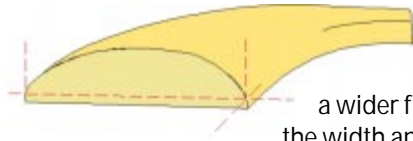




## Tombstone Gun Grips - Fitting 2-piece (screw attached) grips...

Thank you for purchasing Tombstone Gun Grips! Our concept of saving you money by providing the grip in unfinished state so you can do the 20 to 30 minutes of fit and finish work has been very well received by shooters and collectors for years! You get a better fit, because you can match the

exact size of your own grip frame (usually better than a generic factory finished grip, since there are slight variations in production guns). As you can see, most grips have a wider flat back so that if you sand it flat you will slowly reduce the width and height. It is like a pyramid: if you remove a row of blocks at the bottom, the width becomes less. Sections which have little or no slope from the inside of the grip to the outer surface will of course not become smaller, and you can simply use a sandpaper fingernail stick on the edge of the grip to bring it to exact size. But first, align the top or more straight up and down cross section and then work on the back to reduce the width and height of the sloped cross section.



### Fit and finishing information:

The color on pearl and solid color grips is molded into the grip so you can sand and finish it without removing color. The black grips usually are improved, after sanding, by applying black paste shoe polish and then buffing them firmly with a small bristle brush, like a child's hairbrush, to work the wax into the pores. You can restore the finish this way, on black grips, any time. The color is all the way through but black changes appearance depending on the surface finish, so that the black shoe polish will smooth the tiny pores and fill them, giving a deeper black.

The STAG EFFECT in all my grips is painted into the Stag cuts before the resin is poured. I use three tints to achieve the effect. The grip is poured and the excess is sanded off. No two grips will ever look the same. They are truly one of a kind.

I can pour any grip in any color of the rainbow and Black. If you do not email me with a color choice, you will receive the default color shown in that particular listing. Usually that is either natural (faux) ivory, an egg-shell white; or it is aged ivory (a yellow-tan buttery color like old natural ivory). Smooth grips look good with pearl effect, others do not. Usually smooth grips are best for the pearl finishes.

I do not drill grip alignment holes, cut the mounting screw to length or put a final polish on any of my grips. These are simple setps you can do yourself and save a lot of money, besides getting the fit exactly right. If there are cut-outs on the back side, you can make them with a Dremmel Moto-Tool or similar small rotary bit tool. I have outlined these procedures in my fitting instructions. The grips are normally slightly oversized so you can sand them down slightly for a perfect fit. This is not a defect: it is the reason you can buy a high strength polyurethane grip for less than half what a finished grip, of the same type, would cost. And, it lets you make the fit correct even if your particular gun grip isn't quite the same size as same brand out of another box! The material is easy to work with. It takes a high polish with a buffer and white jeweler's rouge. Fingernail sanding boards work well for shaping and polishing the edges.

### Assembly Suggestions for Two Piece Gun Grips (Left and Right Side Panels)

You will need to carefully sand each piece to fit your particular weapon. I have not put a polished finish on these grips because with the amount of sanding, and handling you will be doing, any finish I put would be gone by the time you complete fitting the grips. You perhaps will find some areas on the front of the "smooth" grips that seem to be shinier than others. This is the mold release residue. Gentle sanding with 320 grit sandpaper will remove it before you begin the polishing process.

Not all grips need polishing. Some can be fitted with just light sanding on the back and edges, and the rest of the grip is just fine as is. Heavily carved, checkered, and otherwise decorated grips including stag horn effect grips usually don't need any polishing. They can be made to look nicer with a firm brushing using a toothbrush, and in some cases can be finished with a little hard clear wax to seal the surface. Grips that have a smooth finish benefit from polishing. You can be the judge.

The first thing to do after you remove your old grips is to check to be sure the new ones are in fact large enough to fit the frame. You may have to remove any alignment pins in the frame to accomplish this step. They should push out, or gently tap them out with a drift punch and a small hammer. If the grips are not flat on the frame, that is OK, you will correct this in the next two steps. If they seem to be larger than the frame, that will also be corrected by sanding the back flat and marking the excess with a Sharpie. Then simply sand off the excess. In most cases it will be a very small amount. BE CAREFUL and don't over do it.

Now completely clean the gun and check all screws and springs. Then file off all the casting burrs and assorted lumps on the frame and hammer area. This is the only way you will achieve a tight fit of your new grips. Colt clone back frames are usually investment castings. The assembly plant hardly ever removes any of the burrs, and uneven areas of the frame. After you check for and remove these assorted lumps and burrs on the gun, reassemble the gun without the grips and set it aside for now.

Look at the bottom of the grip panels. You will possibly see some of the excess I have left by over-pouring the mold. Over pouring means I have filled the mold such that it runs over the edge. This creates a grip about 1/32" thicker and slightly wider than the original grip used to make the master mold. I intentionally over pour the mold to insure you have plenty enough material in the grip panel to compensate for variations in frame dimensions. If you see areas near the edge of the grip that are shiny, the grips are not perfectly flat yet.

Take some 120 grit sandpaper and attach it to a flat surface. You can use tacks, glue, whatever you prefer, but be sure it is flat and not going to move. Set the panel on your sandpaper and start sanding GENTLY with a back and forth motion. Insure your hands are keeping the grip flat all the way around. Change to a circular motion once in a while. You are simply trying to get the bottom of the panels flat. Do not rush or over do this sanding. You are only removing about 1/32" or less of material. TIP: Take a large magic marker and "paint" the entire bottom of the grip before starting to sand. (If you stop marker on the front edge of the grip, clean it off quickly with rubbing alcohol before it dries). When all the black is gone, the panel is flat, assuming your hands grip on the panel kept it flat on the sandpaper.

