

The Welt-Sewn Shoe

Where does this make come from?

The welt-sewn shoe has got its name from a narrow strip of leather which is fastened all around the shoe and which holds together upper and sole. In the beginning this make was manual work; with the invention of the welt sewing machine in 1869 and the outsole stit cher by Charles Goodyear this production is also carried out by means of machines and was called "Goodyear" method.

What are the features of this make?

Welt-sewn or Goodyear-made shoes are generally heavier than for example cemented models and more robust and durable.

If you press the welt on the side of the shoe you can see if it continues under the edge of the upper or not. In some cases you can feel the leather strip to which the welt is fixed, under the insole.



BIMA



A change for the better rib tape for Goodyear

ADRIAN BUSCH

ALBEKO

LIBA

MOENUS



Make your decision only for the original do not be satisfied with an imitation. BIMA has taken over the know-how, original documents and the original production machines from ALBEKO. ALBEKO is the inventor of the RIB TAPE and this item was protected by patent for many years in Germany and world wide. Many of our customers have been using this advantage since many decades.



Goodyear welted

Frame-sewn shoes are master-pieces of the art of shoemaking. Today it would have been almost impossible to pamper your feet, had not the American Charles Goodyear managed to develop a sewing (named Goodyear welted) economically possible. (Otherwise the frame-sewn shoe would have remained a privilege of those who had their shoes handmade by the shoemaker.) Only after the upper leather has been sewn on to the flexible leather frame is it subsequently sewn to the sole. Thus the shoe adapts to the natural rolling movement of the foot, is comfortable and the feet do not tire so quickly. These shoes have to be worn in the first, of course - but they show their great value with years of comfort and wear.

Goodyear-welted

For over 40 years now the BIMA Maschinenfabrik Gebr. Biedermann GmbH & Co., D-72379 Hechingen, enjoys the world-wide reputation of being a rationalization specialist and machine manufacturer for the production of shoes.

As well as the machine line, which includes all non-sewing operations on shoe work, since taking over the ALBEKO shoe machine company in 1993 and other makes such as LINHAM and HANKE, ADRIAN & BUSCH, SPANGLER & FRANZ, BIMA produces the right rational machine for every work place in the shoe and leather industries. This includes one of the best machine plants for the production of welted shoes for the Goodyear-welt-system. Welted and double-stitched shoes are unique in their ability and their value for money.

With the invention of machines for welted and double-stitching by Andreas Eppler - the shoemaker from Württemberg - at the end of the 19th Century, the first step towards the industrial production of double-stitched and welted shoes was made.

Eppler emigrated to the USA where he met Charles Goodyear the son of the successful rubber factory-owner and developed in his company the first industrial sewing machine which Goodyear patented later. Steady development followed, which resulted in the fact that today, for every one of the more than 20 operations in the production of shoes, a rationalized cost-saving machine substantially facilitates the production process. Thereby, all the operations of the machine processing of shoe work are basically identical to those operations performed when shoes are handmade.

Solely the complicated ranging of the insole and the cutting of a bar for the welt sewing needle is no longer necessary in the production of machine-made shoes. Instead, a textile tape (Germband) rib tape adhered to the insole replaces the leather bar. The quality standard of handmade tradition and the methods of modern shoe production form a synthesis as equal partners.

Even if the term Goodyear-welted is specifically applied for welted shoes, the methods of welt-stitching and double-stitching are very closely related. With both methods, one works with a leather-welted-insole and double seam. With welted shoes, the upper leather is welt-beated inside the shoe and only a seam is visible. The welted shoe is thus more slender and more elegant. When producing double-stitched shoes, when stitching the shoe upper part

with the sole, the edge of the upper leather is turned towards the outside. Both seams are visible from the outside. As, although of the same size, a double-stitched shoe is always slightly heavier and broader, this production method is mainly applied for the production of safety shoes as well as climbing boots and sporting boots.

With its Goodyear machine plant incorporating various makes, BIMA Biedermann offers - according to the latest state-of-the-art - the right machine for each operation for the industrial production of both methods.

Following, the procedure of operations during the production of welted shoes - Goodyear-welted - and a selection of the most important machines.

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