



# *Watch Straps & Fobs*

BESPOKE  
LEATHER  
HAND-STITCHED  
FITTED



## BESPOKE WATCH STRAPS FROM **SABEL**

*Rooted in traditional English craftsmanship, **SABEL** offers customers the experience of creating a bespoke leather watch strap: wrist, fob or customised holder, each creation is individually conceived and hand-crafted to complement a client's treasured timepiece.*

*Our unique, London-based, **single-hole** fitting service ensures that your strap, like a bespoke suit, is tailored to fit you, and your watch, perfectly.*

***SABEL** has been formed by Mia Sabel, a Qualified Saddler, QEST Scholar and Walpole Crafted Mentee, to create works of leather beauty, inspired by her background in theatre, brand and design.*

< cover image: custom Ralph Lauren rally strap in dark stain oak bark pit-tanned leather, black lining and stitching



*“... people underestimate the impact of a strap on a watch. A strap can transform a watch into something entirely different than people are accustomed to.*

*It allows you to personalise a watch and tweak its presentation in order to make it align with your personal aesthetic and style.”*



*single hole strap in Atlantic shoulder leather lined in cherry red leather with brick thread*



notched



shaped cuff

< (top left) navy bridle leather with duck stitching

< (top centre) mid pull up shoulder leather with olive stitching

< (bottom left) indigo bridle leather with red twin stitching and contrasting keeper

< (bottom centre) grass green shoulder leather with light green stitching

< (bottom right) burgundy bridle leather with beige stitching

twin stitch  
contrasting keeper



tapered



obsolete & replica  
wet-moulded



mid pull up leather with ecru stitching (top centre) >

black bridle leather, red bridle lining with red twin stitching (top right) >

indigo bridle leather, red bridle lining with red stitching (bottom left) >

Atlantic shoulder leather with peacock stitching (bottom centre) >

dark stain oak bark, indigo bridle leather with royal blue stitching (bottom right) >



wet-moulded



reuse existing buckle  
twin stitch

stitched onto lugs  
contrasting lining



curved at case



straight-through





## PLAIN STRAP

*Plain straps are the simplest style in our range. Crafted from a single thickness of leather, both the buckle and case-ends of the strap are affixed using minimal stitching. The top grain is visible on the outside and the polished flesh-side is visible on the inside.*

< 8mm wide, 3-wrap plain strap in oak bark pit-tanned leather with brown stitching for a Louis Vuitton



Our Plain straps can be fitted to most watches, but they work best on military or vintage watches. They are most suited to watches requiring a narrower strap, which cannot be stitched along its entire length (eg. a ladies gold watch whose lugs are less than 10mm wide).

We can also make wrap straps in a variety of lengths.

Oak Bark pit-tanned leather from Devon is particularly suited to narrower plain straps due to its strength and resilience.

Thickness of strap: 2.5-4mm.

*20mm wide indigo bridle leather with 3-line stitch in mouse grey thread for a Pulsar >*



## STITCHED STRAP



*Stitched straps are one of our most elegant styles. Crafted from a single strip of leather, it is folded around the spring bar and stitched along the edge. The top grain is visible on both the inside and outside of the strap.*

< navy bridle leather with mouse grey stitching,  
retaining existing buckle for a Breguet



Our Stitched straps can be fitted to most watches, but they work well on those with a classical dial design or a finer dress watch, and on those requiring a medium to wide strap.

Choosing a contrasting thread highlights its bespoke and hand-stitched construction.

Thickness of strap: approx 3mm.



*English claret cordovan leather with duck stitching, complementing this vintage Omega Seamaster >*



## LINED STRAP

*Like a bespoke jacket, the contrasting lining of a strap can discretely express your individuality.*

*Lined straps are one of our most versatile designs. Crafted from two different strips of leather, the outer is folded around the spring bar and stitched to the inner along the edge. The inner contrasts with the outer and the top grain is visible on both the inside and outside of the strap.*

< red horse shoulder leather, indigo bridle lining and duck stitching complements this Tosca

Our Lined straps can be fitted to most watches, but they work well on those with a classical or embellished dial design, a dress watch, or on those requiring a medium to wide strap.

