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# GLOSSARY OF LEATHER TERMS

MOORE-PEARSALL LEATHERS LTD.

**BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION** 

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THIS BRITISH STANDARD, having been approved by the Leather Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Chemical Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 21st September, 1956.

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The Leather Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:—

Board of Trade
British Boot, Shoe & Allied Trades Research Association
British Leather Federation
British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association
Incorporated Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe
Manufacturers
Ministry of Supply
Society of Leather Trades' Chemists
United Tanners Federation

## BRITISH STANDARD

# GLOSSARY OF LEATHER TERMS

### **FOREWORD**

This British Standard Glossary of Leather Terms has been prepared by the Leather Descriptions Council to serve the needs of the industry and of users of leather. Its adoption for publication as a British Standard Glossary has been approved by the Leather Industry Standards Committee of the Institution.

The Leather Descriptions Council first started work on this Glossary in January 1954. In the ensuing period the Council has ensured that full consideration has been given to the terms and definitions by all its members, who represent suppliers of tanning materials, importers of hides and skins, leather producers and all types of users of leather, including retail organizations.

No attempt has been made to define every type of leather or every leather term. It is, however, assumed as fundamental that no leather may be described, without suitable qualification, by the name of an animal unless it is made from the hide or skin of that animal; for example, snake skin can only be made from the skin of a snake and crocodile from the skin of a crocodile.

# TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term	Dennition
Aldehyde leather	Washable
	prepared

Washable leather, which in its natural state is white, prepared usually from sheep or lamb skin splits or degrains. Tanned with formaldehyde or other aldehydes. (See Doeskin.)

Alum dressed leather Identical with Alum Tanned Leather, q.v.

Alum tanned leather

Leather prepared solely with a mixture of which the essential active ingredient is an aluminium salt, often, but not necessarily, alum—e.g. alum, salt, egg yolk and flour. The natural colour of the leather is white.

Aniline dyed Leather that has been dyed by immersion in a dyebath and has not received any coating of pigmented finish.

Aniline stained Leather that has been stained by brushing, padding or spraying and has not received any coating of pigmented finish.

Term

Antelope

Definition

a. In the glove trade, a fine soft leather with a velvety, lustrous nap, made from antelope or gazelle skin sueded on the flesh side.

b. In the shoe and handbag trades sometimes used to describe a suede-finished, dyed, Russia reindeer sueded on the frized grain side.

Antique grain

Bag hide

Belly

Belting butt

A surface pattern of markings or creases, usually irregular, in which the hollows or valleys are given a contrasting colour to produce a two-tone or two-colour effect. The creases are produced by embossing, boarding or other similar means.

Baby calf

Calf skin leather made from small, light-weight skins with a smooth or finely boarded grain surface, free from any artificial surface pattern. The finish is more or less glossy and is produced by glazing, ironing or plating.

Back The main portion of a hide, obtained by cutting off the two bellies. (See Fig. 1.)

Flexible leather generally embossed with a grain pattern, oat grain being the most usual. Made from cattle hide, usually vegetable tanned, split to a suitable thickness and sometimes hand or machine boarded.

Bark tanned Leather vegetable tanned mainly by means of the tannins contained in the barks of trees, the leather in process coming in contact with the raw bark.

Basil Vegetable tanned unsplit sheep skin, often described as Full Sheep. (See Full, Roan.)

Beaver lamb

Sheep or lamb skin with short fine wool, which has been dressed with the wool on, dyed and finished by a process giving a weather-resistant straightness and brightness to the wool. (See Shearling.)

Bellows hide Curried, flexible and air-proof leather made from split hide.

That portion of a hide or skin covering the underpart of an animal and including the upper part of the legs. (See Fig. 1 and Offal.)

Belly grain The tanned outer, hair or grain side split from a belly.

Belly middle The middle part of a cattle hide belly. (See Fig. 1.)

The butt portion of selected cattle hide that has been specially tanned, curried and dressed to produce strong, flexible leather with minimum stretch, suitable for the manufacture of machine belting.

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4

Term Bend Definition

nd

Half of a cattle hide butt, obtained by dividing it along the line of the backbone. (See Fig. 1.)

**Boarded** leather

Leather that has been softened, and the surface of which has been lightly creased by folding grain to grain and then working the fold across the leather to and fro by hand boarding or by means of a boarding machine. (See Box Calf, Box Side, Morocco.)

Box calf

Black calf skin leather with a surface pattern of fine box-shaped creases formed by boarding the skin in two directions—neck to tail and belly to belly. Full chrome tanned. (See Willow Calf.)

Box side

Black leather dressed in the same way as box calf but made from cattle hide cut down the backbone. The tannage may be full chrome, semi-chrome or vegetable.

