



**Attachment**

# **Materials: Leather**

# Types

## a. Leather

There are 4 main types of leather:

Type	Layer	Characteristics
Full Grain Leather	Top layer	Tough, highest quality layer, expensive
Top Grain Leather	Second layer	Smooth, flexible
Genuine leather	Third layer	Lower quality, lower cost
Bonded Leather	Leftover material (mixed with PE plastic)	Lowest quality, lowest price, not actual leather

## c. Artificial Leather

There are various types of artificial leather. PU leather is the cheapest, and most commonly used type of artificial leather used by manufacturers. However, higher quality and ecological artificial leather products are developed. This includes, for example, pinatex which is made from pineapple leaves.

# Country of Origin

Most Chinese manufacturers procure leather and PU leather from domestic factories. Some suppliers claim to offer leather from Italy, Argentina or other countries. However, such claims are very hard to verify. If you intend to use non-China made leather, you are advised to contact the leather supplier in the country of origin directly. Otherwise the risk is high that the supplier in China will only overcharge you while procuring a China made leather.

# Tooling

## a. Cutting tools

Leather are cut into certain shapes using cutting tools. Hence, the shape of, for example, a leather strap depends on the cutting tool. Most suppliers have a set of standard cutting tools. If you want to get a leather strap or other part cut into a certain shape, you may need to pay the for making a new cutting tool. This often cost from \$100 to \$200.

# Specifications

## a. Thickness

The leather thickness must be specified in millimeters (mm).

## c. Color system

Leather can generally be colored according to a pantone color. It's important that you always specify the correct pantone code to your supplier. However, notice that 'custom colored leather' (according to a certain pantone colors) often results in a higher MOQ - compared to if you buy leather in one of the suppliers standard colors.

## d. Printing

Both sides of the leather can be printed with your logo and text:

- Hot stamp (most common)
- Screen printing
- Foil stamping
- Debossing
- Engraving

## e. Textures

You can customize the surface texture of leather goods. Below follow a few examples:

- Crocodile
- Suede
- Dots
- Bamboo
- Buffalo