

# BESPOKE SHOEMAKING

Bespoke Derby Women Shoes – Leather Consumption for Every Part of the Shoe

**Important Note:** *We are focusing exclusively on the Bespoke Derby for women's shoes. I do not recommend using these specific materials and thicknesses for other different types of footwear.*

## 1. The Face: Upper Leather

**Material:** Goatskin | **Thickness:** 1.0mm – 1.1mm

**Purpose:** The upper is the visible face of the shoe, providing its style and accommodating the foot's flex.

**Properties:** Goatskin is exceptionally supple, allowing for precise manipulation over the curves of the last while maintaining a crisp, elegant finish essential for women's bespoke shoes.

## 2. The Foundation: Insoles

**Material:** Vegetable-Tanned Shoulder or Side | **Thickness:** 3.0mm – 4.5mm

**Purpose:** The insole is the backbone of the shoe, serving as the anchor for the entire bottom construction.

**Properties:** High-quality veg-tanned leather is breathable and moldable, taking the unique shape of the wearer's foot.

## 3. The Architects: Toe Stiffeners

**Material:** Vegetable-Tanned Belly or Neck | **Thickness:** 1.5mm – 2.5mm

**Why Veg-Tanned?** We use it for its "memory" and sculpting properties. When wetted, it is pliable; once dry, it becomes a rigid skeleton that preserves the shoe's silhouette.

## 4. The Armor: Outsoles

**Material:** Vegetable-Tanned Leather (Side Part) | **Thickness:** 3.5mm – 4.0mm

**Purpose:** For the opanka sole, we require flexible and, at the same time, dense leather that we can use to overlap the shoe bottom. For that specific reason, we use a completely different type of leather than for other sole construction types.

## 5. The Interior: Linings

**Material:** Pigskin | **Thickness:** 0.9mm – 1.0mm

**Why Pigskin?** It is exceptionally soft and breathable, making it perfect for sensitive feet. It is also more affordable than other lining materials.

## 6. Structural Customization: Shoe Last Modifications

**Material:** Vegetable-Tanned Leather Scraps

**Purpose:** Essential for adding volume to the last to accommodate specific foot needs, like a high instep or a wide shoe bottom. We use veg-tanned leather because it becomes as solid as the plastic of the shoe last itself, ensuring it will not deform during the lasting process or when hitting it with a hammer.