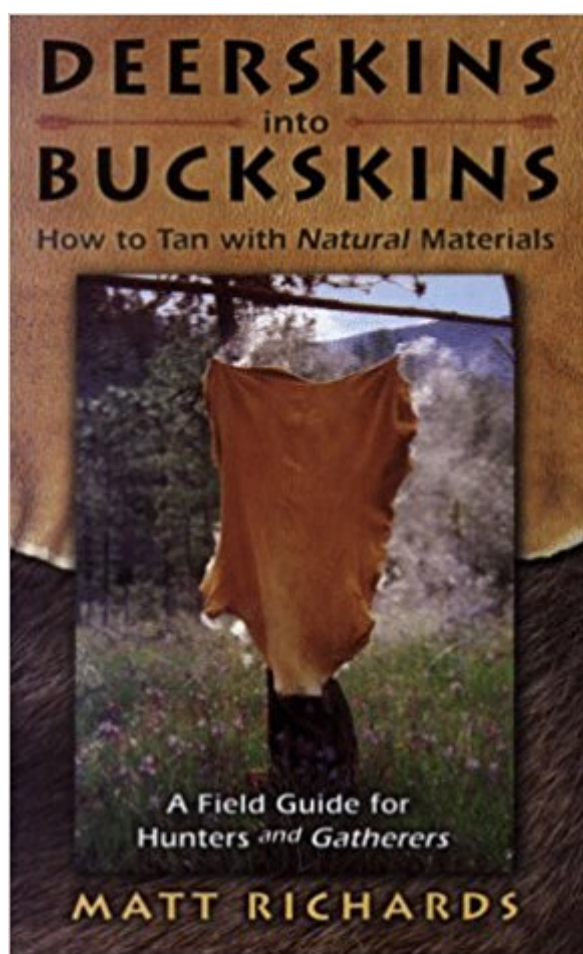


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# Deerskins Into Buckskins: How To Tan With Natural Materials - A Field Guide For Hunters And Gatherers



## Synopsis

Over 165 photos and illustrations bring you step by step from raw skin to velvety soft buckskin and then show you how to create beautiful garments and useful goods. You will also learn how to make rawhide and hide glue, tan in a wilderness setting and the best way to skin. History, humor and science make Deerskins into Buckskins not only practical, but fun! Designed to be easily understood by the beginner yet rich with details for the experienced, this book teaches tanning as a natural process. No chemicals are needed! All the tools and materials are waiting around your home and land. While the tools are simple, having a great method is the key. This book has that method (see the following reviews). Buckskin is durable, soft, washable and warm. A hand-made garment for people all over the world for millennia, it breathes and stretches with your body, cuts the wind and won't tear on briars. It is excellent to wear hiking, hunting or around the house. Plus you don't need to hunt. Deerskins that would otherwise go to waste are available every fall from neighbors, locals and butcher shops.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

...easy to understand and useful if you're interested in preserving and using your deer hide to make a pair of trousers or leather gloves. Get started, buy a copy. Enjoy. -- Cody Beers, Wyoming Wildlife, March 1998...proves to be a comprehensive guide to natural leather making. -- American Library Association, BOOKLIST, December 15, 1997By far the best book on the subject. -- Carla Emery, author, The Encyclopedia of Country LivingGet this book. You'll be amazed at the

unexpected ease of the process and more importantly your results. -- Jim Riggs, author, Blue Mountain BuckskinI have successfully completed dozens of buckskins under the mentoring of numerous experts. It is obvious that Matt has created a 'quantum leap' in the art. His process dramatically reduces the time and work, resulting in the nicest buckskin I have ever made. -- Jeff Damm, engineer and backyard tannerIf a guy couldn't tan a hide with this he should stay out of the woods! -- Ted Fry, Raptor ArcheryInformation and practical advice you won't find in any other book. Easy to read yet amazingly thorough, with just a touch of twisted humor in the right places. A terrific resource! -- Susan Jennys, Muzzleblasts, June 1998Matt Richards brings tanning to a level of simplicity that is accessible to anyone. Experimentation combined with years of tanning for a living and a thorough study of leather chemistry, has resulted in a simple method that produces excellent results. -- American Survival Guide, January 1998The authors intimate understanding of deerskins, tools, processes, and problems bears witness to a tremendous depth of knowledge about his craft. Deerskins into Buckskins is a highly recommendable work....this book deserves a place on your bookshelf -- Scott Jones, Bulletin of Primitive Technology, spring 1998

