

## Just The Tips: D.I.Y. Distressed Leather (Red Wing Shoes Edition)

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The term “vintage” has been thrown around loosely in the upcoming collections, with many designers recreating looks from decades past. Still, there’s nothing like the real thing, which is why we caught up with one of the true originators (no swagger-jacking here), Red Wing Shoes, to view its Fall/Winter 2009 collection. Having been in the footwear game for over a century, Red Wing Shoes is the epitome of “Americana” heritage and a big reason that workwear boots is ranked so high on our Top 100 Style Trends of the 2000s list ([click here if you missed it](#)).

As a bonus, Red Wing Shoes had a leather expert on hand to show Complex how to distress your own leather in order to maximize the antique effect. Michael Napoli, demonstrated how to turn your boots into instant vintage, minus the break-in stage. See below for pointers on how to add 10 years to your leather in five minutes...

### **INGREDIENTS**

- nail polish
- sandpaper
- black shoeshine
- soft rag

**STEP 1:** Use rag and dip into acetone nail polish remover and rub all over the leather to make it damp.  
Sequence-1



**STEP 2:** Take a piece of sandpaper and rub into leather; the more pressure you apply, the darker it will be. Use gentle strokes (ayo!) if you want your boots to stay light.



**STEP 3:** Use the brush with a little bit of black polish rub and apply on leather.



**STEP 4:** Once you've achieved this antique look, take a clear neutral wax polish and go over it.

