

Gear Review: 72" Lock Laces for Boots



Disclaimer: I bought these with my own hard earned cash, and have not even the remotest affiliation with the company.

So my trusty and very well priced wading boots were finally due for replacement. The one thing I never really liked about them was that by the end of most days, the laces would be undone and dragging, and there had been several instances of me lifting a foot out of the river, or some bankside mud, and the boot staying firmly put.

I did all the research. Looked seriously into a pair or Boa system boots, tried them on, and marvelled at the ease of use. The choice of boots was restricted though, and finding a pair that also fit well was challenging, and usually involved a price that does not reflect my fishing ability! I also had nightmares about a broken wire streamside and an afternoon's fishing lost.

I remembered seeing runners with these elastic laces that were designed so they didn't come undone, and found a pair of them designed for work and hiking boots – specifically 72" Lock Laces for Boots, although there are more than one manufacturer of these things.

So I followed the instructions, laced them into my new boots (the kind that well-heeled guides like to wear, and I know why now, but that's another story) and got out onto the water.

The fit was excellent. The elastic laces work very much like regular ones, and can be made as tight as desired. They didn't loosen during movement, and for all purposes worked like regular laces. They were pretty straightforward to put on, as whilst the lace ends are 'welded' together with the provided clip, the elastic meant that lacing them around the ankle hooks was easy. Equally easy to take the boots off as well, almost as simple as slip ons.

At the end of two days the boots had stayed firmly on, as did the laces. It will be interesting to see how they wear, but at this point I'm very happy with them.

The Verdict: For US\$8 a pair, the same price as a replacement set of laces for my new boots. I think they are definitely worth a try.

Postscript: After another half a dozen days on the water, the little keepers on the end of the laces failed, but this was resolved just by knotting the laces together, which is all the clip does. On the positive side, I went knee deep in mud at Tumut, and easily managed to extract myself without any fear of losing a boot.