



ALIDA MERLIN XAVIER DISSERTATION 2023

*How leather industry's off-cuts can be utilized
to avoid landfill*

RE-PURPOSING LEATHER OFF-CUTS

This is a compilation of my Masters practice based dissertation's research from the prototyping stage to the final collection of 3 bags that were part of the dissertation capsule collection.

Pages 02-24 (Initial research and prototypes)

Pages 25-32 (Final prototype samples produced to support the written dissertation)

Taking inspiration from nature and not representing a preconceived silhouette, the collection represents a reinterpretation of basic accessory design within itself. The bags may appear simple, but they originate from a more complex starting point. Due to the flexibility of the material used in this collection, the silhouette of the bag can be shaped around any mold depending on how the process is carried out.

CONCEPT BOARD





bas
originating from
form not for
basic silhouette
look basic
more complex
of the building
way you
can lead
of silhouettes, vibrant

Pantone: 4685 C

Pantone: 362 C

Pantone: 1925 C

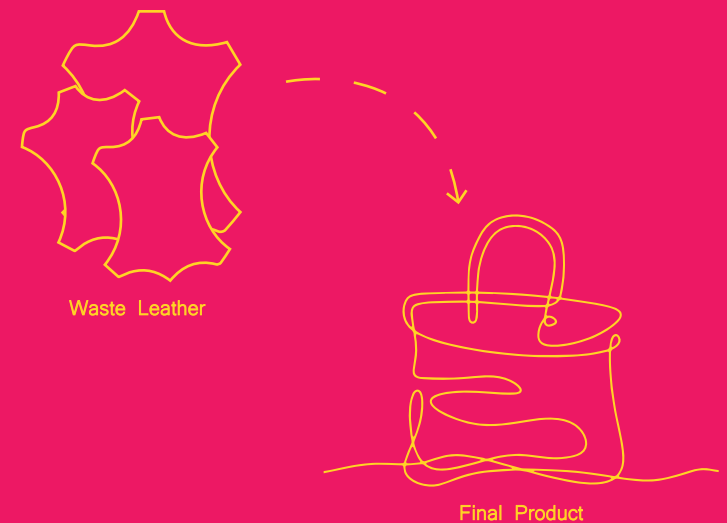
Pantone: 7404 C

This collection focuses on how waste leather from the Luxury Accessory Design Industry can be given a new purpose and turned into viable bags. As leather, is a very durable material and a completely natural byproduct, giving this material a chance to complete its full lifecycle before it can be discarded is the idea behind this collection.

Given the current scenario of waste generated by the Luxury Industry in 2022, making sure majority of leather offcuts and deadstock are given a new life and not sent to landfill is the aim of this collection. Using this Design strategy, a significant amount of waste can be reduced.

What might be waste to you, is opportunity to me :)

DESIGN STRATEGY



NO

ALL

We up-cycle CRAP, giving them a chance at becoming something before discarding them immediately due to defects or wrong cuts, whatever it might be, they all have a purpose in this collection.

We have sourced offcuts generated from suitcase production from our partner



brand who contributed their waste from the bin to help us construct something viable.

LEATHER

LEATHER

These are some of the different leather weave explorations and macrame knots explored in this collection.

Categorised as follows:

- Interlocking
- Handles
- Closure and
- Knots

WEAVES & KNOTS

LEATHER

INTERLOCKING



HANDLES



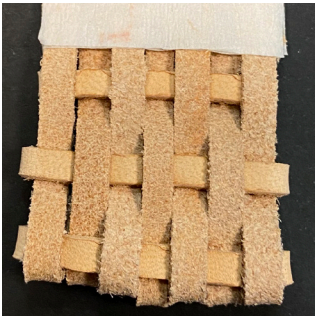
KNOTS



WEAVES

LEATHER

CLOSURE



Interlaced within

KNOTS



NATURAL

Pantone: 4685 C

PINEAPPLE

Pantone: 7404 C

FERN

Pantone: 362 C

HOT PINK

Pantone: 1925 C

COLOUR CHART



MATERIAL CHART

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION - MATERIALS USED



Vegetable Tan Leather Good Side
 Colour: Natural Unfinished | Pink
 Finished
 Pantone: 4685 C | 1925 C
 Split Thickness: 2mm
 Offcut Sourced Factory:
 Globe-trotter, Hoddesdon



