



Matisse
COLLECTION

- NATURAL PEBBLE TEXTURE
- SUPER-SOFT HAND
- HAND ANTIQUED TWO-TONE
- SILKY TOUCH
- LARGE HIDES

DLC
DEMAR LEATHER COMPANY



Place

Wisconsin, with its strong, cooling breeze coming off Lake Michigan and long, sloping hills that smell of fresh grass and thickening dirt, is “America’s Dairyland”. This is the heart of the United States’ dairy industry, and it is here that over one million cows yield more than 2,500 gallons of milk each year. It was the arrival of German and Scandinavian immigrants, working their rough and calloused hands every day and striving for a better life in the New World, that introduced European cheese-making traditions to Americans for the first time. Now dairy farmers churn much of that milk into nearly two billion pounds of cheese a year.

The temperate climate, filled with lightly wooded stretches on the horizon, and an abundance of sprawling, golden wheat for feed, proved to be the perfect habitat to assure the maturation of high-quality hides of robust sizes and perfect form with few damages. Here, in the rugged green lands of North America’s dairy country, we procure the material that becomes our Matisse leather.

Preserved with coarse salts for the long journey abroad, the hides are sent to our tannery in Korea to begin the transformation into one of our most beautiful furniture leathers. The modest size of the facility allows our tanners to pay special attention to each individual piece and ensure the highest quality. Our selectivity only allows about 15% of our total intake to be transformed into Matisse, a full-grain leather that undergoes only minimal treatments to cover any natural imperfections in the skin.

Production

Leather is natural animal hide that has undergone treatment to halt decomposition. The tanning process is a challenging endeavor that is one part science and one part art.

Tanning starts by **curing** the raw hides with salt, cold temperature, or biocides in order to preserve the material's integrity for transportation.

After the hides arrive at the tannery, they are **soaked** in water to remove salts and dirt, as well as to restore the moisture content.

The next step is called **liming**, where the hair is removed and the fibers of the hide are opened in order to allow better penetration of tanning chemicals.

Fleshing then takes place, where excess flesh on the backside of the hides is mechanically removed.

Through a chemical process called **bating**, the hides are gradually neutralized in order to relax the material and allow it to lay out flat and smooth.

During the **pickling** process, weak acid is introduced to the hide so that the tanning chemicals can begin the tanning process.

The **degreasing** process removes excess grease from the hide.

At the **tanning** stage, plant extracts—called tannins, chromium, oils, and sometimes aldehyde—are used to treat the skin in order to halt the putrefaction process. The tanning chemicals also alter the collagen to stabilize the hide against the effects of water, heat, acids, and bacteria.

Once the hide is treated, the material undergoes **splitting**, where a machine is used to slice the leather into two parts (grain and suede) to ensure a desired uniform thickness.

From here, the leather can then be **dyed** using pigments in a drum.

During the **fat liquoring** stage, oils are introduced to the leather fibers to create the desired flexibility and softness.

The **samming** process is utilized to mechanically squeeze excess water from the leather in order to begin the drying stage.

The leather is then **set out and stretched** to ensure a smooth surface and to reduce the moisture content.

The leather is hammered and tumbled during the **staking and dry drumming** process, in order to achieve the desired softness of the material.

During the **buffing** process, the grain surface is gently buffed in order to remove any unwanted surface defects.

At the **finishing** stage, topical treatments—including dyes, pigments, and oils—are applied to the surface of the leather to achieve the desired aesthetics.

From there, the leather is graded and then **packed** and protected for transport.

Product

Matisse is a traditional leather with a modern flair. From the outset, the hides are processed with a tanning solution that creates a very soft and supple leather. There's a bit more stretch in Matisse than most other materials and, when paired with a sofa or chair, it's clearly a leather intended to feel as luxurious as it appears extravagant.

The leather, produced from larger and older hides, possesses a natural pebble texture. This feature is accentuated when oils, used to make Matisse soft, are massaged into the surface during the tanning process. Our Matisse is then subjected to a hand antiquing process, where the leather is wiped with a touch of varnish at the final stages of processing. This gives the surface a dramatic two-tone effect that allows the new material to take on an aged and worn look deserving of the beauty and hardness of the range it comes from.

The color palette chosen for Matisse includes old world favorites such as Blackberry, Black Sky, Walnut, and Chocolate, as well as lighter tones of Sabbia and Gunmetal, giving the leather a heavy, all-natural look. Supple and beautiful, Matisse is also produced to be durable with a tough protective top finish. It holds up nicely in medium-to-high traffic areas, but does so without sacrificing its spectacular allure.

Matisse passes CA 117 and NFPA 260 fire tests and we at Demar Leather offer further treatments should higher flame standards be required. We also offer anti-soil treatments on all our leathers.

Matisse – An old world leather that feels right!



SABBIA

HONEY

LIQUOR

CLARET

BLACKBERRY

BLACK SKY



Possibilities

Whether you're designing a cigar lounge, a traditional library, or looking to adorn a contemporary bar stool, Matisse is the perfect leather for any setting. This is a material that, depending on the color you select, and the frame style you marry it with, is able to switch easily from traditional to contemporary. It is also a perfect leather for high traffic areas, given its durable finish.

