

TRUBOND[®]

TANNING PRODUCTS, LLC
FORMULATED FOR SUCCESS

The Industry's Best Taxidermy Tans!

- ✓ Produces leather with excellent stretch and workability
- ✓ Efficient oils practically eliminate any shrinkage
- ✓ Get softer, more supple back skins and wall hangers with less work ...and the hardest working degreasers in the business

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#1 BEST SELLER!

TruBond 1000 (TB1000)

Simply the best taxidermy paint-on tan your money can buy. Precision blended with the finest synthetic tan and oil blend. This product delivers **superior stretch** with virtually no drumming or pulling of the mounted skin. Like all TruBond products, it is low odor, safe and easy to use.

TruBond 1000B (TB1000B)

The first synthetically blended paint-on developed just for back skins and wall hangers. Traditionally skins of this type required hours of breaking to even coming close to getting them soft... not any longer. This paint-on will **produce an excellent quality skin, soft, with little to no breaking**. Like all TruBond products, it is low odor, safe and easy to use.



Lubri-Stretch 1000 (LS1000)

Highly concentrated, sulfated synthetically blended oil, that yields **SUPERIOR** stretch! When wet-tanning, it can be cut 4-1 with warm water. This oil is highly stable and can also be added to the pickle bath, if so desired. Its charge is **anionic**. Low odor.

Lubri-Stretch 2000 (LS2000)

A high quality solvent oil replacement. This oil is specially blended for deep penetration and superior softness. Lubri-Stretch 2000 is recommended for use on any and **ALL** back skins and rug work. Its pH is 6, and its charge is **anionic**. Low odor.



Lipa-Solve 55 (LS55)

A **highly concentrated** degreaser, this surfactant based degreaser can be used as a re-wetting agent in the rehydration bath, or as a stand-alone product in a de-greasing bath, only one ounce per gallon of water. Lipa-Solve 55 is also biodegradable, but is tough on grease and fat while gentle on the hair!



800-488-3256 • 712-336-3256



330-674-0086, Ext. 1



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Lipa-Solve 77 (LS77)

A great biodegradable solvent based product that **can handle ANY de-greasing job** you may run into. A superior product for adding to your pickle bath; Lipa-Solve 77 has little effect on the pickles PH. This degreaser is highly concentrated, and **REALLY only requires 1 oz.** per gallon!

No-Harm Pickling Acid

For use as primary pickling acid or adjusting pH in a Citric Acid pickle. **No-Harm Pickling Acid is very effective.** No-Harm Pickling Acid is non-hazardous. Do not allow No-Harm Pickling Acid to Freeze. Amount needed to achieve proper pH will vary depending on water hardness. Pickle solutions will generally require 1 oz. per gallon of solution.



Permanganate 2000 (PT2000) – Powdered Submersible Tan

This **submersible tan** is a mineral and synthetic blend that **yields a superior finished** product with great stretch. This low odor, white, free flowing powder dissolves easily. Its PH is 3.2 and its charge is cationic.

Taxidermy Tanning Kit for Wallhanger (TruBond 1000B)

This kit contains the same ingredients that award winning taxidermist use around the world!

Product will provide you with a soft subtle skin – suitable for a wall hanger, rugging or taxidermy.

This Kit Contains Enough Material to Complete Up to:

1 Large Deer Hide or 2 Coyotes
or 2-3 Fox – Excellent for Reptiles too!

- ✓ 1 Pint TruBond 1000B
- ✓ 18 ozs. Citric Acid
- ✓ 8 ozs. Lipa-Solve 55
- ✓ 8 ozs. Sodium Bicarbonate
- ✓ 8 ozs. Lipa-Solve 77
- ✓ Kit DOES NOT Include Salt



“I just finished my black bear back-skin, and it looks great! The hide is very soft and supple, I'll definitely be using TruBond products next time!” **Kacy**

“Wanted to Thank You for my order, your products are Outstanding!

I have to say I've never felt so good about sewing, until working with your products. I know I wrote on here once about how pleased I am with the products I ordered. TruBond truly by far is the best tanning products I've ever used. I will definitely be ordering more!”

