



TruBond 1000B

Tan Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. Pickled skin should be neutralized and free of excess moisture.
2. Skin side up on a flat surface. Liberally apply TruBond 1000B to the entire skin.
3. Let TruBond 1000B soak into the BACK SKIN for 2 hours. Hang the skin to dry.
4. As the skin dries and is worked, you should observe "loosening" of the fibers and a lightening of the leather.

Every 12 hours tug the skin in all directions for 1-2 minutes. Repeat for 2 days. Hide should remain soft and supple.

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Tanning Small Game with **Trubond 1000**, and **Trubond 1000B** Paint-on Tans

Here we go!

You will find these instructions very similar to the instructions I gave for tanning bears with these 2 products, so I will abbreviate a couple of things throughout this thread. In fact, you could most likely follow the bear instructions to a T, and get good results. Air dried skins will be you biggest pain in the rear. LOL

The most valuable information you will receive in this thread, will be coping with air dried skins of all kinds, and learning different little "quirks" of different species. In addition, some individual shaving tips will be offered. Questions are welcome, as always. I will start with fleshing-salting, then move to the rehydration, pickle, degreasing, neutralizing, then tanning.

As you already know, from previous threads, I try to be **VERY** thorough, and cover all bases.



TruBond 1000

Tan Application: (Basic Instructions)

1. Pickled skin should be neutralized and free of excess moisture.
2. Skin side up on a flat surface. Liberally apply TruBond 1000 to the entire skin.
Example: 12 ozs. of TruBond 1000 is enough for a XXL whitetail cape measuring 8" X 22" X 24".
3. Let the tan soak for 2 hours.
Option #1: The skin can then be folded skin to skin, placed in a plastic bag and sweated overnight in a refrigerator. Then freeze or mount.
Option #2: Hang the skin to dry completely. Rehydrate in a solution of 1/4 lb. salt and 1 oz. Lipa-Solve 55 per gallon of warm water. Then freeze or mount.
4. Before mounting a light wash is recommended. Use a handful of salt with bit of Lipa-Solve 55. Wash and rinse.

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FLESHING

First thing, remove **ALL** tail bones. On skins with long tails, if you lay the tail flat, on a hard surface, and roll it back and forth, with pressure, the length of the tail, you will find the bones come out much easier. As much as many Taxidermists don't like to, it is **ALWAYS** best to split the entire tail. If not, you will usually always lose tail hair.

Always turn the ears, but stop just shy of a complete turn. Leave around 1/8 inch un-split on the tips and edge of the ears, if you own a sawdust drum. All the chemicals will penetrate, and this will prevent ears busting open in the drum.

You should sprinkle a **LIGHT** layer of salt over the entire skin, before starting to fleshing and splitting anything. This will buy you a little extra time before full salting, and help prevent any epidermis from "sloughing" off. Just the handling and splitting of some skins, will cause a little epidermal loss, on raw skins.

DRYING SKINS

This more important than most know! First off, **DO NOT** hang greasy skins out in the sun to dry! You are asking for a grease burn problem. Small game especially requires **GOOD AIR CIRCULATION** while drying. A cool, dry area is best. After salting, **MAKE SURE** skins are hung so they can drain off excess moisture. You **DO NOT** want skins lying in bloody water, while drying. Skins should be dried in air, circulated by a **GOOD** fan. If you can afford it, investing in a de-humidifier is a great move! The faster you remove that moisture from the skins, the better the end result.

Of course you want that skin side dried thoroughly, but what about the hair side? Also it is **VERY** important to dry as fast as possible. Skins shouldn't be hung to dry on anything wider than 1 inch. 1/4 boards, ripped lengthways, would be a good choice for hang these small skins. A **BAD** choice would be lay skins out flat on a sheet of plywood to dry. The hair side needs to get as much air circulation as possible. The hair side of a skin,

lying in moisture, will cause slip! Cased or tubed skins, require a little extra effort, for just this reason. Dry overnight after salting. Then turn the skin, hair-side-out, for a few hours, under a fan to dry the hair. Then turn the skin back to skin side out, to finish drying. If you don't like sewing, and you want to avoid slip, this is a small price to pay.

Some small game skins are easy to rehydrate, and some are not.

The few skins I can think of, off the top of my head, that are EASY TO SLIP during the re-hydration, are these.

A. Grey fox B. Groundhog C. Muskrat D. Prairie dog E. Rabbit These skins need as short of a re-hydration bath as possible, and placed into the pickle, ASAP. The bear re-hydration formula will work well on ALL small game. Just remember, **NO LONGER** than necessary on these skins.

Some skins like beaver, can handle a good long, complete re-hydration bath, usually with no worries. Some beaver and otter, and mink skins are often covered with a "sticky" orange fat. After the re-hydration of these skins, it is a good move to go ahead and knock off some of this fat, **BEFORE** these skins enter the pickle. If the skins soften up enough, mid-way through the re-hydration bath, pull them and drain. Remove as much of this fat as possible, and put back in the re-hydration, for a few more hours. Maybe knock off a little thickness in the jaw areas also. Badger; hit the necks on larger skins, before the pickle.

There are so many variables on different skins, it is impossible for me to think of them all, without someone asking a specific question. I personally enjoy questions. The question you don't ask, will be the one to bite you in the ass!

PICKLE

Pickling with the bear formulas and method, will yield a superior end result. Beavers and otter **NEED** to be thinned well on the shaving machine and pickled well, or you will get stiff skins.

To achieve great results, you really need to be able to shave small game. The **VERY THIN** skins, like red fox, etc, can be shaved, but only by a **GOOD** shaver. Connective tissue needs to be broken up somehow, to allow for **COMPLETE** grease removal. I have seen some folks accomplish this with a wire wheel, on skins too thin to shave. Just **DON'T** stay in one area too long, and build up heat in the skin! **COMPLETE** grease removal is the **KEY** to producing a good soft piece of small game.

TANNING – Same as Bears


Trubond 1000 for skins to be mounted, **Trubond 1000B** for wall-hangers. If using **Permatan 2000**, again, same as bears.

Does anyone need me to go into the **RE-HYDRATION** of **AIR DRIED** small game?

Any questions, or anything to add, fire away!

P.S. Even after tanning, tubed skins still require good air circulation on the hair side, while drying.

Any questions so far, let em rip! Thanks for reading, *Aubrey*



Submersible

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Permatan 2000

Submersible Tan Application: (Basic Instructions)
Pickled skins should be drained of pickle, weighed and placed directly into solution outlined below!

1. Per whitetail cape mix 2 1/2 gallons of water with 1 1/4 lb. of salt (1/2 lb. per gallon). Initial water temp should be 85 degrees.
2. For each pound of drained skin weight add 1oz. Permatan 2000 to salt and water solution.
3. Skins remain in solution overnight.
4. The next morning slowly add baking soda until pH reaches 4.5 – 5. Let stand for 30 minutes.
5. Drain skins, let dry to desired moisture content.
6. Skin can then be oiled with either Lubri-Stretch 1000 (light skinned animals) or Lubri-Stretch 2000 (heavy skinned animals, i.e. elk, moose).

Avoid eye and skin contact. May be harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep container closed and store in a cool place away from open flames. Handle with care using good industrial practices.

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