



Modernist Black Leather Desk Organiser With Chrome Arch Handle By Jacques Adnet, French Circa 1930



550 EUR

Signature : Jacques Adnet

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Leather

Length : 24

Width : 16.5

Height : 27

Description

A modernist desk organiser by Jacques Adnet, combining in a single piece the two elements that define his celebrated studio vocabulary: hand-stitched black leather and polished chrome metalwork. The base is a rectangular tray divided into multiple compartments, each covered in black grained leather with meticulous saddle-stitch detailing at every visible edge. Above, a slender semicircular chrome arch rises to provide a carrying handle, its clean curve echoing the arched forms that Adnet deployed across the full range of his output--from log baskets and clock frames to the handles of his celebrated desk accessories. The arch also serves a structural function, lending rigidity to the tray while giving the composition a vertical accent that lifts it from the merely functional to the

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genuinely sculptural. Jacques Adnet (1900-1984) was directeur artistique of the Compagnie des Arts Français from 1928 to 1959, and it was during these three decades that he created the body of leather-and-chrome desk accessories for which he is now most celebrated. His clients were the foremost Parisian collectors, industrialists, and statesmen of the mid-century--people for whom the study or bureau was a room of considerable symbolic importance, its furnishings chosen with the same discrimination brought to the salon or the dining room. Adnet understood that desk accessories, however small, had the capacity to define the character of a working space, and he brought to their design the same rigour and aesthetic intelligence that he applied to his furniture and architectural interiors. The desk organiser or caddy--porte-tout, nécessaire de bureau--was one of the most practically important pieces in Adnet's range. Its multiple compartments accommodate the varied contents of a working desk: pens and pencils, correspondence, scissors, rulers, seals and stamps. The semicircular handle allows the whole to be lifted and moved in a single action, making it as useful as it is decorative. The choice of black leather with saddle-stitch, rather than the tan or navy leather occasionally seen in Adnet's work, gives this piece a particular sobriety and masculine authority that suits the context of a serious bureau. In good condition consistent with age, the leather retaining its colour and the stitching its integrity. The chrome arch presents cleanly. A practical and handsome piece from one of the most sought-after practitioners of the mid-century French decorative object.