Wright Way Taxidermy

“I have to give credit where deserved. I started using TruBond 1000B, the Lipa-solve degreaser they have and oil. WOW. The degreaser rocks. Two bear in no time the grease was gone. The degreaser penetrates right now. The TruBond tan was unreal. I used the rug formula and with an otter little to no break. The oil penetrates nice and pleasant smell. Keep it up TruBond Tanning Products, set the standard for tanning products. I am hooked!!” **Kevin**

“I have been tanning all my whitetail capes with TruBond 1000 this year and can say nothing but good things about it. Also started doing custom tanning for other taxidermists and they are amazed and the final product. Thanks for the great product!” **Scott**

“Best tan I've ever used, period!”

Paul E

“Thanks guys just as easy as I thought it would be. I have really pushed your product line. It is great stuff as far as I'm concerned. If you home tan this is the best tan.” **Will**

“Thanks for taking the time to talk with me on your product line and provide a wealth of knowledge here and by phone. Bucks-n-Ducks will be placing an order very soon!! I can already tell these folks will be great to work with! Top of Form Order came right on in and I applied and sweated overnight and came out with a very white stretchy skin, should be a pleasure to mount, now if that darned form would get here. Will let you know how it goes.

“Tanned out very nice and mounted well. Will be ordering more that's for sure.” **Will**



Here are two pelts that I recently tanned using the Trubond system. They turned out beautiful and are absolutely soft and pliable. I'm sold on your products and will use them on all my pelts.

Mark



Thank you TruBond for a great product.

Brandon

What our customers are saying about the TruBond line of taxidermy tanning products!

“I just finished up two rattlesnake skins with the TruBond 1000B and they came out great! Very nice leather skins!” **John**

“I have tried TruBond and a few other tanning products and TruBond wins. I love the white color, the great stretch and the smell. It is like walking into a leather goods shop. **Kathy**

“Mounted three deer yesterday. What a day. I had one that I attempted a re-tan on. It was tanned with Rinehart’s. It never fully relaxed when I went through a process of re-tanning. It WAS A STIFF PAIN IN THE BUTT. I mounted one dry preserve and one tanned with TruBond 1000. By far the TruBond was the best. I’m sold on this tan-end of story. SO GLAD I TRIED IT. **HoundDoggy**

“I’ve used the backskin (TruBond1000B) tan to tan a grey fox and a snake skin. Both turned out great!” **Carl**

“Well, my neighbor told me to put a match to the TruBond 1000. He promised it would light – IT DIDNT! I can’t explain the relief I feel knowing my tan will not leave me with headaches.

I admit I’m not a pro at tanning and I’ve been through a loooooong learning process. What I’ve learned is that all tans are not the same and NO TAN I’VE TRIED IS IN THE SAME BALL PARK OF THIS TRUBOND STUFF.

I have honestly changed nothing with my process with the exception of my tan. NO PROBLEMS. SO...WAS I A DUMMY OR WAS IT THE TAN? I DONT KNOW BUT I KNOW MY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SOLVED SINCE I STARTED USING THIS TAN-PERIOD!

FIXIN TO START REHYDRATING ANOTHER BATCH AND THEN ILL BE GETTING ANOTHER BATCH OF THE TB1000. IMPRESSED HOW FAR IT GOES.

Just another thumbs up for TruBond 1000. I just finished tanning my first deer hide with it and what a treat. The hide came out way better then my previous hides tanned with EZ-100.

Slee



This is the best tanning I have used – TruBond 1000B, for rugs.

