



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MANUFACTURERS OF LEATHER
J. HEWIT & SONS LTD, EDINBURGH

J Hewit & Sons Ltd

LEATHER MANUFACTURERS



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Types Of Leather

At J. Hewit & Sons Ltd we take pride in producing a wide variety of speciality leathers for various purposes, but notably for the Bookbinding and Leathersgoods trades. The leathers are manufactured using a blend of traditional and modern methods, incorporating the experience we have obtained over the past 200 years. The majority of leathers listed below are 100% vegetable tanned. We utilise extracts of the Sumac, Tara and Myrobalan plants, to impart the properties most commonly associated with quality Bookbinding Leather and wherever possible the latest in light-fast dyes are used. Indian Goats are supplied to us pre-tanned, but we strip-out the original tannage replacing it with one of the above vegetable tannages.

Chieftain Goatskin

The raw skins originate from India and the surrounding areas. The skins have a natural shrunken grain, similar to traditional Levant grain, with a natural polished finish. This leather is retanned with the addition of aluminium salts in order to produce an archival tannage with outstanding durability. The leather is aniline dyed and has a semi-transparent finish.

Average Skin Size: 0.64 - 0.72m² (7 - 7¾ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 68 x 57 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: 15 standard shades plus grey and purple
Grades: I, II and III

Pentland Goat

This leather is made from Indian goatskins with a Nigerian effect assisted grain. The fully vegetable tanned leather is aniline dyed and is hand polished to give a very attractive two-tone finish, highlighting the Nigerian-type grain pattern.

Average Skin Size: 0.60 m² – 0.70 m² (6½ ft² – 7½ ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 65 x 55 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: 22 special shades
Grades: I, II and III

Highlander Goat

Produced in exactly the same way as the Chieftain Goat above, we can also supply a range of repair grade Chieftain Goatskins, in a selection of 2 shades of brown. Together with the standard 4 shades of brown we now offer a total of 7 shades from which to select.

Average Skin Size: 0.60 - 0.68m² (6½ - 7¼ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 65 x 55 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: 2 standard shades
Grades: II

Hand Grain Goat

Like Chieftain, the raw skins normally originate from East India and the surrounding areas. The skins have a natural grain that is enhanced using the traditional and labour intensive method of hand-boarding, i.e. folding the skin on to itself and rubbing the two grain surfaces together in various directions. The leather is finished off with an aniline finish and then polished.

Average Skin Size: 0.60 m² – 0.70 m² (6½ ft² - 7½ ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 60 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: Limited stocks in 15 standard shades (same as Chieftain)
Grades: I and II

Kinauld Goatskin

Kinauld Goatskins have been designed as an addition to our current range of bookbinding products. This leather has been produced on aniline quality leather with a semi-aniline casein glazed finish, however the grain has been artificially embossed onto the skin. The resulting leather has an attractive natural look with the advantage that there are approximately 65% grade I skins in a run selection.

Average Skin Size: 0.65 m² – 0.74 m² (7 ft² – 8 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 65 x 75 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: Made to order – minimum 24 skins
Grades: I and II

Alum Tawed Goat

Alum Tawed Leathers are known for their archival qualities, phenomenal strength and longevity. We produce the Alum Tawed Goat in two shades, white and cream.

Average Skin Size: 0.58 m² – 0.70 m² (6¼ ft² – 7½ ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 60 cm
Standard Substance: 0.9 mm
Colours available: White and Cream
Grades: I and II

Fair Goatskin

Restoration - This natural goat (and occasional dyed), manufactured using Scandinavian skins, is ideal for conservation, repair and restoration. It is often used for the re-backing of old sheep and goatskin bindings and can be supplied with an appropriate embossed grain. This leather is well suited for dyeing by the binder.

East Indian - This natural goat, manufactured using Indian goatskins. The base tannage of the leather is a pale cream colour however it is not lightfast and will pink in sunlight. That being said it well suited for dyeing (which will mask some of the colour change of the leather) and other treatments by the binder. These skins may also can be supplied with an appropriate embossed grain.

Average Skin Size: 0.60 m² – 0.70 m² (6½ ft² - 7½ ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 65 x 75 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: Natural
Grades: I and II

Aniline Straight Grain Goat

Aniline Straight Grain Goats skins are synonymous with 18th and 19th Century French bindings. Our skins are tanned and dyed and left with a semi-transparent finish. The skins are then embossed with a straight grain, giving a natural looking and luxurious leather. This leather is ideal both new bindings and restoration work. It will take both gold leaf and foil and can also be blind-tooled.

