Dani was founded as a small family run tannery in 1950, and to date consists of about 1,000 employees worldwide. With nearly 200 million in revenue annually, 75% from exports, 1.5% is re-invested in research and innovation.

Dani’s two divisions, Automotive and Home & Fashion are partners with some of the most prestigious international brands, supplying leather to many automotive, furniture, leather goods and consumer electronics industries.
The entire leather process is controlled at the three main production plants located in Arzignano, with two commercial partners in Hong Kong and in the US, concentrated on gaining market share internationally.

In support of our Automotive division, in 2013/2014 we teamed up with other two partners: Dani Automotive Tunisia and Dani AFC in Slovenia. Both fully equipped cutting departments with the added benefit of sewing seat covers in Slovenia.

**A sustainable way to produce leather**

Thanks to technology available today, there are fewer concerns related to the sustainability of leather tanning. Methodologies have been implemented to all phases of the process to recover natural resources and control waste production while safeguarding the working environment and respecting the laws that regulate our industry.

Sustainability for Dani is a priority, we meet and exceed the industry expectations and requirements, while conducting ongoing research to reduce the environmental impact of leather production in the tanning industry.

To do so, we collaborate with the tannery district of Arzignano, including the purifying plant, chemical companies and all other partners that transform our waste to usable product.
The quality of the final product is the result of several variables within the production cycle, that only a solid experience in the tanning industry can guarantee.

LIMING
During the liming phase, the hide undergoes all the treatments in preparation of the tanning products: desalination 1, the chemical operations inside the liming drums: soaking, unhairing, liming 2, through to the mechanical operations of fleshing, trimming 3 and splitting 5.

TANNING...AND RE-TANNING
Agents to confer physical and mechanical properties are added in the drums during the tanning phase 4. This process is followed by the pressing 5, splitting 5 and shaving 5 operations. The tanned hide is called either “wet blue”, if tanned with Chromium, or “wet white”, if tanned without Chromium. Afterwards there are the retanning 6, dyeing 6 and fatliquoring 6 operations, which gives colour, consistency and softness to the hides.

DRYING & FINISHING
Prior to drying, the leather is passed through a sammying machine 7 that presses the hides to eliminate the excess of water and folds. This is followed by a combination of drying methods (depending on the final characteristics of the finished leather): Vacuum Drying 7, Air Drying 7 and Toggle Drying 7. The leather now dried is called “crust “. In the Finishing dept. a series of operations are combined to give the leather the final appearance: pigment sprays, protective resins and waxes 8, embossing, ironing and milling 9, which gives the leather the right degree of softness and sheen. The finished hides are selected one by one, measured and then addressed to the various markets, including furniture, footwear, clothing and leather goods.
1. Preliminary operations

The raw hides, both fresh and salted that arrive at the tannery, are controlled to assess the quality and the state of conservation. The salted hides are preventively submitted to mechanical shaking in drums to remove the salt on the surface, with the least possible impact on the environment. Fresh raw hides are immediately processed after a proper quality control.
Some tanning operations are conducted at Dani’s plant “Via 5 Strada”. In 2015, conveyor belts were installed to allow the transport of the leather inside the drums and to move the hides from one machine to another.

2. Liming chemical operations

This step includes a series of sequential chemical operations inside the liming drums:
- **soaking** to rehydrate raw hides and to remove impurities;
- **un-hairing** to remove the hair;
- **liming** to relax and open up the fiber structure of the leather.

3. Liming mechanical operations

Limed hides are discharged from the drums to be fleshed.

The **fleshing** operation allows to remove the fat and the subcutaneous tissues through a machine with a rotating cylinder with blades. Now the manual process of **trimming** follows, to define the outline of the hides by removing unnecessary shreds. The next step is called “**splitting**”: the leather is divided lengthwise, in order to level the thickness and prepare the leather for the next stages. The upper side of the hide is called “**full grain**”, whereas the lower side is called “**split**.”
TANNING AND...
RE-TANNING
4. Tanning

Tanning includes a series of subsequent processes performed in the drum:
- **de-liming** to reduce the swelling of hides by eliminating the excess of lime and by favoring the penetration of tanning chemicals;
- **maceration** to ensure that the outside of the hide is well clean and to complete the fibers distension;
- **pickle** to guarantee that the hides meets the acidic pH values, in order to facilitate the action of the tanning substances;
- **tanning** to prevent the putrefaction of the leather and to confer physical and mechanical properties, through the use of a tanning product.

