



**Python Skin
2022**



Python Skin Background

Python skin is commonly used for handbags, footwear, garments, upholstery, belts, wallets and other small leather goods. The python skin species processed by PanAm Leathers are native to Southeast Asia. These species include the reticulated python or diamond python (*python reticulatus*) and the Borneo short-tailed python (*python breitensteini*). Pythons are mostly wild caught, while some small amount of ranching does exist. In both cases, the skins are a byproduct of the meat. Approximately 2 billion people worldwide eat reptile meat as a source of protein, mainly across East and Southeast Asia, Africa and the Southeast USA. Other parts of the animal other than the meat are also used in specialty dishes and pet treats. The demand for python skin exploded in Europe in the 1930's and since a formalized international trade has since been developed.

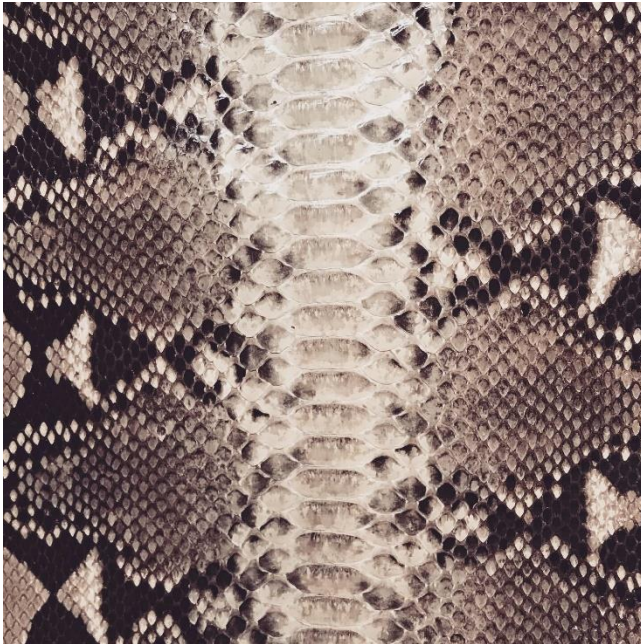


Python Skin: Cut

Python skin can be cut in two different ways: back cut or front cut.

Back cut, a skin cut down the back, shows the wide belly scales running down the center of the skin.

Front cut, a skin cut down the front, shows the smaller, more circular scales in the center with the wider scales at the outer edges.



Back Cut



Front Cut

Python Skin: Bleached or Unbleached?

Python skin has natural geometric-shaped black markings.

Bleached skins have these markings bleached out, so the whole skin is one solid color.

Unbleached skins leave these markings intact and they will show through whichever color the skin is dyed. Unbleached back cut skins will show the natural markings on the outer edges and unbleached front cut skins will show the natural markings in the center. The natural markings on the diamond pythons are a diamond-shape, hence the name. The short-tailed pythons are not available unbleached. Bleached skins tend to be a little more expensive since the bleaching process is delicate, complicated and adds some costs.



