

BONNIE KLEIN'S BOVINE IVORY NOTES



Sources:

1. Butcher shop - ask for leg bones (no knuckles)
2. Pet shops - doggie chew bones
3. Meat packers

Other bones:

1. Elk
2. Moose
3. Deer
4. Bison
5. Horse
6. Whale jaw bones or ribs

Preparation:

1. Remove as much flesh and marrow as possible
2. Gently cook in soapy water enough to loosen the remaining tissue (30-60 min?)
3. Scrape and use bottle brush to clean out inside of bone
4. Repeat cooking with soapy water if needed.
5. To whiten – soak in covered container with 3% hydrogen peroxide (several days, repeat as necessary)

Cutting up:

1. Use a hole saw in drill press to prepare discs
2. Use a bandsaw for slabs and other shapes
3. Use a disc or belt sander to do some rough shaping

Safety:

1. Wear dust mask and eye protection
2. Use dust removal system
3. Wear face mask when cutting up pieces (flying chips hurt!)

Finishing:

1. Wet sand 400-600 or finer
2. Novus plastic polish #3
3. Buffing wheel with dico (white)
4. Soak in oil for more mellow appearance (mineral oil)
5. Bone may be colored with dyes

Project ideas:

1. Inlays for box lids or other items
2. Buttons
3. Beads
4. Cribbage or game pegs
5. Boxes
6. Needle cases
7. Letter openers
8. Lace bobbins
9. Jewelry items - earrings, pendants, bolo ties
10. Miniatures such as goblets, bowls and spin tops

Other materials:

1. Antler - (elk, moose, deer) similar to bone
2. Horn - (goat, sheep, cow) similar to fingernails
3. Hoof - (cow, deer, pig, goat) similar to fingernails
4. Ivory - elephant, hippo, walrus, boar tusk, whale teet