

Welcome!

Thank you for choosing the brand-new Moose Hooker system, proudly brought to you by Team Naked Buck Head.

As we've traveled around, promoting the Naked Buck Head and Naked Bull Head products, we've received many requests for an innovative solution for Moose mounts. For years, taxidermists have been stuck dealing with the traditional square stalk and shaft method for attaching antlers on Moose mounts. That traditional method is tricky and doesn't allow much room for error.

You've made a great decision to buck tradition and embrace the future. The Moose Hooker system is a hidden and extremely strong hook and latch system designed especially for these big game animals.

We understand instructions are boring but there are critical steps within the following pages that must be followed to truly enjoy this detachable antler system correctly and safely. **Please read and follow all detailed instructions to ensure you achieve the best results. This is not only for perfect antler placement and orientation but for consumer safety.**

As always, the first time we all do something new it should be done slower than expected so we learn why we need to do things a certain way. Please allow yourself this learning curve and DO NOT assume, skip or rush through the instructions. Double and triple check your work as you proceed with each instruction step. Read through the next instruction step and understand it before executing on it. We promise you will love the result, and future installs will become more and more efficient as you grow familiar with this new system.

Thank you again for choosing the new Moose Hooker system, and please do not hesitate to share images or contact us with questions or feedback.

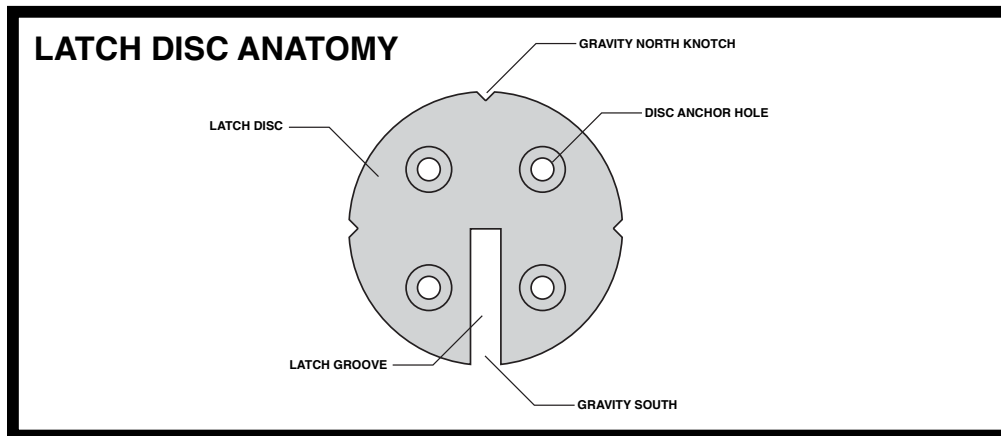
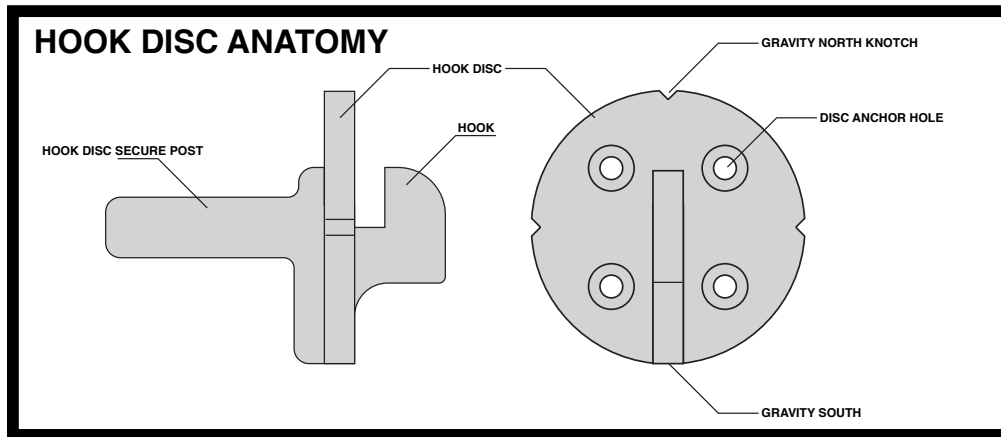
Enjoy!
Team Naked Buck Head



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www.nakedbuckhead.com

HOOK & LATCH ANATOMY

For Reference: The Hook Disc is on the skull side, the Latch Disc is on the antler side.



TOOLS & MATERIALS REQUIRED

NOT Included	Optional, Very Helpful	Included
Rotary Tool / Dremel	Drill Gauge	Carving / Cutting Bit, Dremel 196
Drill	4 ½" Grinder and Disc	Drill bit, 5/32"
Drill bit set, up to ½"		T-25 1 ¼" Torx Head Screws (16)
Reciprocating Saw with sharp, fine-tooth blade		Gauge (clear disc)
Multi-colored Sharpie marker set (at least 4 colors)		Depth Gauge (clear disc with black base)
Pencil, mechanical preferred		
2-Part Epoxy, Filler or filler resin		
T-25 Torx Head Bit		
Straight File		

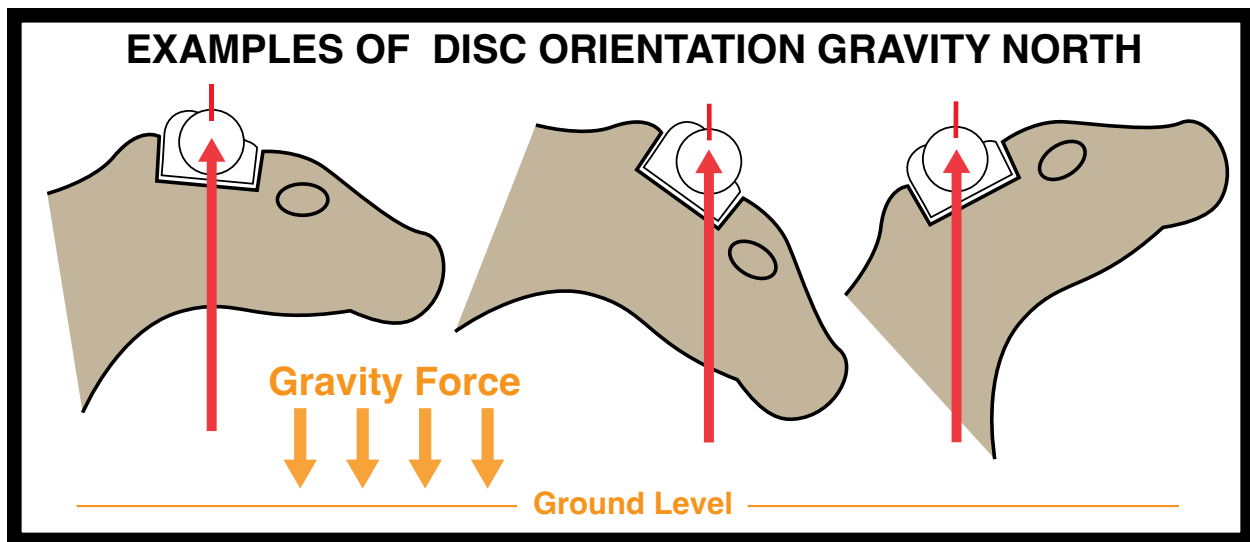
IMPORTANT PRODUCT TERMS: GRAVITY NORTH & GRAVITY SOUTH

Gravity North (GN) - references opposite of ground level, gravity force or pull. This will also be used for establishing reference points within the instructions.

