

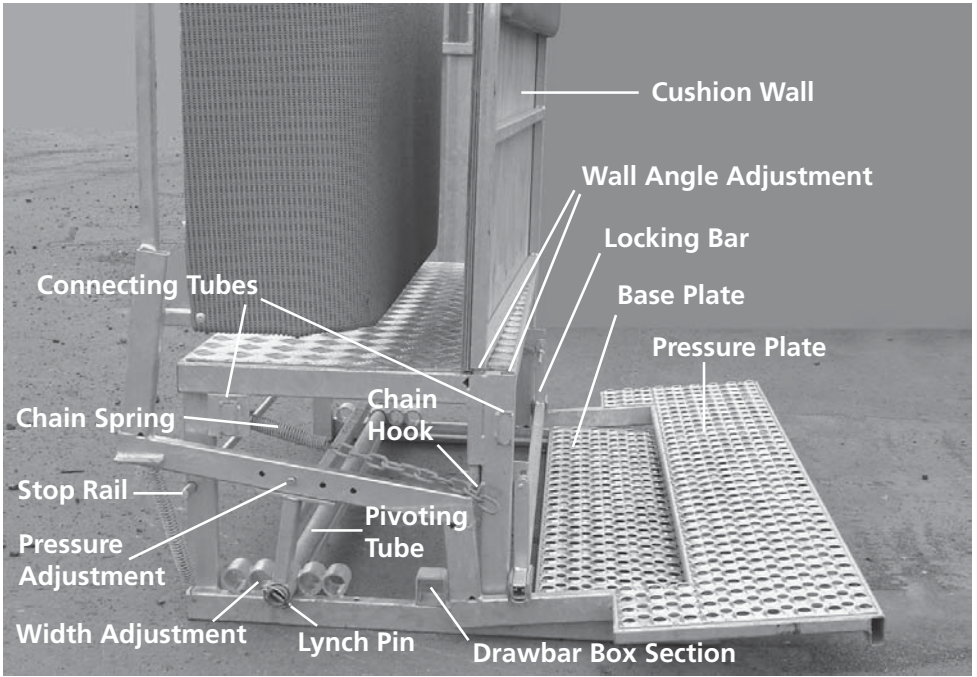


THE ULTIMATE SHEEP HANDLING DEVICE

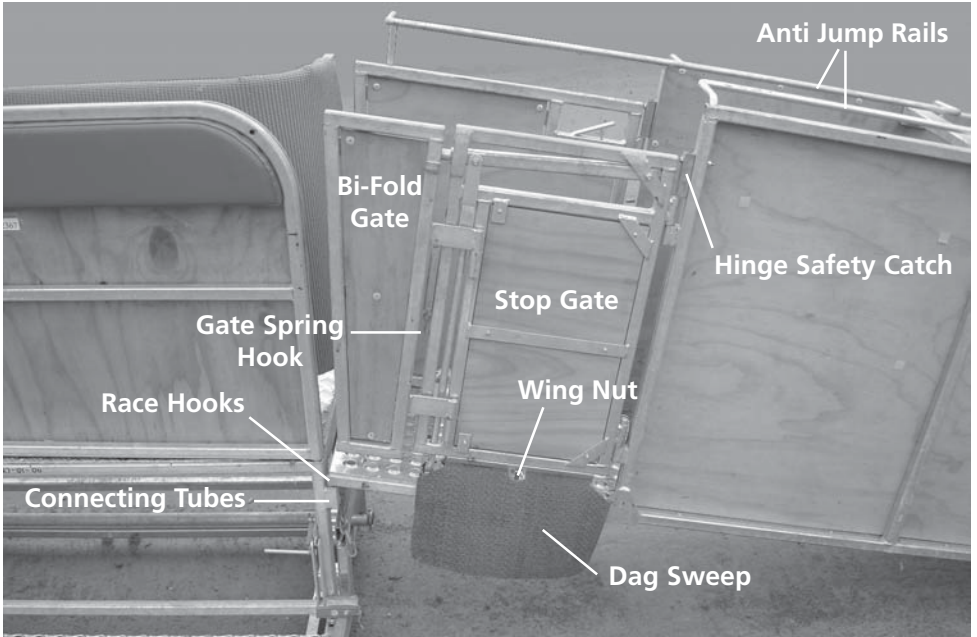
**Instruction Manual
& Operating Guide**

General Overview

Handler Unit



Approach Race



Setting up your Combi Clamp

SAFETY:- Always have an experienced stock person using the CombiClamp and wearing protective footwear.