Howard

“I really like this tan, easy peasy, bada boom bada bing! **Paul**

“I absolutely HATE changing things. I like to find something I’m comfortable with and stick with it. I’ve used Lutan for years and refused to try anything new. I was talking with Dennis Bragg and he actually talked me into trying some TruBond 1000. I ordered some and tried it on a whitetail the other day and I was pleasantly surprised. I know I’ll be buying some more.” **Red Wolf**

“I’ve tanned 7 coons, 1 grey fox, 1 coyote, 9 beaver, 3 possums and a skunk for wallhangers so far this trapping season with TruBond 1000B, No Harm Pickling Acid and Lipa-solve 55 and it does a great job, the skins are softer than anything I’ve tried before. And I don’t have a shaver or tumbler, all were hand shaved. Couple of the 25lb+ coons gave me fits with the fat and grease but I managed to get em done and they came out fine in the end. Good stuff.” **Pinebear**

“I tanned my first two capes with TruBond 1000 today. The tan came to my house today and Thank God it wasn’t in one of those big mouth bottles. Very easy pouring, no mess, no waste. I also tanned a cape with the remaining tan i have used for the last year. No, I won’t say the brand name as this post is not about bashing or promoting anyone’s tan. I followed the directions that came with my TruBond. My pickle stayed between 1-2 on these capes, however, TruBond instructions say keep your pickle between 2-2.5. I didn’t get my TruBond till after this cape was pickled and shaved. I don’t know why on the pH BUT will be mindful of the pH when doing my next batch. I neutralized per instructions.

A slow but thorough color change took place with the TruBond capes. A more rapid color change occurred with the other tan.

For kicks I just stretched the neck (widthwise of course) to see what would happen. Obviously while damp with the tan, all of them stretched somewhat. The Trubond really did outstretch the others BIG TIME. I have stretched the necks before on capes just to see if id get back to original size. Never has a cape of mine stretched as easily as the one i tanned with TB1000. I will put these capes in the fridge over night and rinse in the morning. I will be mounting the deer tanned with TruBond 1000 just as soon as i help load a customer’s elk in the morning.

I don’t have as much experience tanning (2 years) and now what real stretch is. I assumed stretch was tugging like heck to get 1 inch. I honestly think i could stretch that TruBond cape 3 inches. Not that I would. Never have i know that kind of stretch. I will post an honest evaluation after I mount the deer. It will be a 86-70-19L with a cape that measures 19.” **HoundDoggy**



Another cape tanned with Trubond tanning products. Thank you Justin for the great tech support also, top notch company in my book!
Mitch

“I haven’t mounted yet but did tan up two extra capes just to get a feel for it. I like what I’m seeing so far. I was extremely impressed with how fast it absorbed into the skin. It didn’t just lie on top, it penetrated deep and very quickly.”

Antlerman

“I’ve ordered 6 gallons from the on=line site and it’s easy and it will guide you real easy on how to do it. As for the product, well I’ve been on these forums for a long time and Trubond is one of my favorite tanning products to use. As in many other statements on here I only stand behind a product that works and will say and tell folks if a product was a waste of my time.” **Frank**

What our customers are saying about the TruBond line of taxidermy tanning products!

“I’ve tried TruBond 1000 cape tan on Whitetail deer, Mule deer, Elk, Bears, Raccoons, Fishers, Coyotes, Bobcats. I’ve used the back hide tan on Whitetail hides, Elk hides, Bear rugs, Bobcat rugs and Coyote rugs, and I can only say good things about his products. The cape tan produces great stretch, it’s a nice sewing leather to work with. The TruBond 1000B is unreal!!! Little or no breaking required and excellent results every time. I have experienced zero hair slippage or any epidermal skin problems with any of these products. If you do your own tanning and go with the 5 gallon approach you’ll find nothing more reasonably priced. Their new degreaser is also a GREAT product you will need half as much to do the same job.”

Gunner

“Just tanned 6 wt capes today with TruBond 1000.

Here is what I noticed so far, when I used McKenzie tan, I always had a lot of runoff, of oil left on the counter.

With TB1000 everything soaked in, there was nothing left on counter after I bagged hides to go in the fridge.

Everything I put on soaked in.

Tomorrow I will rinse, tumble and test fit.

Can’t wait to mount one.”

