Silico acrylic finish

The Indian hides are of poor quality. Hence leathers made from them are poor in substance and loose. Impregnants such as vegetable tannins, resin tannins and acrylic dispersions etc. are being used in order to improve the quality of leathers. In our previous communication[1], we have reported an acrylic product which showed better filling characteristics. In the present investigation, we report a product based on organic and inorganic polymer system, which can give fullness, impart non-tacky and showerproof properties.

In an attempt to prepare this product, two acrylic monomers of definite compositions were copolymerised in the presence of silicones. The polymerization was carried out with the conventional initiators such as persulphates/peroxides. The reaction conditions were so maintained, that the polymerization could proceed smoothly. The product was then cooled, diluted and and then treated with the additives. The product was a syrupy emulsion like liquid.

Two pieces of E. I. tanned goat skins were dyed in the usual way. These dyed pieces were weighed. One piece was drummed with an aliquot of the product. The other one was treated as control. After drumming for about 2 to 3 hrs, the leather was removed from the drum, drained, dried, and finally staked.

The leather treated with the product was full, firm, had correct grain finish (grains were elivated), possessed tack-free characteriesties and showerproofing properties. In the case where fullness and non-tacky properties are desired, the leathers can be conveniently drummed with the product which is beneficial from the operational stand point, compared to spraying. In the case of garment leathers, where fullness is not desired, the product can be sprayed on the leather evenly.

More formulations and compositions are being carried out to improve the properties of the product on a large scale.

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REFERENCE

1. Nagabhushanam, T., Kedlaya, K. J., Mathew, B. C., Doraiswamy, B. & Santappa, M., *Leath. Sci.* 22, 15 (1975)