



**The British School of Leather Technology and
Leather Wise Ltd**

Invite you to attend their

Appreciation of Leather Making

Training Course



11-15 May 2009 and 14-18 September 2009

This training course is suitable for all product sectors – footwear, upholstery, garments, leathersgoods etc. and is designed for anyone who wants a fuller understanding of leather, its manufacture and the characteristics of leather that influence its use in leather products.

Appreciation of Leather Making - Five Day Programme

The intention is not to try and turn our delegates into tanners in just five days! An appreciation of what is behind the practical leather making processes will give a fuller understanding of some of the technical difficulties experienced when trying to make leather for a specific end use.

DAY 1

Welcome to the British School of Leather Technology and Leather Wise

A chance to learn a little about each other and what we will be doing for the next five days.

Where does it all begin - sourcing from farm to tanner?

The skins and hides we use are sourced from many places globally. We will look at some of the facts and figures relating to the international industry and the issues facing the supply chain.

Why do we inherit problems?

Depending on source, and welfare conditions, hides and skins can be subject to natural and manmade damage. We will look at typical problems and the impact these have on leather quality.

Practical Sessions

During the five days we will also have a chance to get our hands dirty as we have a go at making leather! We will try and produce leather using a footwear/leathergoods process and also garment and upholstery leather (which we can then test for suitability later!).

We will also try using different tannages so that we can investigate how the tanning processes influence the final characteristics of leather. The tannages we will use are:

- Chrome tannage (wet blue)
- Vegetable tannage (veg crust)
- Aldehyde tannage (wet white)

The leather will also need to be dyed, retanned and fatliquored to impart colour, softness and specific handle characteristics. Finally, we will see how leathers are finished and the effect this has on how you describe the leather and what impact it has on the performance in use of the leather.

Practical Session 1

Investigating different Raw Materials – salted, dry
Soaking, Fleshing (machine and hand), Liming

DAY 2

Why do we make leather from cowhide (... and other animals)?

There are many reasons for choosing certain hides and skins for making different types of leather. In this session we will look at the components of skin and explain how different animals have different skin structures.

We will then be able to understand the various attributes and limitations of using a particular skin or hide in relation to the end product. For example, the reasons why pigskin is commonly used for making shoe linings or garment suede but is not generally used in upholstery.

Getting to grips with the jargon (a touchy feely session!)

One really confusing aspect of using leather is the variety of names and descriptions that are commonplace in the industry. We will look at some of the more popular terms and explain what characteristics the leather will have. Some of the terms we will look at are: Aniline, Semi-aniline, Pigmented, Finished Split, Bi-cast, Suede, Nubuck, Pull-up, Full Grain, Corrected Grain....and more.

Practical Session 2

Deliming, Bating, Pickling, Start the different Tannages, Splitting and Shaving, Start Retanning

DAY 3

Introduction to the leather making process

The leathermaking process is broken down into a number of key stages. We will introduce these stages and explain the importance of them:

- Beamhouse
- Tanning
- Post Tanning
- Finishing

The science of leather making for the non-scientist!

The intention is not to try and turn our delegates into tanners in the course of five days! An appreciation of what is behind the practical processes that we are carrying out will give a fuller understanding of some of the technical difficulties experienced when trying to make leather for a specific end use.

Practical Session 3

Dye, Retan, Fatliquor, Samm/Set, Dry – hang, toggle and vacuum

DAY 4

Ensuring a cleaner future rather than the CATNAP approach (Cheapest Available Technology Narrowly Avoiding Prosecution!)

Despite the unfortunate reputation that leather producers seem to have in regard to the environment, the industry is very proactive in trying to meet ever-increasing legislation and requirements to work 'cleaner and greener'. We will look at what is considered to be commercial best practice. This will help you to understand what questions to ask your leather supplier.

What do we officially mean by the term 'Leather'?

We all take leather for granted and use it everyday, but do we really know what it is and what characteristics it has? For anyone using and supplying leather and leather products it is important to understand what you can (and can't) do legally. Within this session we will also look at the issue of labelling.

Practical Session 4

Stake, Buff, Commence Finishing

DAY 5

Practical Session 5

Completion of the Finishing Processes

Tour of the testing laboratories and testing the leather we have made to see how we ensure 'fitness for purpose'

We will look at the physical testing of leather and microscopy techniques used for quality assurance and solving problems that occur. Then we will put it all into practice and see if we have been successful in producing commercially acceptable leathers. We will carry out some standard tests such as wet and dry rub, flex and tear strength.

Testing and specifying leather for a product

Following on from our testing we will discuss why we have Specifications. The reasons include needing to ensure that chemical 'nasties' are not present in our consumer goods and that the goods perform satisfactorily in use. We will look at the typical aspects of a Specification.

How can we look after leather and what issues are there for those involved in Quality Assurance and Customer Services?

Now we know what leather is it leads us to consider what happens when it all goes wrong? We will use examples to illustrate typical problems that you might encounter – and how we can help you to resolve the problems.

Completion of course – time to go home for a rest!

Things you need to know:

- Date: 11–15 May 2009 and 14-18 September 2009
- Cost: £795 + VAT per delegate
- This course is suitable for all product sectors – footwear, upholstery, garments, leathersgoods etc
- Held at the British School of Leather Technology, The University of Northampton, Boughton Green Road, Northampton, NN2 7AL, UK
- Course starts 09.30 and finishes 16.30 (unless we talk a lot!)
- Lunches and refreshments included
- Please let us know foot and chest size for protective boots and coats
- Let us know if you have any special needs – dietary/access etc.
- Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation but we can supply a list of local hotels.

Please reserve places for the following delegates:

Delegate name	Chest size (s/m/l/x-l)	Foot size
Special requirements (dietary/access etc):		

Payment Information

Five day course £795 + VAT (£914.25) 10% discount for 3 or more places

Please make cheques payable to: Leather Wise Ltd

(in pounds sterling, drawn on a UK bank, free of all charges)

Company:	Date:
Print name:	Sign
Address:	
Tel:	Email:

For further information contact:

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The Small Print – Cancellation and Sickness Policy

Bookings are made on the understanding that this cancellation policy has been read and agreed. It is possible to substitute delegates without penalty. Cancellations will not be charged for up to 14 days before the course date. A 50% charge will be incurred for cancellation up to 7 days before the course date after which time 100% will be charged. Non attendance will result in 100% charge. Leather Wise Ltd and the British School of Leather Technology will make all efforts to ensure that courses are run as advertised but reserve the right to reschedule due to unforeseeable circumstances such as sickness.