Average Skin Size: 0.60 - 0.68m² (6½ - 7¼ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 68 x 57 cm
Standard Substance: 0.9 mm
Colours available: Dark Blue, Dark Green and Mid-Red
Grades: I and II

Rough Goatskin

We take natural goat from our standard production and buff the reverse side to impart a soft, suede 'nap'. For this reason Rough Goat is also known as Reverse Goat. It is often used for the binding of account books and ledgers.

Average Skin Size: 0.63 m² – 0.72 m² (6¾ ft² - 7¾ ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 65 x 75 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: Natural
Grades: I and II

Alum Tawed Pig

Alum Tawed Leathers are known for their archival qualities, phenomenal strength and longevity. We produce the Alum Tawed Pig in two shades, white and cream.

Average Skin Size: 1.00 m² – 1.40 m² (10.75ft² – 15 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 100 x 85 cm
Standard Substance: 1.0 mm
Colours available: White and Cream
Grades: I and II

Bookcalf

Our Bookcalf originates mainly from New Zealand. The skins are vegetable tanned using Tara and/or Sumac. They are then aniline dyed and dried on our 'glass' drying machine to enhance the natural smoothness and beauty associated with this quality of leather. The surface is absorbent and lends itself well to additional dyeing by the user.

Average Skin Size:	0.74 m ² – 0.93 m ² (8 ft ² – 10 ft ²)
Approx. Cut Size:	75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance:	0.8 mm
Colours available:	14 standard shades plus fair (undyed) and wheat
Grades:	I, II and III

BVC Repair Calf

BVC Repair Calf is sourced from the Indian subcontinent. The leather is initially tanned at source using mimosa, or materials from the same family of tannins. When the skins arrive in our Edinburgh Tannery, we remove the majority of this original tannage and then re-tan, using Tara or Sumac. In addition to improving the leather with these superior tannages, we also add our Archival tannage, yielding leather that is both durable and a pleasure to use.

These skins are produced in a mixture of whole skins or 'sides' (half skins taken from much larger whole skins).

*Average Skin Size:	0.80 - 1.0m ² (8½ - 10.75 ft ²)
Approx. Cut Size:	80 x 50 cm
Standard Substance:	0.75 mm
Colours available:	8 shades plus natural undyed (biscuit)
Grades:	II, III and IV

Archival Calf

A New Zealand calfskin tanned using the same process as our standard Bookcalf. The leather is then retanned with aluminium, dyed and left with an aniline finish as with the Bookcalf. Compared to regular Bookcalf (or Repair Calf), it has a slightly bolder grain and is less likely to "bruise" with handling. Please note that the "Fair" archival calf has a pale yellow cast as a result of the combination of vegetable tannins with aluminium.

Average Skin Size:	0.74 m ² – 0.86 m ² (8 ft ² - 9¼ ft ²)
Approx. Cut Size:	70 x 60 cm
Standard Substance:	0.8 mm
Colours available:	Limited stocks held in 14 standard shades plus fair
Grades:	I and II

Library Calf

This leather undergoes the same processing as the Bookcalf, but instead of leaving the skins with the aniline look, we finish off the surface with a light pigment coating. This finish lends itself very well to the "trade" binder, as it is more scuff-resistant than the Bookcalf.

Average Skin Size:	0.74 m ² – 0.93 m ² (8 ft ² – 10 ft ²)
Approx. Cut Size:	75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance:	0.8 mm
Colours available:	Limited stocks held in 15 standard shades
Grades:	I and II

Sprinkled Calf

This leather is similar to the Bookcalf, but has an additional "sprinkling" of dye added to give a very attractive look, as quite often found on antique calf-bound books.

Average Skin Size: 0.74 m² – 0.93 m² (8 ft² – 10 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: Skins sprinkled upon request
Grades: I and II

Antique Calf

This leather is similar to the Book Calf, but in addition we add a second colour by 'sponging' or 'side spraying' with dye to give another type of traditional antique look.

Average Skin Size: 0.74 m² – 0.93 m² (8 ft² – 10 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: Please enquire regarding availability (this leather is generally "made to order")
Grades: I and II

Alum Tawed Calf

Alum Tawed Leathers are known for their archival qualities, phenomenal strength and longevity. We produce the Alum Tawed Calf in two shades, white and cream.

Average Skin Size: 0.74 m² – 0.93 m² (8 ft² – 10 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance: 0.9 mm
Colours available: White and Cream
Grades: I and II

Rough Calf

We take natural calf from our standard production and buff the reverse side to impart a soft, suede 'nap'. For this reason Rough Calf is also known as Reverse Calf. Often used for the binding of account books and ledgers. Bookcalf can also be supplied as a rough, however please note that as the skins are colour-matched for their grain, variations do occur between batches.