Vegetable Tan Leather Split Side
 Colour: Natural Unfinished | Pink
 Finished
 Pantone: 4685 C | 1925 C
 Split Thickness: 2mm
 Offcut Sourced Factory: Globe-
 trotter, Hoddesdon



Vegetable Tan Leather Cord
 Colour: Natural Unfinished
 Pantone: 4685 C
 Thickness: 1.5mm
 Sourced Factory: Globe-trotter,
 Hoddesdon



Cotton Canvas
 Colour: Bright Pink
 Pantone: 211 C
 Composition: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 260gm
 Sourced Factory: Deadstock,
 Amothreads UK



Firm Linen
 Colour: Mustard
 Pantone: 7413 C
 Composition: 100% Linen
 Weight: 190gm
 Sourced Factory: Deadstock,
 Amothreads UK

MATERIAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

100% Veg Tan Leather

Clean with a microfibre, do not
 wet the leather. Avoid excessive
 sunlight.



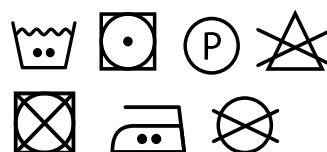
100% Cotton Canvas

Wash at 40° C with similar
 colours, light iron recommended.



100% Linen

Cold machine wash, Mild
 detergent, do not bleach, do not
 tumble dry, line dry in shade,
 warm iron, do not dry clean.





FINAL PRODUCT

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION #01

- HANDHELD BAGS



SQUARE LEATHER BASKET BAG



Front



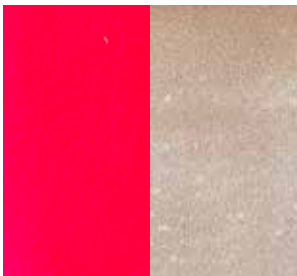
3/4 View



Bottom



Natural Unfinished Split
Veg Tan



Finished Good side &
Split back VegTan- Pink



Lining - Bright Pink
100% Cotton Canvas



Base: Plain basket
Weave



Body: Plain Basket
weave and Snake Knot



Handle: Lark's Head knot



PROTOTYPE 01

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#01
- HANDHELD BAGS



LEATHER BASKET BAG



Front



3/4 View



Bottom



Natural Unfinished Split
Veg Tan



Natural Unfinished Split
back Veg Tan



Lining - Mustard, 100%
Linen



Base: Willow Basket
Weave



Body: Willow Basket
weave and Snake Knot



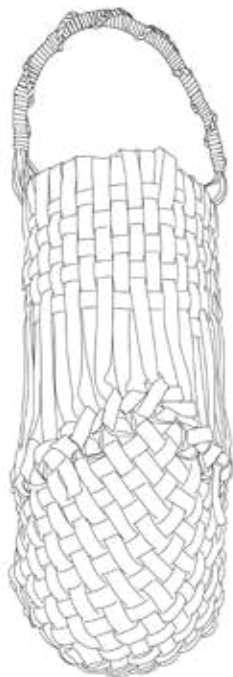
Handle: Half spiral knot



PROTOTYPE 02

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#02

- HANDHELD BAGS



Front



3/4 View



Bottom

SHORT HANDLE LEATHER BASKET BAG



Natural Unfinished Split
Veg Tan



Natural Unfinished Split
back Veg Tan



Base: Plain basket
Weave



Body: Plain Basket weave
and Overhand Knot



Handle: Half spiral knot



PROTOTYPE 03

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#03

- HANDHELD BAGS



Front



3/4 View



Bottom

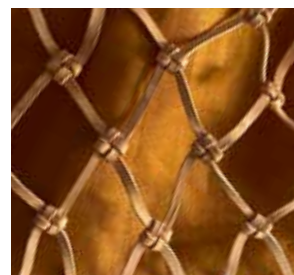
LEATHER MACRAME BAG



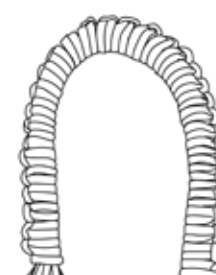
Natural Unfinished Split
Veg Tan



Lining - Mustard, 100%
Linen



Body: Chinese Crown
Knot



Handle: Lark's Head knot

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTOTYPE #01 - #03 & FINAL PRODUCTION SAMPLE
- RANGE PLAN

INITIAL PROTOTYPES
JULY-AUGUST 2022
Natural Veg Tanned
woven exterior with
fabric lining



