

# Jonas Alteryd

*snickare - pastor -  
pipmakare*

Text: Jan Andersson  
Bild: Jonas Alteryd



When meeting new pipemakers, it is always interesting to hear why they became interested in pipe-making. For some of them it has been a dream since they were young, for others it is a pure coincidence. For the newest Swedish pipemaker, Jonas Alteryd, it certainly was a coincidence and it all happened in Liseberg, an amusement park in Gothenburg. We will return to that later on but let us start from the beginning. Jonas Alteryd (\* 1976) was born on the island of Gotland, but spent most of his youth in Gästrikland in the northern part of our country, more precisely in a small town called Ockelbo. Already as a little boy he loved spending time in the family outbuilding, where he made various things from wood. His dream at that time was to become a carpenter, a dream he realized after graduating from school. However, after a few years he stopped building houses

and instead he started studying theology at the Theological University in Stockholm. He completed these studies by spending a year at a university in Chicago. After that Jonas has moved around a lot in Sweden, but he has also spent six months in Tanzania. In 2007, Jonas and his wife Sara bought a house in a small community called Örby, located not far from Gothenburg. There Jonas got work as a pastor of a Mission Church. The house, Jonas and Sara had bought, needed to be renovated, something Jonas was fit for as an educated carpenter.

But what about that experience in Liseberg? It all happened in the winter. The family was visiting the well-known amusement park and while Jonas' wife and children devoted themselves to carousel riding, Jonas wandered around in the park. Suddenly he felt an extremely nice smell in the chilly winter air. He had to go closer to see





what it was. It turned out to come from a booth, where pipes and cigars were sold. Jonas liked the smell and atmosphere so much that he without hesitation bought a pipe and some tobacco, something he did not tell his wife at the time. When he eventually did, she thought he had an age-crisis,

as he would soon turn 40.

In any case, Jonas started looking around the net to find as much information as possible about pipe-making. He found it extremely interesting. An acquaintance of Jonas was a great inspiration, as he had been making pipes for many years. His name is



Lars Svahn. All readers of this magazine are well acquainted with Lars, as we have had several articles about him in this magazine. Jonas was really inspired when he saw what Lars had accomplished. Back home, the car was moved outside, as the garage had to be rebuilt into a pipemaker's workshop.

Jonas already had a lot of tools and machines, but he was missing something important – a lathe. In the end he found a Storebro, an old quality lathe, but a lot of renovation was needed. Most of the next winter was used to dismantle the lathe into its smallest constituents, cleaning, oiling and painting them. But it was time well used because the lathe has worked great since then.

Jonas started making pipes in 2016 and he really loves when he can find the time

to work in his workshop. Taking a block, studying the grain and eventually finding the pipe that is hiding inside the block, he finds fascinating. In addition, all pipemakers know that problems always arise, and solving them is a challenge. Then, after many hours of work, to sit there with the finished pipe in hand – yes that is a feeling hard to surpass.

Partly Jonas buys briar from Mimmo in Italy and partly Greek briar from Jonas Rosengren, who has good contacts there. Jonas says that Jonas Rosengren has been very helpful and generous with advice, which has helped a lot. Most of the stems are made from ebonite which he, like most other pipemakers, buys from Germany. Sometimes he also uses acrylic, but that is not quite common.





Jonas pipes are smooth, rusticated or sandblasted. For the blaster he got hold of a powerful compressor, but a problem arose when it should be installed. The compressor was so heavy that it could not be lifted and in addition it lacked wheels, so Jonas had to take down a part of the roof and lift it with the help of a large chain block borrowed

from a farmer. "It causes a lot of noise and sometimes I'm afraid it will explode," says Jonas a little amused, "but it works well."

Since 2012 Jonas has worked as a store manager in a shop nearby, a job he enjoys a lot. He has no plans to become a full-time pipemaker but says he would like to get such momentum on the business that





he could work shorter days. Then he could spend more time at home, which is desirable, not least for his children.

Jonas sells his pipes on his website ([alterydpipes.se](http://alterydpipes.se)) as well as on Facebook and Instagram. They are also available from Scandinavian Pipes. Jonas tells us that his

website apparently has attracted attention even abroad. Recently he sold a pipe to Belgium and previously he has sold a few to Australia.

We wish Jonas all the happiness in the future and I am convinced that we will have reason to return to him more times.