

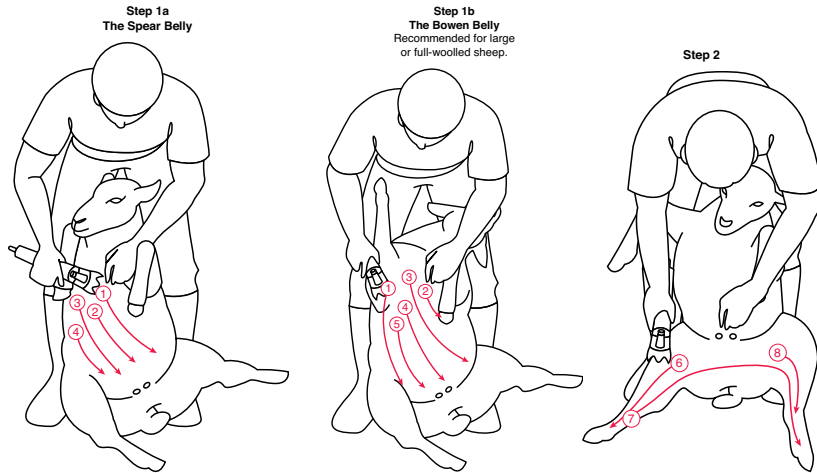
Shearing Instructions



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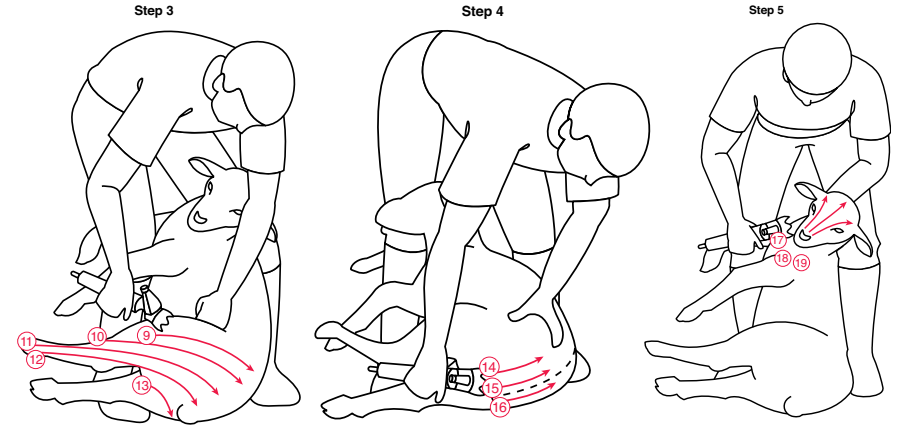
Six Key Points of Good Shearing

- 1. Control of the sheep**—get right down over the sheep and “become part of it.”
- 2. Positive hand**—know exactly where the handpiece has to go; don’t poke, be positive with all blows.
- 3. Good wrist**—must be flexible and supple to ensure comb points stay on the skin.
- 4. Return action**—must be fast, close to the sheep and taken no further back than the start of the next blow; wasted inches are wasted effort.
- 5. Left hand**—use it confidently to prepare the way for the handpiece.
- 6. Rhythm and timing**—develop a rhythm so the shearing of each section runs smoothly into the next.



- 1.** Support sheep firmly between your knees. Rest sheep’s foreleg on your left side to tighten skin on belly. Make first stroke of the handpiece straight down on right side of brisket to the open flank area. Make the second stroke on the left side of brisket down under left front leg. Follow strokes three and four to the left flank area.
- 2.** Blow 7 may have to be repeated to ensure a clean crutch. Be careful to avoid cutting teats which should be covered with the fingers.