Bridle leather

Strong flexible leather of reasonably uniform thickness with a plain finish and a close-shaved flesh. Made from ox or cow hide, vegetable tanned and curried.

Buck

In the strict sense the same as Buckskin, but nowadays usually suede shoe upper leather dressed and finished in the same way as real buckskin but not made from deer skin.

Buckskin

Suede leather made from deer skin from which the grain has been removed, usually by frizing. It is generally tanned with fish oil or formaldehyde or a combination of both, and may be finished on the flesh or the frized grain side.

**Buff** leather

Flexible dry leather which has a cream or white surface and is finished with a velvet-like nap. Made from cattle hide from which the whole of the grain has been removed and which has been oil tanned.

Buffalo

Leather made from the hide of buffalo cattle, excluding the North American buffalo.

**Buffed leather** 

Leather from which the top surface of the grain has been removed by an abrasive or bladed cylinder or, less generally, by hand. In the case of upholstery leather known as 'hand buffed', the buffing process is invariably carried out by means of an abrasive or bladed cylinder. (See Corrected Grain, Fluffing, Machine Buffed, Snuffing.)

Buffing

a. The process of removing a thin layer from the grain surface of a leather by an abrasive or bladed cylinder, by a splitting machine or, less commonly, by hand shaving.

Term

Definition

b. A thin layer of leather removed from an upholstery hide by the splitting machine. (See Buffed Leather, Machine Buffed.)

Butt

That part of the hide left after the bellies and shoulders have been removed, (See Fig. 1.)

Butt split

The under layer split from the butt of a cattle hide.

Cabretta

Term generally applied in the United States to denote the skins of South American hair sheep and gloving and shoe upper leather made therefrom, but also applied to the skins of similar hair sheep from other regions, e.g. East and West Africa, and leathers made therefrom. The leather may be finished on the flesh for suede or on the grain side, which is fine and smooth resembling that of kid.

Calf

In its widest sense, leather made from the skin of a young or immature bovine animal. In a more limited sense, leather made from the skin of a bovine animal which has not been weaned or has only been fed upon milk and which does not exceed a certain weight in the green state; this limit may be 15 lb or even higher. The heavier skins of immature milk-fed animals, up to 25 to 30 lb green weight, are often termed veals. (See Kip, Veal.)

Cape

Originally a soft, grain gloving or clothing leather made from South African hair sheep skin; now any similar leather made from hair sheep skin, but not finished leather made from E.I. native vegetable tanned hair sheep skin.

Carpincho

Grain gloving leather with a grain pattern somewhat like that of peccary, made from the skin of a water rodent indigenous to Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. One of the leathers commonly designated as Hogskin. (See Hogskin.)

Case hide

Firm dressed leather, stained or otherwise coloured, generally having a smooth, more or less glossy surface finish, sometimes embossed with an artificial grain. Made from full grain or buffed cattle hide, vegetable tanned and suitable for the manufacture of suit and attaché-cases and similar leather goods.

Cattle hide

The skin of a fully grown bovine animal.

Chamois

a. Suede-finished leather made from the flesh split of sheep or lamb skin, or from sheep or lamb skin from which the grain has been removed by frizing, and tanned by processes involving the oxidation of fish or marine animal oils in the skin, using either solely

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Collar back

Combination oil

Definition Term such oils (Full oil chamois) or firstly, formaldehyde and then such oils (Combination chamois). The U.S. Federal Trade Commission restricts the term Chamois, without any qualification, to the flesh split of sheep skin tanned solely with oils. b. Leather made from the skin of the mountain antelope or chamois, but such leather is rare. Suede-finished, oil-tanned goat skin leather. (See Chamois goat Chamois, a.) Leather from the cheek of cattle hide. (See Fig. 1.) Cheek The skin of a young goat which is being, or has Chevrette recently been, weaned, or the skin of an immature goat, or leather made therefrom. Light-weight goat skin or heavy kid skin is sometimes termed chevrette. In Germany the term Heberling is used. Leather which has been first chrome tanned through-Chrome retan out its thickness and subsequently further treated or tanned with vegetable and/or synthetic tanning agents, these retaining agents penetrating notably, but not necessarily completely, into the interior. Leather tanned either solely with chromium salts or Chrome tanned with chromium salts together with quite small amounts of some other tanning agent used merely to assist the chrome-tanning process, and not in sufficient amount to alter the essential chrome tanned character of the leather. Cloak hide Flexible leather printed with a long or oat grain, made from vegetable tanned split cattle hide of suitable thickness; it is curried to contain sufficient grease to render it suitable for saddlery and military equipment. Matt-finished, dyed, full-grain, boarded, vegetable Coach hide tanned leather made from cattle hide. The highest grades are simply aniline dyed; others may bear a small quantity of pigment but not so much as to conceal the natural characteristics of the hide.