Bleached



Unbleached

Python Skin: Example of Each Cut/Bleaching Combination

BACK CUT BLEACHED



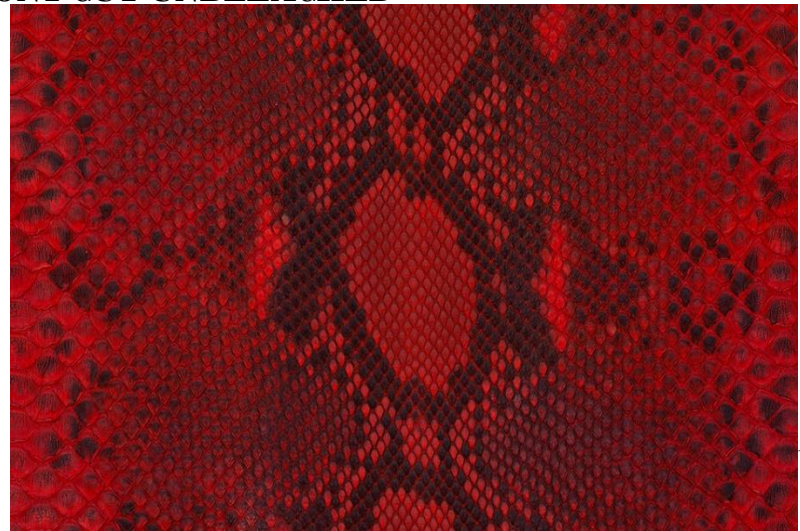
FRONT CUT BLEACHED



BACK CUT UNBLEACHED



FRONT CUT UNBLEACHED



Python Skin: Size

Python skin is measured in terms of both length and width at the center. Length is typically measured in meters and width is typically measured in centimeters at the widest point of the skin. The reticulated python skin carried by PanAm Leathers averages 3.25 meters in length, 31-32 cm in width at the widest point and 15-16 cm in width at the ends. The short-tailed python carried by PanAm Leathers averages 1.5 meters in length, 28-29 cm in width at the widest point and 14-15 cm in width at the ends. They both average 0.8-1.0 mm thickness in the center.



Measuring Width



Measuring Length

Python Skin: Cutting Yields

Below are the average yields in inches of each size category of each specie of python. For example, a short-tailed python in the 25/28 cm size range, stays nine inches wide for approximately eight inches long. These figures can help estimate the specie and size of skin that would be ideal for the panels on any given project or product. These figures are meant as a GUIDE, they are NOT exact.

Diamond		
	27/30 cm	31/34 cm
W	L	L
11	0	18
10	0	28
9.5	0	36
9	16	52
8.5	28	64
8	40	72
7.5	66	84
7	80	90
6.5	90	98
6	106	104
5.5	full skin	114
5	full skin	full skin

Short-Tailed		
	25/28 cm	29/32 cm
W	L	L
11	0	9
10	0	14
10	0	18
9	8	26
9	14	32
8	20	36
8	33	42
7	40	45
7	45	49
6	53	52
6	full skin	57
5	full skin	full skin

Python Skin: Grading and Common Uses

Python skin is graded on the center $\frac{2}{3}$ of the skin. So short-tailed python skins are graded on the center meter and diamond python skins are graded on the center two meters. There may be small holes on the very outer edges of all skins where the toggling clips are clipped during the tanning process, but this does not affect the cutting area, so it is not factored into the grading. Grades are defined as follows:

Grade 1: no defects in the center. Ideal for handbags, garments, interiors, large footwear panels, belts and other large accessories.

Grade 2: small and clustered defects in the center. Ideal for small footwear panels, electronics accessories, wallets and small leather goods.

Grade 3: many defects in the center or significant defects in the center. Ideal for small leather goods, jewelry or practicing crafting.

Defects typically include pinholes, scratches, scars and scaling deformations.



Python Skin: Grading

GRADE 2 DEFECTS



GRADE 3 DEFECTS



Python Skin: Feel

Thickness: PanAm Leathers python skin averages 0.8/1.0 mm thickness. Extra large skins might run a bit thicker.

Temper: Python is typically soft and flexible with a medium-high drape, making it easy to cut, turn, fold, bend and sew. Of course, different finishes can affect the feel of the python in various ways. For example, skins with a glazed finish or a finish with heavy pigments will make the skin more rigid.



Python Skin: Export/Import Information

Diamond Python

- **Common name:** reticulated python
- **Scientific name:** *python reticulatus*
- **Country of origin:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam
- **Source:** Wild
- **CITES status:** Appendix II, which requires CITES to import/export

Short-tailed Python

- **Common name:** Borneo short-tailed python
- **Scientific name:** *python breitensteini*
- **Country of origin:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam
- **Source:** Wild
- **CITES status:** Appendix II, which requires CITES to import/export



Ethics and Sustainability Rating: Python Skin

The python scores a 7 out of 10 in the PanAm Leathers Sustainability and Ethics Rating System. In biodiversity and meat use, it scores perfectly. On ethics, it scores a 1 out of 2, because the scientifically-backed ethical standards for how these animals are treated are still being developed and implemented, but steady progress is being made. On conservation, it scores a 2 out of 4 because it is CITES Appendix II, meaning the specie is not as in danger but must be trade-controlled to prevent exploitation. It is commonly accepted among conservation biologists that the Python is abundant in wild population (at least three million animals), but remains on Appendix II because of its similar appearance to other crocodilian species that are more at risk.

Product	Animal Welfare	Biodiversity	Conservation	Meat Use	TOTAL
Python Skin	1/2	2/2	2/4	2/2	7/10

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