

# Lanxess leather strengthens shoe and leather good article offer

**S**peciality chemicals company Lanxess expands its offer for the production of shoes and leather goods. In addition, its Leather (LEA) business unit is strengthening its technical applications service worldwide and expanding its comprehensive product portfolio for the production of soft, natural-looking and elegant leather. The new range for surface finishing consists of the following products:

**Primal SB-160**, a new generation soft acrylic base coat binder which imparts very good coverage on both full grain and corrected grain leather types. Furthermore, the product provides an excellent print retention and cut-through resistance with a low surface tack. Its low glass transition point makes the product also suitable for the use in high performance articles such as hiking leather.

With regards to the latest environmental requirements, Lanxess aims to continue with the optimisation of all products in terms of ecological soundness. **Isoderm Luster MGN** is a new xylene-free nitrocellulose lacquer emulsion for use as an intermediate and final lacquer in shoe upper and furniture upholstery. The product is glossy and very elastic. It can be milled and imparts good rub fastness and flexes.

Shoe upper and leather goods' leathers require vivid colours and two-tone effects that underline the natural touch and appearance of such articles. With **Euderm X-tra Wax PW**, Lanxess has developed a water-based wax for very strong burnishing

effects that can be applied on both chrome and vegetable tanned crust. The burnish effect can be easily achieved by simple polishing. Another fashionable two-tone effect, regularly on demand, is the so-called white break effect. While burnish effects darken the leather, white break does the opposite. **Euderm X-tra Wax WB 2** is a wax used where fashion requires whitening effects with a beautiful contrast to the darker background of the underneath applied finish. Finishing products that can be polished are vital in the segment of elegant shoe upper leather. The product is a synthetic PE polishing wax for natural high gloss finishes; same as, for example, glossy tips of finished articles. Furthermore, it reduces the tackiness of the finish and enhances the dry rubfastness properties.

## Pull-up leathers

Pull-up is always in fashion and, with **Euderm X-tra Wax Pull Up**, Lanxess has developed a product for the manufacturing of pull-up articles that can be applied on both full grain and corrected grain leathers. The product can be applied directly on the crust or on top of standard base coats, depending on the required article. Thanks to its special composition, it is possible to achieve pull-up effects even on pigmented leather.

For medium-strong to very strong pull-up articles, **Euderm Wax 2058** is the product of choice. It consists of natural waxes and the strongest effects are commonly achieved when the product is combined with suitable pull-up oils. Euderm Wax 2058 can be ironed at high temperatures, which is important to achieve high gloss levels. High-quality leather requires perfectly smooth surfaces, which can only be achieved by special, upgrading products that hide small defects from the human eye.

**Euderm X-tra Prebottom NL** is especially designed for the upgrading of small grain side defects on elegant leather articles. It aims to improve the surface quality of leather, while maintaining its natural and soft character after finishing.

Another upgrading product is **Euderm X-tra Prebottom NB**, made of synthetic fillers and waxes. Its non-ionic nature makes it very versatile because it can be combined with either anionic or cationic products. This particular characteristic makes it suitable for a wide range of applications for natural shoe upper and bag leathers. ■





Furthermore, the product can be polished, it penetrates well into the leather matrix and levels the penetration of subsequent coats.

#### Finishing developments

Another development in the field of non-ionic finishing products is **Euderm Wax NW**; a synthetic wax and oil emulsion used where gloss, transparency and a natural touch are required by, for instance, polishing. As the other non-ionic products, it can be combined with both anionic and cationic products.

In leather finishing, the most natural glosses are achieved with protein binders such as **Baysin Luster HTC**. This special product is hard, transparent and suitable for the use in both base and top coat formulations where it imparts a natural appearance, a pleasant and dry surface touch, high gloss and brilliancy.

Patent leather articles require the highest possible gloss with a maximum of transparency, which can only be achieved by means of very particular polyurethane binders. **Bayderm X-tra Gloss** is an aliphatic PUD top coat binder for such high gloss finishes. Used as a sole binder, it imparts crystalline gloss and transparency with very good physical properties like flex performance.

#### Fashion colours

Fashion comes in colours and high-end fashion asks for high-quality colours. The new **Levaderm WB** liquid dyestuff range is Lanxess' latest development in this field, combining the highest quality with virtually 100% water-based chemistry. With this new dyestuff range, Lanxess has broadened its portfolio by introducing an entire range of anionic, solvent-free and water-based liquid dyestuffs. All dyestuffs are characterised by high yield, pure brilliance, very good levelling power and excellent fastness

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properties. Solvent-free, this product range has additional advantages in terms of transport and warehousing, where solvent containing products become increasingly subject to ecological and safety concerns.

“Once again, we are expanding our range with modern, high-performance products and also strengthening our technical application service worldwide,” Dr Thomas Brackemeyer, Head of the Business Line Organic Leather Chemicals at LEA, explains. “We see it as our task to offer tanneries innovative products with which excellent leather qualities can be achieved for the demands of tomorrow; in terms of economy and fashion trends,” adds Brackemeyer. “For example, one of our services involves providing tanneries with leather samples twice a year to give them a foretaste of future leather trends in terms of colours, structures, feel and overall appearance. Based on these recommendations, tanners can adapt to future trends and implement them in good time.” ■



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