



## Sources for Materials and Tools Related to Hide Tanning and Buckskin Sewing

### Brain Tanned Hides

I recommend pursuing these sources in this order!

1. Jay Sliwa. (707) 889-2941 Brain tanned deer and elk hides. Whole hide and occasionally smaller pieces. Jay is a dear friend of mine and I have tanned many a hide on his beautiful off grid homestead. He and his family also often have fleeces for handspinning and felting available, as well as brain tanned sheep hides, and also do custom buckskin clothing, bags, and more. I can't recommend them enough! His wife Nastasha is on Instagram @hooftacks where she often posts about tanned sheep hides. \*Note that Jay and Nastasha live off grid and spend a lot of time in the wilderness so it can take a while to hear back from them.

2. Melvin Beattie, is a legend of the brain tanning world and still churning out beautiful hides even though he is in his 70's! He sells brain tanned deer, elk and antelope hides, and occasionally has salted hides available for you to purchase and tan your own. Contact Mel via [www.braintanbuckskin.com](http://www.braintanbuckskin.com)

3. Braintan.com, run by Matt Richards who wrote Deerskins into Buckskins often has buckskin for sale [on his website](#). He doesn't tan these hides himself so quality varies a lot, and this should be your 3rd option.

### Buckskin Sewing Tools

These days I am too busy with courses to be regularly making and offering my buckskin sewing awls, tool kits, and pre-cut sewing kits. That said, I do occasionally make a batch to have available for Patreon members and students. These sales will be announced either on Patreon or when you sign up for classes. Links to both at [www.buckskinrevolution.com](http://www.buckskinrevolution.com)

The reason I started making and selling buckskin awls is that I don't like or recommend any of the awls available commercially. That said, of those out there, these are the best I know of:

1. CS Osbone scratch awl from [Oregon Leather](#). This is my favorite leather store anywhere, independently owned and a great selection. Call for mail orders.
2. [Craft tool scratch awl from Tandy Leather](#)
3. [Blades to make your own awl](#). (Be sure to only order the round blade! Never diamond or triangular!

## **Buckskin Sewing Reading List**

There aren't any good book I recommend for buckskin sewing specifically, which is why I am hard at work on my own! The rough draft is available to my Patreon members as a member benefit at some levels, and for purchase at others.

For working with fur, I recommend Secrets of Eskimo Skin Sewing by Edna Wilder

## **Raw Hides for Tanning**

These can be tricky to come by. Making friends with local hunters or hunting associations is the best bet. Also calling game processors in your area to see if they have hides available for purchase (\$5-\$25 would be a reasonable range to expect).

I would recommend contacting Melvin first if you cannot obtain hides yourself and are looking to purchase them.

I know people also buy salted hides from Barta Hides in Petaluma, Ca but I have no experience with them myself. Reports are that they are of varying, and often mediocre quality. URL: <https://barta-hide-co.business.site>

Link: [Barta Hide Co - Leather Wholesaler and Retailer in Petaluma \(business.site\)](https://barta-hide-co.business.site)

## **Hide Tanning Tools**

Hide Scraper for wet scraping and fleshing. (Fleshing knife and hide scraper are synonymous. I prefer the term hide scraper as people expect a "knife" to look like the knives we are used to, and these don't!)

I like to use a straight, flat scraper with a handle on either side, as opposed to a curved blade or a draw knife with perpendicular handles. These can be made from flat steel bar stock, available at many hardware stores, or from Planer Blades with a piece of rubber hose stuck on either end as a handle. They can also be purchased from braintan.com.

[Link for hide scraper](#)

URL: <https://braintan.com/product-category/recommended-tools/>

Cables for softening can be made from braided steel cable, often sold as "aircraft cable" by the foot at hardware store, and 2 clamps for making a loop at either end. These can be strung up with parachute cord for use.

## **Hide tanning and Buckskin Recommended Reading List**

[Buckskin Revolution Volumes 1 and 2](#) Me! Woniya Thibeault! These are still in the editing phase but are available to my Patreon members in a rough draft PDF format

[Buckskin: The Ancient Art of Braintanning](#) Steven Edholm and Tamara Wilder (My favorite and written by my hide tanning mentors. out of print currently but back soon. Contact Tamamra Wilder through [Paleotechnincs.com](http://Paleotechnincs.com) for info)

Deerskins into Buckskins Matt Richards (Also a friend of mine and fabulous hide tanner. Excleeltn book)

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0965867242/ref=as\\_li\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0965867242&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=18bc931044f2c7dc48886982ae80c36c](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0965867242/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0965867242&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=18bc931044f2c7dc48886982ae80c36c)

Blue Mountain Buckskin Jim Riggs (on dry scraped buckskin. Jim was also a friend and mentor before he died)

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01K1604JY/ref=as\\_li\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B01K1604JY&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=1968ec8812799834e6ba692d07491a36](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01K1604JY/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B01K1604JY&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=1968ec8812799834e6ba692d07491a36)

Traditional Tanning, Leather and Furskin Lotta Rahme

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/9163718472/ref=as\\_li\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=9163718472&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=fb01b954b03ab8b9aa9b9226b5737c36](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/9163718472/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=9163718472&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=fb01b954b03ab8b9aa9b9226b5737c36)

Fish Leather: Tanning and Sewing with Traditional Methods Lotta Rahme

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/9163716615/ref=as\\_li\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=9163716615&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=90b5c0ecd2e21812f096350ed23e6ed1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/9163716615/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=9163716615&linkCode=as2&tag=buckskinrevol-20&linkId=90b5c0ecd2e21812f096350ed23e6ed1)