Gravity South (GS) – references direction of gravity force or pull towards ground level. This also will be used for establishing reference points within the instructions.

Why use the terms Gravity North & South (GN & GS)?

All antlers have a lot of leverage weight being established by gravity forces. This system works with gravity. As the antler weight is being pulled down by gravity, we need the hook to be facing up and opposite of that force. We call that Gravity North (GN) and Gravity South (GS) to remember to orientate the hook for that force no matter what angle the moose head is pointing when mounted.



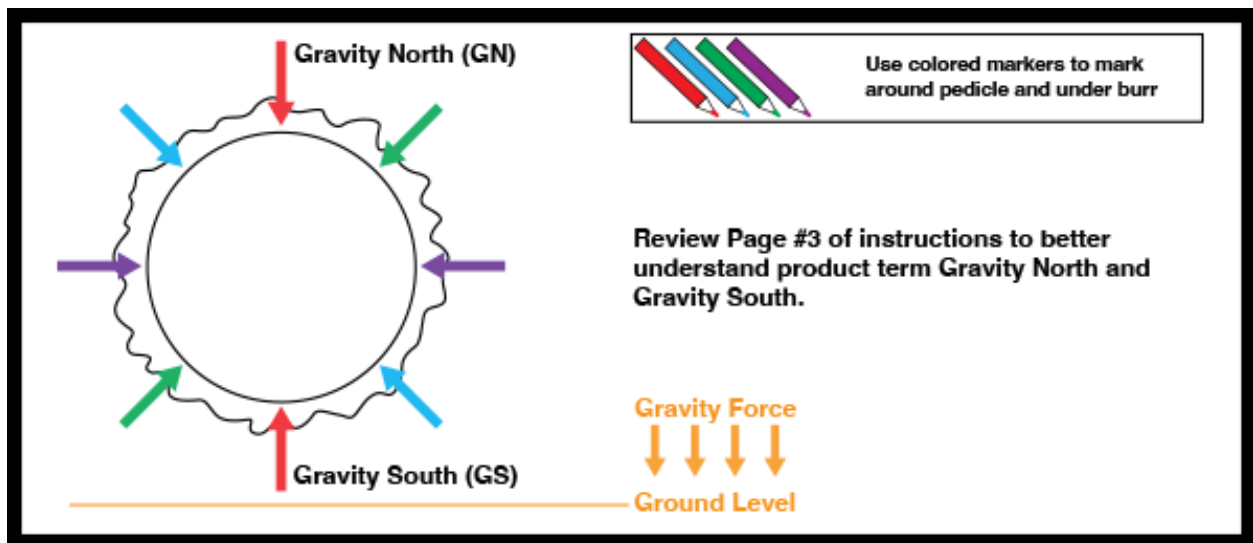
INSTALLATION STEPS OVERVIEW

1. PEDICLE & BURR BASE MARKING – **BEFORE ANTLER REMOVAL**
2. ANTLER REMOVAL
3. FIND MATCHING SKULL & ANTLER CENTERS
4. ESTABLISH GRAVITY NORTH MARKING ****CRITICAL STEP**
5. SKULL SIDE – DRILL 31/64” PEDICLE HOLE
6. SKULL SIDE – CREATE 1/4” DEPTH RECESS
7. ANTLER SIDE – CREATE 1/4” DEPTH RECESS
8. SKULL SIDE – CREATE REAR HOOK GROOVE RECESS
9. ANTLER SIDE – CREATE REAR LATCH GROOVE RECESS
10. SKULL AND ANTLER SIDE – PRE-DRILL SCREW LOCATIONS ****CRITICAL STEP**
11. SKULL SIDE – EPOXY HOOK DISC INTO PLACE ****CRITICAL STEP**
12. SKULL SIDE – ANCHOR HOOK DISC INTO PLACE **** CRITICAL STEP**
13. ANTLER SIDE – EPOXY AND ANCHOR LATCH DISC INTO PLACE ****CRITICAL STEP**

1. PEDICLE & BURR BASE MARKING – BEFORE ANTLER REMOVAL

With the skull positioned as it will be when fully mounted, mark GN and GS with **RED** marker. Be sure to mark both the pedicle and under the antler burr to ensure proper alignment in later steps. Using **RED** marker is recommended due to its dominant and very noticeable color.

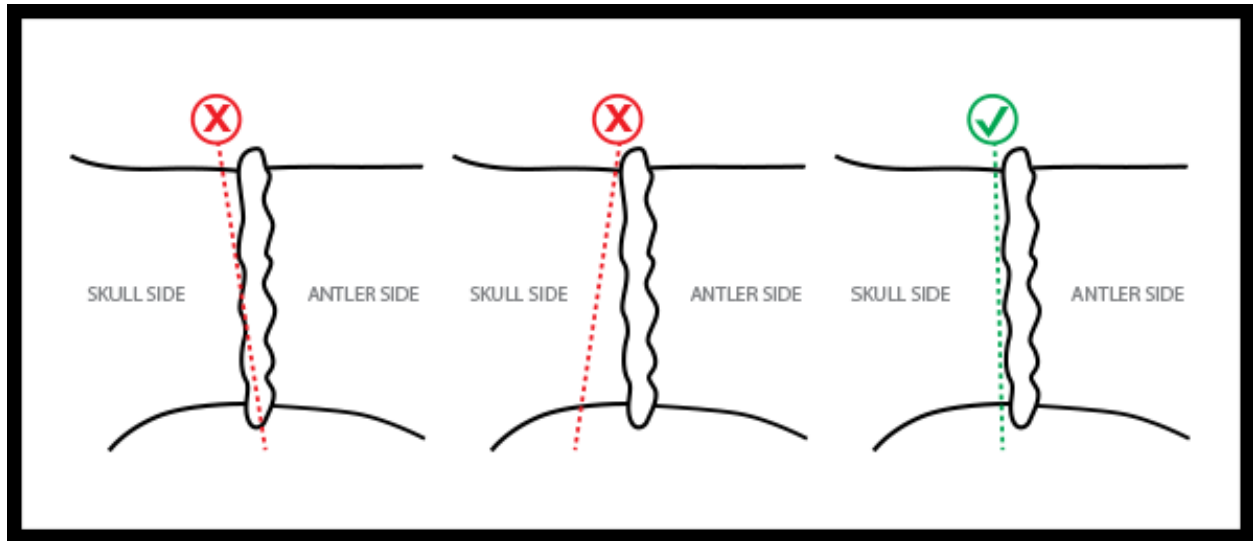
Mark additional alignment points as shown in the diagram below. The multi-color markings are helpful for quick, accurate reference and alignment.



TIP: Do not make these marks messy, too wide, or allow the markings to wear off during installation. Refresh markings as needed.

2. ANTLER REMOVAL

Carefully remove the antler from the skull cap by cutting straight along the pedicle on the skull side. Straight and flush removal of the antler is important for best results when, in future steps, you will be creating a recessed surface for proper disc installation.



TIP 1: After the antler has been removed, extend your colored markings from Step 1 around onto the cut surfaces. This will help with finding centers and future alignment needs.