Combination tanned Leather tanned by two or more tanning agents, e.g. chrome, followed by vegetable (Chrome retan), vegetable, followed by chrome (Semi-chrome), formaldehyde, followed by oil (Combination oil). Cordovan Leather made from the shell of a horse butt, viz. from a kidney-shaped, very compact layer occurring in the butt of equine animals only, and isolated by removing the skin layer above and below it. It is vegetable tanned and curried. Leather from which the surface of the grain has been Corrected grain partially removed by buffing to a depth governed by the condition of the raw material and upon which a new surface has been built by various finishes. (See Buffed Leather.) Cow hide In the strict sense, leather made from unsplit cow hide or its grain split. The term is sometimes applied to similar leather from the hide of any bovine animal. The term is not to be applied to leather from the flesh split. Crup Identical with Cordovan, q.v. Crust leather Leather which, after tanning, has not been further processed but has been merely dried out. The term 'crust' is used in connection chiefly with skins such as sheep, whilst the term 'rough tanned' is similarly employed in connection with cattle hide leather. Curried leather Leather which has been subjected to the currying process. (See Currying.) Currying A series of dressing and finishing processes applied to leather after tanning in course of which appropriate amounts of oils and greases are incorporated in the leather to give it increased tensile strength, flexibility and water-resisting properties. Suede leather finished on the flesh side, the grain Degrain having been wholly or partially removed, after tanning, by splitting or abrasion. Dipped dressed A term used in currying to describe leather which has been impregnated by immersion in hot grease. Doeskin a. In the glove trade, a very supple leather, usually white or cream but sometimes dyed, with a fine suede finish, made from lamb or sheep skin flesh split and tanned by formaldehyde, oil, or formaldehyde-alum processes. (See Aldehyde Leather.) b. In the shoe trade, a suede leather made from deer skin. The term is almost synonymous with Buckskin.

Definition

Term

4 to 5 mm.

Harness leather in the form of a back, usually of

good selection and curried, having a thickness of

A tannage, or a process of tannage, in which the skin

is first tanned with formaldehyde and subsequently

treated by the oil process. (See Chamois.)

Engine leather

Fat tanning

Face

Definition Term See Pigment Finished. Doped A grain showing an irregular pattern of creases or Drawn grain narrow grooves, produced by tanning the skin so that the main thickness has contracted relative to the grain layer, which is then fixed in a puckered or 'drawn together' condition. A general term for the series of processes employed Dressing to convert certain rough tanned hides and/or crust leather into leather ready for use. (See Currying, Pure Dressed.) Unsplit rough tanned cattle hide, vegetable tanned in Dressing hide a manner giving good tensile strength and mellow feel. Suitable for dressing for such purposes as harness and straps. An abbreviation of East India. A descriptive term E.I. applied to crust, vegetable tanned cow hide (kip), buffalo hide and calf, sheep and goat skin, originating in the Indian sub-continent and tanned in India, mainly in the south, and especially around Madras. (See Kip, Persian.) Stout, rugged cattle hide upper leather specially Elk dressed to have a pliability and waterproofness suitable for work, casual and sports footwear. Leather made from real elk skin resembles Buckskin. Leather embossed or printed with a raised pattern **Embossed** leather either imitating or resembling the grain pattern of some animal, or being quite unrelated to a natural grain pattern. Vegetable tanned cattle hide leather with a flexible, Enamelled hide waterproof, multi-layered coating on the grain, built up in a manner somewhat similar to that used for patent leather and given a pattern by embossing. (See Patent Leather.)

Term Definition Flesh split The inner or under layer of a hide or skin, separated from it by the splitting machine, or leather made therefrom. (See Flesher, Split.) Flesher Untanned flesh split of a lamb or sheep skin. Sometimes called a lining. Fluffing A similar mechanical process to buffing but applied to the flesh side instead of the grain. Fore end A strip of leather of convenient width cut from the fore end of a bend. (See Range.) Forel A grade of parchment made from sheep skin flesh split and having special properties of surface, colour and so forth, rendering it suitable for bookbinding and fancy purposes. (See Grain Forel, Parchment, Vellum.) Formaldehyde tanning A process of converting prepared hide and skin into leather by treatment with formaldehyde (formalin). (See Aldehyde Leather, Combination Oil, Doeskin.) French morocco Leather similar in appearance to Morocco but made from sheep skin. (See Morocco.) This term is misleading and its use should be discouraged. Frizing The process of removing the grain layer of skin either by scraping with a special knife or with a machine. Full Indicates leather made from the unsplit, or full thickness, of hide or skin, e.g. full sheep. (See Basil, Roan, Skiver, Split Hide.) Full chrome The adjective 'full' is sometimes added to 'chrome (tanned) tanned' to emphasize that the leather has not been tanned by the semi-chrome or combination chrome processes. Full grain Leather bearing the original grain surface as exposed by removal of the epidermis, and with none of the surface removed by buffing, snuffing or splitting. (See Corrected Grain.) Full oil The adjective 'full' is sometimes added to the term 'oil tanned' to emphasize that the leather has not been tanned by the combination oil process. Fur The skin of a recognized fur-bearing animal, dressed and finished with the hair on. 11

matter. (See Helvetia Leather.)

excluding the cheek. (See Fig. 1.)

rolled hard.

