

THE MAKING OF A RIDING GLOVE

Schmidt Sporthandschuhe GmbH, based in Bad Urach near Stuttgart, Germany, manufactures the Hauke Schmidt Finest Gloves brand. ETN goes behind the scenes to see a craftsman at work.

In the 1960s and 70s, a German show jumper called Hauke Schmidt was a big winner on the international circuit. Nowadays, his name is associated with a top quality brand of riding gloves.

In fact, it's Hauke Schmidt junior who has been involved with glove manufacturing since 1998. And key to today's successful business is Hauke Schmidt glove-maker Franz Tasch.

Franz began his career as an apprentice at a state-owned factory in Romania in 1966. He's since clocked up extensive experience of glove-making both as a skilled craftsman and by managing quality and production at various global locations.



Glove-maker Franz Tasch with his Master Craftsman Certificate issued in January 1991.



Many Hauke Schmidt gloves are made from Pittards' leather which is produced in Somerset. Before starting to cut the leather, Franz checks the skins carefully on both sides. He's looking for a consistent thickness, and often needs to prepare the leather for the next stage of the process. The leather is then stretched across the edge of the cutter's table. Once the width has been cut out, the leather is stretched again in the direction of the finger length.



Here the 'face' side is being prepared prior to measurement for cutting. This is done with a special glove-maker's ruler called a Zollstock. The unit of measurement is a French word - a zoll. 1 zoll = 2.71cm.



Many different kinds of template are used. This one is a Porkert to create men's and women's dress gloves. After checking for scratches or defects in the leather, which must be avoided, the glove-maker marks the leather using his finger nail. What's known as 'venting' is the last stage of the cutting process; it requires a calm, steady hand and great accuracy.



This picture shows a unisex template for the hand and thumb typically used for riding or golf gloves.

The glove-shaped cut pieces are then sewn together, with double stitching on joints bearing the highest loads. Different thicknesses of thread are used to match that of the leather or other materials.



The finished product. A Ladies Finest glove in black.

The current brochure for Hauke Schmidt Finest Gloves features the brand's inspiration Hauke Schmidt senior on his horse Espertaco, in 1967. Many styles in the latest collection are named after horses competed by Hauke.



haukeschmidt FINEST GLOVES



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