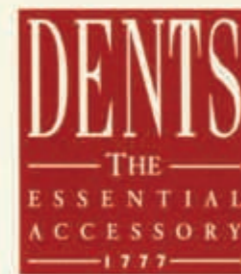


FINE ACCESSORIES



IT TAKES TIME TO CREATE
THE WORLD'S
FINEST GLOVES...



BELTS GLOVES HATS HANDBAGS SCARVES SERAPES

A TRADITION OF STYLE & QUALITY



The Worcester factory, early 20th century



Advertisement, circa 1910

Since the reign of King George III, Dents has been crafting and creating the world's finest gloves and accessories, establishing a heritage of skill, craftsmanship and timeless styling that has been nurtured for over 225 years. The company was founded in 1777, in the beautiful cathedral city of Worcester, England. Here, in an old timber house, John Dent cut his first pair of gloves to sell under his company's name. Nearby, in 1777, John Dent's first son John junior was born, and later, in the same timbered cottage, a second son, William was born in 1784. John Dent had founded his business at a very favourable time, and it thus

enjoyed many years of rapid growth, which led to him moving his residence to 34 Foregate Street, Worcester, in 1784. John junior and William Dent served a seven year apprenticeship, which they began at the age of 15. John Dent senior was now considered a wealthy man and, with his sons, was prominent in the social life of Worcester. In future years, it was the partnership of John junior and William that founded the dynasty of artisans whose craftsmanship were to make the name of Dents famous around the world.



Advertisement, circa 1925

Dents global factories and warehouses, circa 1909

WAREHOUSES.	
LONDON	PARIS
	NEW YORK
GRENOBLE	NAPLES
FACTORIES, &C.	
ENGLAND-	
LONDON	MASTOCK
	WORCESTER
FRANCE-	GERMANY-
GRENOBLE	LIEPKE
BELGIUM-	ITALY-
BRUSSELS	NAPLES
SKIN DRESSING YARDS.	
BELGIUM	OTTIGNIES
ITALY	NAPLES

Glovesmaking has always required the skilled hand and eye of the true craftsman. The glovesmaker's craft did not undergo the mechanisation of the manufacturing process as so many other industries in the 19th and early 20th centuries did, and the important elements of glovesmaking remain today almost completely dependent on the judgement and dexterity of the true artisan. Throughout the company's history, generations of Dents craftsmen have faithfully embodied John Dents' tradition of skill and care, creating beautiful gloves with the very fine stitch that is the hallmark of Dents, and which is still practiced by Dents craftspeople in the 21st century.



JOHN DENT
THE COMPANY'S FOUNDER
1751-1811



Dents, Belgium factory, circa 1913



Grenoble factory, late 19th century

Dents was a major exporter of fine gloves and accessories throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. The company, through its subsidiaries in New York, Paris, Grenoble, Brussels, Leipzig, Prague, Sydney and Naples, crafted and sold the finest hand made gloves throughout the world. During this period, it became increasingly important for fashionable ladies and gentlemen to wear gloves for all social occasions, and Dents' fortunes prospered accordingly. Today, the Dents factory is located in the beautiful country town of Warminster, Wiltshire, where you will also find the

Dents Museum. The museum's extensive collection includes many examples of 18th and early 19th century gloves, an exhibit of special interest being the Coronation Glove of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which Dents was proud to be chosen to create for Her Majesty's Coronation in 1953.

Dents Coronation Glove made by Dents for H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II, 1953



The history of gloves gives a fascinating insight into social developments over the past two centuries. The *Dictionary of Etiquette*, published at the end of the 19th century, says, "Gloves should be worn by a lady when out walking or driving, at tea dances, balls, dinner parties, the opera or theatre. Men should wear gloves in the street or at a ball, when paying a call, driving, riding and in church."



Dents lady's chauffeuse gloves, circa 1910



Chauffeur's gauntlets, circa 1907

Today, as in the past, the company is still crafting fine leather gloves in the traditional manner. Dents is proud of the heritage and its longstanding commitment to quality and craftsmanship – the enduring legacy of its founder, John Dent, master glovemaking.



Department store window display, London, circa 1890



THE CRAFT OF GLOVEMAKING



A skilled glove cutter normally serves a seven year apprenticeship under the tuition of a master cutter. Today the apprenticeship is shorter, but it still requires great proficiency borne of years of experience and a long training period to become a qualified cutter. A keen eye and dexterous hands are essential skills in the practice of an art that has hardly changed over the past 226 years. The process of creating a pair of gloves is a long one, involving 32 different operations, most of which are required to be done by hand.

