

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

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TASCO/Rittel's SOF-TAN Tanning Instructions

Catalog # ST-108

SOF-TAN is a Phenolic derived syntan. It is fully reacted and contains no free Phenol. It is a replacement tannage that produces white leathered skins with exceptional coloration and stretch qualities. SOF-TAN tanned skins are lightly washable and have an indefinite shelf life. It will not discolor whites, or light colored furs or hair. SOF-TAN is recommended for all furs, hair-on or woolskins.

SOF-TAN tans well using pickled and shaved skins and capes. We recommend using either an oxalic acid or vinegar pickle for the best results. Neutralize the pickled skins briefly before placing them into the tanning solution. Use 2 tablespoons of sodium bicarbonate per each gallon of water used. Wash the skins briefly, rinse and then place them into the tanning solution.

Mix enough tanning solution to completely submerge the skins without crowding. Leave the skins in the tanning solution until they turn white all the way through. Thin furs and shaved capes will usually tan within 12-14 hours, but heavier skins may require up to 24 hours. To check for a complete tan, cut away a small piece from the edge of the skin and examine it. It should be white all the way through. Do not over tan; it sacrifices the stretching qualities of the skin.

Tanning Formula: For every 1 gallon of water needed to completely submerge the skins, use:

10 oz. of SOF-TAN

6 oz. of Non-Iodized Salt

NOTE: 10 oz. of SOF-TAN = 20 Tablespoonful's or 8 fl. Oz., or 1 full measuring cupful.

The tanning solution should be tested for a 4.0 PH level. If necessary, use sodium acetate to raise the level. This PH level is critical. While tanning, the temperature of the solution should be kept between 65-85 degrees Fahrenheit.

After tanning, the solution should be disposed of, do not reuse it. Rinse the skins lightly, damp dry the fur, hair or wool and then oil the flesh side of the skin with a swab or brush.

TASCO/Rittel's furrier-oil is our personal choice on SOF-TAN tanned skins.

For taxidermy purposes, the cape or body skin can be mounted after the oil has soaked in after 4-5 hours. Wipe the surface of the flesh with a damp cloth to remove any pooling and mount the skin.

If you prefer to finish the skin, allow it to almost dry completely after oiling, and then work it soft. Work it over the edge of a board held in a vise, pulling the skin back and forth like shining a shoe, until it is evenly white and dry. When completely dry, it can be sandpapered smooth, trimmed for shape, and the fur, hair or wool combed or brushed. Your skins should now have white creamy, soft leather, pliable, fully tanned and ready to use. SOF-TAN tanned leathers have good water resistance and are a good choice for outdoor garments.

T.A.S.C.O./Rittel's tanning products, agents and instructions cannot guarantee success. They are offered as products and agents proven in the commercial tanning industry, and our instructions are given in an advisory capacity. We can assume no liability and the user assumes all risks, since we have no control over the environment or materials upon which our products, agents or instructions will be used. Our instructions are based upon our own successful experiments.

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