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Specialists in Animal Radio Monitoring

Instructions for the use of Biotrack Radio tags

Starting Tags

Tags with integral reed switches

These are started by removing a magnet taped to one side. The tag is turned off again by replacing the magnet. You should listen to the signal from the tag as you replace the magnet, to ensure that it is positioned correctly. **If tags are to be stored together, beware that magnets in close proximity can cancel each other's field and the tags will be switched on.**

Tags with two bare wires or solder pads.

To connect, start-up wires will first need bending together so that they lay side by side and are very close or touching. Hold fine solder wire (supplied) against the wires or pads and apply a hot soldering iron. The solder will melt and flow evenly over the surfaces. The flux inside the solder wire, which burns off and produces smoke as the solder melts, will ensure that a sound joint is made. After soldering, cover the joint and surrounding area with a 1-2 mm layer of resin. The most appropriate material will be supplied with the tags. These compounds are touch-dry in 5-15 minutes, depending on temperature. The compound supplied will be one of the following :-

Plastidip: Put on neat and wait to dry before applying a second coat if necessary.

Dental Acrylic: Mix 2 parts powder to 1 part liquid and stir well so that you have a smooth paste. Wait for a few minutes for the mixture to start to thicken. Beware – this reaction is exothermic and a large quantity of acrylic will get very hot. Small quantities, as mixed for covering start-up wires, will cool quickly enough not to be a problem.

Brass loop collars

These tags must be started in the same way as other Biotrack tags. However, they do not transmit at full power until the collar is connected, and a tag with an open collar consumes about 50% less power from the battery.