

Rawlings Heart of the Hide Ready to Go

Rawlings Heart of The Hide Baseball Glove User Manual

MODEL: HEART OF THE HIDE READY TO GO

Brand: Rawlings

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the user manual for your new Rawlings Heart of The Hide Baseball Glove. This premium glove is crafted from the top 5% of steerhides, offering unmatched durability and performance for serious players. Since its introduction in the 1950s, the Heart of the Hide series has been a symbol of excellence, trusted by professional and amateur players alike. This manual will guide you through the essential steps for setting up, breaking in, maintaining, and troubleshooting your glove to ensure its longevity and optimal performance on the field.

SETUP AND INITIAL INSPECTION

Upon receiving your Rawlings Heart of The Hide glove, it is important to perform an initial inspection to ensure everything is in order. Your glove is designed for immediate use, but proper initial handling will set the stage for its long-term performance.

- **Unboxing:** Carefully remove the glove from its packaging.
- **Visual Check:** Inspect the leather for any visible imperfections or damage. Ensure all lacing is secure and intact.
- **Fit:** Try on the glove. The Rawlings Heart of The Hide glove is designed for a snug fit that will mold to your hand over time. This specific model is an 11.5" infield glove with a Right Hand Throw orientation, meaning it is worn on the left hand for a right-handed thrower.



Figure 1: Front view of the Rawlings Heart of The Hide Baseball Glove, showcasing its classic tan color and H-web design.

OPERATING: THE BREAK-IN PROCESS

Breaking in your new Rawlings Heart of The Hide glove is a critical step to achieve optimal performance and comfort. While these gloves are designed to be 'Ready to Go', a personalized break-in will enhance its pocket formation and responsiveness.

Why Break-in is Important:

A new glove is stiff. Breaking it in softens the leather and creates a custom pocket that perfectly fits your hand and catching style, allowing for quicker transfers and more secure catches.

Recommended Break-in Methods:

1. **Playing Catch:** The most natural and effective method. Regularly playing catch with a baseball will gradually soften the leather and form the pocket. Focus on catching the ball in the desired pocket area.
2. **Mallet and Ball:** Use a glove mallet to repeatedly strike the pocket area where you want the ball to settle. This helps to soften the leather fibers and create a deep, consistent pocket. Place a baseball in the pocket while malleting to simulate catching.
3. **Glove Conditioner/Oil (Use Sparingly):** A small amount of high-quality glove conditioner or oil can help soften the leather. Apply a thin layer with a cloth, focusing on the palm and hinge areas. Avoid over-oiling, as this can make the glove too heavy or compromise its structure. Always use products specifically designed for baseball gloves.



Figure 2: Inside view of the glove, showing the palm and the 'Heart of the Hide' stamp, which is the primary area for break-in.



Figure 3: Side view illustrating the web and lacing, key areas that also soften during the break-in process.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Proper maintenance is crucial for extending the life and preserving the performance of your Rawlings Heart of The Hide glove. Regular care will keep the premium steerhide leather supple and durable.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, especially in dusty or wet conditions, wipe down your glove with a clean, damp cloth to remove dirt and moisture. Avoid harsh chemicals or detergents.
- **Conditioning:** Periodically (e.g., every few months, or as needed based on usage), apply a small amount of high-quality glove conditioner. This replenishes the natural oils in the leather, preventing it from drying out and cracking. Apply with a soft cloth and rub it in evenly.
- **Drying:** If your glove gets wet, allow it to air dry naturally at room temperature. Do not use direct heat sources like radiators or hair dryers, as this can cause the leather to crack and stiffen. Stuff the glove with newspaper to help it retain its shape while drying.
- **Storage:** Store your glove in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. To help maintain its shape, place a baseball in the pocket and wrap the glove with a rubber band or string.



Figure 4: Back view of the glove, showing the wrist strap and lacing, which also benefit from regular cleaning and conditioning.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues you might encounter with your baseball glove and how to address them:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Glove feels too stiff	Insufficient break-in; new leather.	Continue playing catch, use a mallet, or apply a small amount of glove conditioner.
Leather appears dry or cracked	Lack of conditioning; exposure to extreme conditions.	Apply a quality glove conditioner. Store properly.
Laces are loose or broken	Normal wear and tear; impact.	Tighten loose laces. Replace broken laces with new glove lacing. Professional re-lacing may be required for extensive damage.
Glove has an odor	Moisture and bacteria buildup.	Ensure glove is thoroughly dried after use. Air out the glove. Consider using a glove deodorizer.

SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed specifications for your Rawlings Heart of The Hide Baseball Glove:

- **Model Name:** Heart of the Hide Ready to Go
- **Size:** 11.5" | Infield
- **Hand Orientation:** Right Hand Throw (worn on left hand)
- **Color:** Classic Tan | H Web
- **Material:** Premium Steerhide Leather
- **Glove Type:** Utility / Infielder's Mitt
- **Lining Description:** Leather
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 2 Pounds
- **Year:** 2024
- **UPC:** 860011758501



Figure 5: Top view of the glove, highlighting the finger stalls and lacing pattern.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Your Rawlings Heart of The Hide Baseball Glove comes with a **1 Year Manufacturer Warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. For specific details regarding warranty claims or to initiate a claim, please refer to the official Rawlings website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty validation.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, product inquiries, or to explore other Rawlings products, please use the following resources:

- **Rawlings Official Store:** Visit the [Rawlings Store on Amazon](#) for product information and customer service.
- **General Inquiries:** For questions not covered in this manual, please contact Rawlings customer support through their official website.