The colour of stitching can reflect that of the contrasting lining, which can be further enhanced with a contrasting keeper.

Lining and thread colour choice can be inspired by details in the watch dial.

Thickness of strap: approx 3mm.

*London Tan bridle leather, navy bridle lining and ecru stitching, with alternative strap in vintage green bridle, indigo bridle lining and royal blue stitching for a Tudor Prince Oysterdate >*





## RAISED STRAP

*Our Raised straps are based on either our Stitched or Lined styles. The case-end section of the strap is augmented through the addition of a solid leather core before being stitched along the edge of the strap. Raised straps can either have the same or contrasting types of top-grain leather on the inside and outside of the strap.*

< raised and tapered strap in dark stain oak bark pit-tanned leather, cherry red lining and moss stitching for a Jaeger-LeCoultre

Our Raised straps are best suited to larger watches and they work particularly well on casual/sports styles, those with complications or requiring a medium to wide strap.

The raised section is made purely from leather for strength and can help protect the stitching from wear. Its cross-section profile can be square or rounded.

Thickness of strap: 2.5-3.5mm  
(3.5mm raised section).

*raised strap in green bridle leather, red bridle lining and green stitching complements this Tag Heuer >*



## CUFF STRAP



*Our Cuff straps are particularly suited to military timepieces, especially trench watches, and can be made in Plain, Stitched or Lined options. The cuff and strap are designed and crafted as separate items prior to assembly and can have a combination of these options.*

< shaped tabbed cuff in grass green shoulder leather with orange stitching complements the shape of this vintage Longines



Our Cuff straps are a very adaptable design and can be tailored to suit most wrist watch sizes and designs.

Straight-through straps are available for trench watches with fixed lugs, and cuffs can be straight, shaped or asymmetric, with either crew holes or tabs.

Depending on the watch, the strap may even be removed from the cuff and worn alone, adding to its versatility.

Thickness of cuff: 2-3mm.

Thickness of strap: 2.5-3mm.



*black shoulder leather, khaki lining with moss stitched  
straight-through strap on a straight crew cuff  
for a trench watch with shrapnel guard >*



## FOB WATCH HOLDER

*Individually wet-moulded to suit a client's specific watch, our Fob Watch Holders are designed to securely house an open-face or half-hunter pocket watch and suspend it at waist-level from your belt.*

< burgundy bridle leather with red stitching  
and unlined belt loop for an open-face Omega fob

Our Fob Watch Holders are made in a range of vegetable-tanned leathers, which are wet-moulded around wooden forms. These forms are individually made to match the watch dimensions.

Access to the fob is via a flap on the back which is secured with a small Sam Browne stud.

Belt loops can be supplied in plain, stitched and lined options.



## ALBERT STRAP

We have developed a leather Albert Strap with a non-metal fitting to avoid damaging the bow. Perfect for breast pocket or waistcoat.

*(top) mid pull up shoulder leather with olive stitching and unlined belt loop for a half-hunter fob >*

*(bottom left and right) an Albert strap in brown shoulder leather with beige stitching and customer supplied gold fitting >*





< (top left) Habring2 in bamboo print, black shoulder lining and stitching



< (top centre) JLC Reverso in indigo bridle leather, green lining with peacock stitching

< (bottom left) Girard-Perregaux in oak bark leather, London Tan lining with beige stitching

< (bottom centre) Bremont Altitude SE in black bridle leather, red lining and twin stitch

< (bottom right) Vigilant Watch fob in dark stain oak bark leather with moss stitching





*Omega DeVille in black bridle leather, red lining and keeper with black stitching (top centre) >*



*Hermès Harnais job in navy bridle leather with dark blue stitching (top right) >*



*IWC Portugieser in navy bridle leather, indigo bridle lining with duck stitching (bottom left) >*



*Chopard in aus nut oak bark, vintage orange lining with gold stitching (bottom centre) >*



*Blancpain in green bridle leather, navy bridle lining with slate stitching (bottom right) >*





## FOB WATCH WRIST STRAP

*Our Fob Watch Wrist Straps are our most unusual pieces and the most complicated to make.*

*Uniquely bespoke, these eye-catching straps are individually wet-moulded from a single piece of leather to fit each fob watch.*

*We offer Plain/Military and Stitched options.*

< stitched fob watch wrist strap in oak bark pit-tanned leather with red stitching for a Tissot pendant fob



As for our Fob Watch Holders, our Fob Watch Wrist Straps are also made in a range of leathers which are wet-moulded around individually made wooden forms.

