

Leatherwork on the “Ryggsaeck“ back pack small series project by the class FH 21

The satchel “Ryggsaeck“ is equipped with leather shoulder straps and a leather flap to close the opening.

The used leather is a heavy, fullgrain veg tan cowhide and a lightweight fullgrain veg tan goatskin. Both leathers are very high quality and give the satchel a nice, classic touch.



To cut the pieces by hand with templates is not an adequate way to do the cutting of more than 150 pieces in a serial production. In industrial leatherworking factories the use stamping machines for that job, but these tools need to be custom made and would be too expensive for us. That’s why we used the lasercutter for the cutting process. A whole cowhide is too big for the lasercutter. That’s why we can’t do the layout of all the pieces on the computer to reduce waste. We made templates that are a little bit bigger than the actual parts. With these templates we can make a layout on the hide, cut it out roughly by hand and put the smaller pieces in the lasercutter.

The lasercutter burns the edges of the leather pretty bad, but there is a tool to bevel the edges nice and clean. A quick sanding job at the edges gives the last touch to remove the burned areas.

The prepared parts get glued together before sewing to make sure everything stays in place. We can’t use pins for that job like we would in textile jobs, because the pinholes would stay visible in leather.

The sewing machine is a heavy duty, computer controlled “Dürkopp Adler“ saddlemakers machine that can penetrate even the thickest leathers with ease.

The shoulder straps are the most interesting leatherparts. We have the heavy cowhide upper, which gives the straps their strength and appearance. The cowhide can stain your clothes a little bit. That’s why we sew a piece of undyed goatskin to the fleshside of the shoulderstraps. Between the two layers is a piece of felt to make the straps softer and more comfortable. Besides that, they took much better that way, because they are thicker and the two-tone design looks worthy and professional.



Satchel

It is not very easy to do a consistent stitching on every part. If you start your stitching somewhere on a wide surface instead of an edge, you don't know where exactly to start and stop. To make that easier, the stichlines are marked in the leather with the lasercutter. That way we get the same look on every backpack.