TIP 2: With your pencil, draw an arrow pointing forward, front or to the nose direction of the animal on each of the cut surfaces. This is useful as a quick reference when looking at cut surfaces when they are separated.

3. FIND MATCHING SKULL & ANTLER CENTERS

In this step you will be required to find the matching centers on both skull and antler sides for future installation needs.

To achieve a precise transfer between the two locations, a sheet of clear acetate has been provided for each side and serves as a perfect low-tech bridge for alignment. Begin by overlaying the center hole of the transparent sheet on your skull location center mark and marking the outer edge of the pedicle and registration lines with a fine tip marker on the acetate. **TIP:** Color coordinating the marks already established from STEP 1 is ideal.

Once your references are marked, flip the acetate over to the antler base location; the transparency allows you to align your outer edge and registration marks to the antler side markings. Using it as a guide, you can mirror the original coordinates with high accuracy, essentially "copy-pasting" a physical location from one spot to another without the guesswork.

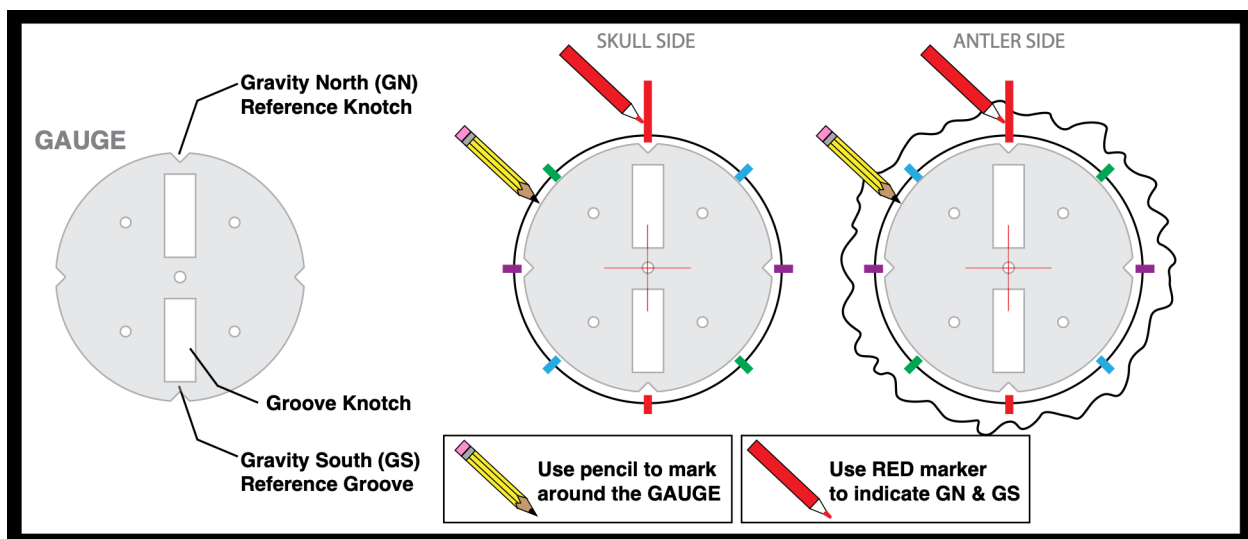
Next: Mark the center for a perfect mirrored center needed for STEP 3.

****Always double check your work.**

Using the clear circle Gauge, align the center and GN and GS reference notches with your GN and GS marks and centers. Mark around the outside edge of the Gauge on the cut surfaces.

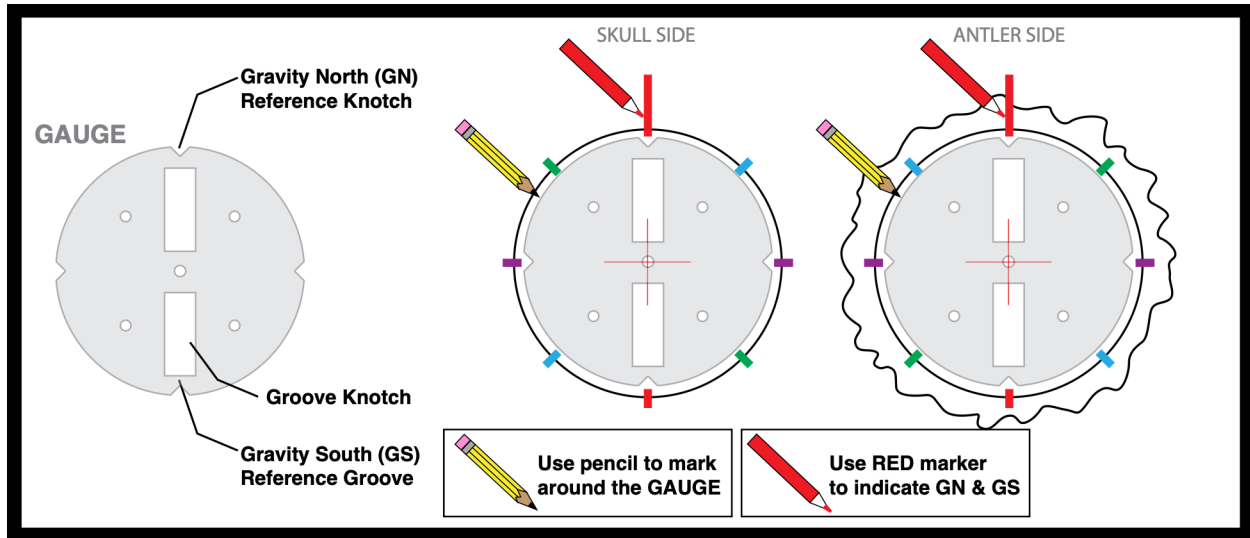
Holding the Gauge in place, predrill 1/8" center hole no more than 1/8" deep in both skull and antler sides.

TIP: Use a drill guide to keep the center hole as close to 90° as possible.



4. **ESTABLISH GRAVITY NORTH (GN) MARKING **CRITICAL STEP**

After predrilling in Step 3, place a small nail in the center hole or hold the Gauge firmly in place. You must make sure that your **RED** GN and GS marks are aligned with the corresponding reference notches and are visible on the cut surfaces. Establishing this GN and GS is critical for leverage and hook strength success.



IMPORTANT TIP: Pay close attention to your reference marks, arrow direction and what the front of the animal is. Facing surfaces are “mirrored”. You must mirror skull side and antler side markings for best antler orientation.

