EquaTaTwo Instructions

The EquaTaTwo comes with a cap that protects it during shipping or when you go to a show. It goes over the unit tube and all. Just pop the cap off to use the EquaTaTwo. It’s easy to replace it after cleaning. Be sure that the needle is in the down position before putting the cap back on.

 Be sure to have enough ink in the well so that you are not hitting the bottom of the well with the needle.

That can damage your needle more quickly. You want to rest the edge of the EquaTaTwo on the lip of the well. Turn the motor on and then dip the tube into the ink cup, holding it there for at least five (5) seconds. Holding it in the ink that long will allow the tube to fill up with ink. The needle moves in and out and pulls the ink into the tube so that when you start tattooing you can get up to 8 characters from one dipping. This is the one step that takes the longest amount of time, but it’s well worth it. You can refill between bunnies if you use long numbers. Place your fingers on the EquaTaTwo as close to the tube as you can get. This will give you more control over your printing. Don’t worry about where the on switch is; turn the motor around until you’re comfortable. You can lay the EquaTaTwo down on the table while you’re grabbing the next bunny and it will continue running.

The tube that the needle moves in is stopped by the first layer of skin due to it being blunt. The needle penetrates approximately 1/16 of an inch into the second layer of skin. Then once the tube is pressed up against the skin, the tattoo pen is slowly moved over the skin. The ink is pushed into the second layer of skin, the needle is moving in and out of the tube grabbing a drop of every time. If you draw the line too quickly you’ll end up with a dotted line. That alerts you to slow down a little bit so that the needle can push the ink into the skin smoothly. Don’t get fancy the judges must be able to read them.

Wipe the ear with a clean cloth prior to tattooing. I also place a thin layer of Vaseline into the ear. This helps keep things neat so that you can wipe the ear to see how your tattoo looks and retouch as needed. Start your tattoo deep in the ear. There are many different ways to hold the rabbit for tattooing and practice will let you find the way that works best for you. The best age to tattoo your young rabbits is after 8 to 10 weeks of age. The ears have developed enough so that they are not just little stubs. You’ve hopefully handled them enough so that they are used to being picked up and played with and they won’t be freaking out due to being scared of you. Roll the ear over your pointer finger of the hand that is not holding the EquaTaTwo. If you’re a right handed person, bend your left handed finger and with your thumb and middle finger, hold the ear on both sides. It takes some practice so don’t give up immediately. Does the tattoo show up well enough? You can go over it again if the tattoo needs some touch up. When done, wipe some Lanacane onto the tattoo, Lanacane is a topical pain reliever that eases any discomfort the animal may feel. Do not use alcohol or vanodine at this point. That can possibly wash some of the ink out of the ear.

You need to clean your EquaTaTwo at the end of the day when you’re done with all tattoos. There are many ways to clean your EquaTaTwo. The easiest I have found is to simply dip the tip into a vial of rubbing alcohol and run the unit until it drips no ink. As the needle wears, the tips will spread a little bit, that’s OK, you’ll just get a slightly wider line. You should be able to feel when the needle dulls. It will start to not flow as smoothly and you’ll have to slow down. This should not happen until you’re way past 100 ears. If the needle gets damaged or does eventually wear out, here are the instructions for removing it and replacing it. Take the head and remove the tube from the black portion by loosening the set screw with the included wrench. You will not want to remove the black portion by loosening the set screw that is inside the recessed hole nearest the motor. Grasp the rubber tube either with your fingers or small pliers. Pull straight up. The needle and rubber tube come out together in an ideal situation. Be careful not to poke yourself and dispose of the needle responsibly. Install the needle bypushing the rubber tube down over the post in the motor. Press firmly on the rubber part of the needle to get it seated onto the post inside the motor. The needle wiggles so can be pushed out of the way to press firmly with your finger. The post will possibly move down, that’s OK, just be sure to get that needle all the way onto the post. Reinstall the black portion being careful not to stick yourself with the needle (this is a snug fit and will push on with a small amount of effort). Then you will want to place the tube onto the needle. I have found it seems to work easier if you wiggle the tattoo pen and let the needle center itself and slide into the tube. Tighten all the set screws and you are ready to start tattooing again. Turn the EquaTaTwo on to see if the needle is the correct length. If the new needle is not showing out of the tube, loosen the set screw on the side of the head and move the tube up or down. At the top on the upstroke the needle should show 1/16 of an inch. Move the tube just a tiny bit at a time, running the motor between each setting.

Don’t forget to clean out your little inkwell. When putting the EquaTaTwo away, make sure all is dry and the needle is in the down position, you can’t see it when looking at the tube and put the cap back on the end for protection. Then put it into the pouch. It will be ready for you next time.

Changing the Batteries is very easy—2 AA, very common— mine have lasted up to three months with a lot of use.

The batteries that come with the motor are from the manufacturer and may not last very long depending on how long they have sat on the shelf. We just ship them as they come to us, we don’t guarantee them.