The finest leathers

The natural qualities of leather, with its subtle variation and nuances of shading and occasional marking, tests the skill of Dents leather buyers and selectors, because no two pieces of leather are ever the same. To select the perfect leather for each style of glove, every individual piece of leather must be carefully sorted, inspected and graded, and no machine can match the selector's skill and knowledge. The experienced eye of the leather selector recognises the wide variety of different leathers, with variation in grain, texture, thickness and strength. All of these qualities must be assessed before selecting that one special piece that is uniquely suitable for the particular glove being created. It is this constant search for perfection, and commitment to quality, which gives a Dents glove that "secret fit" and comfort that is its hallmark.

Dents factory seamstress, circa 1892.



Using a "donkey" frame to hold the glove while it is being sewn. Dents factory, circa 1900.



Gloving Punch, as used for over 200 years.

Crafted with skill and pride

Today, each pair of Dents gloves is crafted with loving care by craftspeople whose attention to the smallest detail creates a glove that is a unique and timeless accessory.

This tradition of craftsmanship is embodied in Dents' commitment to preserving the revered skills and craftsmanship of its founder, John Dent.



Cutting shears and glove stretchers.

Cutting the leather – the "secret fit"

When selecting a pair of gloves, the most important consideration, apart from the beauty of the leather, is the fit. One of the best-loved features of any Dents glove is its special fit, and this is owed entirely to the skill and experience of the master cutter. The cutter's keen eye, borne of years of experience, together with the careful shaping and stretching of leather, will influence the final fit of the glove.

The style and design of the glove will be determined by the glove "pattern". This is a flat, thick piece of card in the shape of a glove. A different pattern is required for each individual size, and will vary according to the type of leather being used. All high-quality gloving leathers have a natural stretch, and the pattern must be adjusted according to the stretch required, to ensure a perfect fitting glove.

The patterns used today date back to 1839 and are available in 20 different sizes. Prior to circa 1845, all gloves were sewn by hand because there was no machinery available to help the craftspeople. Today at Dents, many gloves are still sewn by hand, but the wooden "donkey" is no longer used as a guide for the stitching, and the skilled hand-sewer stitches freehand. It was not until after 1845, with the invention of the Elias Howe machine, that mechanical sewing was introduced into glovemaking.





Finishing touches

It is now time for the back of the glove to be decorated. Today, the traditional classic three rows of stitching, known as "points", are most common, although in the past it was not unusual to decorate the backs of gloves or cuffs with embroidery. Nowadays, it is more likely to be a fancy stitch, button, brass or metal detail trimming that decorates the back of the glove.

The lining of any glove is very important, and the care with which the lining is made and inserted will affect the glove's final appearance. A glove may be lined with a variety of materials, silk and cashmere being the most popular linings used today. A Dents glove lining is actually made as a separate glove and, when inserted into the glove, it effectively becomes a glove within another glove. This gives an improved fit, and makes the gloves more comfortable to wear.

The different parts of the glove are now ready to be assembled and stitched together by machine or by hand. Gloves can be stitched in a variety of ways, depending on the weight of the leather and the lining being used. Every method of stitching has its own special name. The Prickseam method, whereby the two edges of the gloves are exposed, is used for heavier weight leathers, whereas Inseam is, as the name suggests, a method by which the gloves are stitched inside out so, when they are finally turned the right way out, the

inseam stitch becomes invisible, leaving a neat seam.

The glove is now ready for the separate glove lining to be inserted by hand using a Lining Former, which is the traditional method used by Dents. The gloves are now nearly complete, except that they must be carefully ironed. This process was originally known as Laying-out, and was done entirely by hand with the aid of Dolly sticks, which were inserted into the gloves with a damp cloth. Today, gloves are ironed on an electrically heated brass hand to give them their special finished appearance. This process is still known as Laying-out.

It takes 32 different operations to make a pair of Dents gloves and, as each operation is complete, they are carefully examined for any imperfections which, if found, will result in their immediate rejection. Only then will the gloves be deemed worthy to carry the famous Dents label, and to be finally passed for shipment to a Dents appointed retailer.



Dents Lady's Dress Gloves, circa 1920



Left: Inserting the glove linings, using a Lining Former. Dents factory, Warminster, England.



