

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE:

# *LEATHER EDGE BASECOAT*

The secret to achieving a perfectly  
smooth leather edge



**GIARDINI**

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# CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS THE  
BASECOAT

# BASECOAT DENSE

When creating the Basecoat, our initial aim was to develop a product that streamlines the edge painting process while simultaneously elevating the final outcome's quality.

The Basecoat appears as a high-density white paint initially, but it transforms into a semi-transparent finish upon drying.

This product is intended as first coat to fill all the gaps on the leather edge and create a smooth, uniform surface.

Unlike traditional methods, which involved lengthy and arduous mechanical processes, the Basecoat minimizes the need for extensive edge preparation.

The concentrated resin in the Basecoat ensures max. adhesion, resistance, and elasticity when dry.

Nowadays, even beginners can achieve a quality finish comparable to renowned luxury brands.





# CHAPTER 2

BEFORE  
STARTING



## **BASECOAT DENSE**

### **THE BEST PRIMER**

MAXMATT Basecoat Dense is your key to achieving top-notch quality on leather edges. Versatile across various leather types, it is especially recommended for finishing wide leather edges.

Reserved for use as the first layer, this paint serves the crucial role of priming the leather edge for subsequent coloring phases.

Whether applied by hand or with an automatic machine, Basecoat Dense offers flexibility in application.

After complete drying, it can be sanded or brushed to yield an impeccably smooth surface on the leather edge.

# BEST PRACTISES FOR STOCKING

Basecoat Dense is water based paints. Low temperatures are a terrible enemy for these products. Sometimes temperatures can fall below 0 ° C and, when this happen water molecules begin the crystallization process causing a change in the physical status of the paint, from liquid to solid.

**Can a leather edge paint freeze?** As a water-based product, leather edge paint has a freezing point of 0 ° C, therefore it can freeze when it is stocked for a long time below this temperature.

**Is it possible to return the paint to its original state after freezing?** Regrettably, freezing induces molecular crystallization, causing a permanent alteration in the paint's structure. This process is irreversible

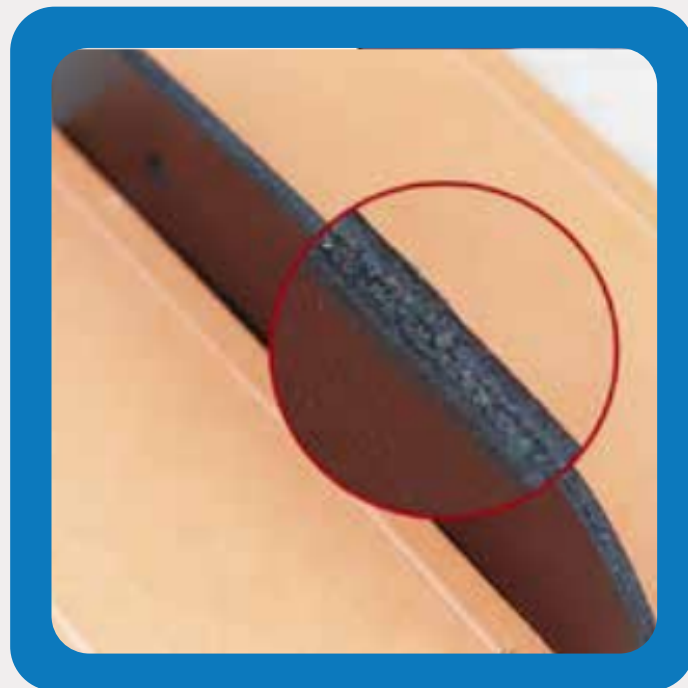
**Can the leather edge paint freeze during shipping?** During the winter months our shipments are made only by express courier from Monday to Thursday to try avoid this issue.

**What is the best way to store the products in cold Countries?** Our advice is not to store our products in an environment where the temperature can drop below 5 ° C. To control the room temperature we suggest to leave a simple thermometer that can warn you when the temperature drops too quickly. If your storage environment is closed but not heated, another option is to build a small, thermally insulated environment, perhaps using polystyrene.

# THE LEATHER EDGE PREPARATION

The physical preparation of the edge is a key phrase for the success of leather item.

The preparation method of leather edge has changed during the last few years, thanks to the paint innovation, that allowed a quicker and easier process.





# PAST VS. MODERN TIMES

## **How was the leather edge usually prepared in the past?**

Historically, preparing the leather edge for finishing and coloring phases was a critical step in achieving a high-quality result. When utilizing older paint types and acrylic technologies, this preparation process was indispensable. The extended preparation was necessary because the application of acrylic-based paint alone couldn't effectively conceal surface defects; in fact, it might even accentuate them. Consequently, considerable time was dedicated to refining the leather edge before applying the paint. Typically, the leather edge underwent processes such as sandblasting, brushing, and potentially closing using various tools. This meticulous preparation was especially crucial when dealing with laminated leather edges, such as those found on belts, bag handles, wallets, or any other leather item involving the coupling of two leather pieces.

