

# A How To: Mounting your own grouse tail fan



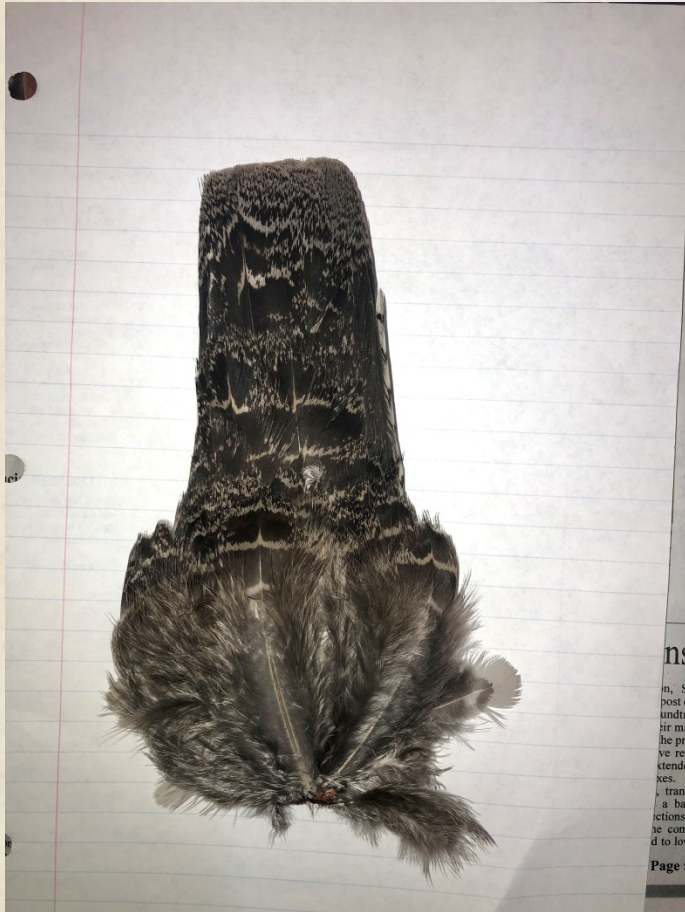
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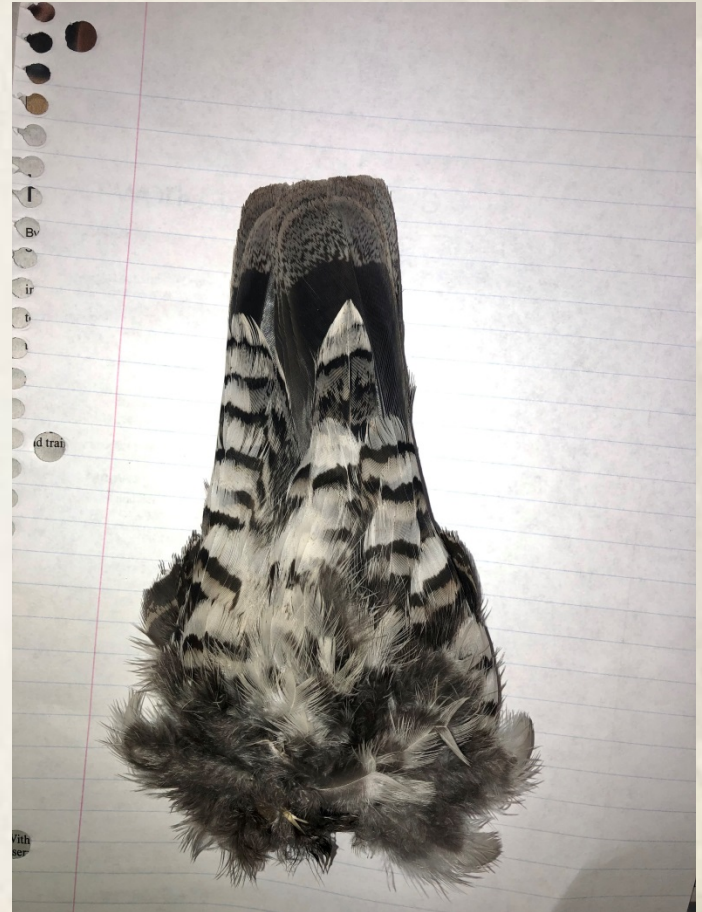
# Full list of equipment

- Sharp knife
- One small nylon or wire brush
- One metal coffee can (small to medium-sized) or old ceramic coffee cup
- Borax
- Auto body filler with hardener
- Newspapers
- Cardboard
- Hair dryer
- Coleman lantern or camp fuel (white fuel)
- Needle nose pliers
- Wooden paint mixer (for putting on auto body filler)
- Rubber or vinyl gloves (may want to wear an apron and eye protection as well)
- Dawn dish soap (the standard used by taxidermists)
- Straight pins (if needed)
- Item to weigh down cardboard such as unused soda cans or water bottles
- One hot glue gun (may or may not need). Can use this versus auto body filler if wanted. I prefer auto body filler and hardener.

# Remove grouse fan with knife



Front view



Rear view

# Remove feathers and meat from rear of fan

Remove feathers and tissue from the rear of the tail fan. You can also remove some from the front of the fan too, but not too much on the front (just near the base of the quills here).



Rear View



Front View

# Remove oil gland from front of fan

You will need to gently remove the oil gland from the front of the tail fan with your sharp knife. Take the time to not cut through the skin as much as you can. The point of the knife, and blue arrow, in the left picture are showing the oil gland. Bottom picture shows the gland removed.



# Clean tissue and fat from the quills



Start cleaning the tissue and fat from the quills with your stiff nylon brush or small wire brush. Be careful to not cut through the skin holding the feathers together. The blue arrows are pointing to the area the skin is found (picture to left). Try to remove as much meat and fat from the bottom part of the quills as you can to keep bugs from getting into your fan. You will also need to remove a small tail bone that is found in the middle of the tail fan with your needle nose pliers and knife (back of fan). The blue arrow pointing down is showing the location of the tail bone. Picture to left is early stages of removing fat and tissue from base of quills.

# Soak the base of the fan in lantern fuel



Soak the base of the tail fan, the part that has tissue or skin, in Coleman lantern fuel. I do this for about an hour. I will then wash the tail fan, bottom portion only, with warm soapy water. Make sure to use dish soap that has degreasing capability. After washing and rinsing I will dry feathers using a hair dryer on low to medium heat. This will fluff the feathers back out too.

# Fan the feathers out and use borax



Fan the feathers out how you want once the feathers have been dried using your blow dryer. You can use your small pins to help keep the feathers where you would like if you want. I will use a liberal coating of borax on the front and back of the tail fan. It usually takes 1-2 weeks to dry the fan out. The Borax will help in this process and also to preserve the skin.



# Weigh the feathers down



I think it's a good idea to weigh the feathers down with a piece of cardboard and an object with some weight like an unused soda can or canned vegetable or meat product. This will keep the feathers in place during the drying process.

# Use auto body filler and hardener



Once the fan is dry I will mix up some automobile body filler and hardener and use this on the base of the fan (front and back). I like to use a wooden paint mixer for mixing and putting the filler onto the tail fan.

# Place the fan on your plaque



The last step is to place the fan onto your plaque of your choice. This is a fun filled do-it-yourself project that will save memories of your grouse hunt.

# Thank You!



Introduce a family member to the outdoors!