**Instructions for Inserting Tags**

1. Use the gray ring for applying the ear tags properly. The gray ring is attached to the metal leading pin. If the gray ring has come off, press the ring until it snaps on the metal leading pin (see photo A.). Slip the male tag securely over the metal leading pin.

**MiniTags**

Press the white clamp (see photo B. on the back of these instructions) up and then slide the female part of the tag under the metal fork, so that the external collar of the female tag is located in the open part of the jaw.

**DNA tags**

Press the white clamp up and then down/back (see photo C. on the back of these instructions) and then insert the white tube, which is attached to the female tag, under the metal fork, so that the external collar of the female tag is located in the open part of the jaw.

2. The point on the male tag and the hole on the female tag should line up. Place the ear between the jaws of the applicator. Make sure the tag is correctly placed as shown below.

3. While gripping the ear, quickly and firmly squeeze the handles together until the male tag is inserted through the ear and through the female side of the tag.

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**Placing is critical to success!**

Tags, especially tags for sheep, must be installed no more than 2 inches from the skull and near the center of the ear. The opposite extreme (installing too far from the skull) will result in more lost tags as the tissue on the tip of the ear is tender and tears easily.

Be careful to avoid the large vein (shown above in the drawing).

**Inserting Tags in Cold Weather**

Plastic tags (all brands) are much easier to install if they are warm. Why? As the temperature drops below freezing plastic becomes less flexible (more stiff) and forcing the male point of a tag through the female takes many more lbs. of pressure (because the female must expand).

So if you care about your hands it's a good idea to keep the tags above freezing in very cold weather. It takes very little to do this. One method is to simply store them while tagging in a small bucket, cardboard box or tool box with a lid alongside a sealed pop bottle full of warm water. The warm water will keep both the air and the tags warmer in the container. 

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**Premier Tags**

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