Leather derived from cattle hide, vegetable tanned and

Leather made from the face of cattle hide, i.e. the

portion from between the ears and eyes to the nose,

A process of converting prepared hide and skin into

leather by treatments involving the incorporation of soft animal fats which undergo chemical changes in

contact with the fibre, leading to fixation of fatty

Definition Term Tanned and dressed sheep skin, bearing short or Fur-finished shearling medium-length wool, which has been treated by a process to straighten and brighten the wool. (See Shearling.) Gear leather Identical with Harness Leather, q.v. Glacé a. A leather with a bright, smooth, glossy or glasslike grain finish obtained, according to the type of leather, by glazing, plating, ironing or polishing. (See Glacé Goat, Glacé Kid.) b. On the Continent of Europe, especially in connection with gloving leathers, a leather prepared by tawing with a mixture of alum, salt, flour and egg yolk. (See Gloving Kid.) Glacé goat Leather made from goat skin finished as glacé kid with a smooth, glossy grain surface but semi-chrome or vegetable tanned. Glacé kid a. Upper leather made from kid or goat skin by a full chrome tanning process and given a smooth, bright, glossy finish by glazing. Also called Glazed Kid. b. When applied to gloving leather, a synonym of Gloving Kid. (See Gloving Kid, Glacé.) Glazed kid See Glacé Kid. The operation of producing a bright, glossy, or glass-Glazing like finish on the grain surface of leather by subjecting it to the action of a machine which rapidly draws, under pressure, a tool of glass, agate or other suitable material across the suitably prepared surface of the leather. Gloving kid A soft, grain gloving leather, of Continental origin, capable of being considerably stretched without springing back. In the strict sense, made from kid skin, but also from lamb skin, and tawed with a mixture of alum, salt, flour and egg yolk. Sometimes retanned with chrome salts. Sometimes called Glacé Kid.

and having special properties of surface, colour and so forth rendering it suitable for book binding and fancy purposes. (See Forel, Parchment.) The portion of a hide or skin extending from the Grain layer surface exposed by removal of the hair or wool and epidermis down to about the level of the hair or wool Leather which has the grain layer substantially intact Grain leather and is finished on the grain side. The outer, wool or hair side, layer of a hide or skin Grain split that has been split into two or more layers. Types of sheep growing hair in place of wool. Hair sheep Different types of such sheep are indigenous to Brazil, Ethiopia, East, West and South Africa, India, Somaliland, Southern Arabia and Sudan, amongst other countries. The leather from such sheep skin has a finer and tougher grain than that from woolbearing sheep. (See Cabretta, Cape, Mocha, Persian.) Hand boarded See Boarded Leather. Hand buffed See Buffed Leather. Goat skin leather with a characteristic pinhead grain Hard grain goat pattern produced by hand boarding in a wet condition in at least four directions. Vegetable tanned. Sometimes called Morocco. (See Morocco.) Harness leather A strong, flexible, curried, grain leather with a plain finish, usually having a thickness of 4 to 6 mm. It is made from cattle hide. Helvetia lace leather Identical with Helvetia Leather, q.v. Very tough, flexible, greasy, fat tanned hide leather Helvetia leather of yellow colour, prepared with the aid of a mixture whose chief components are soft grease and flour, sometimes applied after a light alum pre-tannage. a. The raw skin of a mature or fully-grown animal of Hide the larger kinds, e.g. cattle and horses; also camels, rhinoceroses and whales. b. Leathers made from such hide, which have not been split, or from the grain split of such hide; when used in this way the name of the animal or the type of leather may be added, e.g. cow hide or ox hide, bag hide or case hide.

Definition

A grade of parchment made from unsplit sheep skin

Term

Grain forel

The tanned grain split of a goat skin.

Kid or fine goat leather finished with a coating of

a. The outer, or hair side, layer of a hide or skin

b. The pattern visible on the outer surface of a hide

that has been split into two or more layers.

or skin after the hair or wool has been removed.

(See Glacé Kid, b.)

gold or gold alloy leaf.

Goat skiver

Gold kid

Grain

animals. (See Fig. 1.)

c. The whole, tanned and finished hide of such

Term

Definition

Hide buffing

A very thin film of the grain layer of cattle hide leather. removed by the splitting machine. Sometimes known

as 'beeswing'.