FINAL SAMPLE
AUGUST 2022
Hand-painted woven
exterior with fabric lining

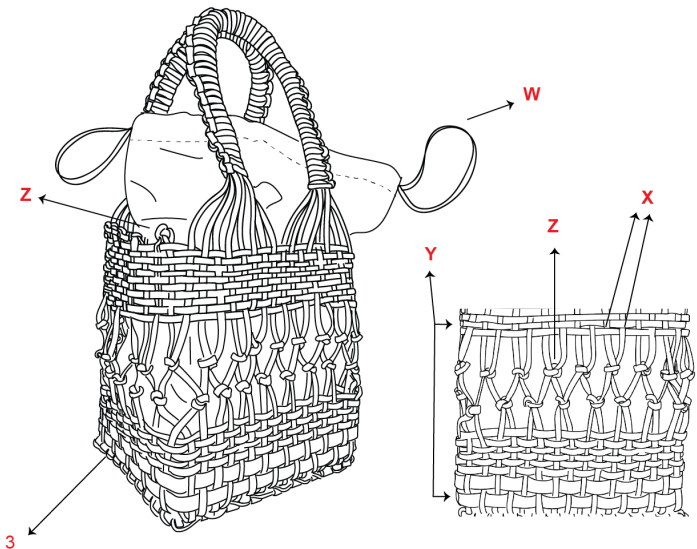
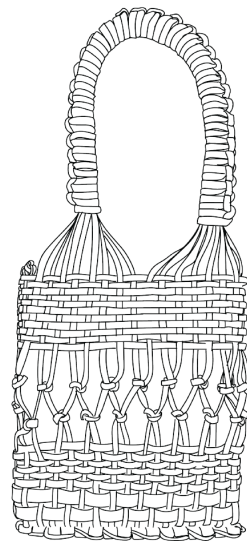
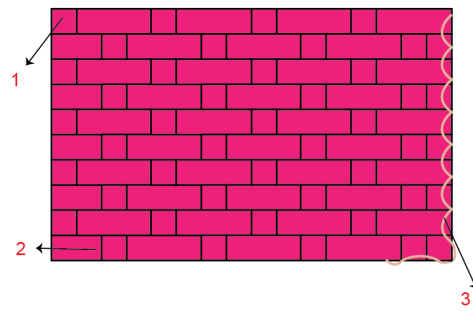
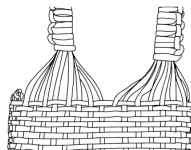
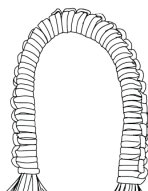




SPEC SHEET

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION

- LEATHER BASKETRY | FINAL PRODUCT | TECHNICAL INFORMATION

BAG SPEC SHEET					
Date Sent	XXX	Product Name	HANDHELD BAG	Thread Lining	
Deadline	ABC	Product Number	SS24AX001	Finish 1	Polyester Pink 30
Company	ALIDA XAVIER				
Season	SS24				
A. 3/4 View		B. Back View		C. Bottom View	
					
				C. Inside	
				T- Base Drawstring bag, 15cm Base, 3mm Gap Drawstring loop. 19 cm Height.	
	Material	Description	Notes		
Front & Sides	Vegetable Tan Leather Unfinished	5mmx 200mm	A A & B - WEAVE INFO X Warp - Natural unfinished Veg Tan 27 strips 5mm width, Pink split back 27 Strips 5mm width Y Weft - Natural Unfinished Veg Tan 17 strips 5mm width, Pink finished 2 strips 9mm width Z Snake Knot - Two rows of alternating snake knots 3. Twining	B 1. Front and back have 10 warp strips (5-5 split) and the two sides have 16 warp strips (8-8 split). C 1 x 1 - Plain Weave 10 Warp strips 16 Weft strips 3. Twining around the plain weave to secure and shape the edges W Drawstring - Finished Pink 5mm strip 80mm lenght x2 sealed with a knot at the end.	D  Gather the Front and back and 8-8 split - to form the Lark Head's knot for the Bag handle. Z - 10 Snake knots on the left and right side of the Bag which is then fine egded and interlaced within to secure the seam.
	Vegetable Tan Leather Split back finished	Angelus Acrylic paints Hot Pink, High Gloss finish 5mmx 200mm			
	Vegetable Tan Leather finished	Angelus Acrylic paints Hot Pink, High Gloss finish 9mmx 200mm			
Base	Vegetable Tan Leather	Good Side Unfinished	E Secure the collected strips with masking tape at 17.5 cm height and start the Lark's head knot around the secured shape and height. 		
	Veg Tan Leather thonging cord 1.5mm	Good Side Unfinished			
Handle	Vegetable Tan Leather	Good Side Unfinished			
Lining	Cotton Canvas	260gm			



