



OTZI Material Samples

This selection is a tribute to the slow, deliberate work of the foresters, millers, tanners, who continue to do things the hard way and keep heritage alive.

Each material in this pack represents a huge amount of craftsmanship and skill.

We work closely with master material producers who honour the natural history of their medium to create high quality materials with personality and beauty.

Our selection and use of these materials is a continuation of the collective expertise involved in making an OTZI piece.

Email us to request a physical sample pack.

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Hardwood timber

Our British hardwood selection does not compromise on durability or environmental integrity. Both air and kiln-dried and selected for strength and grain.

We source our hardwoods exclusively from native-grown trees from managed woodland and forests - felled due to age, disease or weather.

Whatever the timber, we celebrate the natural grain and variation within the wood. We carefully include features such as pip, ripple, burr, small knots, medullary rays, and cat's paws.

The timber is beautiful and natural, and our treatment of it allows the timber to age well and permits straightforward maintenance.

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Vegetable-tanned leather

We have carefully partnered with a family-run tannery in Tuscany, Italy, where the ancient art of vegetable tanning is still practiced. Unlike modern chrome-tanned leathers, this material is treated using natural tannins found in tree barks, leaves, and fruits.

The slow, traditional process results in a leather that is not only environmentally responsible but durable. It is beautiful and possesses a depth of character that cannot be synthetically replicated. We embrace the natural life that the hide came from, celebrating and carefully placing variations and natural markings.

This leather is designed to evolve. Over time and through use, it will develop a beautiful, unique patina becoming more personal the more it is handled.

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Oak bark-tanned leather

This leather is from the last remaining oak bark tannery in the UK, a family-run heritage company that has been the site of a tannery since the Roman era.

Using a slow, gentle process that takes over twelve months to complete, the tannery relies on natural oak bark for its tanning liquors. The bark is hand-harvested during a brief window from trees felled in sustainable British woodlands - an increasingly rare process often lost in modern forestry that utilises and respects even more of the materials used. The natural liquors and process preserves the strength of the fibres, resulting in a leather that is exceptionally durable, lightweight, and full of character.

We embrace the natural life visible in every hide, thoughtfully placing the marks and grain in the piece. It will take on a character from the users life too - developing a patina over time.

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Paper and leather cord

Leather cord

Our leather cord is selected for its high tensile strength and supple feel, serving as a functional yet refined detail in our designs. This full-grain cord retains the natural fibre density of the hide. It is made from pit-tanned, spiral cut cowhide that is then rounded and polished. It will knot and weave without cracking. As it is handled, the cord will soften and develop a deeper, richer tone.

Paper cord

Paper cord is a staple of mid-century and contemporary design, our paper cord is a remarkably resilient material. We use a three-ply, twisted cord that provides a supportive, comfortable seat with a distinctive aesthetic. While it feels soft to the touch, the tight twist of the fibers creates a high-strength material that can last for decades.

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Deer suede and Tumbled Nubuck cowhide

We use deer suede tanned by a British microtannery from the hides of the managed populations of estates in the UK. This leather is a very sustainable choice; a natural byproduct of essential woodland conservation and land management.

It is lighter and more flexible than bovine suede, yet possesses a surprising tensile strength. It is a remarkably soft, breathable material with a nap that is unmatched by synthetic alternatives.

The Nubuck we use is a top-grain bovine leather that has been gently buffed to create a velvet-like surface. Unlike standard suede, which is the underside of the hide, Nubuck is created from the grain side of the hide, meaning it retains the superior thickness and durability of the full hide. To achieve its signature suppleness, the leather undergoes a tumbling process in large wooden drums.

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