When moving the Combi Clamp, always lock the Pressure plate down by lowering the Locking Bar.

Weights (unladen)

CombiClamp 150 kgs
Approach Race 90 kgs
3 Way Shedder 62 kgs
Drawbar 10 kgs
Axle 23 kgs
Long Curved Panel 27 kgs

To make the unit lighter, remove the gates from the approach race, and lift the cushion from the CombiClamp.

Where to set up:-

Firstly decide from which direction you want the sheep to enter the Handler from. A right handed dagger would set the Handler up so that the sheep are turning left from the drafting race or forcing pen, into the Handler.

A left handed dagger would set the Combi Clamp up so that sheep are turning right from the drafting race or forcing pen, to enter the Handler. The only time you would use the Handler in the opposite direction is for the drenching.

The first time that you use the Combi Clamp, we recommend that you place it going out the side drafting gate of your race, or if you have someone to chase up for you, it could be placed going straight ahead out of the drafting race.

How to set up:-

Remove the gates off the Handler's approach race, to make it easier to move. Remove the spring on the Bi-fold gate first. Push the spring towards the outside of the gate with

your left hand, then hold it with the right hand while you pull the hook out of the hole with your left hand. Remove the gates by swinging up the hinge safety catches first.

Jam the Approach Race tightly into the gap left by the open, or removed, drafting gate. Slide the Handler around by holding the front edge of the pressure plate. Move it into position lining it up as close to the Approach Race as possible, facing the Handler, stand astride the Approach Race, where the gates are removed. Pick it up by the base and line the Race Hooks up with the Connecting Tubes, on the Handler, if the Handler is not quite lined up, lower one hook into the closed connecting tube, then pull the Handler towards you, to line up the other hook.

If using curved races, place these into the gap left by the open or removed drafting gate, position the approach race at the end of the curves, then attach to the Handler. Join the race to the curves, using the long pins provided. Check the angle of the Handler, ensuring that the sheep entering the Handler will have a clear view of the sheep that have already exited the Handler. This will draw the approaching sheep into the Handler. Reattach the Race gate. (Swing the safety catch out, to clear the top of the hinge, then swing back down again, one gate is swung). The extension wall goes on the far side of the race, the Stop gate on the side closest to you. Attach the Bi-fold gate to the hinges on the outside of the Stop gate.

(if using the Combi-Clamp for dagging or Crutching hoggets or ewes, the Bi-fold gate can be left off. This enables you to dag through the gap without closing the gate for every sheep. You may need it on when dagging lambs as they may escape through the gap).

Leave the gate and Bi-fold gate in an open position. Hook the Bi-fold gate spring into a hole on the edge of the Stop gate by holding the spring with one hand and pulling it out and downward whilst positioning the hook with the other hand.

Position the Anti-jump rails into the holes on top of the approach race. The Anti-jump rails can be placed either in the three holes provided, or you can move the far Anti-jump rail forward one hole, so that it extends over the extension wall to prevent the sheep from jumping out over the side. When vaccinating, or any other procedures where you are working at the front of the Handler, both anti-jump rails can be moved into the forward position.

Replace the cushion wall at an angle, into the slots on the Handler. Make sure that you

have the wall angled narrow at the shoulder end of the sheep, and wider at the back end. This will assist in preventing the sheep from slipping out.

To turn the Handler around, remove the gates on the Approach race, straddle the race and lift it off the Handler. Rotate the Handler around, ensuring the Locking rail is down before moving it.

Reattach the race and the gates, swapping them over from one side to the other. Change the angle of the Cushion wall. Alter the Anti-jump rails if you have one forward.

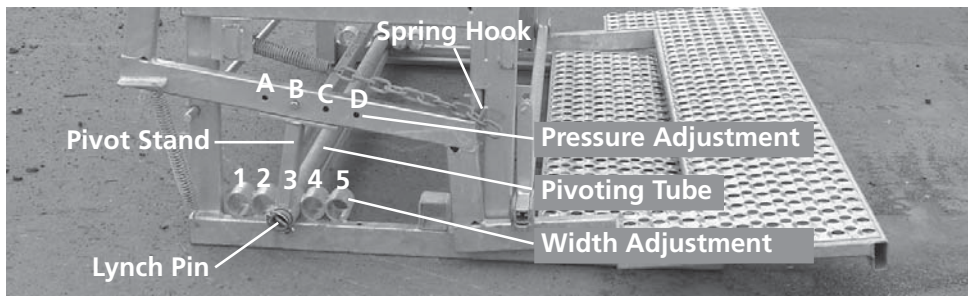
If storing your Combi-Clamp outdoors, please cover when not in use, to prevent the Rubber wall from fading or hardening due to the effects of prolonged exposure to the sun.