COSTING SHEET

AMX DESIGN COLLECTION

- LEATHER BASKETRY | FINAL PRODUCT | COSTING

COST SHEET

Date: XXX

Description: ALIDA XAVIER | SS 24

Size range: SMALL HANDHELD BAGS

Color: NATURAL & PINK MIX

Style no.: SS24AX001


Season: SPRING/SUMMER 24

Sample size: N/A

Designer: ALIDA XAVIER

Material	Width / Style	Unit cost	Quantity	Cost
Veg Tan Leather 1	Natural Unfinished Split front 2mm	N/A	1	£0.00
Veg Tan Leather 2	Pink Finished Split Back 2mm	N/A	1	£0.00
Lining	100% Cotton Canvas	£3.65	1	£3.65
Angelus neon acrylic leather Paint	Jamaican Joy 4oz / 118ml	£4.95	1	£4.95
Angelus High Gloss finisher	High Gloss Acrylic Finisher 4oz / 118ml	£9.99	1	£9.99
Veg Tan Leather twining	1.5 mm / 25mt	£3.00	1	£3.00
			Subtotal	£21.59

Notions	Size / Style	Unit cost	Quantity	Cost
Thread	30 Polyester Pink	£1.00	5	£5.00
Neoprene	TEK 950	£26.75	1L	£26.75
			Subtotal	£31.74

	Sketch	Labor	SMV	Labor rate	Cost
	Cutting	4 Hours	£10.00	£30.00	
	Splitting	1 hour	£10.00	£10.00	
	Bag - Base weaving	9.5 hour	£30.00	£285.00	
	Bag - Body weaving	10 hour	£30.00	£300.00	
	Bag - Handle weaving	8 hour	£30.00	£240.00	
	Subtotal			£865.00	
	Packaging	Quantity	Unit cost	Cost	
	Hangtag	2	£1.99	£3.98	
	Subtotal			£3.98	
	Total cost of goods:				£922.31
	Hypothetical cost				£47.96
Suggested retail price:				£1000.00	



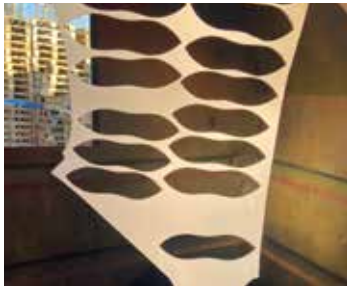
PRACTICE BASED DISSERTATION

FROM R&D TO SAMPLING

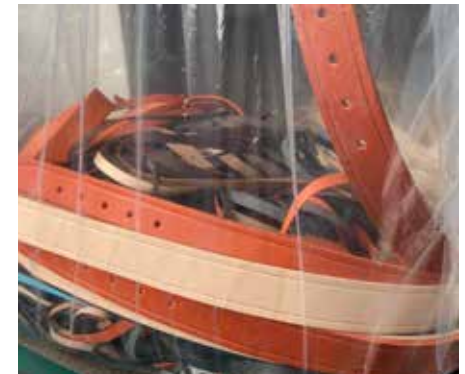
AMX DESIGN COLLECTION - R&D

Leather off-cuts were sourced from Globe Trotter, UK. Their weekly cutting and trimming waste generated during the production stage was put aside by the production head. Approximately 6kgs of cutting waste was collected over a day and half's Production.

Images below are of the waste generated during the cutting stage and of off-cuts in the bin (Waste that still has potential use).

