



Pan American Leathers, Inc.

Python Skin Comparison Guide

Comparing Pythons: Diamond, Burmese & Short Tail



Exotic leathers such as python skin can add endless amounts of personality to your projects and are bound to impress your customers and whoever they're trying to impress. Whether showing a subtle touch of class on a pair of shoes or displaying an elegant look on a ladies handbag, python skin is one of the more popular exotic skins on the market.

Their gorgeous and ultra-soft texture make them ideal for a wide range of products from handbags to home furniture, vehicle upholstery, both men's and women's accessories and beyond.

In this resource, we'll help you better understand python skin and inform you on how to best use them in your leather projects. We'll break down the measurements, aesthetic features and best practices for three most commonly-traded python types: short-tailed python, Burmese python and the diamond python.



Measurements

Size matters. In terms of creating a valuable and durable piece for your next project, the length and width of the leather itself plays a major role in what you can reasonably manufacture. The shortest of these three pythons is, not surprisingly, the short tail python. Its average length is 5.2 feet (1.6m) and at its widest point (on the belly), its average is 11 inches (28cm) — tapering to 5.9 inches (15cm) at its ends.

To put it in perspective, you can reasonably expect to have 5 square feet of skin for the average short tail python.

The **Burmese python** is one of the largest snake species in the world with an average length of 10.6 feet (3.25m) and a width of 11 inches (28cm)! While the Diamond python is the largest, the Burmese yields as larger size due to the fact that it requires less tapering.

In total space, the **Burmese python** yields about 10 square feet of skin! This large amount makes it very suitable for large-scale projects like upholstery, furniture and handbags.

The **diamond python** is the world's largest, reaching lengths of up to 22.8 feet (6.95m), but averaging at around 10.6 feet — the same length of the Burmese. It tapers more severely than the Burmese, making its total usable area a bit smaller. Due to its slightly smaller size, often times, it makes the skin more affordable than Burmese hides.

Aesthetics

Seeing is believing. Often times, it's easier to make a decision on which leather to use when you know what to expect to see.

The **short tail python's** belly scales are wider than the scales elsewhere on the python. This feature draws the eyes when put on a product such as a handbag. These scales are generally wider than in the other species, especially the Burmese (35mm compared to 25mm for the center belly scales).

