

Max Whitley

Leather Craftsman

Pink Hill, NC

I'm a North Carolina native who has been working with leather for over thirty years. I am a dreamer, a designer, a fabricator, a problem solver, a learner, a teacher, a person who takes pride in his work, who strives for quality, uses the best domestic and imported leathers and stands firmly behind every piece I create. The realization that old craftsmen and their skills were dying out prompted me to pick up the torch. Preserving the art of working with leather and passing this knowledge on to others who are interested is very gratifying to me. Being an independent, self-employed craftsman gives me the opportunity to insure the quality of my product. Selling my work at arts and crafts shows allows me to meet and custom fit my customers one on one and answer any questions they may have about taking care of goods purchased.

Nature provides the inspiration for many of the textures I create. I pound wet leather into coarse stone, the raised grain of wood, delicate leaves and other inviting surfaces. I use traditional hand tools and techniques for cutting, beveling, skiving, tooling, stamping, texturing, edging, cobbling, molding, dyeing and finishing. Soft chrome tanned cowhide is used for my hand sewn bags,