Because of their appearance, the leathers tanned with chromium are called “wet blue leathers”, precisely because this element gives bluish color to the hides. On the other hand, leathers tanned without chromium are called “wet white leathers”.

5. Mechanical operations in preparation for the re-tanning process

Before the dyeing process, the tanned hides undergo the following operations:
- **pressing** in order to reduce and level the water content and to smooth out the hides;
- **splitting** in case the hides have not been split during the liming process;
- **shaving** to ensure a uniform thickness.

6. Dyeing

Shaved hides are now ready for the dyeing process:
- **re-tanning** to confer fullness and texture to the hides, thus guaranteeing precise physical properties;
- **dyeing** in this stage the hides are colored according to the customers’ request;
- **fatliquoring** to give fullness and softness to the hides, depending on the type of final product.
DRYNG
7. Drying

Prior to drying, the leather is passed through a sammying machine that presses the hides to eliminate the excess of water and folds.

After being dyed, the leathers go through the drying phase: a mix of different types of drying, depending on the required characteristics of the final product.

• **Vacuum Drying** is a process that consists in positioning the entire hides on metal plates, which are hermetically closed by a cover. The drying is achieved by a combined action of heat and pressure reduction between the plates, which allows to obtain a fast evaporation of water at lower temperatures.

• **Air Drying** the hides are suspended on a rod and chain system which rotates around the perimeter of the ceiling inside the tannery, until they are properly dried.

• **Toggle Drying** the hides are attached manually by toggle clips to a flat frame that stretches the hide in all directions and is then passed through a large dryer. This produces a round smooth grain.

Before the finishing operation, the cust passes thru a staking machine that softens the leather, thanks to the mechanical movements and the humidification.

The dried leathers are called “crust leathers”.
8. Finishing operations
In most cases, the crust leathers still require a series of mechanical and chemical treatments aimed to confer the final look/appearance.
These operations are performed in order to accomplish the characteristics foreseen by the final product:
- **Buffing operation** necessary to remove partially the upper layer in order to correct the grain and to reduce/mask the natural defects of the leather or to obtain a nabuk effect. This operation is carried out for all corrected grain articles and nabuk.
• **Finishing** a stage in which dyes, resins, pigments and waxes are applied to the surface of the leather, in order to guarantee aesthetics and hand feel, as well as physical and mechanical performances.
• **Embossing** allows to print specific patterns on the leather through the pressure of rolles and hot cylinders.
• **Milling** a process carried out in dried drums, that gives softness to leathers and a more swell grain.
• **Ironing** it’s a mechanical operation that determines the sheen on the leather. Moreover, the heat generated by this operation activates resins and/or waxes (if used in the earlier stages), to give softness and an irresistible hand feel to the leather.

9. **Selection and measurement**

Qualified staff inspects and selects the hides one by one before measuring them. The selection is based on specific standards established together with customers.

The leathers are measured and stamped on the flesh side. A barcode label is also applied on the back side for a more efficient traceability.
10. Laboratory
Laboratory analysis, with cutting edge equipment and specialized technical personnel, completes the production cycle and guarantees quality and performance through:

- **Systematic tests of specific performance requirement** of all production lots, during all steps of the production process from wet blue to finished leathers;
- **Test report** results for each batch produced, according to the needs of each customer;
CERTIFICATIONS

- **Specific tests** of leathers for automotive, furniture, footwear, leather goods, garments, required by European and International Regulations;
- **Daily checks** on each chemical product purchased from certified suppliers to ensure a constant quality of the production of the leather;
- **Constant interaction and cooperation** with R&D department for developing new products and process innovation.

**R&D**

Dani annually invests approximately 1.5% of its turnover in research and development. This internal department governs a wide network of partnerships including Research Centers and prominent Italian Universities.

Tanning is a challenging process that requires constant measurement and technological innovation and has led us to obtain several certifications, i.e. as the first tannery in the world to attain EDP and Carbon Footprint certification.