Lets discuss the escutcheon screw, ferule and nut. On most two-piece grips, I provide these items and install the nut and ferrule for you. Some grips use odd sizes or special screws that I can't provide, so you have to use the original in that case, notable the little derringer-type guns. The ferule and nut are brass so they won't corrode. The screw is 18-8 Stainless and is more than long enough. I do not cut the screw shorter. There is no "standard" for all weapons that would give me the exact length of the screw, so it is best I leave the final trimming up to you. Just assemble the grips, mark or measure how much to cut off, disassemble, and cut the new screw to length. Round over the edges of the threads where you cut them and you have finished. A file or grinder is handy to round the cut end.

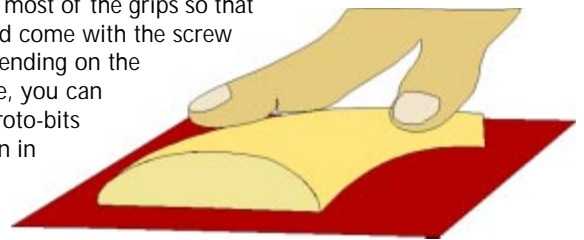
If there is an alignment pin projecting from the frame, you will need to mark the location on the grip and drill a shallow hole (or use a Dremmel tool with a burr bit to remove material from the grip so it fits this stud). As I am sure you are aware, the accuracy of the hole is critical for proper alignment of the grip panels. You may have to remove this pin to fit the grip, if it is removable. While it is out, carefully fit the grip to the frame, be sure it is in perfect alignment and clamp it in place. Using your choice of marking device, scribe through the hole(s) and repeat for the other panel. Drill the marked area with a drill bit that is slightly larger than the diameter of the pin. If the pin isn't removable, you can just paint the end of it with a black "magic marker" pen, and then align the grips and press them against the pin to leave a mark on the flat side. Work carefully to remove just enough material so the grips fit nicely. If you remove too much material or get the hole "off" a little, you can fill it with 5-minute epoxy, let it harden overnight, and then re-drill the hole. Don't use a twist bit if you can avoid it. A flat sided bit doesn't "pull" into the work and possibly get through the grip before you know what happened! If you do use a twist bit, make sure the grip is secured to a drill press table or vise. Don't do that by hand. Use a Dremmel tool and a little burr bit instead.

For smooth finished grips, this Poly takes a very good polish. Sand gently with 320, wet. Then switch to 400, wet then 600, wet and final polish with 1500, wet. You can buy this paper at most major home centers or hardware stores. You could also use a bench grinder with muslin wheel and white jewelers polish. The application of some quality car wax will seal the pores of the Poly very nicely on the smooth and textured grips. Naturally, you won't want to polish the carved, engraved, or checkered pattern grips. Just brush them firmly with a toothbrush to give them a bit of a sheen, and then seal with wax. Black grips can be buffed and polished with a little black shoe polish (the wax kind that comes in a flat can). Buff hard and fast with a small brush, such as a child's hair brush, to "set" the polish so it won't rub off.

The Poly will clean up well after a day's shooting with warm soapy water and a soft cloth. PLEASE take the grips off when you clean the weapon. I soaked a sample of the Poly in Acetone for two days with very little effect, but you worked hard to make the grips look good, don't jeopardize the finish on them by soaking them in cleaning fluid laced with powder residue.

**CAUTION: When sanding, always wear a face mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust! Dispose of the dust by sweeping it into a bag and putting it in the trash. It isn't "toxic" but anything you make into airborne dust can be harmful to your lungs. Do not melt, burn, or heat the grips or burn the dust because that will result in toxic fumes.**

Wear eye protection when sanding and drilling. Note that you will need to drill most of the grips so that they will fit on your particular grip frame. Grips that use a single mounting screw and come with the screw and ferrules installed are pre-drilled. Other grips may or may not be pre-drilled, depending on the model and style. If the pilot hole does not line up with your grip frame studs or hole, you can slightly elongate the hole with a needle file or a rotary bit (very gentle pressure, as roto-bits cut extremely fast!). Grips can sometimes be made more secure by putting a small pin in them to keep them from turning. The pin usually is located so it just touches the inside edge of the frame in a place where there is no magazine or hammer spring interference. Install one grip, and mark a point through the other side of the frame, then take off the grip and put a small hole part way into the grip (don't go through it!) that is just slightly smaller than the pin, then push the pin into place. Or drill the hole the same size as the pin and glue it in place with a tiny drop of epoxy. Only a tiny bit of projection is needed to secure the grip from turning if the screw becomes loosened.



Some two-piece grips fit down into a recess in the gun frame, such as the cut-out on the side of the frame on autoloaders. Since the back is flat, you can either carefully route all around the edges to remove surplus material and create a raised center portion, or you can just mark through the gun frame to locate two good spots for small pins to be put into the grip backside and keep it aligned. A 1/8 or 1/16 inch roll pin, very short (usually 1/4 inch long or less), can be obtained and pressed into a small hole that you make in the back of the grips. These pins then bear on the inside of whatever cutout was supposed to fit the raised part of the grip. They do the same job of keeping the grip from turning, with a lot less work on your part! Also, if you get them in the wrong place, you can ignore the hole and make another one, or you can fill it with 5-minute epoxy and redrill. (Many factory grips have plenty of extra cut-outs and holes that serve no function other than during manufacturing, so this isn't anything unique.) The 1905 Colt, 1910 Browning and similar guns use a raised center grip.