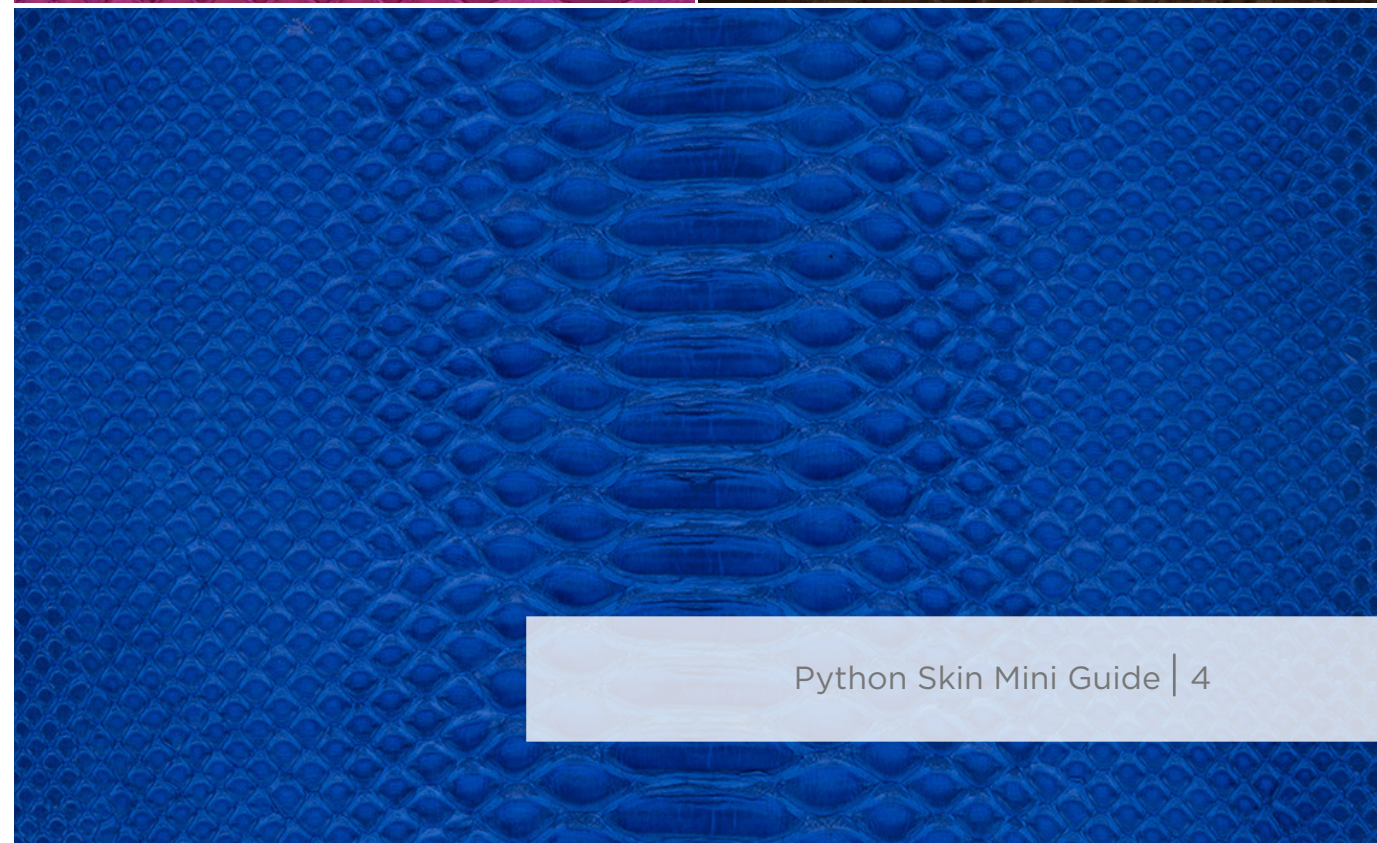
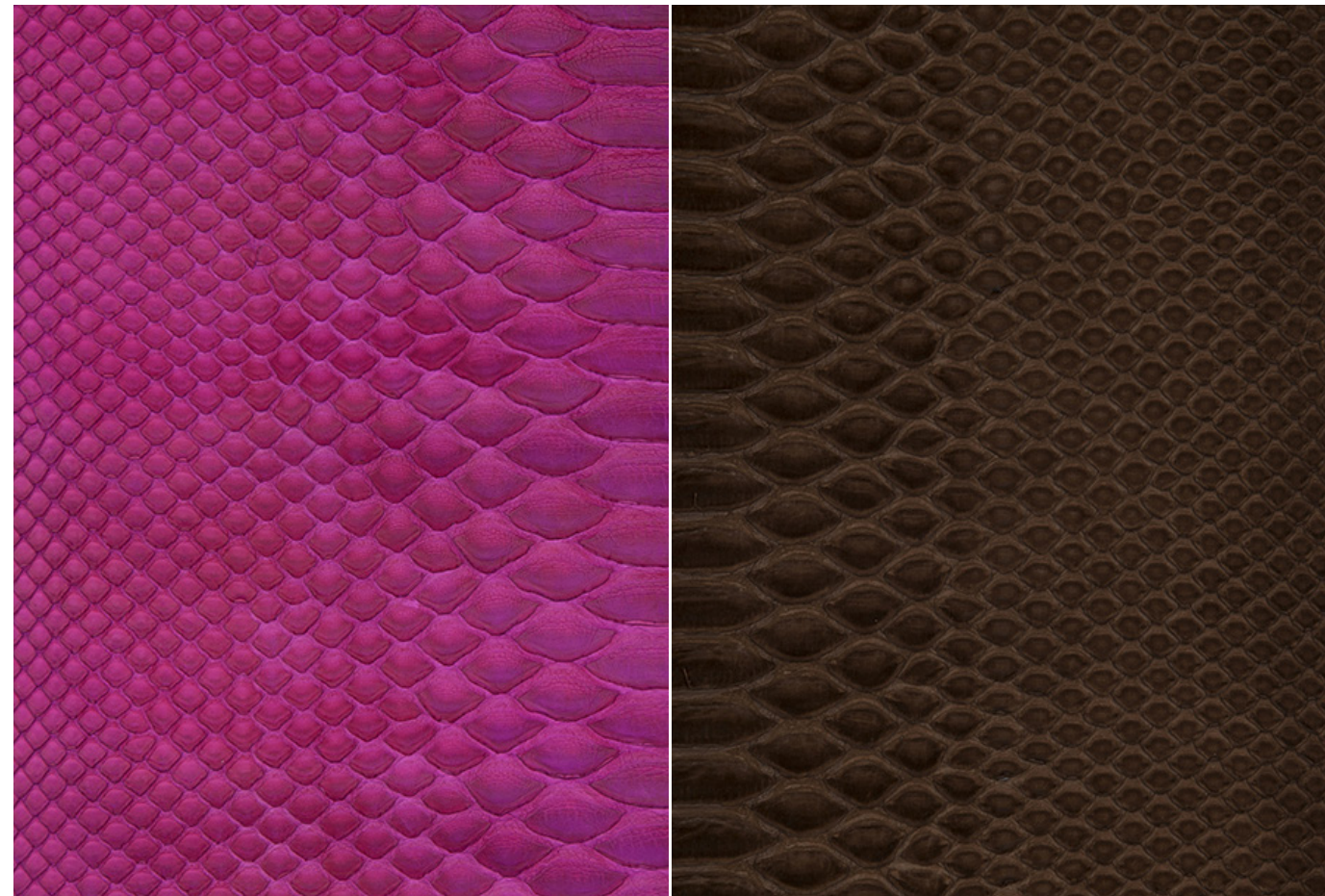
The short tail is only available in back-cut bleached styles, unlike other species which are typically available both back and front-cut and both bleached and unbleached. The bleaching removes the natural markings to make the skin one uniform color. Furthermore, the short tail is also thicker than the Burmese — making it more full and plush.