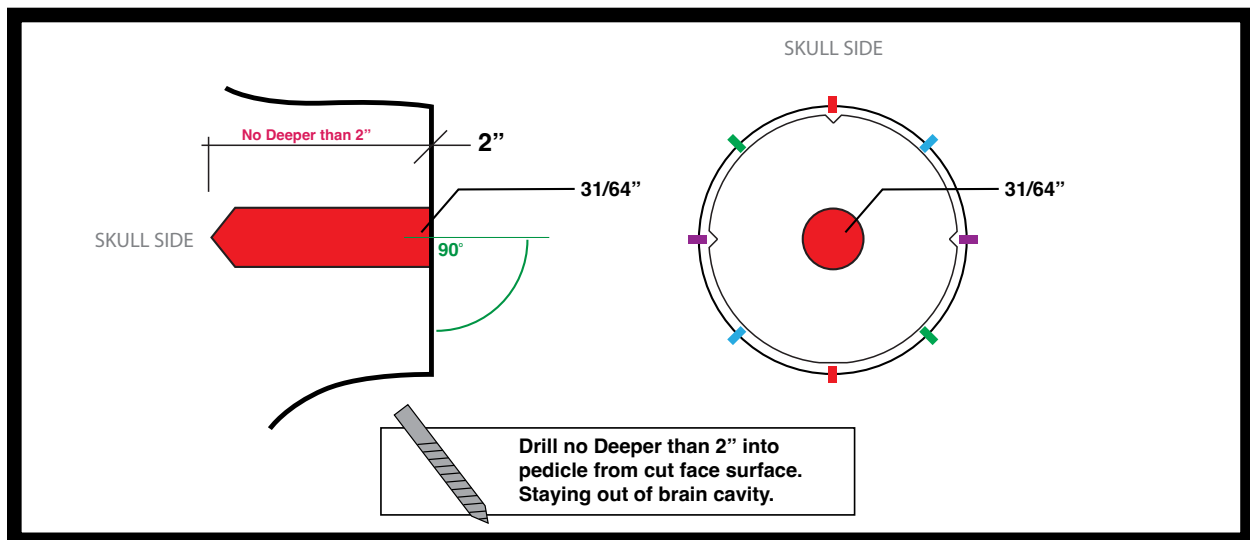
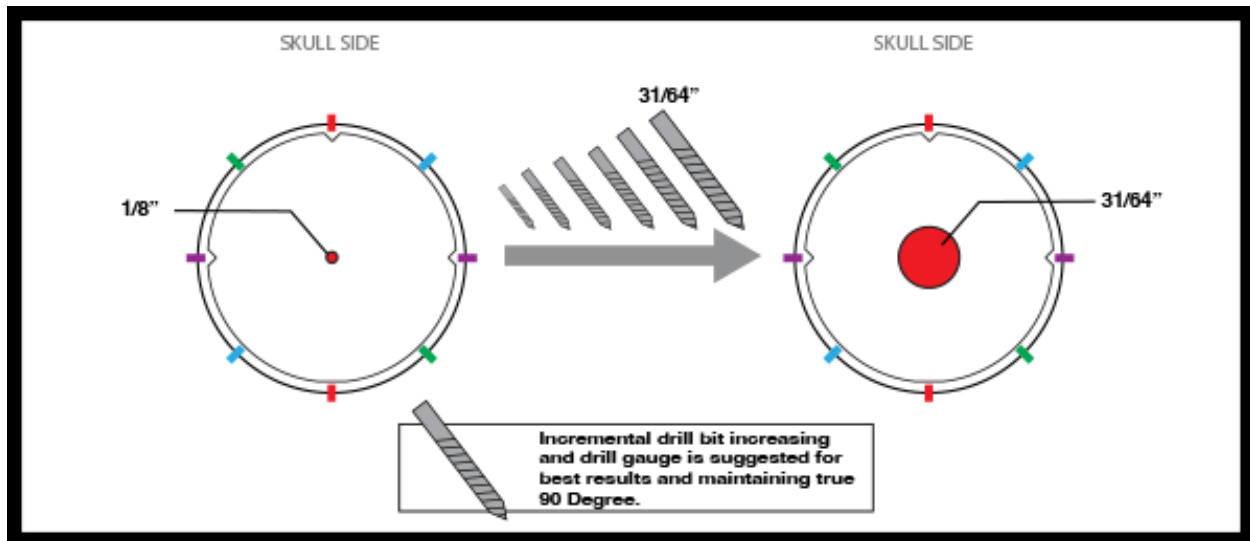
TIP: Double and triple check your work right now for accuracy.

5. SKULL SIDE – DRILL 31/64” PEDICLE HOLE

On the skull side, drill a center hole to receive the Hook Disc Secure Post on the rear of the Hook Disc. The rear Hook Disc Secure Post will recess into this hole in Step 11.

CAUTION: Bone is extreme hard. **DO NOT** force any drilling or screwing. Use patience!

TIP: Increasing your drill bit size incrementally will make drilling easier. Using a drill gauge to maintain a true 90° angle will produce the best results.



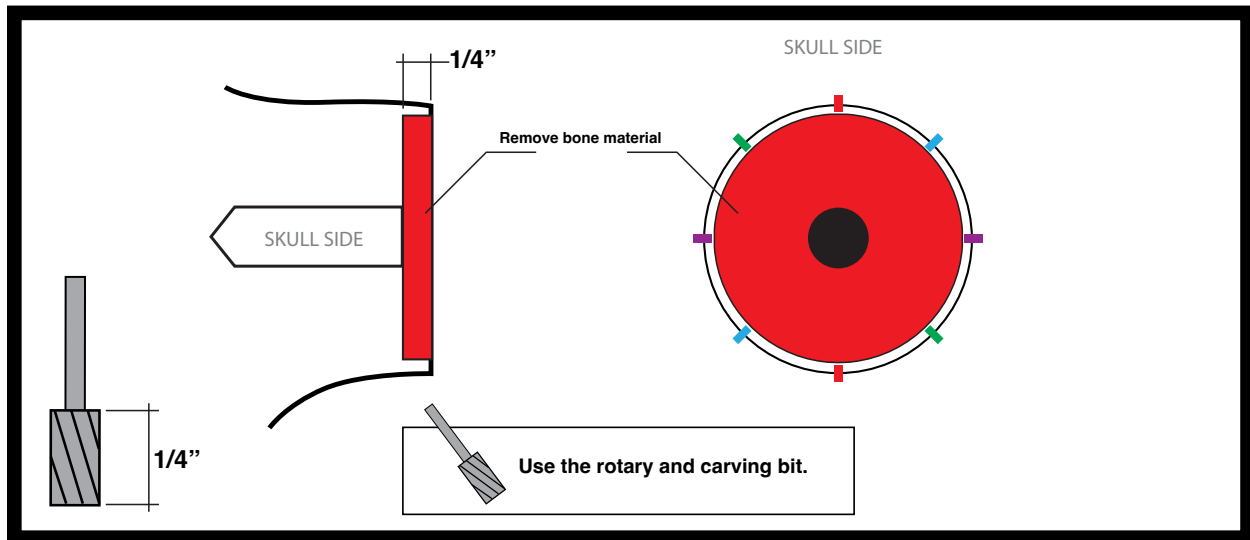
TIP 1: Marking drill bits with stopper or tape for correct depth is helpful.

TIP 2: Do not drill deeper than 2", through the rear of the pedicle or into skull cavity, this hole will need to hold epoxy resin.

6. SKULL SIDE – CREATE 1/4" DEPTH RECESS

On the skull side, remove a 1/4" of bone material within the area marked around the Gauge (completed in Step 3).

Use the Depth Gauge and Latch Disc to continually check the 1/4" depth as you remove bone material. This removal of bone material will allow the Hook Disc to recess flush within the cut surface as noted in Step 2.



TIP 1: Carving bit head is 1/4". Use it as a guide to help gauge the depth of material removal.