Dave

I absolutely HATE changing things. I like to find something I’m comfortable with and stick with it. I’ve used Lutan F for years and refused to try anything new. I was talking with Dennis Bragg and he actually talked me into trying some TruBond 1000. I ordered some and tried it on a whitetail the other day and I was pleasantly surprised. I know I’ll be buying some more. Easy to use, doesn’t stink like other brush ons I’ve tried, leaves a nice white tanned skin, and had plenty of stretch.

GREAT first experience.”

Bob

Great product!

Will

TruBond 1000B bear rugs. Oiled with Lubri-Stretch 1000.

Justin

All of these steps apply to tanning just about any specimen. I've put this photo tutorial together to help better illustrate the steps involved in deer tanning. What I describe here are the steps I use to tan in my taxidermy studio. We'll start right from the beginning.



Step 1: Skinning

This is the cape skinned from the skull.



Step 2: Splitting, Turning

The lips, nostrils, eyes and ears are split / turned. When these areas are adequately split they should lay flat. This is important for fleshing and wheeling. Not to mention it allows the tan to penetrate properly for a thoroughly tanned skin.



Step 3: Rough Fleshing

This photo shows the face and ears turned and the heavy meat / flesh removed. Take care around the whisker beds on the muzzle, above and beneath the eyes, and chin area. If the whisker bulb is cut you'll lose the whiskers. A great feature on many whitetails.



Step 4: Rough Flesh Neck and Shoulders

With a beam and necker knife remove any heavy meat and fat from the cape. The necker knife shown is dull and de-

signed to safely pull and or scrape off flesh. You may find it useful to have another necker knife sharpened for slicing.



Step 5: Salting

Rub an even coat of salt on the cape. You can see in the picture I don't use a great deal of salt. A nice even coat rubbed onto the skin is sufficient. Pay attention and be sure to salt out to the edges. Also be sure areas split and turned are fleshed and not "stuck" to each other. i.e. eye skin, lips and nostrils.



Step 6: Hang to Drain

After about 30 minutes of salting the cape is hung up to drain off the fluids being pulled from the skin.

Step 7: Rehydrate



After salting 24 hours the cape is re-hydrated BEFORE pickling. For this cape about 5 gallons of warm water, 1/4 lb of salt per gallon and 1oz of Lipa-Solve 55, per gallon, are mixed together. The cape needs only as much time in

this solution as it takes to re-hydrate. When a cape is re-hydrated it should feel limp and relaxed. If hard spots or “tightness” still exist give it more time. The cape must be fully re-hydrated before pickling. This makes a tremendous difference when it comes time to wheel the cape. The longer a cape dries will require more time in the re-hydration bath.

Step 8: Pickling

We recommend about 2.5 gallons of pickle per cape as a minimum. For this cape 5 gallons of pickle were made. The pickle is made up of 1 pound of salt PER gallon of water, 3 ozs of citric PER gallon OR 1/2 an ounce of No Harm pickling acid per gallon. Let's review the 3 ingredients; Water, Acid, and Salt. Note the white container. A container like this is ideal for one or a few capes. It has more surface area than a five gallon bucket. Your local farm supply store will have a good variety of plastic “troughs”. Long storage totes from the home stores work well too. You do not have to worry about the cape being fully submerged.



Once your pickle is mixed check the pH with 0-3 papers. Based on the instruction above you should have a pH of 1.5-2.5. Check your pH and stir the pickle periodically. If you skip a day don't lose sleep over it.



Step 9: Shaving / Wheeling

After 48 hours in the pickle the cape is ready to be shaved on the wheel aka round knife or fleshing machine. As you can see in the picture the skin of the cape is “plump” and ripe for shaving. Shaving

or thinning the cape is very important. It thins the skin allowing for the pickle to reach further inot the skin to do it's job, allows the tan penetrate all the way through the cape and gives you the taxidermist a nice even skin for great work-ability. A well shaved cape allows for more stretch or forgiveness and will behave better when the mount dries.

A good rule of thumb is to wheel towards the head. A couple videos can be found here: <http://trubondtanning.com/taxidermyvideos>

Once wheeled return the cape to the pickle overnight / 12 hours or so. Or when you can get to it again.

