, but it's pretty expensive (around \$140.00 for the cleaner and sealer together). Also, the cleaner is pretty noxious, and it takes quite a bit of elbow grease to get really grunged up boots clean enough to apply the sealer.

Now comes Pbs Professional Boot Sealant (or as one wag put it, Pneumatic Boot Stuff). The cleaner solution is very effective at removing old buildups and grunge, while at the same time not assaulting your nose with ammonia stench. The company does recommend that you wear rubber gloves during application, though. But you'd do that anyway, right?

We tried Pbs on a set of boots that were suffering from terrible floor wax buildup. The boots had yellowed in streaks, and the old buildups were bad enough that you could feel them with your fingers. We worded the cleaning solution with a rag (the company recommends a sponge or a spray bottle and rag). It removed all the old wax handily. In the most badly built-up areas, it took two passes to get complete cleaning. But for most of the booted area, one scrubbing pass with the rag and a blast with the hose was all that was needed to clean the boots right down to the rubber.

Next we applied the sealant. The directions tell you to apply it with a clean, lint-free rag and be sure to wipe only in one direction. Apply two or three coats if needed or desired. We simply poured the sealant onto a rag, placed it on the inboard end of the boot and walked out to the tip, wiping as we went. The resulting shine was nothing short of dazzling. We applied two more coats with no noticeable improvement. Indeed, we're not sure any improvement was possible—we've just never seen boots shine like they did after one pass with the Pbs sealant.

After the application had dried, one passerby commented that the boots looked "exquisite." Another wanted to know what we used and where he could get it. But what really told the story was when the owner of a nearby aircraft sales outfit came by. He has been a confirmed user of the Goodrich Shinemaster for years. Swears by it. He came to look at the treated boots at our request. He sauntered over and said, "well, that looks really nice. But I wonder what it will look like when it's dried? With that, he reached out

and touched the boot. "It is dry!" he exclaimed in surprise. He then asked if we would treat some of the aircraft he has for sale on the line.

Even the owner of a local maintenance shop was so impressed that, despite having bottles of Shine-master sitting on the shelf, he immediately ordered some Pbs. Several customers who saw the results it produces immediately asked us to order them some.

**Make no mistake: the Pbs system is, without qualification, the best boot treatment we've ever seen. Follow the directions and your boots, no matter how old, grungy, yellowed, waxed-over or dull, will come out looking better than new. The results are nothing short of stunning.** And after years of hearing overblown claims for all sorts of products, it's a very pleasant change of pace to have a company like Jet Stream Aviation Products selling their product in a low-key way, and to have the product far outperform their advertising claims, as well as the competition. If you own a set of de-ice boots, buy this stuff.

