

# ANILINE LEATHER: NATURAL AND CLASSY DESIGN

“What I have learnt from working with leather design has had a formative influence on my life.”

Stefan Kugler, Manager Spare Parts Brückner Servtec

**ANILINE LEATHER** is coloured exclusively with soluble dyes. The surface retains its natural appearance – without any top or pigment coat.

**THE ADVANTAGES:** It is breathable, does not crack and does not get so hot in the summer.

**16 DIFFERENT** shades of red and brown are found in the leather cover of a wing chair – a veritable masterpiece.

**HIGHEST QUALITY:** Stefan Kugler uses only leather from stabled bulls in the south of Germany.



**STEFAN KUGLER**

**Wohnort:** Mietenkam (Germany)

**Joined the Brückner Group:** 2002

**Loves:** All kinds of technology and skiing

“Leather simply interested me as a raw material,” says Stefan Kugler. Although with the Brückner Group since 2002, he cut his teeth professionally designing fine leather. Stefan founded the company Design Leder Übersee in 1994 together with a cousin and a friend. The idea was to leave the leather as close as possible to its natural form regardless of the dyes and patterns used. Stefan: “For the most part, it is usually cheap leather that is used in the vehicle or furniture industry. Any irregularities are smoothed over and then a pigment coat is applied and softening agents used.” The result: the leather feels unnatural, is hardly breathable at all and gets unpleasantly hot in the summer.

By contrast, Stefan’s workshop produced aniline leather, which was coloured only with soluble dyes but still attained the highest possible level of light fastness (Level 6). The raw materials come exclusively from stabled southern German bulls with undamaged skin. Although the surface retained its natural appearance, Stefan was able to design intricate patterns using dyes he had developed himself. “For BMW, we supplied leather with a treadplate sheet pattern.” The cover of a wing chair, the masterpiece of a Bavarian upholsterer, is a landscape design featuring 16 shades of brown and red.

Stefan also supplied aniline leather for Mercedes-Benz top management cars and motorbike suits for Hein Gericke and BMW. In addition, two Suzuki jeeps were exhibited at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt – here, the leather was showcased as a work of art in itself and met with a very enthusiastic response. When the company failed to gain a lasting foothold in the market, he took a job with the Brückner Group. “I suppose we were ahead of our time,” he smiles on reflection. “After all, I was still very young when I set up my own company. But what I learnt back then – creativity, flexibility and social skills – proved to be incredibly valuable. That was a formative influence on my life.”