Sewing the "points" to the back of the glove. Only the hand and eye of the skilled machinist ensures accuracy. Dents factory, Warminster, England.



Dents exhibition stand, circa 1919



HINTS ON CARING FOR YOUR DENTS GLOVES

Today, gloves are a stylish and practical accessory to complement your busy lifestyle. Like any other high quality accessory, your gloves need to be treated with care if they are to retain their naturally pleasing appearance. We hope the following guidelines will prove helpful in keeping your fine gloves looking their best.

1. When putting on a glove, please try to avoid pulling by the cuff, as it pulls the glove out of shape and can strain the fine stitching. One should fold back the top of the glove cuff and carefully insert the fingers, smoothing each one gently downwards towards the base of the finger, ensuring each finger fits smoothly inside the glove.
2. To remove a glove, one should gently pull the glove from the top of each finger and thumb, sliding it off gently, a little at a time.
3. Unfortunately, for practical reasons, gloves are often rolled or pushed into pockets, and as a result can possibly lose their shape and good appearance. Any article of quality clothing needs to be cared for. Accordingly, we recommend that after use, you should always gently pull your gloves back into shape and, where practical, store them laid flat. This will help them to keep their good appearance.
4. If by chance your gloves do become damp or rain spotted, carefully smooth them into shape and lie them on a towel to dry naturally. Never dry your gloves in direct sunlight, or on a radiator, or use any form of artificial heat, as this may cause discolouration and hardening of the fine leather.
5. Gloves may be dry cleaned by an experienced specialist leather dry cleaner.

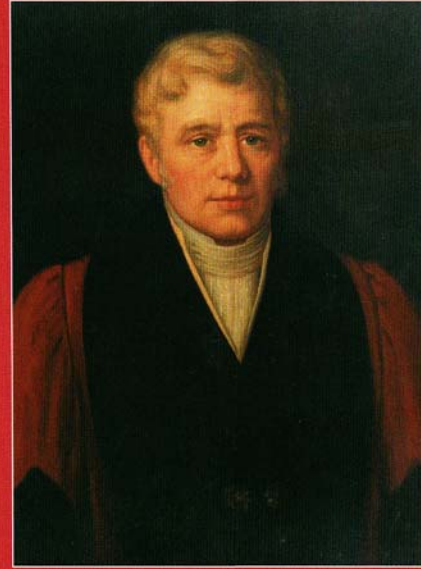


DID YOU KNOW?

- Twice a year, Dents designers create a new collection of stylish men's and women's fine accessories, including gloves.
- The word "glove" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "glof".
- In 1863, 562,513 pairs of gloves, valued at £61,440, were exported from the UK.
- Gloves have been worn since the Stone Age, to protect the hands and arms of hunters. In the Middle Ages, gloves became a rich and expensive status symbol, and part of the official dress of Kings and Bishops, being a mark of distinction and honour.
- In the Middle Ages, the act of "throwing down the gauntlet" – a phrase still used today – was a pledge that a Knight was prepared to fight to defend his or his lady's honour.
- The custom of giving gloves at Christmas or New Year dates from mediaeval times – they were given as a token of friendship and faithfulness. This is still a popular custom today.
- Queen Elizabeth I of England loved her gloves, and would continually put them on and take them off in order to display them.
- If a maiden in Sicily wished to be married, she would wear red gloves – a symbol of fertility.
- The oldest pair of gloves in existence date from circa 1350 b.c. and were found in Tutankamen's tomb.
- In certain regions of Greenland, if a man's wife died, the husband made a pair of gloves from her hair, as a mark of respect.
- Probably, the world's finest and softest leather is tanned especially for Dents, in England, by Pittard's of Yeovil.
- In 1937, Dents had the honour to manufacture the coronation glove worn by HRH King George VI at his coronation.
- In 1953, Dents was honoured again, when the company was asked to manufacture the coronation glove worn by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation.
- Today it still takes Dents' craftspeople 32 different operations to manufacture a single pair of gloves.
- Today Dents gloves are still cut by hand, one pair at a time, as is a finely tailored bespoke Savile Row suit.
- Points are not just a system for directing trains, they are the one or sometimes three lines of decorative stitching on the back of the glove.



John Dent jr.
1777-1835



William Dent
1784-1854

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Many of Dents' accessories are handmade using

Dentons
WORLD CLASS LEATHER

Printed in England