

Meet the Patient

Back to business with Woodcast – Toni’s story of recovering from wrist surgery



Hands are the most important tools for a cobbler.

Toni Vihanto has been running a popular cobbler shop, *Toni's*, in Vaasa for 5 years. In addition to shoe repairs, his business offers extensive key services and leather work.

– I’ve been using my hands my entire life. Before becoming a cobbler, I’ve worked as a chef, blacksmith and painter among other things. Now, the local people come to me if they need engraving, leather work or new keys.

A severe cycling accident in 2020 changed Toni’s life. Both of his wrists were badly injured, and the doctor said Toni can’t use his hands for several months. Suddenly the whole business was in jeopardy.

–I felt helpless. You can imagine how it was like, not being to do anything alone.



Swollen hands inside the splints. Image credits: Toni Vihanto

In the emergency department, the doctor reduced Toni's wrists and prescribed Woodcast splints. Because of the severity of the injury, he was referred to the orthopaedic department for surgery later.

The surgery went well, and Toni got traditional splints for his wrists. After wearing them for some weeks, the thick splints felt sweaty, and Toni went in for replacement. This time, he got Woodcast splints.

- I immediately liked Woodcast, because I could wear my normal winter coat.
- Toni stretched his wrists every day to help them heal.
- The splints didn't give in, even though they were so thin.

With help from his now retired mentor, he could keep the shop open. Toni still came to work every day, even though he couldn't use his hands.

- I don't give up easily.

Slowly the hands healed, and now Toni can work again.

–I've got a good feeling now that I have my hands back. The business is growing. You've got to be entrepreneurial, there's nothing else you can do.



Tools in the cobbler shop