Hide split

See Split.

Hogskin

Grain gloving leather made from the skins of the peccary and carpincho. This leather is sometimes buffed on the grain and is then known as buffed

hogskin. (See Carpincho, Peccary.)

Hose leather

Flexible, strong leather made from cattle hide shaved level and so dressed with soft grease as to make it virtually waterproof.

Hunting calf

Suede upper leather with the suede finish on the flesh side, made from a larger calf skin or from a veal. Somewhat coarser than suede calf. (See Suede Calf.)

Hunting suede

Suede upper leather, finished on the flesh side, made from calf skin, heavy goat skin or cattle hide. (See Hunting Calf.)

Insole belly

Hide belly, usually vegetable tanned, or a combination of vegetable and chrome or vegetable and alum tanned, suitable for insoles for footwear.

Japanned leather

Identical with Patent Leather, q.v.

Kid

a. When applied to upper leather, a full chrome leather made from kid or goat skin. The only exceptions to this are gold and silver kid, which may be semi-chrome tanned. (See Glacé Kid, Suede Kid.) b. As gloving leather, see Glacé, b, Glacé Kid, b, Gloving Kid.

Kip

a. Small type of cattle hide, viz. the hide of fully mature cattle, other than the buffalo, native to the Indian sub-continent, these being smaller than those of Europe and America, and the hide derived from immature European and American bovine animals which have been grass fed and which are larger than calves but smaller than fully grown cattle.

b. As an abbreviation of the full term 'East India tanned kip' or 'E.I. kip', crust, vegetable tanned leather made from cow hide originating in the Indian sub-continent and tanned in India, mainly in the south, and especially around Madras.

Lamb reverse

Identical with Shearling, q.v.

Leather

A general term for hide or skin which still retains its original fibrous structure more or less intact, and which has been treated so as to be imputrescible even Term

Definition

after treatment with water. The hair or wool may or may not have been removed. Certain skins, similarly treated or dressed, and without the hair removed, are termed 'fur'.

No product may be described as leather if its manufacture involves breaking down the original skin structure into fibres, powder or other fragments by chemical and/or mechanical methods and reconstituting these fragments into sheets or other forms.

Levant

Leather with a characteristic drawn-grain pattern, produced originally by an astringent tannage, but nowadays by hand or machine boarding on vegetable or semi-chrome goat and sheep skin or vegetable tanned seal skin. When the pattern is produced by embossing, it is called 'Levant grain'.

Limed rawhide

A translucent or opaque material made from cattle hide by drying the limed hide, after removal of the hair and flesh, without applying any tanning process.

Lining shearling

Tanned and dressed sheep or lamb skin, bearing short wool, suitable for use in lining footwear. (See Shearling.)

Machine buffed

Used in the U.S.A. to describe a type of upholstery hide from which a hide buffing has been removed by a splitting machine. (See Buffed Leather.)

Memel

Black or brown curried hide leather heavily embossed, frequently used for a heavy boot upper.

Mocha

Gloving leather with a fine silky suede finish on the grain side, made from the skin of hair sheep, originally the Arabian blackhead, but now also from other types of hair sheep. The usual method of removing the grain being by frizing in the limed state. Generally alum or formaldehyde tanned.

Morocco

Vegetable tanned goat skin leather with characteristic grain pattern developed naturally or by hand boarding or graining only. The commonest and most characteristic grain is hard grain. (See Hard Grain Goat.) By long usage, especially in the fancy goods trade, denotes goat skin of any vegetable tannage that has been hand boarded in the wet condition, but in the strict sense it should be limited to goat skin tanned exclusively with sumac. Leather made from vegetable tanned goat skin with a grain resembling that of genuine Morocco, but produced otherwise than by hand boarding, for example, by embossing or embossing followed by boarding, should be termed 'Morocco grained goat' or 'Assisted Morocco'.

Term Nappa Definition

Soft and full grain gloving or clothing leather made from unsplit sheep or lamb skin or kid skin. It is usually tanned with alum and chromium salts and

dyed throughout its substance.

Niger

Goat and, less commonly, sheep skin leather with a natural grain pattern arising from the nature of the skin and the processes and handworking employed; tanned in Nigeria and contiguous districts from native skins by primitive methods, usually employing Babool pods as the tanning agent.

Nubuck

Stout suede shoe upper leather with a fine nap, usually white, finished on the grain side. Made from cattle hide.

Oak bark tanned

A light-weighing, unbleached, bark tanned leather, which has been pit tanned, without hot pitting, for not less than 5 to 6 months by a process embodying layering for not less than 3 months, oak bark being employed as the basis of tannage.

Offal

The bellies, shoulders and head portions of cattle hide, which are cut away from the butt. (See Fig. 1.)

