

WALLETS, PURSES & HANDBAGS



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SMALL MAYBE, BUT THE QUALITY IS UNQUESTIONABLE

Bags - and wallets, purses and the like come in all shapes and sizes. The materials from which they are made varies greatly depending on where you are in the world, locally available materials oftentimes dominating but one material above all else is available the world over - leather.

Used by humans for centuries, leather will never go out of fashion and will always be there or thereabouts in as far as class and quality go. Japan, of course is no different to the rest of the world in as far as such attitudes towards leather go, and today the leather industry in the Land of the Rising Sun is as prominent as it has ever been; the products manufactured using leather at the

very top of the pile be that viewed from a fashion or a quality perspective.

Some of Japan's very best items produced in leather include wallets, purses, handbags and clutch bags - with many more carry cases in a range of designs thrown in for good measure.

Many of Japan's leading leather bag, wallet and purse manufacturers are based in the Northeast of Tokyo in the area between Ueno and Asakusa; home of the famed Senso-ji Temple, and many of these bag, wallet, and purse brands have been around for decades - some for over a century.

Most specialize in one or two areas and offer their high quality products all over

the country in department stores and top range stores. Colors, sizes and designs across the spectrum can be viewed and purchased online or in-person at many of the locations in which they are offered. Purchases can always be made in the knowledge that workmanship is second to none; the Japanese being amongst the worlds most demanding and attentive of customers.

To see what styles are big this year in the wallet/purse department look around, find the obvious fasionista and see what they are using. Observation of bags being used is of course easier than that of cash / card holders and Japan's female population are always at the forefront of bag and purse

fashion - in Asia and arguably the world making it easy to spot what is in, what's not and what's on its way out. Clutch bags though are always a safe bet, especially for those heading out after dark. Traditional shoulder bags never go out, even if the straps alternate between the short and the long, but many designs have grown in the volume they can hold in recent years, yet, regardless of the style and size you are after, leather as the material the product in question is made, and the need for attention to detail paid in Japan produced pieces will never go out! Guaranteed.

Yutaka Sakai, the president of BINOH (www.binoh.co.jp), is a gentleman immensely

Bag Liore

Bag Liore, a bag and leather goods shop, was established in 1993 by the mother company "WATA-ICHI" with traditional values and modern marketing techniques. The name of the store comes from the English word "Bag" and the Italian word "Liore," which stands for "radiance, glitter, hope." Bag Liore is the original brand and is especially known for leather goods using reptile leather such as crocodile, and python as well as others.

Their basic brand concepts are:

- Cutting, Mode design and use of high-quality materials.
- Balance between price & quality
- Pursuing the best possible Craftsmanship.
- Proposing lifestyles.
- Love our Japanese technique - Made in Japan.

The modern construction offered by Bag Liore matches the stylish town scenery of Jiyugaoka, and once inside, the hospitality of the shop staff and the relaxing and spacious floor area will make your shopping expedition even more enjoyable.

CÉLENCEE

CÉLENCEE's collection is an innovative lineup of products put together by combining real premium leather -- such as crocodile, python, and lizard with nylon and bovine leather. Their "Vanilla Crocodile" (ivory-colored crocodile) line and "Denim Crocodile" (a unique navy-colored crocodile leather piece) line-ups are very popular, with many celebrities plumping for their work.

The whole process, from the development of new materials through the tanning and manufacturing, takes place in Japan, while materials and even small parts like clasps and fasteners are all original products.

CÉLENCEE also repairs goods for a top European brand, and also offers free bag cleaning, and the bags produced by CÉLENCEE will enrich your soul from the moment you pick them up and carry them. We hope you find the bag of your dreams that will bring out the individuality in yourself.

INDEN-YA

INDEN-YA, first inaugurated in 1582 is a venerable establishment that offers perfection in the traditional craftwork of "inden" - soft, light deerskin leather decorated with lacquer -- to this very day. All of their merchandise, Japanese hand-made products by craftsmen, are traditional products designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

One of the pleasures of seeing and using these products is the color and textural changes you will see come into play over the course of time. The longer you use them, the clearer the lacquer will become, closer to its original color, while the deerskin will become more supple and soft.

The most popular patterns are Japanese classic designs of dragonflies, wave crest patterns and tortoise shells. These were created using a Japanese sense of natural beauty, all linked to the beautiful nature and seasons of Japan. Classical designs with an accent of modern style added to them are also a hit. They also have plenty of small products which make for perfect souvenirs.