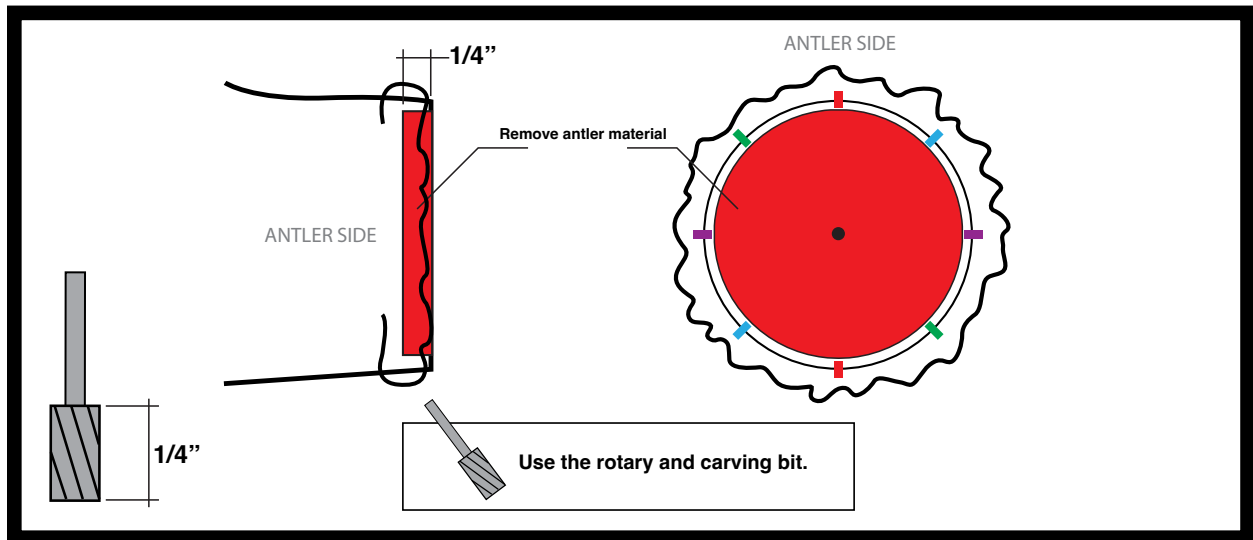
TIP 2: Go slow and steady at first for best results. It will become easier as you get the hang of it.

TIP 3: Moving the rotary bit in a counterclockwise, in and out motion seems to work best.

7. ANTLER SIDE – CREATE 1/4” DEPTH RECESS

On the antler side, remove a 1/4” of antler material within the area marked around the Gauge (completed in Step 3).

Use the Depth Gauge and Latch Disc to continually check the 1/4” depth as you work. This removal of antler material will allow the Latch Disc to recess flush within the cut surface as noted in Step 2.



TIP 1: Carving bit head is 1/4". Use it as a guide to help gauge the depth of material removal.

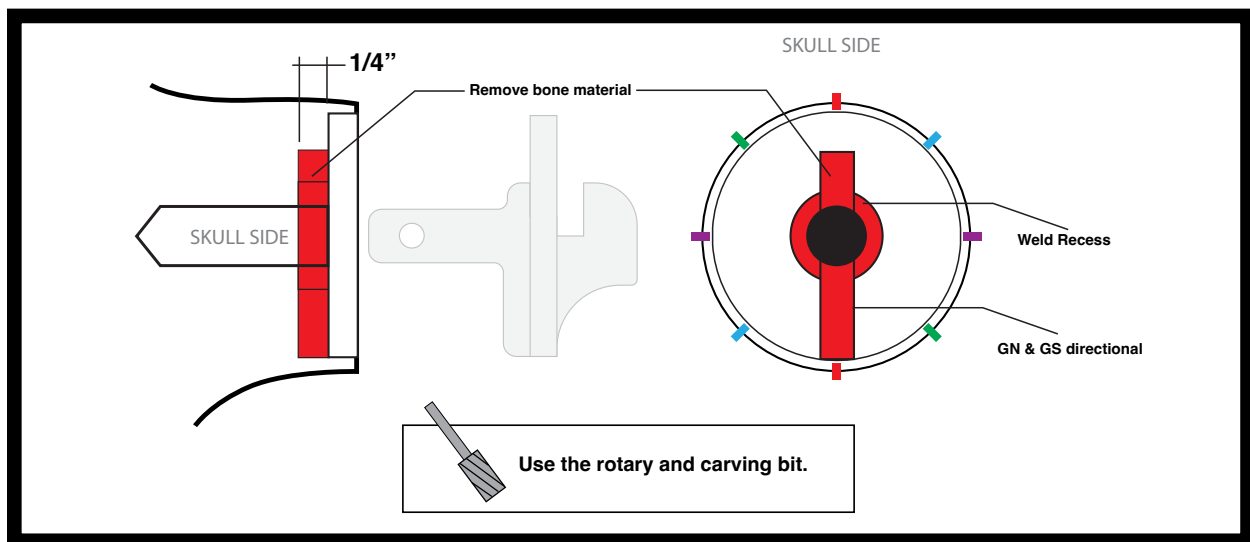
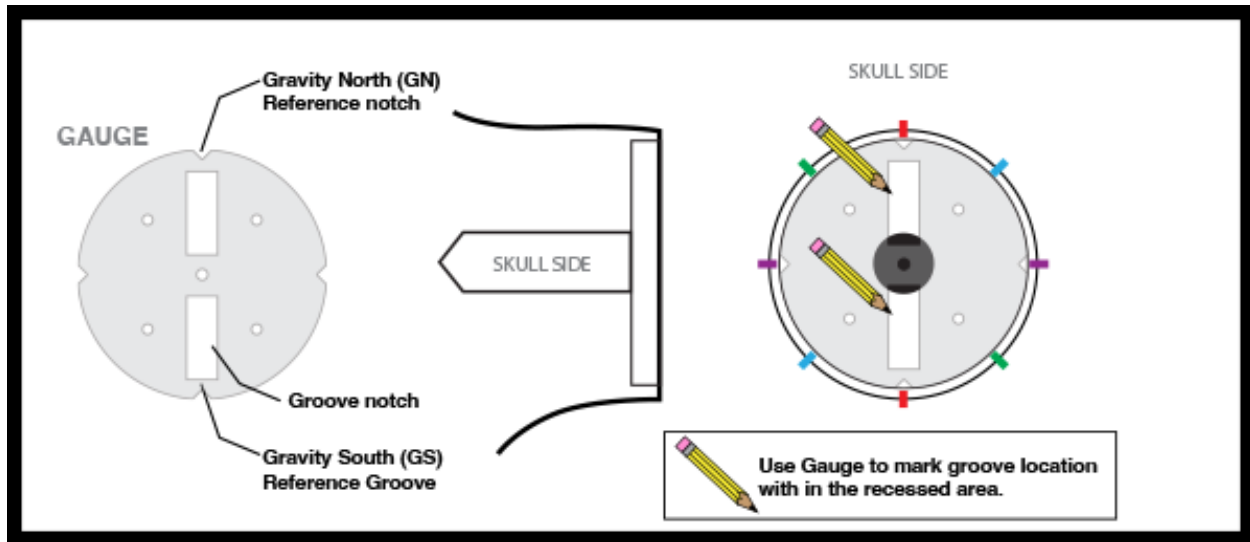
TIP 2: Go slow and steady at first for best results. It will become easier as you get the hang of it.

