

NEWS FROM THE UK LEATHER FEDERATION JULY 2017

A focus on designer Otis Ingrams

Otis was born in Shepherds Bush, London. He studied American Literature at the UEA (University of East Anglia) and San Francisco State University. After finishing university, he undertook a part-time apprenticeship at the Bill Amberg Studio in London where he started working on small commissions, then moved onto collaborating and working with designers and companies, working on furniture and bespoke projects.



Otis set up the Otzi studio to explore designing with leather and other natural materials that work with it. Otzi was born out of a need to work with his hands and a desire to design timeless, functional and durable items that

people would engage with on a daily basis. This was based on a belief that natural and sustainable materials have intrinsic value and idiosyncratic characteristics that synthetic materials cannot produce.

Talking to Otis, he said 'The foremost reason why I started working with leather is, of course, because of the material itself. Leather is a very primal material - the others being wood, stone, iron or bronze, reed and wool. It feels natural to work with, and it is impossible not to feel connected to it through its organic origin.'

'The intrinsic beauty of leather is something that always impresses me, and today, tanneries produce a

breathtaking array of finishes and colours for leathers of all kinds. Leather can be very thick and structurally rigid; or buttery soft, thin and pliable. Leather can be used to



make a vast array of items, or it can be incorporated into items made of other materials. It is this capacity and promise that makes leather work so exciting and worthwhile.'

Otis is launching a new book, titled 'Leatherworks, Traditional craft for modern living' which is available to pre-order on Amazon now.

Manufacturing Today Magazine

To publicise our latest developments, we are pleased to announce that we are having a major editorial feature published within the next issue of Manufacturing Today Europe Magazine. We shall be overseeing this project personally and the Editor of Manufacturing Today Europe will shortly be interviewing UKLF members to add comments to the text.

This is intended to promote our organisation by reviewing our operational capabilities, recent successes and plans for continued development. As a significant contributor to our success you are invited to take the opportunity to participate in the feature with a commercial advertisement, possibly linked to an editorial mention regarding our working relationship.

A member of the team at Manufacturing Today Europe will be able to advise you of all the project details (Tel: +44 1603 274130). The magazine reaches a wide audience in our industry, with over 25,000 readers at senior and decision-maker level.

Keeping an eye on TiO₂

The risk assessment committee of the European Chemical Agency has proposed that the white pigment titanium dioxide, used in some leather pigments, be classed as a potential carcinogen.



However the titanium dioxide industry remains convinced that there is no justification for any classification as a suspected carcinogen and it is safe for continued use in all its current applications. As the regulatory process continues, they shall work with European authorities to ensure that you may continue to use the substance in the future. As you may be aware, the ECHA opinion is part of the EU classification and labelling process (CLP), which 200 substances have already undergone. The process seeks to harmonise the classification of substances on the basis of their hazard properties and provide labels that allow their safe handling and use. It is not intended to assess whether a substance poses an actual risk to humans in its current uses and applications.

The UKLF will keep you abreast of any changes or updates.

Waste not want not

We have been contacted by a company called rECircula, which is an active and collaborative platform to connect industries for the valorisation of industrial waste as raw materials, including leather trimmings, offcuts, etc.

The company would like to connect businesses, large with small, so that the smaller ones can benefit from new sources of raw materials, and both sides can benefit financially and environmentally from the transaction.

For more information, you can visit the company's website: <http://recircula.b2qsolutions.com/en/>



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Japanese trade deal agreed

The European Union and Japan have reached agreement in principle, on a trade deal which will significantly reduce the current tariff and quota penalties on exports of leather and leather goods to Japan. Japan is the second largest market for luxury goods in the World, and this agreement represents a positive move for EU exporters of quality products to Japan, albeit that there will be an extended lead time to the elimination of tariffs.

For leather and shoes, the quota system that was significantly hampering EU exports will be abolished at entry into force. At that time, the tariffs on shoes will be reduced from 30% to 21% and the remaining tariffs will be eliminated over the subsequent 10 years. Tariffs on key leather products such as handbags will be eliminated over 10 years, while heavily protected products with very high tariffs, such as sports shoes and ski boots, will be liberalised over 10 years.

The agreement is unlikely to come into force before the UK leaves the EU.

Spotlight on a tannery



It's business as usual for James Boston of Waltham Tannery in Louth, Lincolnshire, who produces the most wonderfully soft leather. His main customer is the National Health Service, who require leather straps and supports for orthopedic limbs.

The tannery is Lincolnshire's best kept secret, tucked away in the centre of

the town, and also supplies leather to the clothing and equestrian trade, for the production of farrier's aprons, chaps, tool bags and shoes.