

Tattooing Instructions for livestock (ear application)

1. Clean the inside of the ear with alcohol. Remove any hair. When tattooing piglets, clean outside of the ear as this is where the tattoo will be placed.
2. Flip open the lever lock bar. Insert the dies in the forceps and close the lock bar. Check that the tattoo is correct on a piece of cardboard or similar material.
3. Beginners should place a rubber ear release stripper over the tattoo dies and close forceps. Place a second stripper over the first stripper. The pins should be seen through the rubber stripper material. This material acts as a spacer and helps prevent the ear from remaining stuck on the needles.
4. Shake fluid ink to ensure even concentration of pigment. Smear paste or fluid ink on ear where the tattoo is to be placed-using the thumb or convenient roll on dispenser. When tattooing pigs, ink is placed on the outside of the ear.
5. Close forceps and pierce ear through the ink with a quick, firm motion. Open forceps immediately.
6. If using liquid ink, reapply over existing ink.
 - 6a. Run ink into the tattoo holes with thumb on inked surface against forefinger on the non-inked side of the ear. **THIS STEP IS IMPORTANT!** If there is bleeding, continue rubbing ink into holes. (Ketchum tattoo ink has antiseptic and healing properties which will help check bleeding)
7. DO NOT remove excess ink. It will wear away by itself.
8. Clean and dry tattooer and dies after each use. Liquid dish detergent in water and a soft brush work very well for cleaning tattooer. DO NOT use harsh solvents. A hair dryer works well for drying. Store equipment in a dry location.