

## ALLIGATOR AND REPTILE TANNING – Aubrey Young

### 1. SALTING

3 days minimum-remove as much meat as possible-split tail WELL, down the center to keep from losing the big scales in the center. (Pressure washer above 2K psi)

### 2. RE-HYDRATION

**Very soft skins** – 2 to 3 hrs in plain warm water

**Slightly stiff** – 3 to 5 hrs, warm water, per 4 liters add the following – 15g **Citric Acid**, 30mL **Lipa-Solve 55**, add 113g salt.

**Hard** – Salt dried – 5-15 hrs, warm water, per 4 liters add the following – 28g **Citric Acid**, 30mL **Lipa-Solve 55**, 150g salt.

### 3. PICKLING

Per 4 liters of warm water (27° C) add the following – 71g **Citric Acid** (only use citric acid-well water-85g citric per gal), 450g salt, 30mL **Lipa-Solve 77** (not 55). It is OK for the pH to rise as high as 3, when pickling gators, or other scaled skins. Pickles that are too “stout”, will weaken scales and teeth. **DON'T** pickle at a pH below 2! Use small amounts of baking soda to raise pH if needed. If the pH of the pickle starts off a little below 2, it will usually rise to 2 or higher, after adding the skin. Pickle 48 hrs minimum on small gators, 3-4 days on larger skins. (Snakes, Lizards – 24hrs if thin.)

### 4. SHAVING

Shave belly skin, tails, and jowls if possible. Shave **ALL** reptiles at an angle to prevent the cutting of holes. Using the hour hand on a clock, shave from 2 to 8 o'clock. A pressure washer, above 2000psi can also be used to remove all meat, fat, and connective tissue. As you are pressure washing legs, etc, you will see a “jelly” form. That is connective tissue that you can “roll off” with the washer. Then back to pickle overnight, 8hr minimum. Quickly rinse before neutralization. Drain 30 min.

### 5. NEUTRALIZE

Briefly rinse skin with plain water. To every 4 liters of warm water, add the following:

Thin, small skins – 30min. 113g salt, 57g baking soda. Add skin.

Medium skins – 45min. Large Gators, above 9, 1 hour. Pull and quickly rinse. Drain 30 min.


### 6. TANNING

To every 4 liters of warm water, add 230g salt, 120mL of **TruBond 1000B**.

**TIP: SHAKE WELL**, add the **TB1000B** to the container to be used, **FIRST**, before adding the water and salt. Mix and add skin. Use only enough water for the skin to move freely! Small skins – 8hrs in tan. Medium – All others, overnight. Pull and rinse, let drain for 1hr. Skins can now be washed in a mild soapy solution, with 113g of salt per 4 liters of water, IF NEEDED, for mounting. For flat skins or rugs, **DO NOT WASH**. You can thoroughly rinse the scale side with a hose, if any oily feel exists.

Have a good one, and God bless! Aubrey Young-oldshaver.

**P.S.** An additional coat of **Lubri-Stretch 2000** can be applied to Large gators, for added softness.



**Shake Well**

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**Citric Acid**

**Pickling Instructions:** (Basic Instructions)

1. Per gallon of warm water (not exceeding 90 degrees) add 1 lb. of salt. 2.5 gallons of pickle is recommended per deer cap.
2. When using No-Harm Pickling Acid add 1/2 oz. per gallon of water. If using Citric Acid add 3 oz's. per gallon of water.
3. A pH of 1.5 - 2 is best.
4. Skins should remain in the pickle solution for 24-48 hours before shaving. Stir/agitate pickle daily. (Skins can remain in the pickle for an extended period of time as long as the pH is maintained.)
5. Once shaved, skins should be put back in pickle overnight. Adjust pH as needed.
6. Re-Shave skins as needed the next day.

Avoid eye and skin contact. May be harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep container closed and store in a cool place away from open flames. Handle with care using good industrial practices.

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**Lipa-Solve 55**

**Rehydration Application:** (Basic Instructions)

1. For best results warm water not exceeding 90 degrees should be used.
2. Per gallon of water add 1/4 lb. of salt, 1 oz. of Lipa-Solve 55. For a natural bactericide use 1 oz. Citric Acid per gallon. Commercial bactericides can be used per manufacturer's instruction.
3. Skin(s) should remain submerged in solution only as long as necessary to rehydrate. Time will vary depending on how long skin has been dry; 4-8 hours for an average deer but as long as 12 hours or overnight for a skin dried hard.
4. Rehydration complete the skin needs to go into the pickle solution.

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**Lipa-Solve 77**

**Degrease Bath Application:** (Basic Instructions)

1. 1 oz. of Lipa-Solve 77, 1/2 lb. of salt, per gallon of water, at 90 degrees initially.
2. Depending on skin type, place in de-greasing bath for a minimum of 3-4 hours. Agitate frequently. For best results, de-greasing should be performed **AFTER** final shaving.
3. From pickle to de-greasing bath, back to pickle overnight, then to tanning steps.
4. Lipa-Solve 77 can also be used as a degreaser in the pickle (1 oz. per gallon).

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**TruBond 1000B**

**Tan Application:** (Basic Instructions)

1. Pickled skin should be neutralized and free of excess moisture.
2. Skin side up on a flat surface. Liberally apply TruBond 1000B to the entire skin.
3. Let TruBond 1000B soak into the BACK SKIN for 2 hours. Hang the skin to dry.
4. As the skin dries and is worked, you should observe "loosening" of the fibers and a lightening of the leather.

Every 12 hours tug the skin in all directions for 1-2 minutes. Repeat for 2 days. Hide should remain soft and supple.

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