

Leather variations on the same side

Dense smooth FS typical of butt area



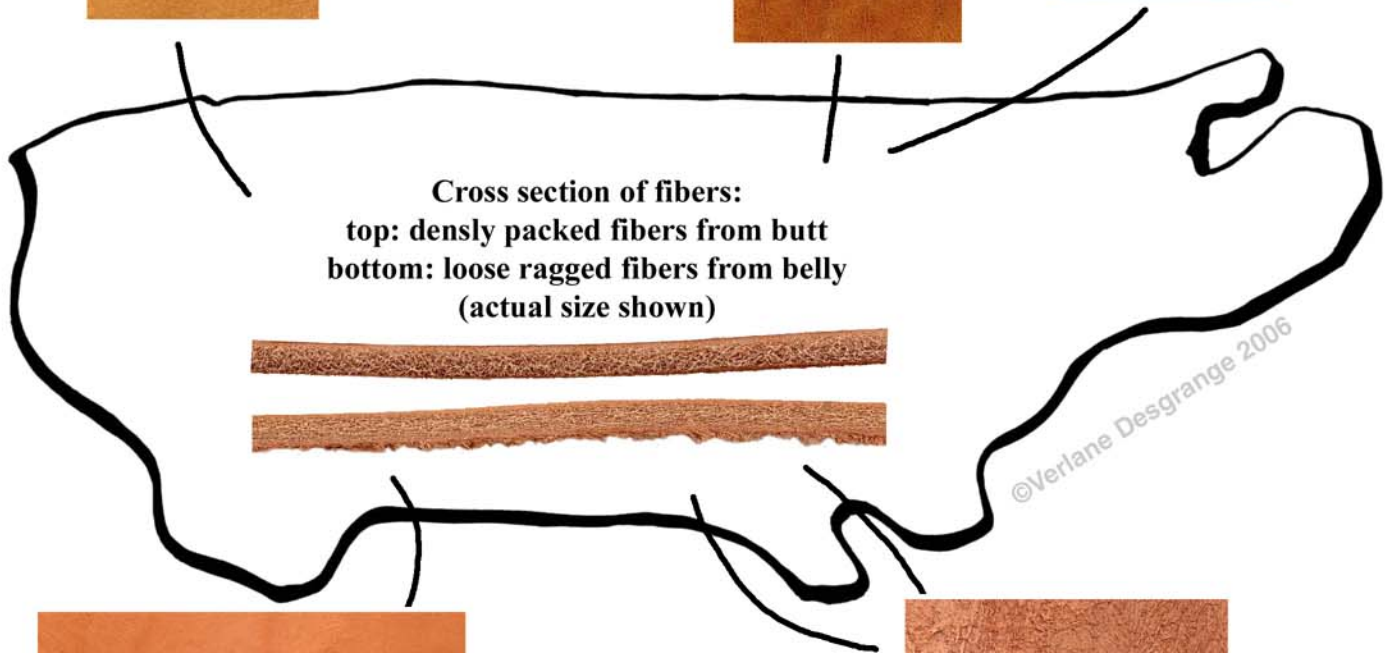
Fat wrinkles usually found on GS of shoulder



Slightly fuzzy FS on shoulder area



Photos of grain characteristics shown 50% of original size



Loose fibers and many wrinkles on flank area

GS=Grain Side: the side from which the hair originally grew

FS=Flesh Side: the underside next to muscle tissue



Loose wrinkled fibers on FS of belly and flank areas

Generally a side of leather will have several variations of grain structure. It is up to the saddlemaker to choose the best cut for the most strength.

Saddlery leather from cowhide

Cross sections of various tannages

(shown actual size)



Vegetable (also called bark or veg)



Chrome (note bluish color)



Alum (white)



Alum (yellow)
(commonly called Indian tan)

Saddlery leathers below shown 70% of actual size

Veg tanned



Skirting
(Western saddles)

Veg tanned



Strap
(Western bridles and tack)

Veg tanned



Russet harness
(Western tack and harness)

Veg tanned



English bridle
English saddles and tack

Veg tanned



Pig embossed flap hide
English saddles

Chrome tanned



Shrunken grain
Padded inserts on
English saddles

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Showing special finish on FS of Hermann Oak strap leather

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Moss back

This gives a glassy smooth finish to the leather, skipping the need to put a special finish on the FS or even making a D&S belt. Skived end shows distinct difference of grain pattern.

Standard strap

This is the customary way of buying strap leather. Notice how much rougher the backside is. Even though there are no long ragged fibers on this butt leather, it does not match the glassy finish of the moss back.

Sunburn!

This leather was just unpacked from the paper wrapping that it arrived in from the tannery.

This roll of leather was kept in a darkened storage area. This example shows how ambient light penetrates even paper. Short of keeping leather stored in a totally

dark room, this sunburn effect will happen. Be VERY careful where you store veg tanned leather. Fortunately this sunburn is on the FS and will be less noticeable.



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There is no way to remove sunburn from leather. Even exposing it to more sunlight will not give an even color. Prevention is the best measure.

Suggested leather for various projects

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Project	Thickness of veg tanned leather
Billfold	Back: Without folded edges: 4-5 oz cowhide With folded edges: 2 oz calf Insides: 1-2 oz calfskin Lining: 1 oz sheepskin skiver (veg tanned)
Business card case	3-4 oz or 4-5 oz for outside and 2 oz calf for interior pockets. If lined, use 1 oz sheepskin skiver for lining
Cell phone case	Unlined: 6-7 oz cowhide
Checkbook cover	Back: Without folded edges: 4-5 oz cowhide With folded edges: 2 oz calf Insides: 1-2 oz calfskin Lining: 1 oz sheepskin skiver (veg tanned)
Coasters	10-11 oz
Day Planner	Back: Without folded edges: 4-5 oz or 5-6 oz cowhide Insides: 2-3 oz cowhide or kip Lining: 1 oz sheepskin skiver
Fun Barrel	8-9 oz (could substitute 7-8 oz or even 9-10 oz)
One piece gusseted coin purse	4-5 oz
Photo album	Anything from 5-6 oz to 10 oz, depending on style. Use 2 oz or 2-3 oz lining. Stiffeners optional depending on style.
Purse	Style dictates thickness. 4-5 oz or 5-6 oz cowhide with a 2 oz lining works for many smaller styles. 6-7 oz or even 7-8 oz cowhide works for larger styles with 2 oz lining.
Simple two piece coin purse	Can use either 4-5 oz or 5-6 oz
Stitching blocks	At least 8-9 oz for each piece, may be heavier such as 10-11 oz
Strap work for simple bridle or reins	Bridle and reins to be unlined, use 10-11 oz
Strap work, such as dog collar or leash	10-11 oz for large dog, 8-9 oz for medium dog, and 6-7 oz for small dog
Wall plaque	10-11 oz
Western trophy style belt	10-11 oz for unlined belt