We can adapt the design to suit the location of the bow. Access to the fob for maintenance is from the back via a flap – the wrist keeping the flap secure whilst the strap is being worn.



*plain/military style fob watch wrist strap in indigo bridle leather with blue stitching for an antique half-hunter gold fob >*

# STRAP OPTIONS

**Stitch patterns** and hand-cut **strap points** are offered to allow you to create a strap to your own particular requirements.

We also offer a twin stitch pattern (see opposite image) and a variety of stitch sizes.

## Stitch patterns:

foot

3-line

straight

over



## Keepers:

As all our straps are made-to-measure, the strap point is long enough to need only a single, stitched-in, fixed keeper which can be specified in a contrasting colour. An additional (running) keeper is an option.

## Strap points:

egg

round

bridle

square



## **Buckles:**

Our standard buckles are nickel-free stainless steel or gold-plated in square (sports) and round (dress) shapes. Square buckles are also available in black, rose and satin. Other buckles available on request. You may supply your own buckle or we can source an original one for you.

We are able to fit straps to most supplied deployment clasps.

round s/s

round gold

sq. s/s

sq. gold



*black bridle leather with red bridle lining and red twin stitching  
with a Jaeger-LeCoultre deployment clasp*

# CUSTOMISATION

We are happy to develop customised designs – some of our most recent commissions include brogue, rally and anti-allergenic straps.

We can work with different strap attachments and mountings, eg screws and t-bars, and can curve strap ends when the clearance between case and spring bar is minimal.

Existing straps can be replicated – particularly useful for ones that are now obsolete or hard to find.

Straps can be personalised with hand-stamped initials, or hot-foil/blind embossed with your logo.

*Patek Philippe custom brogue strap in dark stain oak bark pit-tanned leather over burgundy leather with brown stitching >*



*black bridle leather with vintage green bridle lining and moss stitching, with custom gold extensions for a Jaeger-LeCoultre (top centre) >*

*8mm custom loop watch strap in black bridle leather with black stitching for an antique ladies' International Watch (top right) >*

*custom rally strap in oak bark pit-tanned leather, black lining and stitching for a Ralph Lauren (bottom left) >*

*custom turned-edge, tan calf-skin strap with black stitching and deployment clasp for a Rolex Milgauss (bottom centre) >*

*custom Victorinox in Atlantic shoulder leather, vintage orange lining with orange stitching (bottom right) >*



# HAND-STITCHING & LINEN THREAD

Aided by a diamond awl and two blunt harness needles, we use a traditional double-handed saddle stitch which is stronger than machine-stitching; more importantly, it doesn't unravel if damaged.

We offer traditional hand-waxed linen threads in a wide variety of colours and thicknesses, and we have a wide collection of both vintage and modern reels to choose from. Standard colours are available on our website.

Stitch markers are made to our own specification and we use a stitch length of between 8 and 12 stitches per inch, depending on the style and width of strap.