Shave a second time as needed.

Step 10: Neutralize / Sorry no picture.

Mix 3 or 4 gallons of water with 1 tablespoon of baking soda per gallon of water. You can add 1/4 lb of salt per gallon of water if you wish. I don't. Place the cape in this solution for 30-40 minutes. Agitate the cape occasionally while it's in the neutralizing bath.



Step 11: “Dry” the Cape-remove excess moisture

In my shop after neutralizing the cape is spun in an old washing machine. If you don't have this or fear divorce if you use your regular washing machine you can simple “squeegee” the excess water from the cape. Once that has been done place the cape between two towels and tightly roll it up starting at the head and rolling toward the shoulders. Let the cape stay in the towels for 15 minutes or so. This will help get even more water out of the cape. The more water you get out of the cape the easier it is for the TruBond 1000 to do its job. You want to make the skin thirsty for the TruBond.

Step 12: Tanning

As seen in the pictures the cape is ready for the tan. Once the tan has been applied you can do a couple of things. Let the cape lay flat for two hours. If your cape is tubed turn it right side out so it's skin to skin. Once the skin has had a couple hours to absorb the tan you can fold it skin to skin put it in a plastic bag and sweat it in a refrigerator overnight. You can then lightly wash the cape in cold water and mount it or freeze it. Once the skins are tanned in my shop I generally let the lay on the floor overnight covered in plastic for the sake of efficiency. In the morning I measure the capes, tag'em and bag'em and into the freezer they go. The forms are ordered and the skin isn't washed until the day it's mounted.



Finished Skin!

This is the finished skin (shown below). It has been washed with cold water and a bit of Dawn and rinsed. At this point you can roll it between towels to dry it for mounting or tumble it in either corn cob grit or hardwood sawdust. It's now ready for detail fleshing and mounting. ▼



Tanning Bear Skins With TruBond 1000B – Step by step approach with photos

The subject of this tutorial is a bear but these steps apply for all fur bearers as well. I will walk you through tanning with TruBond 1000B.



Step 1: The bear as it thaws. Most bears arrive at a taxidermy studio on this condition. Skull is intact, so too are the tail and feet. *We'll start there...*



Step 2: Preparing to remove the foot.

An incision is made along the hair line of the pad. For the purpose of rug tanning the pad is removed. You can choose to leave the pad if you wish.



Step 3: Exposing the toes. As you skin towards the toes you'll see that the skin in the webbing area is "skin to skin". Split this webbing carefully exposing the last joint in the toe.



Step 4: Toes being separated at the last joint.



Step 5: Toes completely removed.



Step 6: Incision to remove the tail bone.



Step 7: Removing the skull. The skull is suspended from a meat hook to aid in skinning. This can of course be done on a flat surface at a comfortable working height as well. Take note of the position of the ear canal.



Step 8: Caping nearly complete.

This photo should help illustrate the relationship between eyes, ear canal, and lips as they are on the skull to aid you in successfully skinning the skull.



Step 9: Simple ear turning aid. This is a simple rounded wood peg I use to aid in turning the ears. As a rule I do not turn predator ears with ear splitters.



Step 10: A turned ear. The wood peg is in the ear. It helps to put pressure on the skin as you separate the cartilage from the skin. Turn the ears out as far to the edge as you comfortable can.



Step 11: Ears completely turned out.

Face of the bear before we begin splitting the lips, eyes and nose.



Step 12: Nostrils and lips "split".

Splitting is a term that refers to separating the interior skin of the mouth / lips from the exterior skin. The cartilage of the nose is bisected or split in half. Separate as much of the cartilage from the skin as possible.



Step 13: Face on a fleshing beam.

With a sharp knife or scalpel remove as much of the heavy meat and tissue as you can from the face. Also note that the eye skin has been split as well. Nearly to the eye lashes. This is similar to splitting the lips. We're ready to move on to the rest of the bear.



Step 14: The skin on a fleshing beam.

Bears will vary a lot. Some are very fatty, some very sinewy. Some flesh very easily. Others not so much. One thing they all have in common though is that they are messy!