Adjusting the Pressure for Sheep size and Operator Weight

Pressure adjustment: Before using your handler, you have to adjust the Pressure Adjustment to suit the body weight of the operator.

The Pressure Adjustment is labelled A, B, C, D.

- A = for operators who are lighter than their ewes.
- B = for operators who weigh the same as their ewes.
- C = for operators who weigh slightly more than their ewes.
- D = for operators who weigh a lot more than their ewes.



(Warning:- only move the pressure plate from the front edge, as stated below, to prevent the risk of hurting your fingers).

Firstly raise the Locking bar to allow the pressure plate to rise. Crouch in front of the pressure plate, and hold it up with your knee, then pull the chain towards you with both hands to disconnect the chain from the chain hook.

Repeat for the other end of the handler. Remove the pin from the pressure adjustment hole at both ends of the handler. Move to the front of the handler and grasp the pressure plate by the front edge, with both hands, and slide the pressure plate arm along to the chosen hole, lining both sides up evenly. Replace pins in the pressure adjustment.

(Replace chain if no Width Adjustment required).

Width Adjustment

After setting the Pressure Adjustment, then adjust the width of the handler to suit the size of the sheep that you are about to work on, the larger the sheep the wider the setting. The width adjustment is trial and error as there are a large range of ewe sizes and wool lengths. The following can be used as a guide.

A light operator would use

A or B 1,2,3 rams to lambs

A heavy operator would use

C or D 3,4,5 rams to lambs

If you need to change the width of the adjustment, remove the Lynch Pin from one end of the Pivoting Tube, (from under the approach race end, if connected to the handler).

Pull the Pivot tube out completely.

Once again grasp the pressure plate from the front edge and slide it either forward or back to line up to the desired tubes on the width adjustment. Slide Pivot Tube back into place, moving the pressure plate from the front edge only, if any minor adjustment is required to line up the tubes. Replace the Lynch Pin. Replace the chain by holding up the pressure plate with your knee, and pulling the chain towards yourself with both hands.

There should be enough tension on the chain spring to allow the Rubber Wall to fully open quickly, but to prevent the wall from bouncing, once in the open position.

Hints:- ideally you should be catching the average sized sheep with the **pressure plate no lower than 3-5 cm's above the Base Plate.**

This allows the pressure plate to travel lower to catch any skinny or smaller sized sheep, and still allow enough pressure to catch fatter and larger sheep.

If the **Pressure Plate is up high and bounces** with you on it holding a sheep in the clamp, you may have the **Width Adjustment too narrow.**

If the **Pressure Plate is touching the base plate**, and the sheep can escape, the **handler is set too wide.**

If the **sheep are able to push their way out** when you have them caught, and the Pressure Plate is not tight down touching the Base Plate, then you will need to **adjust both the width and the pressure** e.g. from B3 to A2.

The Pivot Stand needs to be further away from the Pressure Plate. This will give you more leverage.



Setting up the Scales

1. Set handler up in desired position. Remove gates from race. Standing astride the race, lift race hocks up so that they sit on the top edge of the connecting tubes on the handler.
2. Place the race stand beside the race, with the chain linked in place so that the stand is low enough to slide under. Being careful not to knock race off connecting tubes, position stand under race, as pictured. Adjust chain to the shortest link that will go on with ease. Carefully push race hocks off the top of the connecting tubes, and the stand will support the race. Swing race around while on stand so that it is clear of the handler.



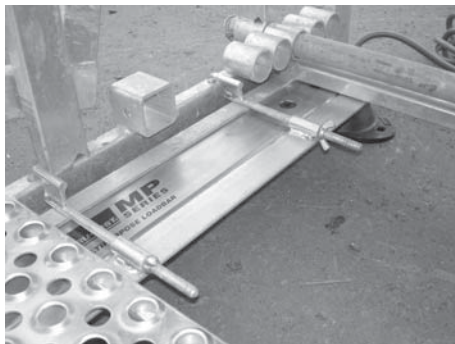
Place stand under race to detach it from the handler

3. With pressure plate locked down, tip handler on it's back, lifting it by the front edge of the pressure plate.



Tip handler onto it's back and place load bars in place.