TIP 3: Moving the rotary bit in a counterclockwise, in and out motion seems to work best.

8. SKULL SIDE – CREATE REAR HOOK GROOVE RECESS

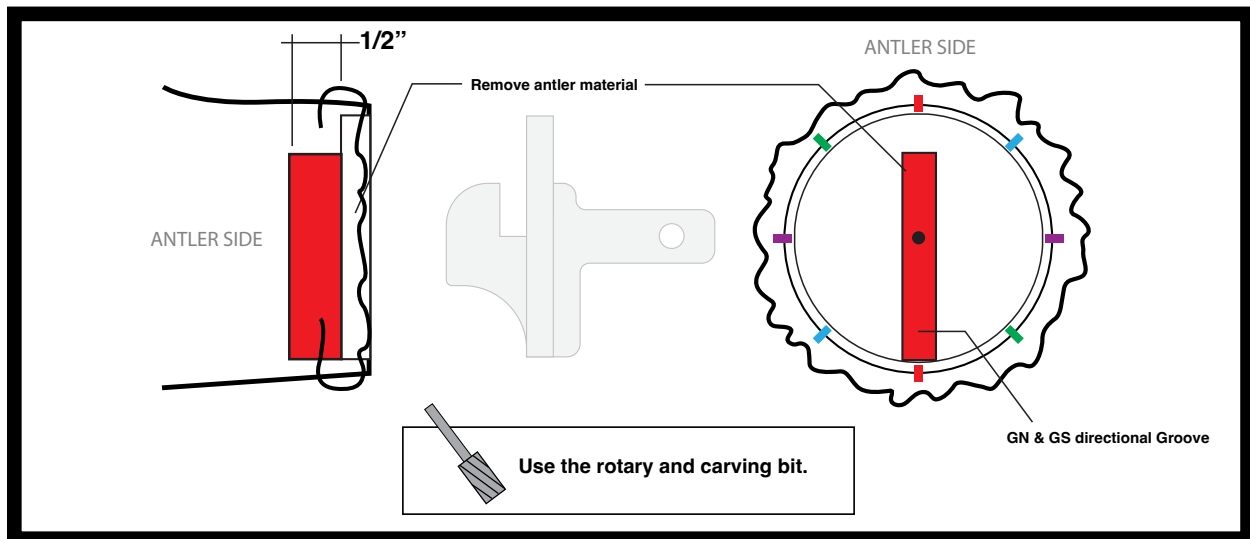
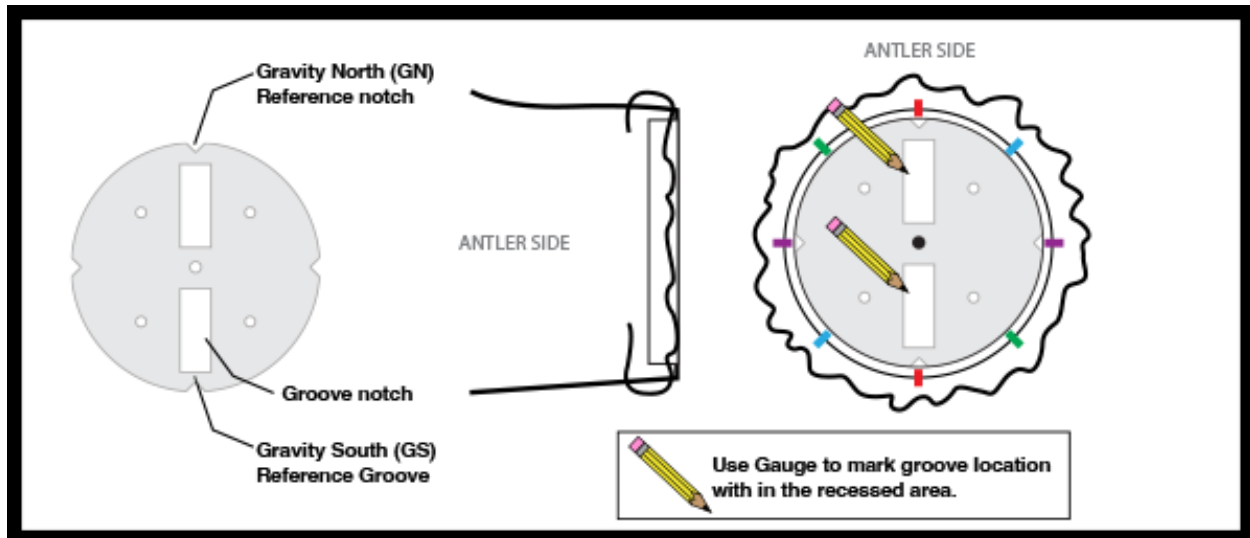
On the skull side, mark the groove locations using the Gauge, making sure to reference the GN and GS marks for proper groove direction. Create a 1/4" deep groove in the direction of GN and GS with your rotary and carving bit. This will allow for the rear of the Hook Disc to recess further into the skull.

NOTE: The extra weld recess around the center hole is necessary.



9. ANTLER SIDE – CREATE REAR LATCH GROOVE RECESS

On the antler side, mark the groove locations using the Gauge, making sure to reference the GN and GS marks for proper groove direction. Create no less than a 3/4" deep groove in the direction of GN and GS with your rotary and carving bit. This will allow for the hook portion of the Hook Disc to recess behind the Latch Disc when placing the antler on the mount.



TIP: Be careful to not remove too much material on either side of this recess groove. You will need that antler material to place your Latch Disc attachment screws securely in Step 13.

