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HANDMADE SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

Original Shell Cordovan leather from the famous Horween Tannery in Chicago is one of the most exclusive luxury goods on the leather market. Shell Cordovan, which has its name from the shell-shaped leather pieces, can be made only from the flanks of horses, owing to its special structure and strength. A shoe made of cordovan leather will wear for a lifetime. Leather connoisseurs can recognise the leather by its intensely deep colouring, usually in classic oxblood or black.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE CARE OF CORDOVAN, AND SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Cordovan leather has a high fat content, so that, at the start, one usually needs nothing more than to brush the dust off, and rub the polish a little.

But the intensive oil treatment of the leather during the production of cordovan can lead sometimes to the leather showing **whitish spots** on the upper. This looks a little like mould, but consists only of exuded fats. This can occur to a greater or lesser degree and differs from shoe to shoe. This so-called "**blooming**" can be removed easily by **polishing with a brush** or **rubbing with a moist cloth**. (If the blooming is somewhat stronger in character, lightly warm the leather first with a hair-dryer.)

Cordovan is processed with the flesh side on the outside, and does not have a sealed surface for this reason. The actual **surface** is a **layer of wax**. This has the advantage that scratches and rough places can be polished away with no difficulty.

If **raindrops** come into contact with the surface at the beginning, the fibres swell and the places affected can show little bumps. These "**water bumps**" can be polished away, just as can scratches and rough places.

In contrast to calf leather, cordovan does not develop wrinkles and small folds; rather, it develops large **corrugations** in the **area of the ball of the foot**, where movement is greatest. This corrugated formation cannot be avoided. Even bespoke shoes show this. **This formation of corrugation is quite typical of cordovan leather.**

Cleaning Your Shoes:

Before you begin with the maintenance of your cordovan leather shoes by polishing the scratches away, please put a good quality shoe tree - if possible, the suitable Heinrich Dinkelacker cedarwood shoetree with the specially formed heel - in the shoe to provide good counter-pressure.

Now apply a little shoe polish to the damaged place (we recommend Burgol black for black cordovan, and Burgol Bordeaux or dark brown for oxblood) and rub it with a hard, but not scratchy, object, e.g. the back of a spoon, using a circular motion and working from the centre of the spot outward, applying some pressure all the time, until the damaged place is no longer visible as such. Keep friction low by applying a little polish from time to time while doing this. Often the place in question will be a little shinier than the immediate environs of the upper. To bring this into line, work around the original area onto the upper a little.

If you have any questions or need information, please feel free to contact us at:

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