

# **Owners Manual**

## **Auto Tanner LLC.**

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# Automatic Tanner

## Assemble Instructions

To install motor assembly:

1. One axle on the tank has a lovejoy coupler already installed. A urethane cross is under the tape around the coupler.
2. Pick up the tank and place bearings on the bearing mounts of the frame. Position bearing (opposite coupler end) tight to tank juncture, tighten bolts.
3. Remove outside nuts on the motor mount-bolts. Slide bolts into holes on frame, at the same time, rotate tank until motor coupler aligns & slides into urethane coupling/spacer. Handtighten nuts on the motor mount bolt to hold motor in place.
4. Use wrench to adjust inside nuts until motor coupler is aligned with tank coupler. Once aligned, tighten outside nuts.
5. Adjust “motor-side” tank bearing over the bearing plate of the frame.
6. Use wrench to tighten manifold assembly on tank.
7. Secure casters.

# Maintenance Instructions

1. Keep the outside clean and oiled with WD-40 to prevent corrosion, avoiding the gasket lid. We suggest you brush the tops of the bearing and caster with grease to protect them from splash.
2. The bearings have a small oil cap. These bearings are designed for a shaft rotation of 1000+RPM's. Our motor turns at 6 RPM's and the shafts are greased at the factory. Additional lubrication is not necessary. However, light oil the bearings if you feel it is necessary.
3. Spray WD-40 into air-manifold (moving the red adjusting knob back-and-forth) before every pressurization as well as during each clean up.

# SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE OPERATING YOUR AUTOMATIC TANNER.

1. NEVER pressurize above 50 pounds. If you pressurize above 50 pounds, the seal could fail causing a hazardous spray of fluids and debris. We have experimented with the tanning at higher pressures and found no appreciable benefit. Therefore, there is no reason to ever pressurize the tank over 50 pounds. Doing so VOIDS ANY WARRANTIES.
2. NEVER pressurize the tank with flammable liquids inside.
3. The gasket is chemical resistant and should give many months of service. However, it will eventually harden and crack. When cracking, chipping or split develop, replace the gasket promptly.
4. The air manifold has an automatic pressure relief valve to prevent over pressurization. To ensure proper operation, keep the entire manifold cleaned and well-oiled with WD-40 or a similar product. Pull the ring occasionally while the tank is pressurized to ensure it has not become clogged. DO NOT DEFEAT THIS SAFETY FEATURE BY ALTERING OR REMOVING THE MANIFOLD WHILE THE DOOR IS IN PLACE!

5. Doing so voids all warranties and could endanger you and those around you! Removing the door is the only positive way to be sure there is no pressure in the tank.
6. Cross check the pressure gauge occasionally with a tire type gauge.
7. Although the tanning agents are not considered toxic, we highly recommend that you wear rubber gloves while handling the skins, mixing and using the chemicals. It is very common for a percentage of people to develop allergies after prolonged exposure.
8. If the tank is ever damaged in some way or develops a leak, **DO NOT PRESSURIZE! CALL US FOR ASSISTANCE.**
9. Be sure the tank has room to rotate without the manifold, door handle, etc. on anything. Keep children and pets away.

# AUTO TANNER

## TANNING INSTRUCTION

1. Skin specimen from animal carcass
2. Split lips, nose and turn ears.
3. Remove fat from hide. Note: Leaving meat and fat on the hide will decrease the tanning-penetration of the tanning agents. Therefore, it is very important to clean the hide well. However, prior to the “First Pressurized Tan”, it is not necessary to perform detailed fleshing on the lips, nose and eyes. It is much more important to get the hide in the tanner ASAP in order to initiate tanning and kill bacteria.
4. First pressurized Tan “The recipe for tanning is based on one (1) whitetail deer cape. For each deer cape to be tanned – add one (1) gallon of water and one (1) pound of “BuckTan” or “Arrowhead” tanning crystals. If you have a hide larger than a whitetail deer cape, simply multiply the tanning recipe by the number of times the hide is larger than a whitetail deer cape. Example: If you are tanning an elk hide that is three (3)

times larger than a whitetail deer cape – your tanning mixture will be three (3) gallons of water and three (3) pounds of tanning crystals (BuckTan or Arrowhead). VERY IMPORTANT: ALWAYS increase the mixture on a one (1) gallon water and one (1) pound of crystals basis. Do not change the ratio (example: do not mix 1 pound crystals to gallons of water). Note: water should be “luke-warm” similar to hand-washing temperature.

