

Krow Oil

Instructions for Rug Tanning

1. Tan your hide per Krowtann instructions
2. Apply Krow Oil to the flesh side of the skin and fold the skin up flesh-to-flesh. Leave folded at room temperature for 24 hours

Method #1

After step 2 mount the head as usual, then open up the rest of the skin and each day stretch and pull the skin for a few minutes. Do this until the skin is completely dry. As it dries it should start turning white as you pull on it. It is important to work the skin each day to obtain a soft piece of leather. After the skin is completely dry, re-oil the skin with Krow oil. As it is drying, continue to stretch it and this should produce a soft leather. If any hard spots develop, lightly spray them with a 50/50 mixture of fabric softener and water, continuing to work the spots. The more you work your skin the softer it will become, this method should produce a soft leather for you. To make your leather even softer, after completing the above instructions, re-hydrate the skin in clear water for 45 minutes and let it "sweat" in a cool place overnight. Then stretch out the skin into the shape you want and let it dry. After it is dry, you can work the skin more if you desire.

Method #2

This method is the easiest, however it does not produce as soft a leather as Method #1. For most taxidermists this method will work fine for wall hangings and rug work. After step 2 mount your head if it is for a rug. While the skin is still wet, nail the skin using 3" finishing nails to a sheet of plywood, stretching it into the shape you want. Pull the skin up on the nails where air can circulate between the skin and the plywood. When the skin is completely dry, apply another coat of Krow Oil and let this dry. The skin should be relatively soft at this point.

Conclusion

These methods should work well for animals up to and including the size of a deer. For elk and larger animals we recommend send the skin off to a professional tannery. Your degree of success will depend on your skill level.

Tricks of the Trade

By applying a couple of ounces of Krow Oil to an average deer cape, you will get incredible stretch. Brian mounted a 19" cape on a 22" form with no drumming, pinning or using brads whatsoever. After you have done your final fleshing and the cape is ready to mount, apply a LIGHT (2-3oz per average cape) coat of Krow Oil on the skin from behind the ears to the start of the brisket. Do not put oil on face. Let the skin stay folded up skin-to-skin for a couple of hours. You can either mount it now or freeze the cape to mount later. Brian preferred to freeze his capes, this allows more time for the oil to soak in. Remember to use a dextrin or water base hide paste with Krowtann. Epoxy hide paste reacts with our Tann.