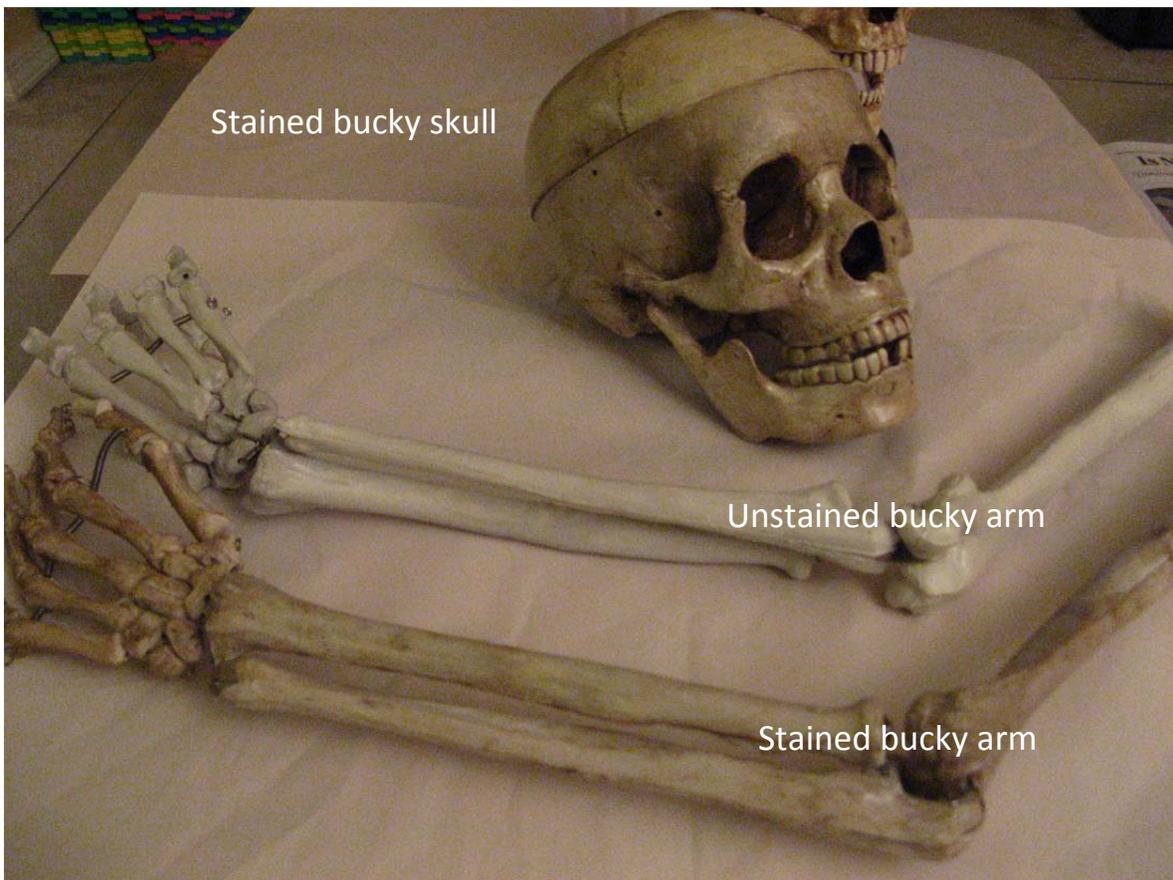




Aging a Bucky and Lindberg Skull

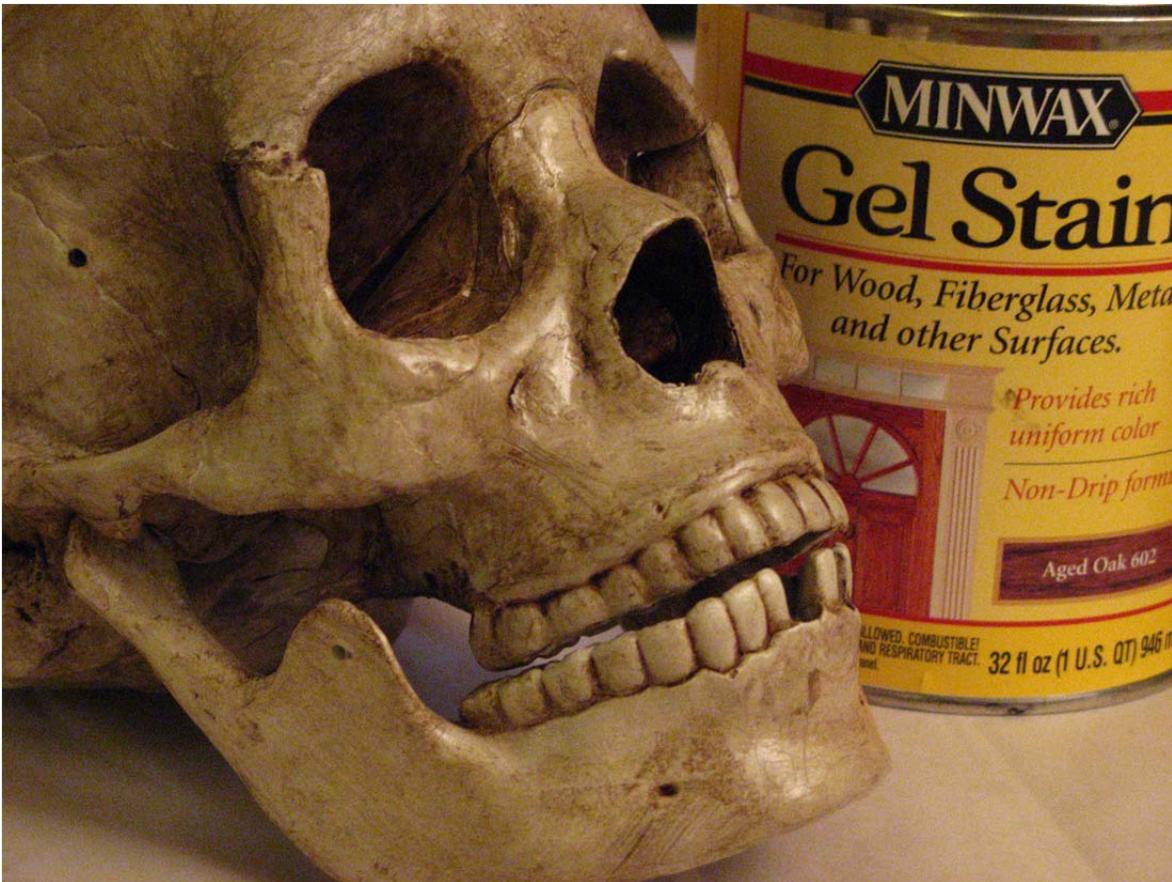
Aging or weathering your bucky or Lindberg skull is essential to making it look old and scary. I'm sorry—a plain white skull just doesn't say "I've been dead for hundreds of years and just unearthed." Fortunately, there are a couple of ways you can age your bones.

Water-based acrylic paints in brown and earth-tones are one medium that can be used. They can be mixed, layered, and thinned with water to create the exact look you desire. The advantages of using acrylic paints are that they are cheap and can be easily wiped away with (quickly) a wet cloth if you don't like how it looks. The disadvantage of these paints is that once dry, they are difficult to remove. (That can also be advantage when using the bucky or skull in a location exposed to the elements.)





Another aging medium (and my favorite) is **Minwax Gel Stain in Aged Oak**. Gel stain is a wood, metal and fiberglass stain that has a pudding-like consistency. The advantage of gel stain is that a little bit goes a long way, it does a better job staying in all the nooks and crannies for a more realistic look, and it is easy to thin and clean with mineral spirits. The down side is that it is much more expensive than acrylic paint, but again, a little goes a long way.



When using the gel stain, I applied a very light coat with a rag and quickly brushed it off to create an antique look to the skulls. I used a brush to apply the stain into crevices and hard to reach areas and quickly wiped away any excess. To create a light dirty look to a bucky skull or skeleton, you only need to use very little stain. A regular quart of this stain will go a long way. If you can find a pint size can, you may want to buy this amount instead. Remember



to use disposable gloves when staining, and don't be surprised when the stain starts to eat through the gloves.

Before staining the Lindberg skull, it is recommended to lightly sand it to create a rough surface to allow the stain to take more easily.

In the past, I have also used Minwax Gel Stain in Mahogany to create a dried blood look. Here is a "head-to-head" comparison of bucky skulls stained in Aged Oak (602) (left) and Mahogany (605) (right).

