

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARGARET M. GREGG, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

PROCESS OF COLORING LEATHER AND PRODUCTS THEREOF.

970,326.

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No Drawing.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARGARET M. GREGG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Queens, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Processes of Coloring Leather and Products Thereof, of which the following is a description.

My invention relates to a process of coloring the surface of leather and to the article produced by the process.

My invention has for its object to produce by immersing leather in a bath of dye a widely and irregularly variegated colored surface, and my invention consists in the process and article hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In carrying out my invention I take a tanned skin or portion of a skin and first soften it by wetting it thoroughly in water, preferably cold water. I then place here and there on the flesh side of the skin a number of small articles such as spools, marbles, pebbles, buttons or the like, and gather the leather about each one, or it may be two or more together, and tie it with cord or twine sufficiently to retain the article within the skin. I also gather the portions of the skin not occupied by the articles described into bunches of preferably irregular shape. The skin thus tied and while still wet is then immersed in a bath of dye of the color desired and allowed to remain a few minutes only. It is then taken out, draining off superfluous dye and placed in water, preferably cold, and the cords or twine used in tying are removed, the skin thoroughly washed and stretched while wet so as to leave it smooth and comparatively flat, and dried. When thoroughly dried the skin may be finished with a coat of spirit varnish or in any other convenient way, or if desired may be left without further treatment.

The dye used may be any dye suitable for coloring leather such as the acid or basic dyes commonly used.

If desired to produce leather having two, or more shades, the tied skin after being immersed in a bath of one color should be drained sufficiently to free it of superfluous dye and either with or without rinsing, is then, while still wet, immersed in a bath of the other color desired and then taken out,

washed, stretched and dried as above described. If a gold or bronze effect is desired it may be secured by adding the gold or bronze to the varnish used for finishing.

The tying of the skin may be more or less tight depending upon the extent to which it is desired to have the color of the skin as tanned appear on the surface after dyeing.

The surface of the skin treated as above described presents a widely and irregularly variegated effect due to the fact that by the tying of the skin in bunches it is in parts more or less protected from the action of the dye, as well as to the fact that in parts the skin is or may be stretched more or less tightly about the articles placed on its flesh side while in other parts it is not stretched. If tied tightly more or less of the color of the undyed tanned skin will appear on the finished product shading off into the color of the dye.

The most desirable results are obtained where the articles tied in and the bunches formed as above described are arranged with little or no attempt at regularity.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. The herein described process of coloring skins which consists in wetting the skin, gathering it in irregular bunches, tying the bunches, immersing the skin so tied while still wet in a bath of dye, removing the skin from the bath and smoothing out while still wet, and drying.

2. The herein described process of coloring skins which consists in wetting the skin, placing an article on the flesh side of the skin, gathering the skin in a bunch about the article, tying the bunch so formed, immersing the skin so tied while still wet in a bath of dye, removing the skin from the bath, untying while still wet, smoothing out and drying.

3. The herein described process of coloring skins which consists in wetting the skin, gathering it in irregular bunches, tying the bunches, immersing the skin so tied, while still wet, in a bath of dye, removing the skin from the bath, immersing it while still tied and wet in a second bath of dye, untying and smoothing out while still wet and drying.

4. Leather having the variegated colored surface herein described produced by wet-

ting the tanned leather gathering it in irregular bunches, tying the bunches, immersing the skin so tied, while still wet, in a bath of dye, removing the skin from the bath, immersing while still tied and wet in a second bath of dye, untying and smoothing while still wet, and drying.

This specification signed and witnessed this 9th day of April, 1910.

MARGARET M. GREGG.

In the presence of—
WILHELMINA GRANT,
STARK SMIT.