

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GRAIN-LEATHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 686,476, dated November 12, 1901.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MENDEL PIANKO, a citizen of the United States, residing at Woodhaven, in the county of Queens and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grain-Leathers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to grain-leathers, its object being the production of a natural-grain leather from such parts of the hide as have heretofore been of little or no value where a grain-leather of body or strength was desired.

As is well known to the trade, the hide for the greatest economy and utility is usually separated or split into three or more parts, the first split, known as "buffing," being of the full natural grain of the leather, but very thin and without body or strength, serving only as a covering for light articles, such as pocket-books, card-cases, or the like. The second or grain split is of serviceable body or strength, but its surface is of imperfect grain and somewhat rough, the grain of this split being artificially made or strengthened, producing the heavy grain-leather used in the trade, thus rendering this split as far as at present known the most valuable of the hide. The third or flesh split is worthless in cases where a grain-leather is desired, for while it possesses all that may be desired in body and strength its surface is very rough, without grain, and of so little compactness as to prevent the successful production of an artificial grain. This split has therefore been used heretofore simply as a leather body for use in cases where finish is not desired, such as shoe-soles or the like, and is of no value as a grain-leather.

My invention consists in combining the buffing or first split, which, as before stated, is of full natural grain, but without body or strength, with the flesh split, which while of no value as a grain-leather is of serviceable body and strength.

In carrying out my invention the buffing and flesh splits are each properly coated with cement, preferably any well-known rubber or

leather cement, the cemented sides placed together, and rolling or other pressure applied to cause a firm adherence of the parts. In practice I have found that the rough comparatively porous surface of the flesh split adds to the effect of the cement in such degree that after drying the parts cannot be separated at the junction, even though they have been thoroughly soaked in water.

The product of my invention is of the greatest value to the trade, producing a leather of great body and strength and of full natural grain, and can in no case be called an "artificial" leather, while the article known to the trade at present as "grain-leather" is in the main an artificially-grained product, requiring particular methods of treatment and coloring before the successful commercial leather results.

In my invention the buffing or thin split may be readily colored and treated, if desired, before being cemented to the "flesh" split, thereby saving the material and time incident to a similar treatment of the completed article. Furthermore, by my invention a thin split from any leather—such, for instance, as a cowhide—may be cemented to the flesh split of a more valuable hide—such, for instance, as a monkey-skin—and after "graining" or "boarding," as known to the trade, the original grain of the valuable leather rises through the thin split, producing an original-grain leather.

It is well known that the grain of leather will become worn or rubbed off, detracting from the appearance of the article which it covers, and that in the use of some leathers, such as monkey-skin, the grain is much "softer" than that, for example, of a cow-skin, and hence an article covered with monkey-skin will lose its grained appearance much sooner than an article covered with cowskin subject to the same wear. Therefore in the production of a natural-grain monkey-skin leather with a surface thin split of cowhide, as before described, I am enabled to produce a natural-grain monkey-skin leather capable of much greater wear and use without losing its grained appearance than the original monkey-skin leather.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an article of manufacture, an original-grain leather composed of the buffing split of a hide secured to the flesh split of a hide.

2. As an article of manufacture, an original-grain leather composed of a buffing split

of a hide secured to the grain side of a hide, the grain being disclosed through the split.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MENDEL PIANKO.

Witnesses:

DAVID W. GOULD,
JOS. H. BLACKWOOD.