

A Modern Magazine tracing the Roots of Style

men's file

Dane Rowe at the 59 Club 1967

The **Family** Issue

MOTORCYCLE & LEATHER

BROOKLANDS SPEC

HARLEY-DAVIDSON BOARD RACER VS NAPIER RAITC

Conrad Leach

Prefab Houses

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Penny Farthings

Cannonball Run

The Vintagent New Writing

Bugatti Type 13

Ivy League Style

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issue

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Highly skilled hands on the cutting table



The process of sewing on the white leather piping.



Two-way heavy-duty zip



A range of patches will be offered to decorate the bag



[Below] first prototype VELO MOTO helmet bag

Chapman

The Making of a Bag



Always digging deep to bring our readers new experience in the realm of 'making', *Men's File* wanders lonely as a cloud and traverses England's Lake District before arriving at an old tannery at the edge of Carlisle. Chapman is a traditional bag maker, originally specialising in equestrian hunting, shooting and fishing products. They work in leather and water-proofed canvas and tweed and now make a very fashionable collection for their own Chapman range as well as for some of the most exacting clients anywhere in the world. Quite simply they are amongst the best anywhere.

After some negotiation they agreed to turn their considerable skills towards a project initiated by *Men's File's* retail arm, The Curator. This is the manufacture of a 1960s Helmet or Leathers motorcycle bag that will be for sale on the website in the spring of 2011 in their VELO MOTO section (keep your eyes look out. Ed.). This features a 'sling' type construction which means the natural webbing handles run right under the bag and support heavy weights thus making it impossible for the handles to breakaway from the body of the bag. American nickel plated dome-top rivets are also used to add even more strength. The Curator has a simple aim – to make items that you see in archival photographs but are impossible to find today and this bag is a perfect example.

After arriving at the workshop we were able to follow the production of the first prototype by Chapman's master bag maker. It's easy to exaggerate the quality of workmanship and materials but within this small team of machinists, cutters and finishers there's a real feeling of pride in what they do and that means a great end result. It was a wonderful experience to work with such a company and we suggest you visit the website soon.

www.chapmanbags.com
www.thecurator.co.uk