

Available Tagging Products

www.beeworks.com

Queen Marking Kits

Contents: 500 numbered coloured tags, 1 applicator, 1 pot of glue

Cost \$26.25

Maximum number of creatures sampled: 500

www.biomark.com

Mostly aimed at fish, this website sports a wide variety of products associated with RFID tagging which fall roughly into the following categories:

- RFID bulk tags – simplest version of tags coming in several sizes
- Individual preloaded tags – a small needle containing a tag used to inject the tag, the needle is discarded after use
- Tray preloaded tags – a square plastic tray usually containing 100 preloaded needles that each inject a tag, used for mass tagging an area of tissue
- Syringe implanters - used to inject bulk tags into tissue
- Needles – for the syringe implanters
- Rapid Implant Gun – a more effective and no doubt more expensive version of the syringes
- Readers – gadgets that can detect tags using their built in detector and store up to a few thousand tag details
- Pocket readers – smaller, less effective versions of the larger readers that are more portable, suffer from lower memory also
- Antenna – a variety of types, these are the detectors used for this tag
- Pass through antenna – large square or circular antenna that detect tagged individuals passing through them
- Flat antenna – a large plate antenna that can detect individuals passing over it
- Various accessories

www.trovan.com

Another RFID tagging specialist. This company seems a little less focused on species than biomark and has a very similar product range

- RFID tags
- Portable readers
- A wide variety of antenna – includes pass through antenna, pass by antenna, flat antenna and simple antenna
- Both syringe and gun implanters

Basically, other than aesthetic differences, the companies provide almost identical products in an almost identical product range

www.nmt.us

A well-established company that provides decimal coded wire tagging primarily for fish tagging. They provide a fairly comprehensive range for their tag type

- Decimal Coded Wire Tags – standard size is a strip 1.1m long but range from 0.5-2.2mm long
- Mark IV tag injector – a box-like structure containing a spool of tags that are cut inserted into a needle and injected into an individual all by the machine
- Handheld multi-shot tag injector – a more portable yet less efficient version of the Mark IV
- Single shot tag injector – ready loaded single use needles that inject tags into the sample individuals, suitable for small scale research as you avoid the high cost of permanent injectors
- Swim by detectors – standard fixed detector
- Handheld wand detector – an easily portable detector resembling a metal wand
- Tunnel detectors – large cylinders that detect tagged fish swimming through them
- Reader equipment used to aid reading the code off removed tags

www.ringco.co.uk

A British company selling a comprehensive range of bird ring tags and accessories. All rings can be bought in quantities of 10, 50, 100 and presumably more. Rings come

- Coloured or uncoloured
- In aluminium or plastic
- Numbered
- In a wide range of sizes to fit all sizes of bird

This website has very detailed price lists available for all customers to see which is unusual as many of the other tagging websites will not give you any indication of price unless you contact them giving them personal information.

www.avianid.co.uk

This company is very similar to ringco and also offers a full price list. The products are essentially the same.

www.porzana.co.uk

Similar to ringco and avian id, but also providing bat rings and penguin bands. This company only offers metal, uncoloured rings/bands for all species.

In conclusion, there is a fair selection of RFID tags, decimal coded wire tags, plastic disc tags and bird ring tags available. As the bee tags and ring tags are for more everyday use, they are cheaper and easier to get hold of. As they are both visible tags they do not need detectors and the applicators used tend to be fairly simple in design. It may be for this reason that companies providing these tags offer price lists.

The other two types are more expensive so not really appropriate for small scale use.

Therefore, these companies usually want some reassurance that you are a serious customer before engaging in business with you.

The number of websites dealing in ring tags is huge and only three were included here. This is because these tags are well established and regularly used worldwide. What makes these tags different from the other three on sale is that they are designed to identify captive animals and are therefore not usually used in research.

It is also fairly difficult to obtain RFID tags in the UK because the major companies are mostly based in the Americas. This may provide a gap in the market for a company wishing to establish itself in Europe.