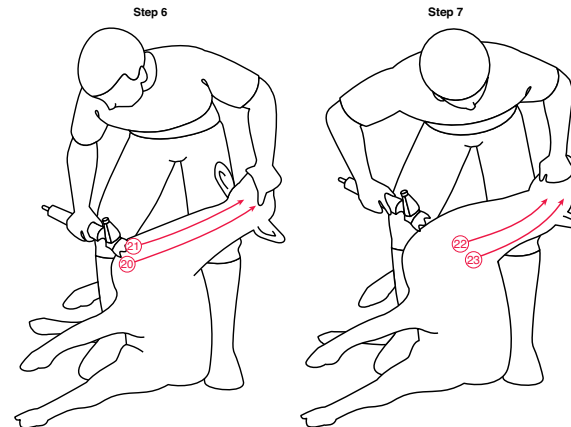
Note: That sheep’s left front leg is held by shearer’s left wrist, leaving his hand free to tighten skin on the belly area.



- 3.** Blow 10, 11 and 12 must finish in line on the near side of the backbone. Your right knee should be in front of the brisket and your foot should move back. First stroke out inside of right back leg. Second stroke starts on the toe and goes up and back around the udder.
- 4.** Using left hand apply pressure to the left stifle joint to make sheep hold leg straight out. Note right front leg of sheep has dropped between shearer’s legs. Also shearer should move his right leg back a few inches to help turn sheep. Drop wrist to position the comb to enter wool on top of tail and shear forward along backbone cleaning all wool from tail.

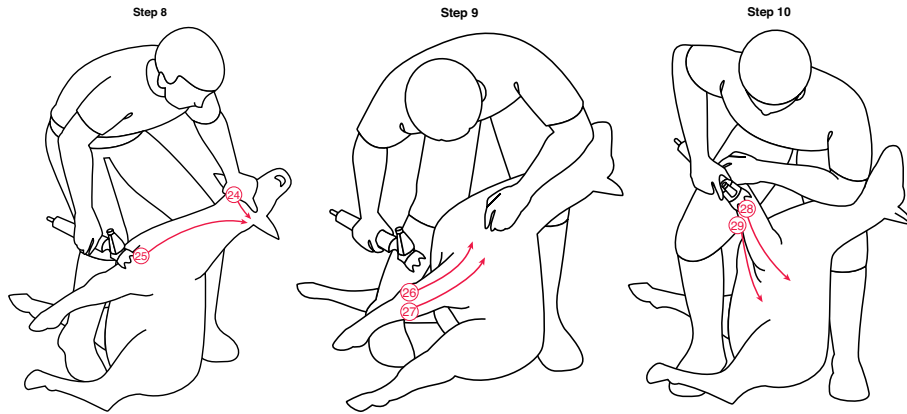
Note: Backbone shown as—
On all sheep one full comb must be shorn over the backbone as in blow 15.
An extra blow (16) will be needed for long wools.

- 5.** Keep comb points on the skin until they reach the base of the ears. Now move your left foot through first and bring your right foot between the sheep’s hind legs.

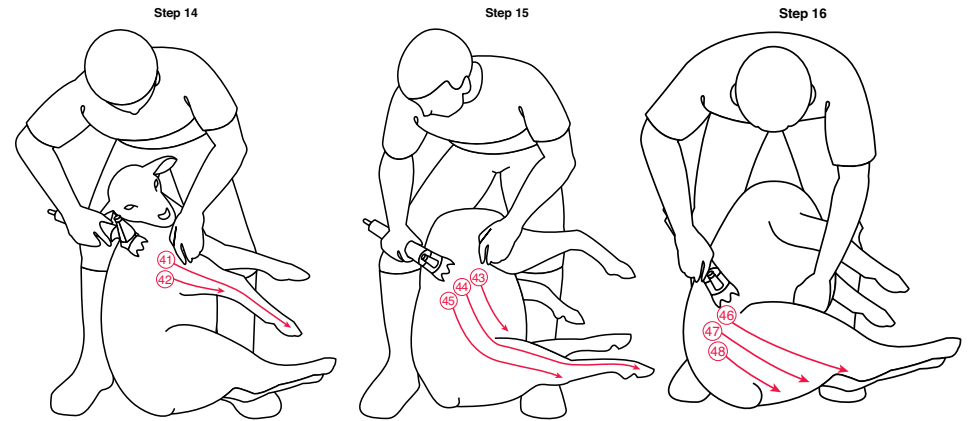


- 6.** Stretch the head back with your left hand to allow blow 21 to finish under the jaw. Left foot close to sheep’s hip, right foot in crotch between legs.
- 7.** Turn sheep’s head so the nose is up and the right side against leg. Hold body firmly between knees. Left hand is shifted toward nose as strokes are completed along jaw.