The highly distinguished certification “Leather From Italy Full Cycle” guarantees the entire production chain is in Italy. Having the whole production in house is key as we can not only improve the products on a stylistic or technical level, but we can also implement substantial technological innovation in terms of process and machinery.

The certifications shown on this page, demonstrate our commitment and place Dani among the most advanced companies in the international tanning industry. Each certification is a snapshot of the current conditions and lead to steady improvements which are supported by various methods of research and are continuously updated and published on our website “www.gruppodani.it”.

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**LEATHER FROM ITALY FULL CYCLE (UNI EN 16484)**
This certification, which is recognized internationally, attests that the entire production is completed in Italy.
Certification body: ICEC

**CARBON FOOTPRINT OF PRODUCT (ISO/TS14067: 2013)**
It quantifies the greenhouse gases produced along the entire chain, from the farm to the finished leather.
Certification body: SGS

**ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (ISO 14025)**
According to the LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) study, it examines the following impact categories: greenhouse effect, reduction of the ozone layer, acidification, photochemical smog, eutrophication.
www.environdec.com
Certification body: SGS

**DER BLAUE ENGEL (RAL UZ 148)**
It examines the parameters that concern the content of dangerous substances, the emission of pollutants, energy conservation and use of raw materials and water, according to the pre-established limits.
Certification body: RAL

**GOLDEN M (RAL - GZ 430)**
The Golden M label is granted to those products that have passed tough tests of durability, resistance to physical and environmental factors, and even odor tests. Dani is part of the supporting membership and DGM (the German furniture quality assurance association) is the verifier body.

**MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION (ISO 9001:2008)**
Dani S.p.A. - Div. HS&F
Certification body: DNV

**MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION (ISO/TS 16949:2009)**
Dani S.p.A & Dani Automotive Tunisia Sarl
Certification body: DNV

**MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION (ISO/TS 16949:2009)**
Dani AFC d.o.o.
Certification body: TUV
11. Cutting and sewing

To be ever closer to customer requirements and willing to ensure the best quality of its products also in the later stages of the supply chain, we highly specialized ourselves over the past years in the cutting and sewing operations.

Today Dani has three plants that are fully equipped for cutting: Dani Automotive in Arzignano and our partners in Tunisia and Slovenia. The Slovenia location is equipped with a sewing department, with the ability to supply also finished sewn seat covers.
Identification of defects and cutting

Each hide is subjected to a process of identifying defects based on a defect catalog provided by the customer prior to cutting. Cutting is an automated process carried out by machines programmed with software to scan a hide and automatically position the cut parts.

The individual cut pieces are shaved and when necessary corners are fleshed. Prior to shipping the pieces are 100% inspected and stamped for traceability back to the initial batch.

Sewing operations

Our slovenian partner, Dani AFC, beside being specialised in cutting parts with automatic machines, has the ability to complete a step forward supplying complete sewed seat covers.

Dani AFC is in fact equipped also with machinery that can cut the different types of fabric and lamination used on a seat, and assembly all the pieces including zips, profiles, pipings and other components.
INSTANT SERVICE
Over the years we have learned our customers production needs and their requests for leather in a shortened amount of time. For this reason we established a warehouse 20 years ago giving us the ability to fulfill urgent requests.

19 lines, 480 colors. The wide range of leathers and colors allows designers to play with modern colorful creations that can be squared and cubic, or with soft and sinuous shapes.

Timely delivery to the customer within 48-72 hours, depending on the destination.

Furniture, leather goods, footwear, aviation, marine, automotive aftermarket: Dani is now able to quickly meet the needs of multiple sectors. Including small quantities.

Online request of samples: is available in Dani a new instant sampling service, through our website: www.gruppodani.com/en/instant-service

This further demonstrates to our customers our care and attention to all aspects of the production process. Confirming our commitment to professionalism throughout Dani’s entire operation.
DANI S.p.A.
HOME STYLE &
FASHION DIVISION
Via Quarta Strada, 20
Z.I. 36071 - Arzignano (VI) ITALY
Tel +39 0444 471211
info@gruppodani.it
www.gruppodani.it

DANI S.p.A.
REGISTERED OFFICE &
AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION
Via Della Concia, 186
Z.I. 36071 - Arzignano (VI) ITALY
Tel +39 0444 454111
info@daniautomotive.com
www.gruppodani.it