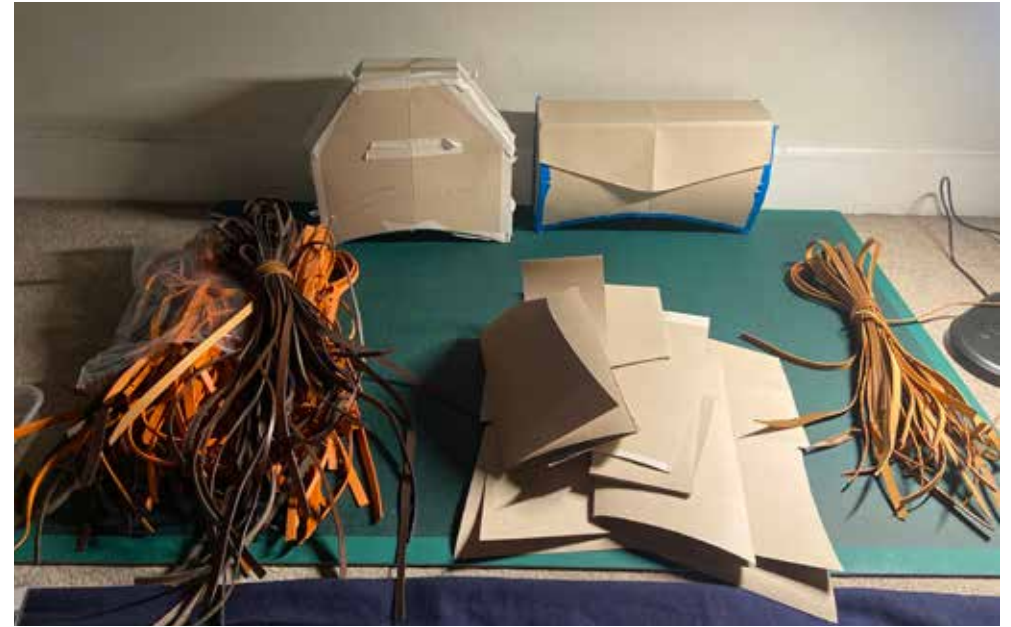


This waste was then cut into strips of 5mm and 10mm varying in length maintaining a standard split thickness of 2mm. 4/6kg was used to make the 3 bags including the Card holder (SLG).



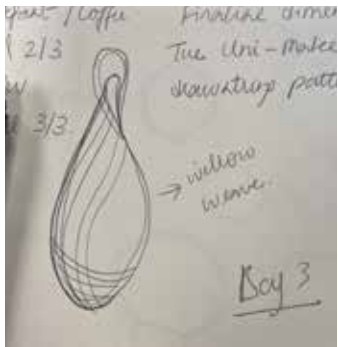
As these were leather fished out of the bin. The colours scheme produced was completely at random. Therefore the first stage was to analyze the strips sent over.

Categorized into colour, width and finish.

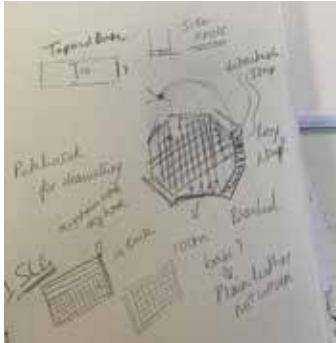


I knew for sure the shapes I would use within this collection was going to be completely organic derived from different shapes put together or a completely new form, I was inclined to explore. However, how each bag was going to come together was still unknown. Each step of the way was constant experimentation. Meanwhile, I had my silhouettes along with the leather lining patterns ready for each of them.