Start at the tail area. Using a sharpened knacker knife with a slicing motion begin to remove the fat from the skin. As a rule, slice from the tail towards the head. When fleshing the legs start near the foot and flesh out towards the body. This will make sure you're going with the grain of the hair roots.

Step 15: Fleshing towards the head.



Step 16: Adequately fleshed bear. Ready for salt.



Step 17: Bear skin salted.



Step 18: Salted skin hung to drain.

After about an hour of salting the skin should be allowed to drain. The salt will produce a lot of fluids from the skin! So plan accordingly on where you decide to allow the skin to drain. After six to twelve hours the skin can be re-salted. Then allow it to drain and "breathe". Let bears remain salted for about 4 days. Do not expect your bear to dry rock hard. They won't unless left for a long period of time.



Step 19: Re-hydrating the skin.

Before we pickle the skin it must be re-hydrated. For this skin we're using 10 gallons of warm water, 1/4 pound of salt per gallon (2.5 lbs.) and 1 oz. of LipaSolve 55 per gallon. Periodically agitate the skin.

Re-hydration is important to prepare the skin for the pickle. Dried skins will not re-hydrate in the pickle, the salt content is too high. The re-hydration is also a great pre-wash before pickling. Just look at the water in this tub!

Generally speaking, a bear that has dried for 4 days will only need to be in this solution for an hour. The skin should fell limp, free of "tight" or stiff areas. Skins dried longer will require more time in the re-hydration bath. Skins should not remain in this bath any longer than necessary.



Step 20: Preparing the pickle.

The bear skin is now re-hydrated and drained. If a specimen is particularly dirty or soiled it's fine to do a cold rinse before pickling.

This is a 10 gallon pickle. Start with 10 gallons of warm water. We're using 1 lb of salt per gallon of water, 1 oz. of LipaSolve 77 (degreaser formulated for use in the pickle) and 3 oz. of Citric Acid per gallon of water.

It is very important that the skins be properly de-greased during the pickling stage. If not grease and oils will block your pickle from effectively working, block your tans and oils as well. LipaSolve 77 is formulated specifically for this job. We also recommend Citric Acid for the pickle because of it's excellent natural de-greasing qualities.



Step 21: Bear skin in the pickle.

Pictures speak louder than words ...This is the skin after about 12 hours of being in the pickle. Look at how much grease and oil has been removed from the skin just overnight. The skin should be agitated periodically while in the pickle.

Check the pH of the pickle. If the pH is maintained between a 1.5 and 2.5 the skin can remain in the pickle for an extended period of time. Should the pickle need to be "spiked" or lowered you can use No Harm Pickling acid. Add the acid an ounce at a time. Stir it in and check the pH before adding more. You can always add acid but it cannot be removed.



Step 22: Skin after shaving on a round knife.

After three days or so (personally I like to pickle my bears for a week to 10 days) the skin is ready to be fleshed on a wheel or beam. Using a fleshing wheel we do the same as we did on the fleshing beam. From the rear of the animal working towards the head. From the feet to the body.

Fleshing a bear on a fleshing wheel we are mainly concerned with removing any fat,

membranes and soft tissues. Depending on the size and age of the specimen there really isn't much "thinning of the skin". Most of that work on a bear will be done around the head and neck areas where animals have naturally thicker skin.

Realizing that not everyone has a fleshing wheel you can do this work on the fleshing beam with a knecker knife. Make sure the skin is free of fat and meat! Don't lose sleep if you can't get membranes off the skin.

Once satisfied with the fleshing work return the skin to the pickle overnight.

On another note... Don't feel like this fleshing needs to be done in one step. If you run out of time and or energy simply put the skin back in the pickle and get after it another day. The pickle is the safe place for the skin.



Completely fleshed ready to neutralize and tan.



Step 23: Neutralizing bath.

Now that we have a clean skin we are ready to neutralize it. Use enough neutralizing bath to submerge the skin. 5 gallons is adequate for this bear. Per gallon of water we add 1 oz. (two tablespoons) of Baking Soda and a handful of salt. The skin will remain in this bath for 45 minutes with periodic agitation.



