



# Tombstone Gun Grips

www.TombstoneGrips.com  
Dave@TombstoneGrips.com

PO Box 2171  
White City, OR 97503 USA

Thank you for your Tombstone Grip kit order! As described on the website, Tombstone Grip Kits are made of high strength temperature and UV resistant polyurethane prepared individually for your order to simulate more fragile natural materials, such as natural ivory, pearl, aged ivory, amber, opal, walnut burl and every color of the rainbow in either an opaque or a translucent effect. Your pencil tracing of your old grips gives the proper hole location and shape, and the grips are made slightly larger so you can fit them exactly as described in the accompanying instructions.

The natural ivory can simulate the subtle shading bands and grain of elephant tusks, rather than the more common “white kitchen appliance” appearance often seen in low cost injection molded thermoplastic grips. Since Tombstone grips are made using a two-part epoxy liquid mix in open-top molds, each grip starts as two liquid components, which are processed individually in a high vacuum chamber after adding your specific colorants and special effect materials such as atomized pearl, silver, gold dust, platinum or bronze, copper or titanium oxide (over 100 special additives are available for special simulation effects).

The vacuum chamber causes the liquids to “boil” at room temperature, expanding to more than twice their original volume (from 2 to 4 ounces of liquid per grip set) as the entrapped air is released and sucked out by the vacuum pump. After several minutes in the chamber, the two liquid reactants are removed and quickly mixed, then poured into the open top silicone rubber mold for your specific shape of gun grip. The two components chemically react within 15 seconds and change color as they become solid. After another 10 minutes in the mold at room temperature, the grips are firm enough to be removed (“de-molded”) and placed in a heat treatment oven for 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the particular formulation used. Translucent effects like pearls, opals, and burls require longer time to finish tempering and cross linking of the polymer chains than solid colors, which is part of the reason that the “pearl effects” are slightly higher cost due to the extra power consumption.

The grips are then finished flat on the back sides to prepare them for fitting to your gun, and as much of the grooves or relief areas as can be removed without your gun present are milled or ground away so you have a little less to do for a perfect fit. Mold flashing is removed from the edges, but the grip is left as large as practical to give you enough material for sanding to exactly match your particular gun frame. This makes the grip kits more likely to be an exact fit to your gun when you finish the edges with a fingernail sanding board (obtain at any cosmetics counter or drug store). The best choice for finishing is a “foam core” two-sided board, which has a medium and a fine grade of abrasive, one per side. The medium can be used for fitting to the gun shape, and the fine side to restore surface finish and remove any sanding marks.

Smooth grips are easier to maintain than checkered ones, because you can sand dings and scuff marks lightly to restore the smooth surface. Checkered grips can be restored but require checkering tools to recut the grooves and restore points by making the checkering deeper. For hard use, Cowboy Action shooting, and general purpose carry, a smooth grip has this advantage. The material is easy to sand, drill, carve, or saw, so that even quite oversized grips (generic shape), or blanks can be turned into an exact fit with a minimum amount of tooling. Rotary drum sanders and cylindrical bits in a “Dremmel” or similar hand tool can do a lot of the bulk removal and relief work where required. The grips take a nice buffed finish. Car wax or even a coat of clear laquer can be used to apply a high gloss finish.

For more details about the grips, fit and finish techniques, see [www.TombstoneGrips.com](http://www.TombstoneGrips.com) website. Click on the topic buttons to see how others have finished their grips, and to see pictures of customer-fitted guns and grips.