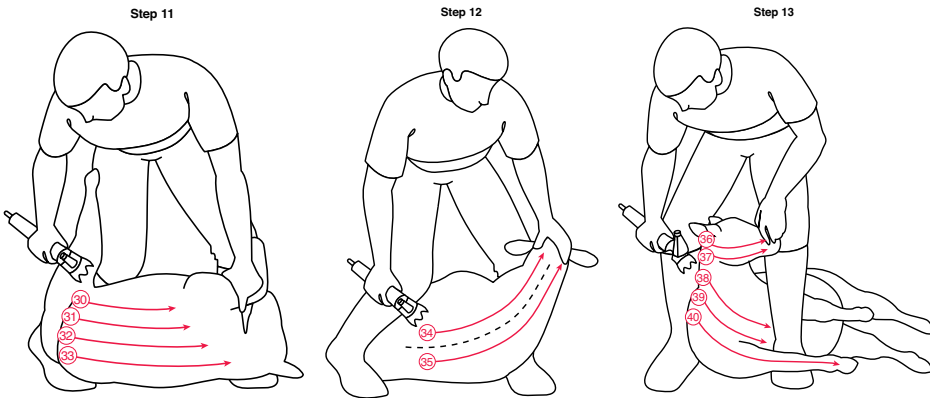
Note: The forward position of the left foot.



8. Blow 24 should clear to the far ear. On very woolly sheep, blow 23 continues over near the eye and nose (see inset). Roll the sheep's head around your knee.
9. Press your right knee into the sheep's brisket to gain greater control. Tuck your right foot into the tail. Use left hand to stretch skin on shoulder, start stroke at knee shearing upward to clean tags on front of shoulder.
10. Blow 29 clears the inside of the leg.



14. Keep the shoulder well bowed out with your knees.
15. These blows are angled to cross the wrinkles. Straighten your legs. Push down on point of shoulder with palm of hand. At the same time pull skin up with finger to clean tags under front leg. On final stroke turn handpiece under front leg and shear to toe.
16. The final step is to close your fingers on the loose flank skin and roll your fist on to the firm part of the leg. Using a full comb, make remaining strokes at same angle to toe. With sheep in position, hold skin of right flank in left and apply pressure to stifle joint. Caution: slide comb at angle around ham string to avoid accidental cutting. Hold sheep's head between left arm and right leg moving left foot back so sheep settles down on its side and moving right foot forward to allow more reach for last strokes. Left foot keeps sheep's shoulder and feet off floor.



11. Bend low over the sheep and keep your right shoulder well down. Lay sheep on its back, keep right foot between sheep's hind legs, left foot under right shoulder as shown, force left foreleg toward sheep's head to stretch skin on side.
12. Blows 34 and 35 must be parallel to the backbone. Lean back on your left leg. On reaching backbone make sure sheep tail is behind your right foot. Your left leg is under sheep's shoulder, with your left foot across sheep to give leverage. Apply downward pressure to sheep's head with your left hand to "roll" sheep up. Shear two strokes over backbone to save time on "last side." Avoid standing on or tearing fleece when swinging right leg out to shear "last side."
13. Control the head with your knees using your fingers under the jaw to bring the sheep up. After clearing wool from ear and face, shear straight down to point of shoulder, using left hand to straighten wrinkles. Allow sheep's right foreleg to come forward after the second blow.

Key Points to Eliminate Second Cuts

1. Keep bottom tooth on the skin.
2. Start and finish each blow on the skin.
3. Shear in position.
4. Shear to a pattern.

Shearing Pattern

