



carréducker

SHOES MAKETH THE MAN

Founded in December 2004 by James Ducker and Deborah Carré, Carréducker has built an international reputation for handmade shoes that combine traditional craft skills with a distinct, contemporary aesthetic. In addition to their own bespoke showroom and workshop in Shoreditch, East London, Carréducker runs the bespoke shoe departments at world-renowned, Savile Row tailor Gieves & Hawkes and gunmakers, James Purdey & Son in London's Mayfair; prices range from £3250 upwards.

Carréducker's craftsmanship can also be seen in the permanent exhibition at the Design Museum, West Kensington London.

FOUNDERS

Deborah Carré changed career from Public Relations consultant to bespoke shoemaker when she won a coveted Queen Elizabeth Trust Scholarship in 1997. She trained as a handsewn shoemaker with master shoemaker Paul Wilson before setting up her own business, Atelier Carré making bespoke shoes and bags to commission. She lectured in Accessories Design & Marketing at the University of the Arts, London for over eight years before co-founding the Carréducker Shoe & Leather School with James Ducker in 2006.

James Ducker taught business English in Spain, but was attracted to bespoke shoemaking when, in a class on the third conditional, he let slip that he would like to be a shoemaker to a student whose father was a master cordwainer. As a result he attended the Shoemakers Guild School, Barcelona. Returning to London to continue his bespoke shoemaking training as an apprentice at John Lobb, he too trained with Paul Wilson, where he met Deborah. James lectured in handsewn shoemaking at Cordwainers College, London and the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London.

THE CRAFT OF HANDSEWN SHOEMAKING

The centuries-old craft of English handsewn shoemaking requires the mastery of discrete, specialist metiers. Last makers craft the lasts, the wooden forms on which each pair of shoes are shaped; closers create the patterns and sew the uppers; clickers assess and cut



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out the leather pieces; shoemakers construct the shoe; and polishers clean and give the final shine to the shoes. Over a combined 30 years of specialist training, apprenticeship and professional experience Deborah Carré and James Ducker have acquired mastery of the crafts that together comprise the classic, world famous 'West End' bespoke shoe.

THE BESPOKE SERVICE

Like a well-tailored suit, a properly made bespoke shoe streamlines the foot creating a sleek flattering silhouette entirely tailored to suit personal taste and style. Conceived ad hominem, Carréducker designs and draws up every shoe onto the customer's last to ensure well-balanced proportions, correct detailing and clean seam lines. Then, working with their skilled team of last maker, pattern cutter, clicker and closer, these two dimensional designs are brought to life in everything from crocodile to calf, snakeskin to suede.

Clients are seen at Carréducker's Shoreditch showroom, Savile Row, Mayfair or indeed their home, hotel or office for convenience. Having consulted and measured the customer, Deborah & James last over and brace the shoes for a series of fittings; and when the customer is happy they finish the shoes at their workbench – the welt is sewn, the sole is stitched, the heels built and the shoes finished – using only handheld tools. Finally the shoes are fitted with bespoke trees, polished, bagged, boxed and delivered ready to wear.

All the leather components for the shoe – stiffeners, insoles, soles and heel lifts - are carefully prepared and cut from English oak-bark tanned leather sourced from a single pit-tannery in Devon. This is perhaps the most sustainable and environmentally friendly form of tanning; the hides, salt, oak bark etc. are locally sourced and the water from the tanning so clean, it can be returned to the millstream outside. (Oak bark tanned leather is selected for its quality and durability; from the hides arriving at the tannery it takes upwards of nine months before the leather is ready for working).

Uppers are created in the finest grade box calf (with a tight grain to retain shape) for classic formal styles; lighter weight calf from Italy for more casual styles; soft deerskin from Scotland for informal shoes; or idiosyncratic exotics - from lizard and snakeskin to crocodile and perch. Wherever possible Carréducker uses naturally vegetable-tanned leathers, which have a lower environmental impact and patina beautifully with age.



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CARREDUCKER SHOE & LEATHER SCHOOL

Keen to see their craft continue, Deborah and James invest a significant part of their time in perpetuating tradition and transmitting their skills to a younger generation of putative shoemakers. Throughout the year they run handsewn shoe making and pattern making courses as evening classes, one-to-one, intensive 12-day classes, masterclasses and as short one and five-day introductory shoemaking workshops. Students range from corporates keen to enjoy the benefits to well-being that making brings and craft enthusiasts to shoe repairers, retailers and fellow shoemakers, all keen to enhance their knowledge of the highly prized, specialist techniques of handsewn shoemaking.

CARREDUCKER LONDON

Carréducker works with small artisanal manufacturers in England to produce limited-edition runs of unisex footwear - slip-ons, desert boots and work boots – in a wide range of sizes from UK3 to UK13. These made-to-order shoes and boots are imbued with the qualities of the bespoke – style, comfort, quality materials and a good fit – and can be ordered online at carréducker.com

Importantly, in an industry responsible for significant environmental impact and waste, Carréducker's shoes and boots are made to order, in small quantities.

CARREDUCKER HIGHLIGHTS

- Recipient the *Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust Award for Excellence*
- Permanent exhibition, The Design Museum, London
- Recipients Marsh Heritage Craft 'Made in Britain' Award
- Annual participants in London Craft Week
- Balvenie Master of Crafts Leather Award