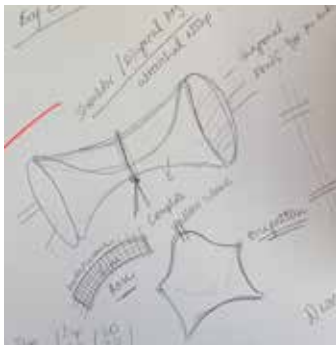
BAG 01



BAG 02

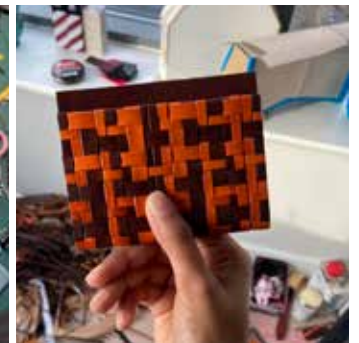
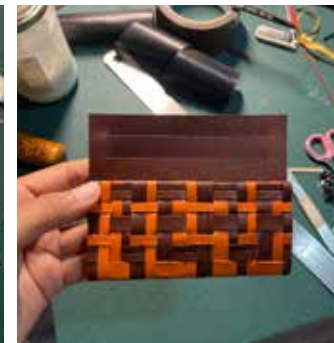
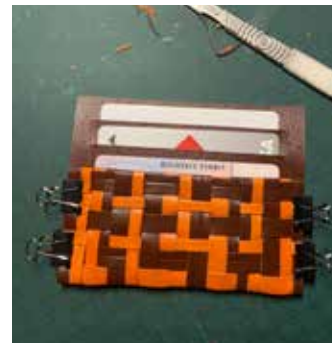
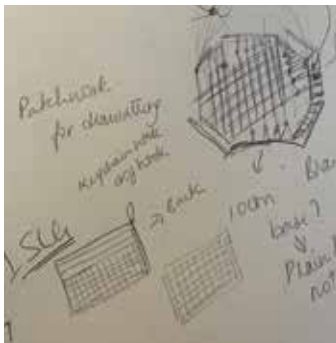


BAG 03

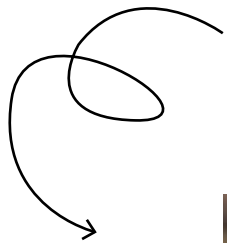
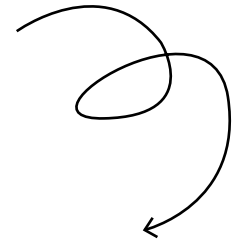


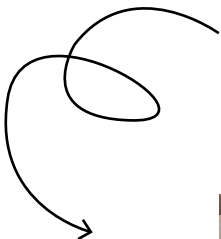
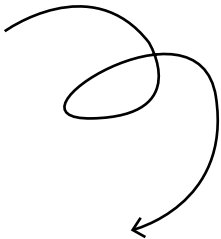
Slowly after this, the capsule collection came to life.

SLG 01 FOR BAG 02

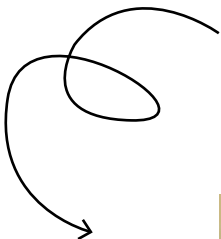
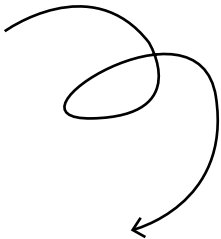


BAG 01





BAG 03



CONCLUSION

With a large volume of leather off-cuts being generated and as an industry that is continually growing, we have a responsibility to consider how to further utilize this excess product to respect the environment and human well-being. This responsibility extends from the industry's tanning methods to the end-of-life stage of leather products. Despite the increasing demand for leather accessories and the pursuit of leather alternatives striving to match leather's durability and longevity, our primary focus should be on enhancing this remarkable material. This research has contributed to our understanding of the current efforts within the leather industry to embrace circularity.

The secondary and primary research have revealed several key findings that were unexpected. The research underscores the critical role of consumer education in shaping decisions related to leather. For many, the initial instinctive assumption about leather is that it is sourced from animals, implying the killing of animals for their skin. However, this is not the current reality, especially within a well-established leather industry that adheres to ethical norms.

Leather alternatives capitalize on the transparency of their origins, often leading consumers to choose them over genuine leather without a second thought. Through primary research conducted via a digital survey, it has become evident that providing a brief explanation of what off-cuts and trimmings represent goes beyond a basic understanding. Such explanations have helped many individuals appreciate the underlying principles of this research and have led to the emergence of fresh insights into the leather industry.

The primary objective of this project was to explore potential solutions, or methods, for utilizing the generated leather off-cuts. Concurrently, it aimed to breathe life into a capsule collection designed for long-term use and easy repair if necessary. These pieces are meticulously handcrafted using a blend of weaving and knotting techniques, inspired by extensive references and informed by secondary research.

Recent spring-summer collections have showcased a wide variety of woven basketry-driven bags commercially. This trend underscores the significant potential in repurposing off-cuts, as they constitute cutting waste rather than poor-quality leather. Moreover, the woven bags are free from defects and other growth marks typically avoided during the cutting stage.

THANK YOU