Oil tanning

A process of tanning involving the incorporation of fish or marine animal oils into prepared skins. These oils are subsequently induced to undergo oxidation and other chemical changes in contact with the skin fibres, leading to chemical combination of oil derivatives with the skin.

Ooze leather

Vegetable or chrome tanned skin of bovine origin, generally calf, with a very soft glove-like feel and a natural grain sometimes accentuated by boarding.

Parchment

Translucent or opaque material with a smooth surface, suitable for writing, bookbinding and other purposes. It is made from the flesh split of sheep, goat or ass skin, by drying out the limed material without applying any tannage, the material being thoroughly cleansed and degreased and smoothed during the process. Generally refers to the flesh split of a sheep skin. (See Forel, Grain Forel, Vellum.)

Patent leather

Leather, one surface of which is covered with a flexible waterproof film, with a lustrous mirrorlike surface, produced by application of several coats of daubs, varnishes and lacquers, some of which may be pigmented. These daubs, etc., were formerly based on boiled linseed oil, but some or all may now consist partly or entirely of plasticized nitro-cellulose and/or synthetic resin.

Term

Definition

Peccary

Grain gloving leather made from a wild boar indigenous to Mexico, Central American countries, Brazil and Argentina. One of the leathers commonly designated as Hogskin, q.v.

Pelt

In the leather trade, as opposed to the fur trade, commonly used to designate the hide and skin prepared for tanning by removal of the hair or wool, epidermis and flesh.

Persian

Crust, vegetable tanned leather made from sheep skin originating in the Indian sub-continent and tanned in India, mainly in the south, and especially around Madras, or finished leather made therefrom. Alternatively called E.I. sheep skin.

Persian skiver

A thin grain layer, split after dressing from an E.I. tanned sheep skin.

Pigment finished

Leather to whose surface a finish containing fine pigment particles in suspension has been applied. Sometimes called 'doped'.

Pigskin

The raw skin of the domestic pig, or leather made therefrom. The term is not to be applied to leather made from the flesh split of a pig skin.

Pin seal

Seal skin leather with a characteristic very fine pinhead pattern obtained by hand boarding.

Pinned belly Pinned shoulder Set-out and rolled leather, made from a vegetable tanned cattle hide belly or shoulder.

Printed leather

See Embossed Leather.

Protected leather

Leather in which certain special chemicals have been incorporated to render it less liable to deteriorate through exposure to polluted atmospheres. The treatment is often applied to vegetable tanned upholstery and bookbinding leathers.

Pure dressed

A leather which has been dressed after tanning solely by the introduction of grease, this being achieved by hand application of dubbin.

Range

a. In respect of sole leather, a butt or bend range is a strip of sole leather of convenient width cut from a butt or bend at right-angles to the backbone.

b. In respect of other hide leathers a butt range is a strip of hide leather of convenient width, cut from the fore-end of a butt usually after, but sometimes before, tannage and consisting of a proportion of true butt depending upon the length of the butt originally cut.

Term Raw hide belting leather Definition

A leather suitable for the manufacture of high-speed machine belting. It is made from dehaired and fleshed cattle hide by treating it, either as such or after alum tawing, with vegetable tanning agents so as to leave a central layer untanned, the product being subsequently curried.

Raw hide lace

Buffalo hide, limed, dehaired, dried out and lightly oiled.

Raw hide for luggage

Translucent material made from the grain side of cattle hide freed from the hair and the flesh layer and dried out in the limed state, usually without any tanning process being applied. The surfaces of luggage made from it are usually varnished to give protection from moisture.

Rein back

Harness or bridle leather in the form of a back, usually of good selection, curried and having a close-shaved flesh.

Retanning

The process of subjecting a skin, which has been first more or less completely tanned by one process or one kind or blend of tanning materials, to a second tanning process, involving similar or, more usually, different tanning materials.

(See Combination Oil, Combination Tanned, Chrome Retan, Semi-chrome Box Calf, Semi-chrome Leather.)

Roan

High-class, unsplit sheep skin leather with a close tough grain and a compact structure. In the strict sense, tanned with sumac only, but often also with other vegetable materials. (See Basil.)

Roller basil

Leather with a smooth finish, a specially fine grain and a compact firm structure, commonly natural coloured but sometimes dyed red. It is made from hill sheep skin, vegetable tanned, and is specially designed to be suitable for covering the drawing rollers of cotton-spinning machinery but is also used for other purposes such as the binding of account books.

Rough tanned leather

Leather, usually vegetable tanned, which after tanning has not been further processed, but has been merely dried out. The term 'rough tanned' is used chiefly in connection with hide leathers, e.g. rough tanned strap butts. (See Crust Leather.)

Russet

Describes the condition of vegetable tanned hide leather dressed ready for staining or finishing by other means. Often referred to as 'in the skirt'.