KIYOKAWA

KIYOKAWA was founded 50 years ago in downtown Tokyo close to Azumabashi Bridge and the Sumida River. This long-established handbag company takes pride in taking care in every process from start to finish as is required to put together a product (from design and planning through manufacturing) and all is carried out at their own workshop in order to confirm the 'fully made-in-Japan' end item.

Their bags are functional and aesthetically pleasing, and are created from carefully selected materials with tradition and skills cultivated throughout the history of the company. Crafted by expert artisans, but with a new approach, their products often appear in popular fashion magazines.

KIYOKAWA produces two different lines. The "chrim" brand line-up features goods with a natural style using delicate colors in harmony with nature, with the "handmade touch" of this leather bag manufacturer very evident. Using high-quality materials, put together by both experts and younger craftsmen to bring out the mixed taste of the two, the "azzuni" brand line-up pursues perfection in texture and functionality. Both brands offer goods for both men and women.



● ADDRESS: 2-15-20, Jiyugaoka, Meguro-ku, Tokyo
● TEL: (03) 5701 4911 ● OPEN: 11am-7pm
● CLOSED: Tue, Wed, Summer & New Year holidays
※ Open on a public holiday that falls on a Tuesday or Wednesday and then close on the Thursday in lieu
● NEAR STATION: a 7-minute walk from the Jiyugaoka Sta. on the Tokyu Toyoko Line or the Tokyu Oimachi Line
● URL: <http://www.bagliore.com>

UC JACCS AMEX MASTER VISA 銀聯

COUPON

For a pen case as a FREE GIFT
※ One gift per customer
Offered to the first 20 customers

proud of the wonderful range he produces, and rightly so.

Crocodile, lizard and other reptilian leather form the backbone of BINOH's collection that includes bags large and small in a huge range of styles, shades and colors. Purses and wallets too can be, and are produced from such leather and are always popular investments for those looking for a little class.

From large black crocodile leather bags capable of sufficing for an overnight trip, or as part of an overseas vacation baggage collection (see * note below) to clutch bags more at home in the hands of a lady on a night at the opera, humanity's preference to recycle from time immemorial is only reinforced in these interesting pieces still being sold today.

Throughout the range produced by BINOH, the delicate patterns of the scales, some lifting slightly when touched all demonstrate an immense amount of care and attention in the manufacturing process. This is magnified many times over when the 'sealing' process evident at

**THE RANGE PRODUCED BY
BINOH ALL DEMONSTRATE AN
IMMENSE AMOUNT OF CARE
AND ATTENTION EXEMPLIFIED
BY THE SEALING PROCESS
EVIDENT IN EACH PIECE,
WHICH IS UNIQUE TO JAPAN**

the edge of each piece, and in particular smaller items, is inspected, a hard-wearing form of sealant unique to Japan.

Most items are produced from creatures – crocodiles, pythons, other snakes and a variety of lizards and 'monitors' native to South East Asia, imported into Japan where they are treated and processed.

* Some items sold in Japan fall under the jurisdiction of "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITES)".

If a tourist buys items under CITES to bring them back to their own or another country, it is necessary to obtain a CITES export permit issued by The Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry(METI).

Japan Leather and Leather Goods Industries Association

www.jlia.or.jp

Writer: Mark Buckton

Photographs: Official BINOH &

Christopher Jue



Yutaka Sakai - the president of BINOH.

Le Prairies GINZA

Le Prairies GINZA uses only the finest and best leather carefully selected from sources around the world with their strict quality standards. "Tradition and refinement," are their corporate policy. Inside the store the atmosphere is like that of a museum. Their products range from items with a very basic design to highly crafted work. The "Kakutaku" lineup, which uses rare and wonderfully high-quality natural materials such as lizard and elephant leather from all over the world sewn by veteran Japanese craftsmen, and the "Seamless" lineup, which hides stiches on the product surface, are just two of their many original products.

Fashionable leather-lovers are the main customers to shop here, and offer a monogram service for those who purchase pieces.

Men and women alike can choose from a wide variety of bags, purses and small goods. Their products are made of cordovan, a tough but supple and very rare leather of horse hind; one of the most popular forms of merchandise they offer.

mic

mic is a private brand launched in 1978 by a small leather goods producer, inaugurated in 1961. Every year they produce more than four thousand different types of small leather goods, but specialize in leather purses – 100 percent original productions from the very first design through to the end of the sewing process. Purses being their specialty, they put a great deal of thought into functionality as an item for daily use when they plan products.