The **Burmese python** has an easily-recognizable pattern with irregular rounded color patterns on its scales. Its appearance separates it from the generic, geometric scale pattern that is typical of other pythons.

While this area is more pronounced, its belly scales are narrow. The Burmese is available in both front and back cuts in either bleached or unbleached.

Resembling fish nets or large playing cards, the **diamond python** contains a very distinctive diamond-shaped pattern that's unmistakable. The patterns are traditional and well-defined throughout the hide. With wide belly scales, the diamond python offers leather manufacturers the ability to make this area drawn to the eyes on a large bag, for instance.

Available in both front and back cuts, bleached and unbleached, designers who want to showcase the wide scales in the belly will want to use the bleached version. Otherwise, the unbleached skin will show off the python's natural scale pattern.





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Short Tail Python is wider at the ends and has more body, making it ideal for shoes, handbags and accessories.

Working Python Skin into Your Projects

For your next python leather project, there are some more tips you should know before getting started. Below, we'll recap some of the features to ensure you're aware of which material is best for your next python project.

Here are some pointers for the **short tail python**:

- » Sand down the underside to reduce thickness — without compromising quality
- » Be aware that there will be more hide per meter length, despite the name “short tail”
- » Excess hide can be used for smaller items (watch straps, wallets, wrist bands, etc.)

Remember: this python is wider at the ends and has more body, making it ideal for shoes, handbags and accessories. Also, this type of hide is only available in bleached back cuts.

And for the **Burmese python**:

- » Must be cautious when thinning out the sewing lines
- » Able to use large amounts of scrap material for accessories, trimming and small leather goods
- » Perfect for garments, soft bags due to its thin nature

Lastly, the **diamond python**:

- » Use distinct diamond shape to showcase the natural pattern of python
- » Remember: diamond tapers quicker than Burmese so it will yield less

We Thank You For Reading...

We know that choosing an exotic skin can be confusing. Sometimes it's not easy to get it all down into print like we tried to do here, so if there's something you're confused on (or you'd just like some personal help), feel free to call us or contact us at the addresses below.

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