## LEATHER FASHION DESIGN BY FRANCESCA STERLACCI

## **TIPS SHEET ON**

## **PURCHASING SKINS**

- Try to purchase skins in person.
- When inspecting skins look out for the following:
  - —that you are really being shown the skin you requested (make sure you know what a particular skin should look like)
  - —if the skin has an obnoxious odor
  - —that the nappa, or outside, is the best quality part of the skin (if the nappa has excessive scars, holes or discolorations it is not a very good skin)
  - —for tiny holes in the skin (hold the skin up to the light)
- Choose skins with roughly the same weight.
- Make sure that the grain or surface of your skins has continuity.
- Match the colors on all of your skins by laying the skins out, folding them in half and placing them on top of each other with about 6 inches of each skin showing – this will enable you to view all of the skins at a glance.
- Calculate how many skins will be needed for your design and purchase more than that number.
- If you order skins by mail or phone make sure you clearly communicate the type and quality of skins you require.
- Always ask for a sample if a skin has to be substituted.
- Always specify which skin size you want.