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If you have ever been to a rave, you've probably seen some stompers. They're a style of footwear that have been a staple of a raver's wardrobe since the 90s, but they are more than just a fashion statement. Stompers are equipped with a massive, elevated sole and deeply grooved "lug" tread for extra traction and height when dancing and navigating through crowds in packed warehouses, reinforcing their ability to withstand sticky floors, rugged music festival terrain, and dancing for a long period of time without falling apart.

It was in the 1990s and 2000s that stompers earned the popular street name as the towering, heavy duty platform shoes worn by ravers, cyber-goths, and club kids. The term itself originates from the late 1970s outdoor culture, when the rugged hiking boots with thick, spiked, patterned soles were called "Waffle Stompers", but as rave culture exploded, people began to adopt this type of footwear, enhancing the shoes with bright neon laces, cyber-punk hardware and thick outer soles.

Check out some of the stompers that I saw at Movement 2026!

STOMPERS



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