Deerskins into Buckskins is currently the bestselling home-tanning guide in America and its even made a national Independent Publisher Bestseller List....its a great book but I must admit we've been quite surprised by its popularity (pleasantly, mind you)

The lay out of information is very accessible and fairly concise. It does need a read through before you use it step by step. Another thing you may consider is getting his companion DVD which would probably be a better step by step. See picture is helpful, seeing it done real time would be better. Its a lot of work and managing your work area and the cadence of how you execute a technique is something you have to see in action. That said what you learn in this book worked for me with just a few bumps in the road and of course I have seen people do it first hand so I had some kind of feel for it, and chose scrapping it upright on the beam. What else is nice about it is there are "primitive" alternatives to all the more cutting edge techniques which is great if your on a budget. You can make your own tools or dig a hole in the ground as apposed to buying a smoker or small cast iron stove to smoke a hide etc. Another think worth noting is that he gives you alternative for things...its not a be all end all of brain tanning, but I would say that things like how he Alkaline soaks the hide (wood ash) as apposed to soaking in water to effectively "rot" the hide for scrapping is a easier method, but the down side is coming up with all that ash in the first place. My point is that what he lays out makes it easier for a beginner, at least thats my impression as a beginner ; ) Again this book is priceless for

beginners, it gets my recommendations. All good medicine. JG

I have read this book twice and feel I have a very good idea of the process. The lay out of the chapters are very well placed and there is a system that he is trying get across to his readers without out all the bla bla bla. I bet I could tan a hide right now without to much difficulty, might not be perfect but I understand the concept. So if you are a retard at comprehension like me then this book will work well for you. Negative: I understand that full color pictures would have increased the price of the book but I would have payed extra for it. The pictures are poor quality, black and white. As soon as this damn snow stops I plan on starting my hide. To be continued.....

My husband LOVES the book, has great ideas in it.

I bought this book based on the recommendations here. If you are like me, and view tanning as an arcane art out of reach of most people, you are in for a surprise. The author, in a most readable manner, goes through the basics of tanning a deer hide. Materials required can be found around most homes. The scope is narrow - deerskins to buckskins. This shouldn't come as a surprise - it's spelled out in the title. If you are interested in other products - pelts for instance, or animals other than deer - there are other books out there, but I would recommend reading this one first to see what an uncomplicated process it can be. I have since read Monte Burch's "The Ultimate Guide to Skinning and Tanning" This is a book that has some great ideas on tools and working area arrangements. It also goes into using some of the more toxic, manufactured treatments for curing hides. I would have never considered tanning if I had read the Burch book first. We have a small homestead, and it would be difficult to dispose of these toxic materials. Thanks to Richards and "Deerskins to Buckskins", I know there are alternatives. Other books will tell you how to skin other animals and how to preserve the fur, but this book will show you that you can do this at home and you can do it with materials that are not hazardous. This is an outstanding book, well written and extremely practical.

Easy to read. Easy directions. Ready to tan my first hide with confidence.

Awesome read everything to get you going on tanning and making buckskins

Detailed, extremely easy to follow. I haven't tanned a hide yet, but when I do I will be following this

guide. I have read several, and Matt Richards' is by far the easiest to follow, most detailed, and the most clearly explained. I know several people who have tanned following this book, and they tell me they had a good experience. Only short coming is the author doesn't really discuss what to do differently if you want to tan with the hair on.

I love reading technical guides and how too books. So this was on my "to read" list.Made me realize that I do not have the time, nor patience for turning deer-skin into buckskins, however VERY interesting reading.Kinda gives you a new respect for people back in the old days.

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