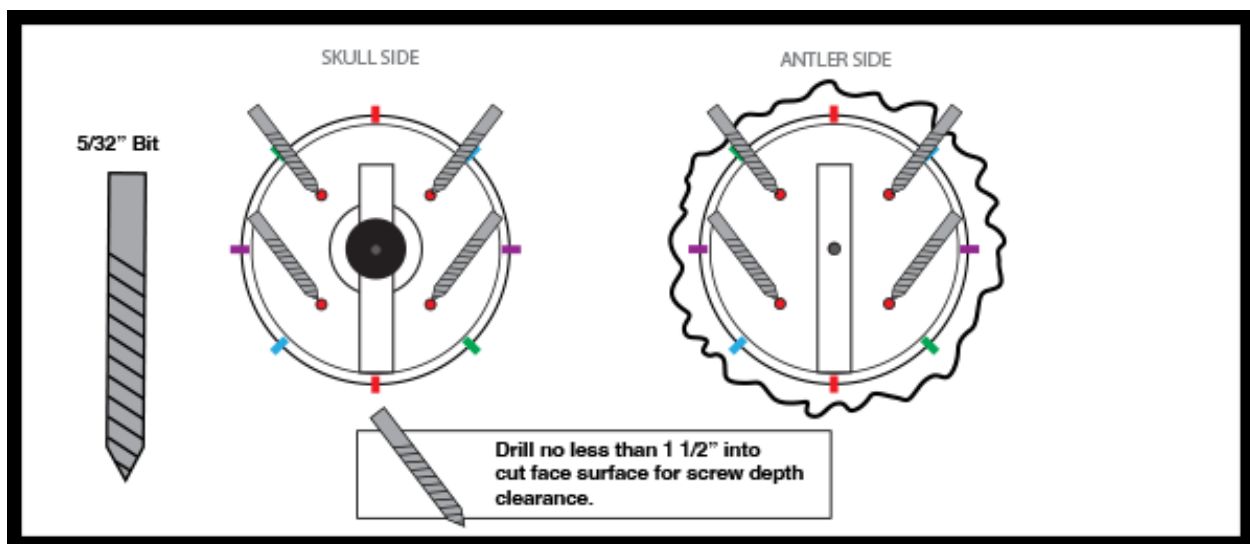
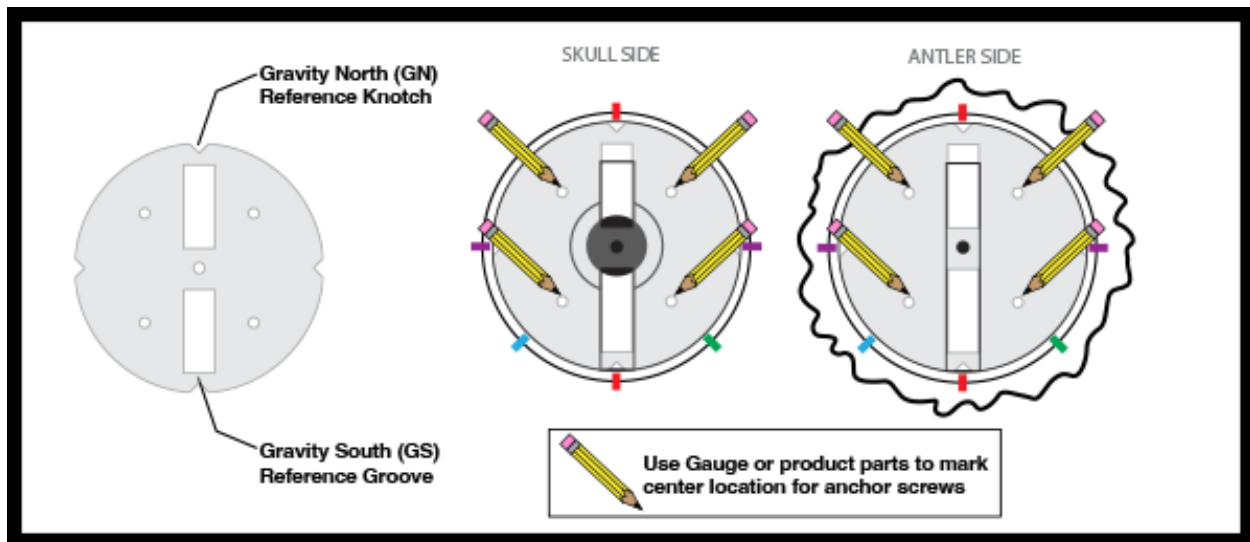


You are so close now and the end is in sight! Let's put things together.

10. SKULL AND ANTLER SIDE – PRE-DRILL SCREW LOCATIONS ****CRITICAL STEP**

Using the 5/32" drill bit, carefully pre-drill both skull and antler side screw locations. Be sure to properly align the Gauge with the GN and GS reference marks before marking or drilling the screw locations so that the Hook and Latch Discs properly align with the grooves cut in the skull and antler sides.

CAUTION: Bone is extreme hard. **DO NOT** force any drilling or screwing. Use patience!



IMPORTANT!!!

STEPS 11 and 12 are to be done together. Read both steps closely before beginning.

11. SKULL SIDE – EPOXY HOOK DISC INTO PLACE **CRITICAL STEP

In this step you will be required to epoxy the Hook Disc into place on the skull side. This is a critical step in the success of this Moose Hooker system.

IMPORTANT: Before epoxy! Test fit the Hook Disc in the skull recess to verify that the disc is uniform and flush with the outer cut face. Make minor adjustments if needed to ensure that flush face results are achieved before epoxy is applied.

******Pay close attention to your GN and GS reference marks to properly align your north and south Hook Disc reference points.

TIP: If you had drilled through the back of your pedicle or skull in Step 5, you will need to first plug the rear of that hole so the epoxy will not exit.

Once you are confident with the test fit and alignment, remove the Hook Disc. Mix epoxy according to package directions and fill the 31/64” hole and recess groove cavities. This epoxy will fill the cavity, add strength, and add extra bonding to the skull.

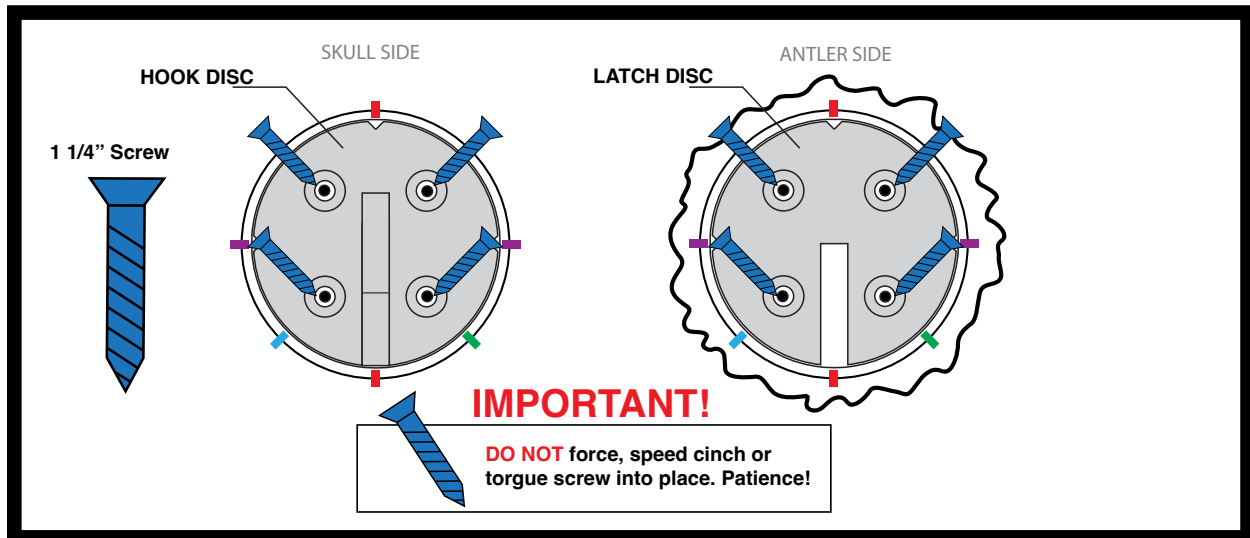
TIP: Do not overfill to avoid making a mess!

Carefully set the Hook Disc back into place. Clean off any excess epoxy if it overflows into the Hook Disc anchor holes and surrounding areas.

******GO TO STEP 12 IMMEDIATELY TO ANCHOR BEFORE EXPOXY CURES.**

12. SKULL SIDE – ANCHOR HOOK DISC INTO PLACE ****CRITICAL STEP**

Install anchor screws to attach the Hook Disc to the skull side.



CAUTION: Bone is extreme hard. **DO NOT** force any drilling or screwing. Use patience!

TIP 1: Screw slow and steady into this bone. **DO NOT** use extreme force or speed to avoid breaking the screw off in the hole.

TIP 2: If using power tools, be sure to use low speed and lighter torque settings.

TIP 3: Place screws one by one. Do not over tighten.

