



Instructions for use

White Tan is used in the treatment of skins of small to medium mammals, reptiles and fish. It is used by making a solution of the three ingredients in which the skins can be soaked.

SKIN PREPARATION

SALTING:

Take the skin and trim off hooves, ears and any other unwanted appendages. Lay the skin on the ground or table, flesh side up and give a liberal covering of common salt. Cooking salt is best as the fine grain is even and quick in its action upon the hide. The affect of the salt is to "cure" the skin. It prevents deterioration of the hide and makes it ready for fleshing. Ensure the salt reaches every corner of the skin and right to the edges. Once the skin is well salted, fold it flesh sides together and place it on a palette or other raised surface from which any fluid that may drain from the skin can run clear. The skins should be stored in an open airy shed or outbuilding sheltered from the weather. Leave salted skins to stand for 2/3 days for small skins. 3/6 days for larger skins, at which time the skins are ready for fleshing.

FLESHING:

The object of fleshing is to remove all fat, flesh and membrane, which adheres to and is part of the actual skin which is to be made into leather. It is essential that all this material is removed from the hide if a good tanning job is to be done. The salting will make the work a lot easier in that it will have removed most of the natural greasy nature of the fat. The fleshing is done over a beam, Fig 1. The beam is made from a board or pipe or other smooth piece of timber/plastic placed over a trestle or similar support. The beam should be adjusted to waist height. The end upon which the fleshing is done is better to work on if slightly curved. The knife should be sharp and long enough to use with two hands, one hand holding the handle and the other pressing the blade end. The action of the knife is to place it at right angles to the surface of the skin and push away from you (Fig 3.). The skin should always be placed on the beam, tail end to your waist, head end furthest from you, trapping the tail end between the beam and your abdomen, always flesh the skin from tail to head to avoid tearing. Continue to scrape with the knife in the one place until the flesh and the membrane begin to move. Once this happens it will be found simple to extend the area. Occasionally it may be found easier to pull the flesh and membrane away with the hands. Take time and have patience with this stage of the work. It is very necessary to do this job well and you will become quite an expert with just a little practise. The essential thing is to keep a very sharp edge on the knife with a Blade-Tech Knife Sharpener (www.bladetech.co.uk) and keep clearing the edges of the blade when it becomes clogged.

WASHING:

Ideally a large tub, barrel, polythene bin or similar container of 10-15 gallons capacity is useful for this work. After fleshing, take the skin and soak by sloshing first in COLD water. This will remove blood or other stains which should be thoroughly washed out at this stage of the cleaning. The secondary object is also to remove the salt remaining on the skin. Remove the skins and allow to drain whilst the tub is emptied and refilled with HOT water and the appropriate amount of Detergent or washing powder (standard washing powder used in a domestic washing machine) the water should not be any hotter that the hand can be held in comfortably. Allow the skin to absorb the water by plunging up and down a few times in the tub. Ensure all stains are removed at this stage. Ensure that the soap is well rinsed out of the skins with clear warm water. Again, rinsing well is vital to the performance of the tan. This part of the process should not be under done or skipped. Rinse until no soap suds are visible and the rinsing water runs clear. Allow the skins to drain for a couple of hours until all surplus water stops running off.

MAKING THE STOCK SOLUTION:

Dissolve the contents of **packet sealed with a red tab in 1.5 gallons (6.82 Litres) of hot water**, stir thoroughly to ensure all chemicals are dissolved.

Dissolve the contents of **packet sealed with a blue tab in 3 pints (1.7 Litres) of hot water**.

Add the 3 pints of solution to 1.5 gallons of solution slowly, stirring all the time. This causes an effervescence which should be allowed to subside before adding the oil.

Dilute the contents of the **oil bottle into 1/2 pint (280 Millilitres) of hot water** and add to the stock solution.

USING THE PREPARATIONS:

The stock solution should be kept in a container of suitable capacity, fitted with a lid once cooled, to avoid evaporation and contamination. Plastic or pottery containers are suitable - NOT METAL of any kind.