

Laboratory Animal Microtattoo System

Instruction Manual

Item # 24201-00

Intended Use

The Laboratory Animal Microtattoo System is a quick, efficient, and affordable method of permanently identifying laboratory animals, particularly mice and rats as early as one day old.

Designed and tested by laboratory animal technicians, the system utilizes a hypodermic needle at one end of a stainless steel forcep and a small metal cup containing the green tattoo paste on the opposite forcep. By squeezing the forceps together, the needle penetrates the toe/foot pad, ear or tail of the animal; a small identifying mark is created.

A convenient magnifier is attached to the instrument to assist with injecting the tattoo paste clearly and accurately.

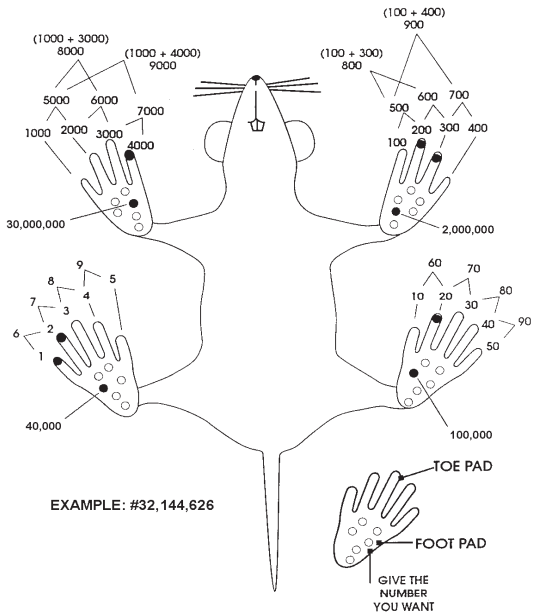
Required Materials

- Microtattoo instrument
- Green tattoo paste (can be sterilized by autoclave)
- Sterile hypodermic needle
26 ½ gauge
- Aluminum ink planchette
- Alcohol (for sterilization) *not included

Tattoo Chart

The chart on the next page demonstrates millions of number combinations. This method allows for rapid identification of an almost infinite number of animals. Before starting, determine the grid location pattern to be used, then follow the numbered directions.

Tattoo Chart



Directions

1. Place a small amount of green tattoo paste on the aluminum planchette.
2. Sterilize the hypodermic needle with alcohol.
3. Dip the reservoir end of the instrument in the green tattoo paste and fill the reservoir.
4. Squeeze the instrument ends together so that the needle goes into the reservoir and acquires some paste.
5. Immobilize the animal according to your normal method.
6. Squeeze instrument ends together so that the needle completely penetrates the toe pad, foot pad, ear or tail of the animal. Tattoo paste will be deposited in the area penetrated by the needle.
7. After use, the instrument should be thoroughly cleaned with warm water and soap.

*** Alternate method to fill reservoir:**

Instead of directly filling the reservoir, you can use a modified pipette tip, by cutting the smaller end of a standard pipette tip to snugly fit into the reservoir. Fill the modified pipette tip with green tattoo paste directly from the tube or with a syringe and screw it into the reservoir opening. You can fill more than one pipette tip in advance, and replace them as needed avoiding the need to clean the tool constantly when working with large numbers of animals.



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