

***d*OTHEBAG_MONO**

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S BAG

*Sometimes miracles still do happen:
Love at first sight.*

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LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

The relationship of the photographer to his or her own camera bag can be quite intimate. One travels together and is usually in close contact with each other. And it makes us happy if this contact is very pleasant. Pleasant, because the bags have been exclusively designed by ID_OS DESIGN (Sabine Wald and Olaf Schröder) for Monochrom®. They are made from open-pored leather and are beautiful to touch. And they are distinctive: Each bag is one of a kind and unique in its surface structure and colouring. The matt surface of the leather results in a natural haptic and beautiful patina.

INSERTS

The padded inserts have been designed for photographic purposes and can be divided accordingly. Further dividers can be purchased from us at any stage.

TENAX SAFETY FASTENERS

Tenax safety fasteners, originating from soft top manufacturing, enable quick access while keeping the bags secure. It is advisable to check the position of the Tenax safety fasteners once a year. Should one of the buttons be loose it can be gently tightened with the enclosed specialty key.

LEATHER QUALITY

The cattle that live up on the high plateaus of Columbia, 2,500 metres above sea level, guarantee a very special type of leather. The animals can graze freely on vast pastures all year-round and therefore become extremely robust and strong. As a result, South-American leather has a texture with a more balanced and expressive surface than European leather. The leather is tanned gently without the use of chromium. It is then oiled and waxed to refine the slightly open-pored surface, which gives it its pleasant leather feel and special appearance. The irregularities in the leather resulting from this process together with the slightly worn look are signs of the authenticity of the leather. Avoiding chromium in the tanning process solves many environmental problems during the mining, tanning and usage stages as well as wastewater purification – without immediately creating new issues.

PRODUCTION FACILITIES

The leather is processed where the cattle are living. Humane working conditions are just as important as environmentally friendly production conditions. 92 employees are working in the factory; most of them have been employed for more than 20 years. Remuneration is on a salary basis, piecework is avoided. Employees enjoy the following conditions: Medical insurance (EPS), industry insurance (accident insurance), social insurance (pension scheme), Caja de

compensacion (unemployment insurance, housing assistance, child allowance). Work contracts are valid for at least one year and the agreed wage must be paid in any case. An early dismissal by the employer is not possible. Working hours are regulated at 48 hrs per week (8.5 hrs Mon – Fri, 5.5 hrs Sat). Workers are entitled to 30 days leave, of which 15 are paid. Usually these are taken around Christmas. Together with other Public Holidays during that time, the production facility remains closed for 5 weeks from mid December to mid January. The above listed insurance schemes create an environment of more stable working conditions compared to migratory labour, which is widespread in the Columbian leather industry. The safety regulations of the factory are equivalent to European standards, as well as the standards of the machinery, which are predominantly sourced from Europe. These working conditions and the listed legal foundations and insurances are the prerequisite for a high-quality production, which can only be achieved through long-term experience and training. The factory employees therefore possess a high skills base and technical know-how, which expresses itself in their meticulous workmanship.

CLEANING & CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For oiled calf leather like our natural and dark brown dothebag_mono camera bags:

The leather gives it its typical vintage patina. For a normal clean it is sufficient to occasionally dust the leather with a dust cloth. Stains can be removed with a slightly moist towel. It should not be too wet to avoid marks. It is advisable to dry the darkened wet area with a hand dryer on cool setting to prevent watermarks from appearing. Finally, flexing the leather will help blend it to the surrounding area. It is advisable to trial a cleaning attempt first in a hidden area! Pale leather needs to be checked very carefully! For difficult stains it is always best to contact a specialised company first (*such as www.lederzentrum.de*). The mishap can easily get out of hand through incorrect cleaning attempts. Oiled leather is easy to care for. It doesn't require regular cleaning. Should the lighter areas of the patina become too light over time, darken these areas by rubbing a neutral leather fat (*such as our Elephant leather fat*) with a rag. Caution! It is best to only rub small amounts into the rag first. To avoid a darkening that is too strong, don't use too much fat. Always test this first in a hidden area. For older, already visibly lighter leather we recommend re-oiling using Aniline Protector, an oil spray that re-oils leather and darkens it at the same time.

**2. For bags with pigmented smooth leather
such as our black dothebag_mono bags:**

Pigmented smooth leather is low-maintenance leather with a protective colour layer at the top. This leather is robust and easy to care for. It suffices to occasionally wipe it with a slightly wet rag, as long as stronger stains are not present. Should that be the case we recommend our Leather Cleaner mild. Take care not to rub too much! For its maintenance we recommend the *Elephant leather fat*. It keeps the leather soft and supple, protects it and maintains its sheen. First rub the fat into a towel and then apply it thinly. Depending on its usage, leather should be cleaned and simply cared for every 6 – 12 months. Especially in summer one should be very careful around light colour clothing. Should it come to a discolouration of clothing though it is possible to clean it with bile soap. We are not liable for the potential discolouration of light clothing.

*We wish you much happiness
with your dothebag_mono camera bag!*

www.dothebag-mono.com