

Dallas-based Bag'n Baggage acquired for \$10.5M

10:51 PM CDT on Monday, June 9, 2008

By MARIA HALKIAS / The Dallas Morning News
mhalkias@dallasnews.com

Bag'n Baggage Ltd., a Dallas-based luggage retailer operating in bankruptcy, has been acquired for \$10.5 million by a Denver-based competitor, Colorado Baggage Co., and investment firm Gart Capital Partners.

The chain of 34 stores in 12 states filed for Chapter 11 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Dallas in May. It will be merged with the Denver chain of 10 stores to create a new company called Colorado Bag 'n Baggage.

Bag'n Baggage was founded in Dallas in 1973.

The new company will be based in Denver but will keep the office and warehouse operations in Dallas, too, said Pete Paradise, co-founder and owner of Colorado Baggage.

"I have people who don't want to move to Dallas and other people in Dallas that I want to keep, too, who don't want to move to Denver," he said. "We'll run parallel for now."

Combined, the stores will have annual sales of \$40 million and will be among the largest U.S. luxury luggage sellers. Both chains sell brands such as Tumi, Hartmann, Rimowa, Victorinox and Bosca.

Gart Capital has been in the retail business for years and operates more than 120 ski shops in Colorado.