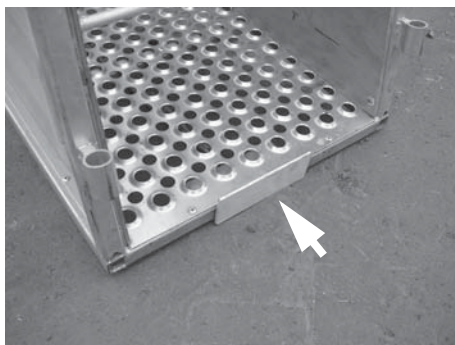
4. Position load bars so that when the handler is lowered again, they will sit against the steel that would normally be touching the ground. Be aware that the load bars need to be under the operator as well as the sheep, to avoid the handler rocking.
5. Fit the load bar holders by slotting the holder hooks into the holes in the bottom of base frame of handler, (see picture). Wind up the wing nuts to clamp the load bars tightly to the handler.



Load bar holders clamp load bars in place.

HINT:- for quick and easy setting up of the scales, bolt the load bars into the correct position on a half sheet of Plywood. You can then slide the ply with scales attached, under the upturned handler.

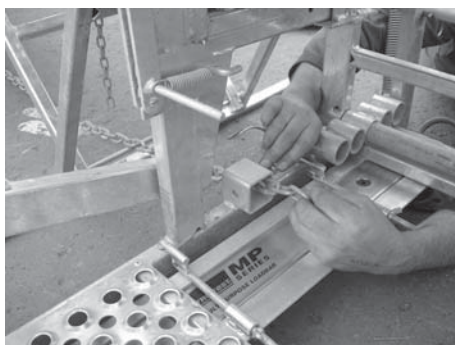
6. Slide the race back into position. Tighten chain to adjust height, making sure race is not in contact with handler, but that there is no gap for the sheep's feet to slip down or get caught.



Position Angle bracket restraint under race. (chain facing inward)

7. For best result, secure the approach race to the yards and have a block or stop in front of the clamp to stop the clamp moving forward while on the load bars. If using the 3-way draft when weighing, it will also need to be positioned on a stand, and secured to the yards or pinned to the ground as well, to prevent it from moving if knocked.

An angle bracket restraint may be positioned (as arrowed) under the approach race with the connecting chain fitted to the handler box section (as picture). Repeat for the 3 way draft if fitted.

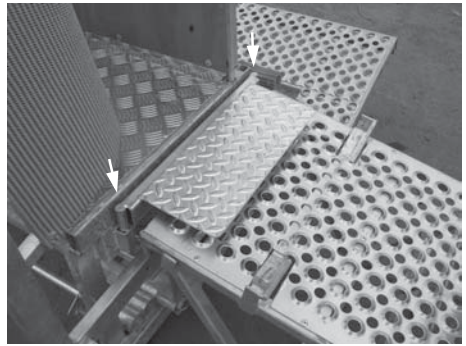


Secure opposite end of chain with lynch pin.

8. Take up gap at top end of race by slotting cover plate into connecting tubes on handler.
Repeat if 3 way draft is fitted.

9. To remove load bars, back the wing nuts off about 20mm to allow the hooks on the load bar fittings to come out of holes, then remove.

10. **To weigh, tare out your own body weight first. Remember to tare out again when changing operator. You can handle the sheep whilst weighing, e.g. reading the ear-tag or condition scoring.**



Slot cover plate into connecting tubes

Trailer Set Up

To set the handler up as a trailer unit, the handler firstly has to be set at a width adjustment and pressure setting that leaves the draw bar box section exposed. (refer to handler picture).

1. Separate the race from the Handler.
2. Lock pressure plate in closed position. Raise handler up to stand on one end. (The end that the sheep will enter from when you next use the Combi-Clamp)
3. Remove "D" pin from draw bar, then lean draw bar against under-side of handler, with handle at the top, being careful that it does not fall.
4. Position axle between square shaped lugs located on each side of the underside of the handler, lining up the box section on the draw bar and handler. (Make sure that the letter 'P' that is welded on the axle, is placed on the pressure plate side of the handler. This is because of the off-set draw bar).