Average Skin Size: 0.74 m² – 0.93 m² (8 ft² – 10 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 75 x 65 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: Natural
Grades: I and II

Fair Skiver

These natural undyed skins are supplied in one grade only. Since the Fair Skiver has no finish, it will take our Aniline Leather Dyes with ease.

Average Skin Size: 0.84 - 1.00m² (9 - 10¾ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 90 x 60 cm
Standard Substance: 0.4 mm
Grades: One grade only

Smooth and Glazed Goat

Normally taken from Indian Goatskins, this leather is produced with a full vegetable tannage. It is aniline dyed and is finished with an opaque pigment coating. We can supply this leather to you in either a smooth (semi-matt) or glazed finish.

Average Skin Size: 0.65 m² – 0.74 m² (7 ft² – 8 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 70 x 60 cm
Standard Substance: 0.8 mm
Colours available: 15 standard shades
Grades: I and II

Smooth and Glazed Skiver

This leather is produced from the outer grain layer of sheepskins. As with the Smooth and Glazed Goat, we take aniline dyed leather and apply a pigmented finish coating on top.

Average Skin Size: 0.74 m² – 0.84 m² (8 ft² – 9 ft²)
Approx. Cut Size: 70 x 60 cm
Standard Substance: 0.4 mm
Colours available: 15 standard shades
Grades: I and II

Antique Goat and Skiver

These leathers are finished as above but have, in addition, a second colour added by 'sponging' or 'side spraying' with dye to give a traditional antique look. This leather is generally "made to order" and can be produced in various shades. Please enquire regarding availability.

Embossed Goatskin and Skiver

We can emboss these two leathers with a choice of grains to give a wide variety of different finishes and effects. Once again, these leathers are available in 15 different colours. The average size and substances for each of the above leathers are as follows:

Embossed Goatskin : 0.65 – 0.74 m² (7 – 8 ft²) - 0.8mm substance

Embossed Skiver : 0.74 – 0.84 m² - (8 – 9 ft²) - 0.4mm substance

Curragh Goatskin

J. Hewit & Sons Ltd are pleased to present their "CURRAGH" goatskin for the production of bagpipe bags. We have been the sole tanners in Scotland of sheepskin for the production of bagpipes for nearly twenty years. During the last few years, there has been a steady decline in availability of suitable sheepskin pelts. As a result we have decided to use our expertise in the tanning of both sheepskin bagpipe leathers and vegetable tanned goatskins to develop what we believe to be a superior leather for making bagpipe bags.

Our new leather is a vegetable tanned goatskin that has been re-tanned using the best parts of the bagpipe sheepskin process. Potassium alum is added and the skins are then oiled with our special bagpipe recipe. Finally the skins are dried flat and softened prior to dispatch.

The advantages of the "CURRAGH" leather are:

- enhanced ageing properties when compared to either vegetable tanned leathers or aluminium tanned leathers.
- Goatskin is a considerably more durable leather than sheepskin. It has a tighter fibre structure and will not delaminate during use, a problem that is quite common with sheepskin. When taken in conjunction with the improved tannage we would therefore expect a goatskin bag to have an increased life span.
- The tannage has been designed to give a softer and rounder handle compared to that of sheepskin bags.
- We believe that our "CURRAGH" goatskin should not suffer from the problems of drying-out that occur with the sheepskin bags in dry climates.

This leather is available at very competitive rates. Since we already deal directly with the public, we will gladly accept orders for this leather down to one skin. We accept payment by credit card, and are delighted to send skins to any destination in the world.

Notes

- Grading

Second grade means only that the skin has slight blemishes, holes, etc. and does not refer to the quality of the tannage or dressing of the leather. It is often quite possible to cut small full bindings from grade II skins. If in doubt, please quote the required cut size when ordering

- Substance

The substance (thickness) quoted is the standard for each leather. It may be possible to vary these substances if required, so please enquire to see whether available

- Special Colours

We will be delighted to match colours on the majority of our leathers to your own specification. For order quantities of less than 24 skins, there will be a nominal matching fee per colour. Please contact either the London Sales Office or the Edinburgh Tannery to discuss your requirements.

- Finishing

The following leathers are especially suitable for finishing with gold leaf and 'blind' tooling:

Goats - Chieftain
Pentland
Highlander
Kinauld
Fair
Hand Grained
Straight Grain Aniline

Calf - All types

Skiver - Fair

Upon request, our pigmented leathers can be finished with casein (as opposed to acrylic resin) so that they too will take gold leaf.

All of our leathers may be finished with genuine gold foil and metallic and coloured Foils.

- Measurement Conversion

Area: 1 square foot (ft²) = 0.0929 square metres (m²)
 1 square metre (m²) = 10.76 square feet (ft²)

Substance 1 ounce (oz) = 0.4 millimetres (mm)
 1 millimetre (mm) = 2.5 ounces (oz)