

O'NEILL BAG REVIEW

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O'Neill Pipe Bags are made by Aaron O'Neill of Australia who has in recent years been playing with the Fife Constabulary Pipe Band. His bags are made from high quality cow or calf skin, which he handpicks from the tannery. This is quite a thin walled bag. It is not chrome finished leather so the bag will absorb quite a lot of moisture, much like sheep or goat skin but probably not the same volume. On the plus side, they do not seem to dry out as much either.



Glued Seam O'Neill Bag

Once a skin has been selected, it is then marked, cut and glued using a double seam method where there is both an internal and external seam, this ensures that the bag is air tight! There is also a stitched seam version available.

The cut of the glued bag looks very different to a stitched seam sheepskin or goat skin bag. A stitched seam bag does not require a deliberate 'fold' in the neck of the bag. The neck of the bag has quite a severe swan neck allowing airflow and a comfortable playing position. This keeps your chanter straight and in line with your body when the stocks are tied in. The bag also feels very comfortable under the arm.



Stitched Seam O'Neill Bag

We are pleased to see Aaron offering both a glued and stitched seam version of his bags. The stitched seam is straight neck only, but we have a firm view that there is a difference in the performance of both types of bags. There is certainly a different top hand tone from chanters in a stitched seam bag.

After playing one of these bags for a short time we installed a hose style water trap and found a significant improvement in playing time, moisture issues and stability. The bag was easy to tie on, comfortable to play, very air tight and easy to season.



Aaron O'Neill demonstrating the playing position of an O'Neill Bag.

We hope Aaron will provide some size details on his website, especially bag depth to assist purchasers make a suitable selection. His site can be found at: <http://www.oneillpipebags.com/>

Numerous similar reviews are located at www.schoolofpiping.com

We are always happy to offer advice on bag selection, bagpipe set up and more.



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