Having been in the business for a long time, mic has the experience and technique capability to tailor to customer's wishes and to elaborate on what they produce. They also have an immense wealth of knowledge on leather materials and have connections to many different areas from which they can purchase a variety of materials. All this makes it possible for mic to produce the finest, and detailed, easy-to-use purses you will find anywhere.

Squeeze

All staff at Squeeze are expert handbag craftsmen. At one end of the store is an atelier in which these artisans create each product using domestic Japanese materials. All of the products – from the women's clutch bags to small leather goods – are self-manufactured and 100% "Made in Japan," which is why these high-quality, stylish creations can be purchased at such moderate prices.

The designs are simple, with great emphasis on being lightweight as well as in their usability, but with a playful touch such as embossed gilt, and punched decorations.

You can also choose from the many different leather materials they have in stock, colors and patterns to suit your own taste, and even order a custom-made bag just for yourself. They can also turn scarves and obi into handbags and can fix or repair existing bags and faults too.

The store itself is located in an area worth visiting for sightseeing purposes for those in Tokyo for a limited period -- close to the Ryogoku Kokugikan, Edo-Tokyo Museum and Tokyo Sky Tree.

ZURRON BLVD

A clothing and accessories store boasting a sophisticated and stylish lineup of handbags, small goods, and clothing items. The colorful items on display are wonderful even just to browse through, and as new products arrive every two weeks, you may find something you might want to purchase, even on repeat visits but our advice would be to buy it on the spot because all items sold here are one-offs.

Many of the products are themselves original goods with unique and beautiful designs, including handbags decorated using traditional Japanese techniques such as "makie," a pattern drawn in lacquer with sprinkled gold or silver powder and with a lacquer coating, and "yuzen dye" on leather. These are a collaboration of cutting-edge fashions and traditional industrial artwork.

Many of our clients are the more fashionable, discerning women in their fifties, but a lot of foreign visitors also come to the store. The goods here will satisfy customers and help them understand that bags are an integral part of their fashion outlook and we can help them in obtaining the very best the city has to offer.



Made from rigorous quality standard in the traditional and the refinement to the key words by selected leather carefully.



Le Prairies® GINZA

● ADDRESS:1-14-4, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

● TEL:(03) 5159 2234

● OPEN:11am-7pm

● CLOSED:Sat, Sun, national holidays

● NEAR STATION:a 5-minute walk from the Ginza Sta. on the Tokyo Metro Ginza Line

● URL:<http://www.prairie-co.jp>

UC JACCS AMEX MASTER VISA 銀聯

COUPON

In bringing this Coupon,

20% OFF

※ Invalid for sale items

※ Valid through 12-25-2010



High quality products of exquisite craftsmanship and ingenious ideas.



MIC

● ADDRESS:Ameyoko Center Bldg. 2F, 4-7-8, Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo

● TEL:(03) 3837 3932

● OPEN:10am-8pm ● CLOSED:Wed

● NEAR STATION:a 5-minute walk from Shinobazu Exit of the Ueno Sta. on the JR Yamanote Line

● URL:<http://www.mic1978.com>

UC JACCS AMEX MASTER VISA 銀聯

COUPON

For a leather cream as a FREE GIFT
Offered to the first 30 customers



Handcrafted bags all made in Japan with elegant designs spiced with a playful spirit.



Squeeze

LEATHER CRAFT & REPAIR

● ADDRESS:2-13-5, Midori, Sumida-ku, Tokyo

● TEL:(050) 5803 9838

● OPEN:9am-7pm

● CLOSED:4th Sat, Sun, national holidays

● NEAR STATION:a 8-minute walk from Ryogoku Sta. on the Toei Subway Oedo Line

● URL:<http://www.zb.em-net.ne.jp/~oozekikaban/>

UC JACCS AMEX MASTER VISA 銀聯

COUPON

In bringing this Coupon,

10% OFF

※ Invalid for sale items

※ Valid through 10-09-2010



Leather handbags with crystal-like shining surface.



ZURRON BLVD

● ADDRESS:5-1-28, Minami-azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo

● TEL:(03) 3473 0377

● OPEN:11am-8pm

● CLOSED:New Year holidays

● NEAR STATION:a 1-minute walk from Exit No.3 of Hiroo Sta. on the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line



COUPON

In bringing this Coupon,

10% OFF

※ Invalid for sale items

※ Valid through 09-30-2010