****If you twist off or break a screw during installation, dismantle or remove the Hook Disc immediately before epoxy cures. Clean the skull area and Hook Disc of all epoxy the best you can. Do not attempt to continue placing epoxy until you have replaced the broken screw and are ready with all materials to start again.

TIP 4: Rotate the skull cap or mount, so the cut face of the pedicle is pointed upwards to hold epoxy as it cures.

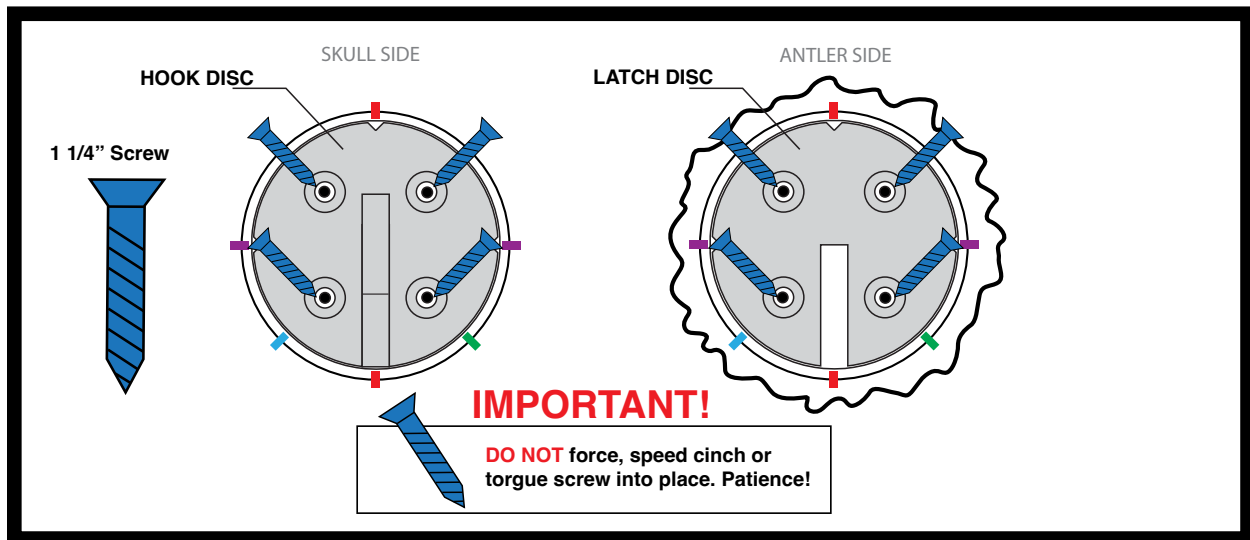
TIP 5: Make sure that the Hook Disc remains flush with cut surface as epoxy is curing. Follow manufacturer's suggested cure time before testing the epoxy hold.

SUCCESS! Congratulations, you have set the Hook Disc into place!

13. ANTLER SIDE – EPOXY AND ANCHOR LATCH DISC INTO PLACE ****CRITICAL STEP**

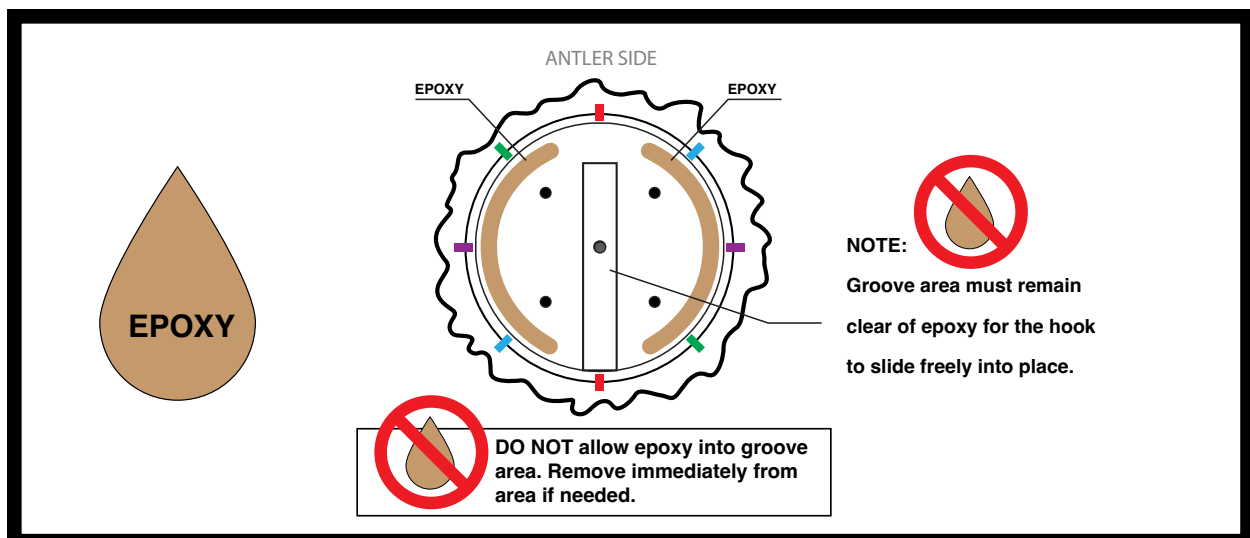
In this step you will be placing epoxy and anchor screwing the Latch Disc into place on the antler side.

CAUTION: Bone is extreme hard. **DO NOT** force any drilling or screwing. Use patience!



Test fit the Latch Disc in the antler recess to check that the disc is uniform and flush with the outer edge of the cut face. Make minor adjustments if needed to ensure that flush face results are achieved.

Once you are confident with the test fit and alignment, remove the Latch Disc. Mix epoxy according to package directions and apply strategically as shown below. Note: the groove is *not* filled with epoxy on the antler side, this is different than on the skull side.



Carefully place the Latch Disc back into place using references marks, making sure to keep the recessed face of the disc facing out so that the screw heads will be flush with the disc.

TIP 1: The screw heads must be flush with or set just below the disc surface so that the Hook Disc and Latch Disc will sit tight against each other.

TIP 2: Backing screws out increases the risk of breaking or twisting screws off. AVOID doing so if at all possible.

TIP 3: Screw slow and steady into this bone. **DO NOT** use extreme force or speed to avoid breaking the screw off in the hole.

TIP 4: If using power tools, be sure to use low speed and lighter torque settings.

TIP 5: Place screws one by one. Do not over tighten.

****If you accidentally twist off or break a screw during installation, immediately remove the Latch Disc from the antler before the epoxy cures. Remove all epoxy and clean all areas the best you can. Do not attempt to continue placing epoxy until you have replaced the broken screw and are ready with all materials to start again.

SUCCESS! Congratulations, you have set the Latch Disc into place!

After allowing the epoxy appropriate time to cure (approx. 2+hrs recommended, follow manufacturer's instructions) test the results. The antler side Latch Disc should slide freely over and down onto the skull side Hook Disc. This slide action should be smooth. If it is not, observe facing areas for obstructions, pressure points or raised areas that may not allow for smooth connection.

Thank you for taking the time to successfully install and use this amazing product. We hope you'll find it increasingly easy to utilize for all your Moose mounts. Enjoy!

- Team Naked Buck Head



Visit us at

www.nakedbuckhead.com