

MAKHSICHILIK

There are such shoes called *makhsi* among all the shoes, invented by the humankind. These shoes were used both by men and women from ancient times. People wore it mainly in cold seasons of the year. During the day *makhsi* worn inside the house, and when going outside, *kalish* (galoshes) was worn on it. In the territory of Uzbekistan even nowadays elderly men and women wear *makhsi*.

Masters from Fergana Valley had always been dominating in *makhsi* making, *Maxis*, prepared by them are sold not only in Uzbekistan, but are also brought to the neighboring countries. The secrets of *makhsi* making are passed from masters to apprentices. Mainly, whole families are occupied with this type of handicraft.

For *makhsi* making firm and flexible leather is needed and only the leather of young cattle corresponds to these requirements. The leather is specially tanned and colored. From the ready leather necessary (bottom, surface and pair) parts for *makhsi* are cut based on the sketch. Once these parts are joined together, *makhsi* gets ready. For wearing in cold days leather with wool is used. The woolen part is sewed from inside and it keeps the feet hot. In sewing *makhsi*, hard models prepared from wood are used. Models serve for sewing *makhsi*

in necessary size, and for appropriately joining the parts.

In ancient times, *makhsi* was prepared from natural leather, subsequently different other artificial leather like raw materials have also started being used.