*Twin hand-stitching in black and gold on an indigo bridle strap for a vintage Heuer >*





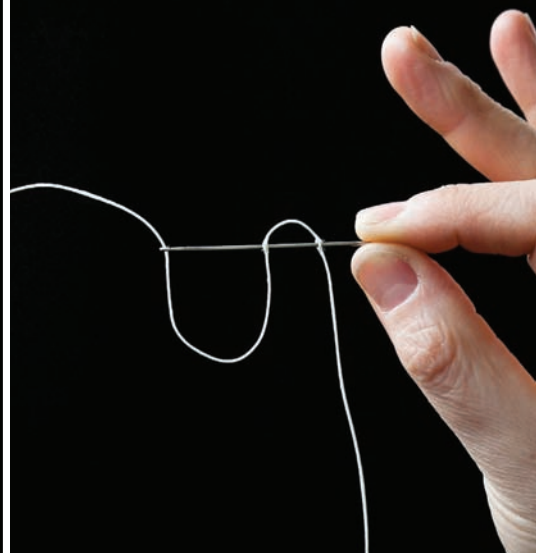
gold and black twin hand-stitching on vintage khaki bridle leather (top centre) >

threading a needle for double-handed saddlers' stitching (top right) >

gold stitching on red bridle leather with vintage orange bridle lining (bottom left) >

linen threads (bottom centre) >

slate grey stitching on black shoulder leather with Atlantic shoulder lining (bottom right) >



# LEATHER

We offer a wide range of veg-tanned leather and use full-grain as it is the best quality and the strongest part of the leather.

We source English Bridle leather from Walsall and Chesterfield, and Oak Bark Pit-Tanned leather from Devon. We also use Italian Shoulder and stock a selection of Vintage and Limited Edition hides.

Our **Vintage** and **Limited Edition** leather selection includes bridle colours no longer produced, English Cordovan, Cricket ball, Basketball and horse shoulder.

*(top, from left) mid pull up shoulder, wine red shoulder, black shoulder, vintage green bridle, indigo bridle, dark stain oak bark >*

*(bottom, from left) green bridle, navy bridle, dark stain oak bark, black bridle, English claret cordovan, vintage green bridle >*



**Bridle** and **Oak Bark** leather is a dense, hard-wearing material, and has a hand-waxed finish. The distinctive smell of an oak bark strap lingers due to its traditional method of pit-tanning which can take up to 14 months to complete.

**Shoulder** leather is a softer, more matt leather than bridle and our pull up shoulder is ideal for a vintage look.

We choose to leave our hand-cut edges undyed, and hand-polish them for a sealed finish.

Natural variation and character of leather makes every strap unique.

Samples can be requested for mail order and standard colours are available on our website.

*limited edition embossed bamboo print leather,  
black lining and stitching with contrasting keeper >*









*Breitling Navitimer in vintage khaki bridle leather, twin stitched in gold and black.*

## HOW TO ORDER: IN PERSON

Where possible, we prefer to meet our clients in person.

The advantage of meeting us face-to-face is that in addition to viewing our full range of leather and thread colours, we can discuss your strap design in depth, and subsequently fit the strap to you perfectly. We like to retain the watch to ensure an accurate fit.

This route offers the client the option to choose a **single hole** for their strap which is the true sign of a bespoke piece.

Our consultation and fitting service is available at our workshop, and in various locations in London, or we can arrange a home or office visit.

*oak bark and orange fob watch strap ready for single hole fitting >*





# BENTLEYS



*Bentleys London, Chelsea SW1 – image © Tino Tedaldi*

## HOW TO ORDER: BY MAIL ORDER

We have successfully supplied numerous straps to remote clients via mail order.

As we cannot fit the strap directly, we supply mail-order watch straps with **three holes** to allow for flexibility. We still prefer to have the watch for a perfect fit.

Watches and straps are returned fully insured by either Royal Mail or courier.

Leather and thread samples can be supplied on request.



*dark stain oak bark cuff strap with three holes for mail order >*

## GIFT VOUCHERS

If you want to give the gift of a watch strap, we can offer a gift voucher which can be embossed with text of your choice.

Valid for one year for any amount.



## CONTACT US

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Workshop in Walthamstow,  
East London – visit by appointment

Fitting service – various locations  
by appointment







SABEL



*(left): shaped tabbed cuff strap in burgundy bridle leather with peacock stitching for a Rolex Daytona*

*(centre): shaped tabbed cuff strap in cordovan and black shoulder leather with black stitching for a Rolex Paul Newman Daytona*

*(right): shaped tabbed cuff strap in vintage green bridle leather with slate grey stitching for a Rolex Daytona*