Term

Definition

Russet linings

Russet-coloured vegetable tanned lining leather

made from sheep, goat or calf skin, etc.

Russet upper leather

Stout, curried, undyed and unpigmented kip or calf upper leather finished on the grain or flesh side.

Vegetable tanned.

Russia calf

Smooth finished, dyed calf leather scented with birch tar oil, vegetable tanned and made in imitation of the old-fashioned genuine Russia calf. This was a calf leather tanned with the bark of willow, poplar and larch, curried on the flesh side with a mixture containing birch tar oil which gave it a characteristic odour.

Semi-chrome box calf

Black calf leather with a surface pattern of fine boxshaped creases formed by boarding the skin in two directions, neck to tail and belly to belly. Semichrome tanned.

Semi-chrome leather

Leather which has been tanned first with vegetable tannin and then retanned with chromium salts.

Shearling

Tanned and dressed wool skin, bearing short wool, made from pelts of sheep sheared before slaughter. (See Beaver Lamb, Fur-finished Shearling, Lining Shearling, Sheep Skin Rug, Suede Shearling, Trimming Shearling and Woolled Sheep Skin.)

Sheep skin

Indicates an unsplit sheep skin leather and is not to be applied to skivers. (See Basil, Persian, Roan, Skiver.)

Sheep skin rug

A rug made from a woolled sheep skin which has been tanned and dressed with the wool on. (See Shearling.)

Shoulder

The portion of a cattle hide covering the shoulders and neck of the animal together with the two cheeks, and leather made therefrom. A squared shoulder is obtained by cutting off the two cheeks. (See Fig. 1.)

Shoulder grain

The outer, hair or grain, layer split from a shoulder. (See Shoulder.)

Side

Half of a whole hide with offal (head, shoulder and belly) attached, obtained by dividing it along the line of the backbone.

Side leather

Shoe upper leather made from cattle hide sides. (See Side, Box Side and Willow Side.)

Definition Term Kid or goat skin leather with a bright silvery appear-Silver kid ance on the grain side produced by coating with aluminium leaf. Skin a. A general term for the outer covering of an animal. b. The raw skin of a mature, fully grown animal of the smaller kinds, e.g. sheep, goats, pigs, reptiles, birds and fishes, or of the immature animals of the larger species, e.g. calves and colts. (See Hide.) c. Leather made from such skin, which has not been split. (See Basil, Roan.) d. The skin of a fur-bearing animal, dressed and finished with the hair on. Cattle hide leather which has been dressed without Skirt leather any grease ready for staining, dyeing and finishing by other means. Vegetable tanned. Frequently used as an alternative to 'Russet Leather'. Skiver The tanned outer or grain split of a sheep or lamb skin. Sometimes applied to goat skin. Slink lamb Tanned and dressed sheep skin bearing fine curly wool made from the pelt of a still-born or young lamb. Snuffing The process of lightly buffing the grain surface of a leather, usually by a machine with an abrasive covered cylinder. (See Buffing.) Leather made from the bend region of cattle hide, Sole leather bend tanned and finished to be suitable for the outer soles of footwear. (See Bend.) Solid leather Designates an article whose body is made of leather that is stiffened, if necessary, only with leather, but which may be suitably lined. If the term 'solid' is prefixed to the name of an animal, e.g. solid pigskin, it indicates that the article is made essentially of a single thickness of leather of the kind specified. Split The under layer of a hide or skin, or part of a hide or skin other than the outer layer, separated by splitting, or leather made therefrom. If the name of the animal whence it originates, or the word 'hide' or 'skin', or the part of the animal whence it comes is included in the description, then the word 'split' must be used as a noun, e.g. pig split, hide split, butt split, and not as an adjective, e.g. split pigskin. (See Split Hide.) Split hide The outer or grain layer of a hide from which the

Identical with Hunting Suede, q.v. Sports suede Strong flexible leather usually 4 to 5½ mm thick, as Stirrup butt level in thickness as possible and with a close-shaved flesh. Made from ox hide rounded into butts approximately 5 ft long. Prefixed to the name of a tanning process or colouring Straight process, indicates that only the process thus specified has been employed in the manufacture of the leather. Thus 'straight chrome' indicates tannage solely by the use of chromium salts, and 'straight dyed' indicates colouring solely by immersion in a dye bath without subsequent application of pigmented finishes. (See Aniline Dved. Combination Tanned. Full Chrome.) Strap butt Rough tanned or curried butt leather, made from cattle hide, of tannage and quality suitable for making into machine belting. (See Rough Tanned Leather.) Suede a. A velvet-like nap finish produced on leather by abrasive action. b. A general term for leathers whose wearing surface has been finished to have a fine velvet-like nap. (See Velvet Leather.) Sometimes restricted to leather with the nap on the flesh side of unsplit skin or of grain split or to split finished to have a nap, in contrast to velvet leather having the nap on the grain Suede calf Calf skin leather finished with a velvet-like nap on the flesh side. (See Hunting Calf.) Goat skin leather finished with a velvet-like nap on the Suede kid flesh side. Full chrome tanned. Leather made from the flesh splits of hide or skin Suede splits and finished with a velvet-like nap. Tanned and dressed sheep skin, bearing short wool, Suede shearling sueded on the flesh side. (See Shearling.) A process of incorporating sulphur and sulphur Sulphur tanning compounds into hides and skins by treatment with acid and sodium thiosulphate. Sumac tanned Leather tanned exclusively with sumac. The process of treating skins or hides with tanning Tanning agents such as vegetable tannins, chromium salts, formaldehyde and fish oils, to produce leather. (See Leather, Tawing.)