## **How to prepare the leather edge in modern times?**

Using the Basecoat all the long operations can be avoided, as the paint itself provides to fill the empty spaces and to prepare the leather edge for the following steps, creating a uniform base, which will allow you to get a leather edge with high-quality features.

In conclusion, by using our leather edge paint you will save a lot of time.

It is important to not close the edge too much, facilitating the penetration of the paint, increasing the adhesion and resistance to mechanical stress.

The only advice that we would like to give you is to lightly sand the leather edge (which can be done using a very fine sandpaper



# 3

CHAPTER

## BASECOAT APPLICATION



# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Basecoat can be applied by hand or by machine. The method dependent on factors like desired appearance, production scale, and item complexity.

Deciding factors include whether the product needs a handcrafted look, the production scale, and the complexity of items. Balancing production speed and quantity is crucial, making the choice somewhat subjective. In our experience:

- Small artisans favour **hand application** for a handcrafted appearance, particularly when dealing with smaller or intricately shaped items.
- **Machine application** is preferred for those prioritizing uniformity in large-scale production, especially with linear items like belts, where complexity is minimal.

# MOST COMMON TOOLS FOR HAND APPLICATION

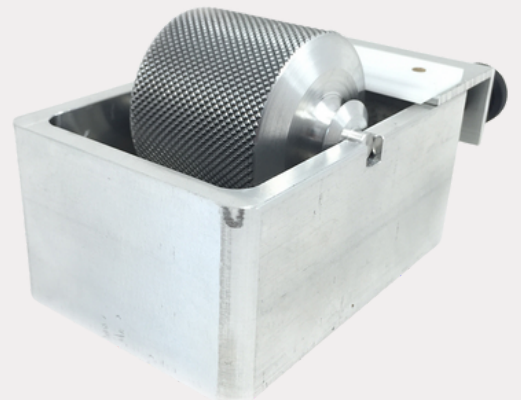
## ROLLER DYE PEN

Ideal for beginners. **Uniform application** on special and **complex geometries**. Use it like a paintbrush, dipping the tip in paint and applying it to the leather edge. To clean, soak it in hot water or a specific cleaner to prevent paint from drying on the rotating head, preserving its future use



## ROLLER DYE TOOL

Primarily used for hand-applying color to small items with **linear or larger geometries** like belts, this tool offers the advantage of not needing constant paint refill for faster production. However, its cleaning process takes a bit longer, requiring a perfectly clean roller to prevent any residue of paint affecting the application.

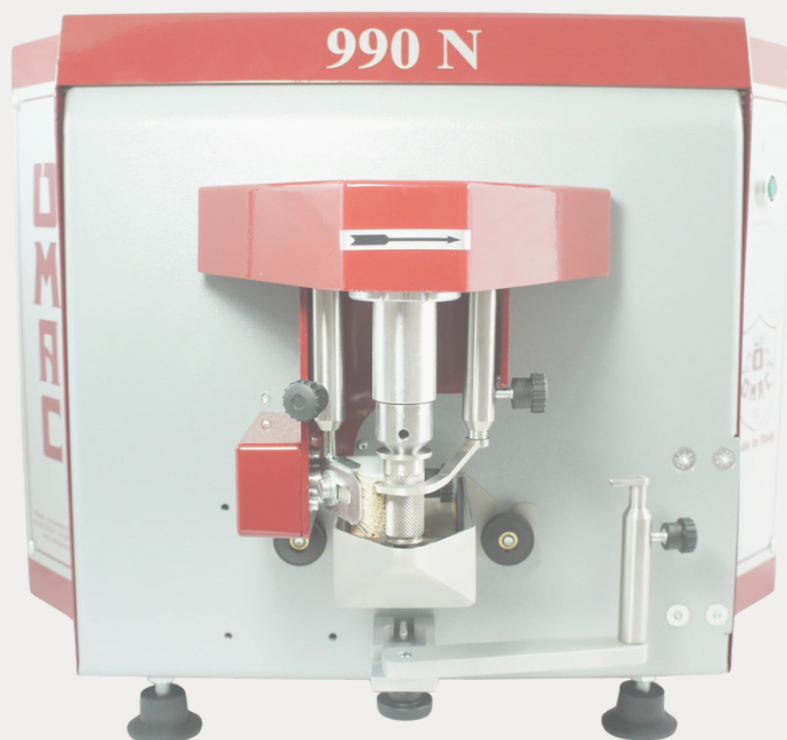


# SPECIAL ACCESSORIES FOR MACHINE APPLICATION

Automatic and semi-automatic machines are chosen based on the object type. Vertical machines are the most widespread for edge paint application, and our experiments on this type led to accessories for performance improvement.

Edge painting machines typically have countersunk rollers for liquid paints and smooth rollers for high-viscosity paints like Basecoat.

Quantity adjustment uses a medium/hard bristle brush for liquid paints and includes a Teflon spatula with a smooth roller for more consistent paints. Combining these accessories optimizes results with dyeing machines.



# CLEAN THE LEATHER SURFACE DURING THE APPLICATION



During the application if the Basecoat soils the leather surface during painting, promptly remove the wet paint using your finger for easy removal before it dries.

