

From Tony Laier's Bench:

COLORING A BULL ELK

YOU WILL NEED: Eco-Flo™ Leather Dyes (Java Brown & Timber Brown), Dark Brown Professional Waterstain, Super & Satin Shenes, fine point #3 or #4 brush, multi-well artist palette, eyedroppers, bowl of clean water, practice scrap leather (same used for project) and paper towels.



NOTES: Always use an eyedropper to transfer dye from bottle to palette. This prevents spills and allows for proper proportions. Always have paper towels handy. After loading brush with dye, touch brush tip to paper towel to remove excess dye. This will prevent splotches of dye on your leather. Use scrap leather to test color, content and to form tip of brush.

MIXING JAVA BROWN COLORS:
Prepare 3 mixtures of Java Brown & water in palette.
#1 = 1/4 dye to 3/4 water
#2 = 1/2 dye to 1/2 water
#3 = full strength dye

TIP: Use a felt tip pen to mark mixtures on palette so you won't accidentally use the wrong mixture.

TEST the 3 mixture proportions on the piece of practice leather. Let them dry, then adjust the dye-to-water proportions if necessary until you have light, medium & dark shades.

STEPS SHOWN HALF SIZE (50%)



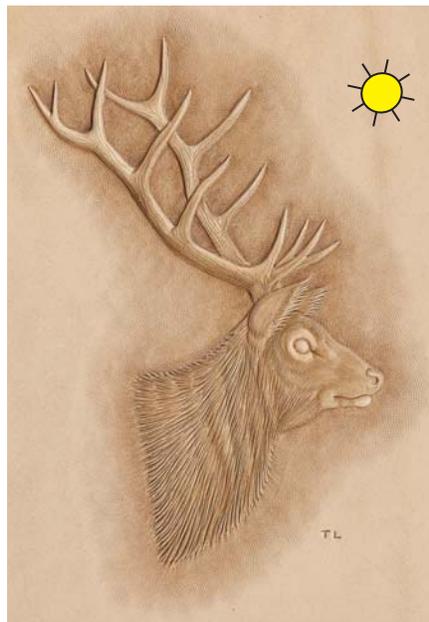
IMPORTANT: When doing realistic coloring, you must establish a light source - where the "sun light" is coming from. On this project, the light is coming from the upper right creating shadows on the left side Elk.

NOTE: This coloring technique "builds color gradually" from mixture to mixture (from light to dark). Avoid overworking one color mixture.

You will be using what is called the **DRY BRUSH TECHNIQUE**. This is shading with full strength or diluted hues using a brush containing very little dye.

To do this technique, dip tip of brush into dye, then stroke brush on a paper towel or scrap piece of leather to remove most of the dye while forming the tip of the brush into a fan shape.

The fan shaped tip of the brush is then stroked lightly over the leather allowing only a very small amount of dye to penetrate into the most raised areas of the leather adding color to those areas.



1) Use #1 mixture of Java Brown to map out shadows, markings and muscle tones.



(1/4 DYE & 3/4 WATER)



2) Use #2 mixture of Java Brown to establish and darken shadows, markings and muscle tones.



(1/2 DYE & 1/2 WATER)



STEP 3: Apply #3 full strength Java Brown to darken all shadow areas and as a base coat on the eye.



FULL STRENGTH



STEP 5: Use full strength Dark Brown Waterstain to add accents to head, nose, ears and as a final eye color.

Be very careful applying Waterstain to eye.

Leave a light area (band) across tip of nose or nose will appear as a brown blob.



FULL STRENGTH

MIX TIMBER BROWN:
Prepare 1 mixture of Timber Brown with water in palette:

1/2 DYE TO 1/2 WATER



TEST the mixture on the piece of practice leather. Let it dry, then adjust dye-to-water proportions if necessary until you have medium shade.

***TIP:** When coloring the eye, begin in the center away from the edge. Let dye migrate up to the edge.*



WRONG



CORRECT



STEP 4: Apply Timber Leather Dye mixture to all hair. Apply to underside only on antlers. Leave top of antlers light (where sun hits them).



STEP 6: Let project dry completely. Then if you see you need to do any touch-up, this is the time to do it.



STEP 7: When you are satisfied with the coloring, let it dry and apply two finishes:

1) **SUPER SHENE:** For accents, use a fine point brush to apply Super Shene Finish to “naturally wet & shiny” areas like the eye, nose and mouth. This will give your Elk a more realistic appearance.

2) **SATIN SHENE:** Then apply Satin Shene over the rest of Elk and background with a brush.

Let your project dry completely.



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