

European Deer Mount

by Ron Kulas, Wisconsin

Slow, low simmer (no boil) the skull. Steam will rise from the water but no boiling action takes place. Do that until all the meat falls off the bone. Scrape clean, put back in new hot water with lots of Dawn dish soap. Scrub with bristle brush. (Some people use a power washer or a car wash to clean after the cooking...webmaster comment)

Wrap the antler bases with electrical tape to protect them during the skull whitening process. Coat the skull with small paper towel squares, like making a paper mache, soaked in 40 Volume developer (a womens hair care product; get the one without bleach powder in it). Wrap the skull in Saran wrap for 24 hours. Remove the paper towel squares and 40 Volume developer and rinse with water and let air dry. Don't get the 40 Volume on the antlers or they will turn white too!

Use a drywall spring loaded toggle bolt to mount the skull to a plaque. Drill a small hole in the back of the skull. Run the bolt through the plaque, attach the spring loaded toggle onto the bolt, press the toggle through the hole in the skull and tighten until it pulls the skull tight to the wood. Its gotta be longer than you need but the left over bolt is unseen inside the brain pan.