If the mistake is noticed after drying, try a soft brush or "rubber for leather" to avoid damaging the leather.

Cleaning while the paint is wet is the fastest and most accurate method, so exercise caution during application to save time and effort

# ADDING WATER INTO THE BASECOAT: WHEN AND HOW TO DO IT

***Can I dilute Basecoat with water, and what water type is suitable?***

If the paint seems too viscous or dries in the tank during prolonged use, you can add water to adjust the viscosity.

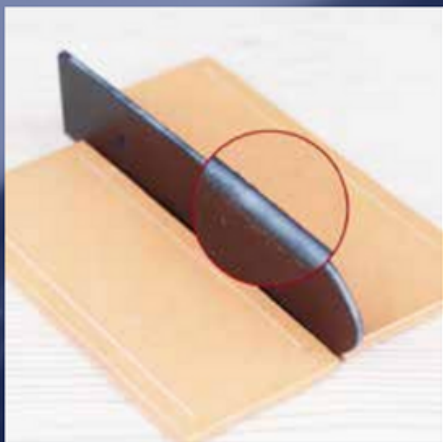
Use only purified water to prevent bacterial issues, as Basecoat lacks solvents or alcohol.

The recommended limit for water addition is 10% of the total paint volume to maintain technical features and achieve a smooth edge surface.

When modifying viscosity, proceed in small steps, adding minimal water and checking viscosity each time.



# THE STANDARD DRYING PROCESS



Before the drying time, it's essential to understand the process.

During the drying phase of the paint, the volatile part (water or solvent) evaporates, leaving only the "dry parts" on the leather surface. Drying time depends on the type of volatile part, with solvents evaporating faster than water.

To ensure complete drying, consult the recommended time on the technical data sheet, considering factors like room temperature and humidity. The drying process is analogous to baking a cake, progressing from the outside to the inside. Patience is key, and waiting the suggested time ensures safe work on your leather item.

For Basecoat the drying time at room temperature is about 30-35 minutes. Technology can reduce it to 12 minutes by using a specific oven.





# 4 CHAPTER

## THE DRYING PHASE

# WHERE TO LAY YOUR ITEM TO DRY?

Drying is a crucial phase, especially in the first few minutes. To prevent any contact between the newly dyed edge and other surfaces, be cautious about where you place the finished item.

Consider the type of object you're creating – larger items are less problematic, as you can dye each side separately.

However, for smaller leather goods, finding a suitable drying place is more complex.

Use small supports like plastic bottle caps to prevent the fresh paint from touching other surfaces.



# HOW TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF DRYING PHASE

Efficient drying is a common desire among leather crafters, particularly for production efficiency. Manufacturing companies employ professional ovens to reduce production times.

However, for individual craftsmen looking to cut down leather edge paint drying time, a simple solution lies in using a household item – the hairdryer.

This practical and effective method involves directing warm air onto the edge surface.

When using a **hairdryer**, exercise caution by starting with a gentle, warm air blow, maintaining distance to prevent smudging wet paint. Gradually bring the air closer as the paint solidifies.

This method surpasses oven drying effectiveness, as concentrated hot air on one leather item speeds up drying times, with the leather edge completely dried in approximately **5-10 minutes**.

# SANDING THE LEATHER EDGE

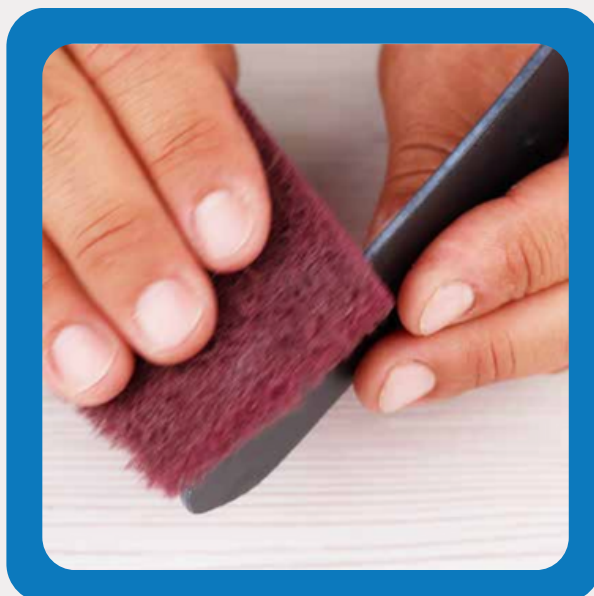
After the Basecoat has completely dried, the final step in preparing the leather edge is the sanding phase.

**Sanding or buffing is necessary** to achieve a smooth and uniform surface, eliminating small imperfections resulting from an imperfect cut or any flaws left after the Basecoat application.

During sanding, any small leather hairs incorporated in the Basecoat are removed, leaving the leather edge perfectly prepared for the dyeing step.

Buffing/sanding can be done manually using a scotch-brite cloth or fine-grain sandpaper.

Alternatively, for faster results, rotary brushes can be employed.



**LOOKING FOR  
MORE HELPFUL  
LEATHER EDGE  
PAINTING  
INFO?**



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