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Blue Mountain Buckskin: A Working Manual



Synopsis

For those who could get their hands on it, the self-published edition of 'Blue Mountain Buckskin' inspired generations of home tanners. This underground classic, the first real quality guide to brain tanning -- tens of thousands of copies sold -- is now being published and made widely available for the first time. 'Blue Mountain Buckskin' is a complete how-to guide to tanning buckskin at home, using the methods Native Americans and outdoorsmen have preferred for thousands of years. It also includes 40 pages on creating garments, pouches, moccasins and other traditional uses of the deer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jim Riggs originally wrote this book in 1979, on a typewriter, and published it himself. And although he never sold it through the traditional book trade, he sold tens of thousands of copies. Why? Because it was the first book to really teach people in a detailed step-by-step manner, how to 'brain tan': the method used by Native Americans and American pioneers to make garment leather, and still the most practical way for you to successfully make really good leather in your own backyard. Riggs made and wore his own buckskin daily for years before writing this book, so his instructions are both expert and very detailed about the nuances (and odd situations) that this craft can entail. His love of buckskin, sense of humor, and respect for the animals whose skins he is tanning shine through the pages. You'll learn step-by-step through words, illustrations and photographs; how to skin, tan, and then make clothing from the hides of deer, elk or antelope. You'll

learn the 'dry-scrape' method of brain tanning (there is also a wetscrape method), and you'll have a great time doing it!

Don't know why Bobbie Huff only gave it 1 star. I met and learned from Jim way back when, and he was a great teacher (not just about brain tanning, but about many other skills). This is a guy that put food on his table with his skill. He is not an armchair writer. If you know about Jim, you already own this book.

I've owned this book for many years. I've made braintan buckskin the dry scrape method a few times ,turned out great. If you hunt,have access to many deer skins, are of the crafty sort, or are thinking about any period correct clothing for reenactments, you need this .

Clear and thorough. Riggs covers all the major components of traditional hide tanning and offers suggestions to avoid some pitfalls along the way. I wish that I had read this when I was first starting out years ago; it would have saved me a couple mishaps. Still, a great working manual...I have learned much from this book.

The techniques described in the book are tried and true. Pretty good description of dryscrape. IMO, wetscraping is abit easier, and less messy.

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