

T.A.S.C.O/Rittel's

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Instructions for using T.A.S.C.O/Rittel's KWIK-TAN (KT-10)

KWIK-TAN is a Phenolic based liquid syntan tanning agent product. It produces a plump, stretchy, white leathered skin when used as directed. It is non-discoloring and safe for furs, hair and wool. KWIK-TAN tanned skins are water resistant and can be washed in a warm water and Wool-Lite solution. After 6-7 washings however, more oil should be applied to maintain softness.

Formula #1

This is the method we recommend for our T.A.S.C.O/Rittel's Trapline and Rancher's Kits. It is popular for small game and snakeskin tanning. It involves using the KWIK-TAN in the pickling solution.

To mix the Pickling solution, we recommend using White Vinegar. Mix 2 quarts of White Vinegar to 2 quarts of water, and add 1 lb. of salt. Mix enough solution to completely submerge your skins. This mixture should read a PH of 2.5. Use PH papers to control this level. Place our skins in this pickling solution, and allow them to soak in the acid bath for at least 48 hours. Always place only fully relaxed and soft skins into this pickle.

After the skins have been pickled for 48 hours, they can now be removed and washed, rinsed, and returned to the pickle until you are ready to tan. When you are ready to tan, remove the skins from the pickle and allow them to drain for 15 minutes, and then squeeze away the excess solution with your hands. Weigh the skins and record this weight. This is referred to as the drained weight. It is used to determine the amount of KWIK-TAN needed for a full tan.

While the skins are removed, measure out 6.5 Oz. of KWIK-TAN, by weight, or 5.0 fl. Oz. by volume using a bakers measuring cup per each 1 lb. of drained skin weight. Add this to the pickle, stir it will. The PH level of the tanning solution should read 3.5-4.0. Now place the skins back into the solution for 12-24 hours, NO LONGER. When tanned, the leather will appear white. To check for a complete tan, cut a piece from the edge and examine it for whiteness throughout. Light skins will tan in 12 hours, heavier skins in 24 hours.

After tanning, remove the skins from the tan, squeeze away the excess solution and apply tanning oil to the flesh side. After oiling, fold the skins and set them aside for 3-4 hours, then allow the skins to almost dry, and then work them soft.

Formula #2

This is the optional method using KWIK-TAN as a separate tanning solution after pickling the skins for 2-3 days. This method works best when using an Oxalic acid or White Vinegar pickle.

After pickling the skins for 2-3 days (minimum), they can safely be removed, shaved, degreased, washed and rinsed and then returned to the pickle for another 2-3 days before tanning. Before tanning however, the skins should first be neutralized by washing them in a Baking Soda solution, using 1 Oz. of Baking Soda to each 1 Gallon of water used. Keep this neutralization brief. Only 15-20 minutes and then rinse the skins well.

After neutralizing and rinsing the skins, allow them to drain for 15-30 minutes, weigh them and use this weight to mix your tanning solution. This is referred to as the wet drained weight, it is used to determine the amount of KWIK-TAN to use in the tanning solution.

For every 1 lb. of skin weight, mix 6.5 Oz. by weight of KWIK-TAN (or 5 fl. Oz. by volume), and 4.5 Oz. of salt, to 2 quarts of water. Stir this tanning solution well. Now check its PH level for a 4.0. Adjust it if necessary. After the PH level is correct, then place the skins into the solution and allow them to tan for 14-18 hours. To check for a complete tan, cut a sliver of skin from the edge and check it for whiteness throughout its cross-section. Once white, it's tanned. Light skins will tan within 14 hours, heavier skins within 18 hours.

An Alternative Mixing Method- If you prefer to mix your tanning solution based strictly on the amount of solution used to completely submerge the skins. Then use 9 Oz. of Salt, 12 Oz. of KWIK-TAN, and 1 Gallon of water.

After Tanning using either of the mixing methods – Drain the skins for 10-20 minutes, squeeze or towel away the excess water, and apply tanning oil to the flesh. I prefer using our T.A.S.C.O/Rittel's ProPlus oil. Mix it 1 part oil to 2 parts hot tap water. After oiling, fold the skins and allow them to sweat in the oil for 3-4 hours, and then hang them to dry. When almost dry, work them soft!

Adjusting the PH of your tanning solution – If you check the PH of your solution and it reads above a 4.0, you need to add acid to lower it, or simply dip out some of your pickling solution and add it. If it reads lower than a 4.0, dissolve some baking soda in water and add it to the solution to raise the PH to a 4.0. Only use small amounts of acid or baking soda to adjust. Once adjusted, wait 30 minutes and adjust it again if necessary, then add the skins.

KWIK-TAN is a mildly acidic solution. It should not be taken internally and you should always wear protective gloves and an apron to avoid any allergic reactions to such solutions. After handling or contact always wash your hands with soap and water. If accidentally taken internally, induce vomiting and call your physician. Store and use all chemicals safely, and away from children.

TASCO/Rittel's offers these instructions in an advisory capacity and assumes no liability. Such information is the same as used in our own successful experiments, and since we have no control over the environment, or the materials upon which our products or instructions will be used, they cannot guarantee success!

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