Definition

Term

under or flesh side has been split to give it a reasonably

uniform thickness, or leather made therefrom.

Term

Definition

Tawing

The ancient process of treating prepared skin or hide with aluminium salts. Such treatment does not normally yield a product stable to repeated treatment with cold water and hence is not accurately described as tanning. (See Tanning.)

Top finished

A leather which has been given a final coating of a finish to confer special properties such as gloss, level colour, fastness to wet rubbing, waterproofness and so forth.

Trimming shearling

Tanned and dressed sheep or lamb skin, with short to medium length wool, suitable for trimming purposes. (See Shearling.)

Veal

Leather with a grain similar to, but somewhat coarser than, that of calf, made from the skin of immature bovine animals which after weaning have not been fed on grass but on a milk diet and have been allowed to grow comparatively large, yielding skins larger and heavier than calf skins. (See Calf, Kip.)

Vegetable tanned

Leathers tanned exclusively with vegetable tanning agents or with such materials together with small amounts of other agents used merely to assist the tanning process or to improve or modify the leather, and not in sufficient amounts to alter notably the essential vegetable tanned character of the leather.

Vellum

Translucent or opaque material with a smooth surface suitable for writing, bookbinding and other purposes. It is made from unsplit calf, sheep and other skin, by drying out the limed skin without applying any tannage, the material being thoroughly cleansed and degreased and the grain surface being smoothed during the process. The best vellum is made from calf. (See Forel, Grain Forel, Parchment.)

Velvet leather

Leather whose wearing surface has been finished so as to have a fine velvet-like nap. (See Suede.) Sometimes restricted to leather from unsplit skin, or grain split, with a nap produced by abrading the grain surface, in contrast to suede leather produced by abrading the flesh surface. By long established usage leather from Persian and other sheep, which has the grain left on and has a nap on the flesh side, is also described as velvet leather. (See Mocha, Nubuck.)

Waxed calf

A black calf upper leather, finished and coloured on the flesh side, vegetable tanned and curried to contain a high proportion of grease. The finishes contain a proportion of hard grease, though not necessarily wax.

Term

Definition

Waxed split

A black upper leather made from the split of a cattle hide, vegetable tanned and curried to contain a high proportion of grease. The finishes contain a hard grease though not necessarily wax.

Welting belly

Tanned cattle hide belly or shoulder of tannage and quality suitable for the manufacture of welting for footwear.

White hide leather

Welting shoulder

Alum and salt tanned cattle hide suitable for the manufacture of laces for industrial purposes.

White lace leather

Identical with White Hide Leather, g.v.

Willow calf

Calf skin leather, coloured, commonly brown, usually with a typical willow grain or with a box grain pattern. Full chrome tanned and boarded either in one direction—head to tail—or in two directions, as with box calf.

Willow side

Coloured upper leather dressed in the same way as willow calf made from cattle hide cut down the backbone. The term is applied to full chrome, semi-chrome and vegetable tanned sides similarly dressed. (See Box Calf and Box Side.)

Woolled sheep or lamb skin Wool sheep or lamb skin

Sheep or lamb skin tanned and dressed with the wool

on. (See Shearling.)

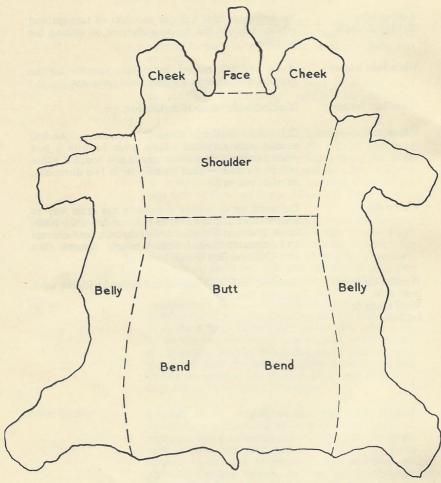


Fig. 1. Diagram of parts of the Hide.