



#### IMMERSION:

Turn the skin flesh sides out. To work thoroughly, the solution must contact all parts of the skin and can only work from the flesh side. When immersing the skin, move it about and see that it moves freely in the solution and does not tangle. Move the skins from time to time during the first 2 hours to ensure the liquid contacts all parts of the skin. Do not "crowd" skins in too little solution. For larger skins you may need more than one kit to achieve the volume of White Tan required.

#### TIME REQUIRED:

Smaller skins, Squirrel, Rabbit etc. 24 hours; Fox, Badger etc. 2/3 days. Leaving the skins in the solution longer than recommended will not harm them. Maximum submersion time should not exceed 2 weeks. When the skins have been immersed for the recommended time they are removed from the solution and squeezed to remove surplus solution. Turn the skin fur side out and rinse thoroughly in warm water, this is done to remove chemicals from the fur not the pelt so encourage the water to permeate through the fur to get rid of any residual chemicals. Gently squeeze the rinsing water from the skin, dry the fur and skin by padding with a towel. Repair any cuts or tears in the pelt. Hang until damp dry, if additional oiling is required - see below. If no additional oil is required hang to dry as you would do with washing on a line.

#### DRYING:

Keep the drying skin out of direct sunlight and keep regular check on the drying process. When the skin feels dry on both hair and skin side take down so that softening may commence. The stage at which the drying is finished is best judged by experience. It should not be hurried. At the stage where the skin has darkened slightly and feels dry but not brittle is the best time to begin softening.

#### SOFTENING:

This stage is important particularly if the skin is to have a nice feel and finish. If taken down from the line at the right time the skin may be softened by pulling in all directions and twisting between the hands until quite soft and thoroughly dry. A valuable aid which can be made from an edging spade or similar round blade is known as the Knee Stake, see Fig 2. The blade is mounted upon a block or otherwise suitably fixed. The skin is draped across, being held firmly with one hand. The knee is placed on the taut skin and using the weight of the body is pushed towards the ground, drawing the skin close to the blade. The knee stake can also be used by hand, staking small skins by pulling backwards and forwards across the blade. This softens the skin rapidly and is vital on larger skins. The more work that is done at this stage the softer the skins will be. For rugs the skins need not be so supple as skins required for clothing. In the event of a skin drying too much before softening it should be dampened overnight by laying on a table leather side up - wet an old blanket and lay it on top of the skin. Next day remove blanket and soften as directed. Air dry until completely dry before finishing.

#### TRIMMING:

Trimming should be done finally with a sharp trimming knife such as a craft knife or scalpel. Take as little off the edge as necessary so as not to reduce the skin area too much. If an even finish is required, as on skins requiring a cloth backing for rugs, etc., then the skins should be folded down the centre and the exposed area on either side trimmed off.

#### FINISHING:

Brush and comb your skin to give it back its original appearance. The leather side of the skin can be given a suede finish by lightly sanding the skin with coarse sandpaper wrapped around a wooden block.

#### ADDITIONAL OILING:

The use of CP84 is highly recommended as an additional oil for finishing skins. Super Soft oil will greatly improve the suppleness of the tanned skins

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** If you live in a hard water area try to obtain soft water for tanning. Rain water is ideal.

**HOT WATER:** Hot water means no hotter than the hand can be held in without discomfort.

#### ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS

To improve the results of the tanning process, additional products can be used as required. These additional products though not essential can improve the finished skin.

Washing Agent/Degreasant CP26, Super Soft Oil CP84,

All the above products can be viewed and purchased at [www.snowdoniasupplies.co.uk](http://www.snowdoniasupplies.co.uk)