Step 24: Towel drying the skin.

The skin is neutralized and allowed to drain of excess water. At this point the skin can be placed in a washing machine on a spin cycle. If that isn't an option spot dry it with a towel. Then the skin should be rolled tightly between towels to absorb excess moisture. The more moisture we can remove before tanning the less the tan will have to work to drive out the water and do it's job.



Step 25: Skin ready for tanning.

The skin is free from excess moisture. The surface of the skin should not feel "slimy" or "slick". It should feel tacky. Mix your bottle of TruBond 1000B well. Once mixed you can warm it in a microwave. Be sure it's not hot enough to burn you, just warm it. With a brush apply the the tan. Periodically stir the tan as you use it.



Step 26: Skin with TruBond 1000B applied.

The tan is applied. After a few hours you'll notice the tan puddling on the skin. Go back and

redistribute the tan. Allow the skin to breathe and ultimately begin drying.

Once the tan has soaked in, usually within 24 hours you can add a swabbing oil. This extra oiling step will help with softness and work-ability by further lubricating the fibrous network of the skin. We recommend LubriStretch 2000 for this step.

If you have a skin you've already tanned and want to oil it you still can. Simply dampen the skin with a sponge or spray bottle and apply the LubriStretch 2000 as you applied the tan. Once the oil has soaked in and the skin begins to dry start the breaking process again.



Step 27: Hides allowed to dry.

Once the tan has penetrated the skin and the skin has begun to dry you can begin "breaking" making it soft and pliable. Work the skin in different directions, pulling and stretching. As you do this you'll feel the fibers of the skin opening and moving across one another. When breaking these skins by hand it's important to work on them each day as they dry. If they are allowed to dry before you break them they will dry stiff and hard. If this happens simply dampen the skin with a spray bottle or sponge and begin again.

Notice the skin on the left. This is the one we've been working on. It's been allowed to dry for a week or longer. Notice how it's turned white. The skin on the left has been tanned but is still "wet".



Step 28: The same skins allowed to dry longer.

Notice the change in leather color as they dry.

How soft will my skin be? This will depend on how much work you put into breaking the skin. Again, the extra oiling step will produce even better results.

Some of us are fortunate enough to have a drop tumbler for automated breaking. If you don't have a drop tumbler you can get great results a few ways.

- Pull the skin across a table edge, wood edge, or shovel blade. Just keep in mind that any rust or soil on a breaking tool will stain your leather.
- Go back to the fleshing beam, make sure it's clean. Use your beam and knecker knife to work the skin, a great method.
- Wire wheels, orbital sanders, belt sanders, and angle grinders with sanding discs all work great. You'll get your best results with these tools once the skin is 90% dry. Warning; the skin dust makes a mess.

Plan accordingly.

Hope this helps!





Trubondtanning.com

The effectiveness of **TruBond Tanning Products** is the direct result of years of tannery experience combined with listening to the needs of both taxidermists and tanneries alike. Understanding these needs, TruBond Tanning Products emerged.

- ✓ Softer back skin with less work
- ✓ More supple taxidermy tan with great stretch
- ✓ Efficient oils, degreasers, surfactants and more!

The TruBond Tanning experience doesn't end with a great tan. You will also experience one of the most knowledgeable support teams in customer service available. Besides carrying the hardest working tanning products in the industry you will also have available the tanning developer himself Aubrey Young and award winning taxidermist Justin Pohl.

Yes! We can service our Canadian friends. We ship worldwide and have clients in 49 states.

We invite you to create an account with us if you like, or shop as a guest. Either way, your shopping cart will be active until you leave the store.



**Matuska Taxidermy
Supply Company**

matuskataxidermy.com

3735 Highway 71, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
800-488-3256 • 712-336-3256



Ohio Taxidermy Supply

ohiotaxidermysupply.com

330-674-0086 | Ext. 1

ohiotaxidermysupply@gmail.com



New Zealand | Australia

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