5. Mix tanning – recipe in tank and add skins, flesh side out.
6. Put lid on tank and tighten nuts until gasket is sealed. A pneumatic air ratchet is preferred for tightening.
7. Spray WD-40 into the male quick-connect air nozzle attached to the manifold assembly. As you are spraying WD-40 into the male nozzle, turn red (circular) air valve adjuster back-and-forth so that the internal O-Ring is cleaned and lubricated.
8. Air the tank to 50 PSI.
9. Set the timer for one hour and let the hide tumble/tan.
10. After one hour, dump the whole contents into plastic tub. “Hand-Wring” the hides and place in

washing machine and “spin” until hides are no longer “sloppy” wet – just moist.

11. Perform ALL your fleshing work – lips, eyes, ears and hide.
12. “Second Pressurized Tan” The recipe for the “Second Pressurization” is one (1) gallon of water, one (1) pound of tanning crystals (BuckTan or Arrowhead), 1/3 cup of BuckTan Softening Oil and two to three capfuls of BuckTan Scour (degreaser) for each deer cape. The same mixing principles outlined in step #4 (above) apply for the second pressurization as well (all ingredients are multiplied equally).
13. Put the skins in second solution, spray WD-40 in nozzle, seal door and pressurize to 50 PSI.
14. Set timer for three (3) hours and let rotate/tan.  
NOTE: the AUTO TANNER is a very flexible tool in regard to tanning duration. The minimum of one-hour “First Pressurization” and a three-hour “Second Pressurization” is required. However, you can leave the hides in the tanner overnight as needed while keeping the tanner pressurized. You can put the hides in today and take them out tomorrow (First Pressurization, Second Pressurization or both).



15. After “Second Pressurization” – remove hides from tanner, hand-wring hides and place in spin cycle (washing machine) to remove sloppy moisture.
16. Wash hides in sink full of cold water with dawn dishwashing liquid added. This step is designed to remove any BuckTan Softening Oil from the hair. Place hide in water/Dawn mix and scrub hair similar to how you scrub your own hair in the shower (3-5 minutes of scrubbing).
17. Rinse hides in a sink full of clear/cold water. Two (2) rinses (2 minutes each) are usually necessary for removal of Dawn soap. “Hand-wring” and spin in the washer to remove sloppiness”.

## **Degreasing Oily /Fatty Hides.**

1. After the First “Pressurization” flesh the hide completely. Then lay hide out on bench/floor (hide side up). Mix a 50/50 mix of BuckTan Scour with warm water. Use a scrub brush, scrub mixture into hide. Let sit for three (3) hours (to allow time for BuckTan Scour to pull oil/grease out of hide).
2. After three (3) hours, wash and rinse with the same procedure outlined in steps #16 and #17 in “Skin/Flesh/Tan Instructions”.
3. Mix “Second Pressurization” same as step#12 in “Skins /Flesh/Tan Instructions”.
4. Wash and rinse hides again same as steps #16 and #17 in Skin/Flesh/Tan Instructions.

## **Flat Skin, Rug and Fur Tanning**

Your automatic tanner may be used for tanning flat skins and rugs. Keeping in mind the following tips and differences to get the best results.

1. Follow the regular directions except using 1 ½ pound of tanning agent per gallon water.
2. After shaving, leave the skin in the machine at least overnight.
3. Oil after draining and tumbling using a scrub brush dipped in hot water to scrub the oil into the skin. Fold and sweat for four hours or overnight.
4. Open the skin to dry SLOWLY. Slow drying allows the tanning agent to disperse evenly through to saturate the grain layer of the hide allowing for much easier breakage.
5. After completely dry, buff or sand the surface. Break in large tumbler or by working the skin over a sharp edged table.

## **Bacteria Damaged Skins**

The tanning solution we use will kill bacteria and set the hair on many skins that have been damaged by bacterial growth, even if the hair is already loose.

Damage is usually indicated by the strong smell and green color of the skin. Some tips to follow on damaged skins: Skin immediately. DO NOT FREEZE

1. Take the skin from the carcass to the tanning machine as quickly as possible DO NOT ADD BUCKTAN SCOUR OR OIL AT THIS TIME. Use cold water and a strong solution as in for tanning rugs.
2. Check the skin and flesh as much as possible after two hours. Return to the machine. If skin was especially smelly, discard tanning solution and mix a fresh batch.
3. Check the skin again after one hour and every hour until the skin is thoroughly fleshed and clean. We have used as many as four batches of tanning solution and 8 hours to save a skin.

## **SALT DRIED SKINS:**

Salt and dried skins need only be re-hydrated before tanning. Just be sure to get as much excess water as possible out of the skin before tanning.