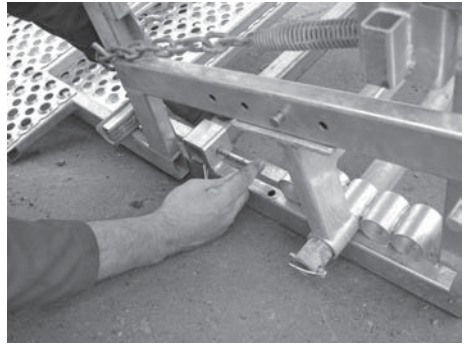


Position axle between square shaped lugs



Lower draw bar down through box section

Rest one knee against the axle to prevent axle from falling out, then raise the tow bar above the handler, with the handle upmost, and lower draw bar down through box section from above the handler, through the axle box section, then handler again, making sure that you have the draw bar facing the right way up. Once draw bar is in position, hold onto the coupling end of draw bar and lower the handler onto it's wheels, being careful that the draw bar does not slide out of the box section. Secure draw bar by placing 'D' pin in through the hole on the far end of the draw bar, and handler box section.



Place 'D' pin through hole

4. Wheel trailer unit to halfway alongside the approach race, with the gate end of the race facing towards you. Leave the draw bar raised above the ground and the far end of the handler resting on the ground. Remove all the gates from the approach race to lessen the weight, lift race by the hocks at front of race, and swing the race over the pressure plate and against the cushion wall, slide the race completely against the wall.



Lift race into position against cushion wall

5. Replace gates with the extension wall against the handler side, and Bi-Fold gate, in a closed position, on the outside of race, lift the anti-jump rails slightly at the gate end of the race, and fit wall brace over the top of walls.

Tie Downs - Using the tie-down fitted with two plastic tubes, hook the long strap onto ring on underside of axle on pressure plate side. Pass the strap around the back of race above the two hinges, positioning the plastic tubing to protect webbing. Hook ratchet end onto top side of axle on the other side of handler. Fit tie down together then adjust



Use tie downs to secure race to handler unit



to take up slack only. (this is to be tightened later).

Repeat for the front tie down fitted with one plastic tube. This is for protecting the webbing as you pass strap through hole at catch end of extension gate. Tighten up both ratchets firmly, but not over tight, as this can bend the race walls. Roll up excess straps and secure.

If you own a Standard Unit, you are ready to go. (this will take 4½ minutes with practice).

If you own a 3 way draft

Rotate pivoting yard hitches on exit end of draft, so when you stand the draft on it's end, you have a flat surface. Wheel trailer unit up to the entry end of draft so when you tip draft end up onto it's end, the exit end of the draft leans on the deck behind the rubber wall of the handler. Being careful if the drafting gates swing, hoist the draft up by the hooks, and slide the end of the draft onto the handler floor, turning it around so the draft fits onto trailer sideways. Leave the draft in an upright position against the rubber wall, lean gates in towards handler, then using third tie down, secure draft in position, passing from hook on one side of axle, through the gates, on the draft, then down to hook on the other side of axle.



Pass tie through gates as shown

Note: Take care when fixing (and releasing) 3rd tie as draft unit may tend to fall forward.

Important:- the Tie-Downs are 1500 kg rated and very strong, so be careful that you don't over tighten them resulting in bent race walls, etc.



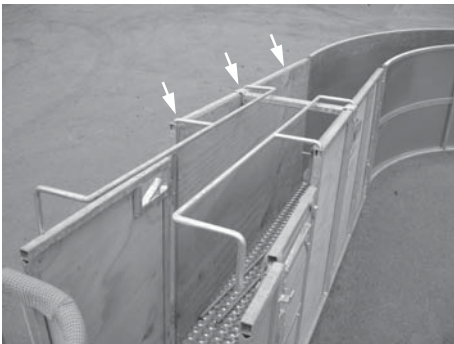
Further adjustments and Options



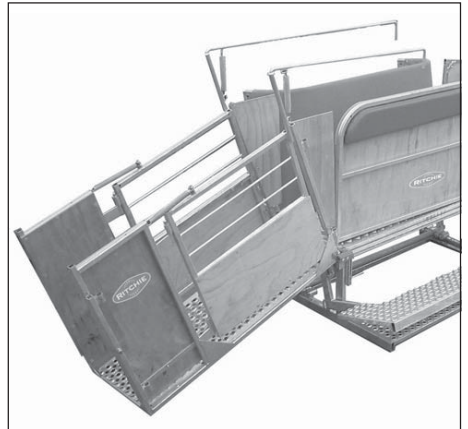
The handler wall angle can be narrowed by using the adjustment either end of the handler (arrowed).



An optional Curved Race can be added if required by fitting joining rods through connecting tubes.



3 holes are provided each side of the race for attachment of Anti jump rails. The rails can be fitted in the forward position using 2 of the 3 holes, as shown, or fitted in the rear position using all of the holes.

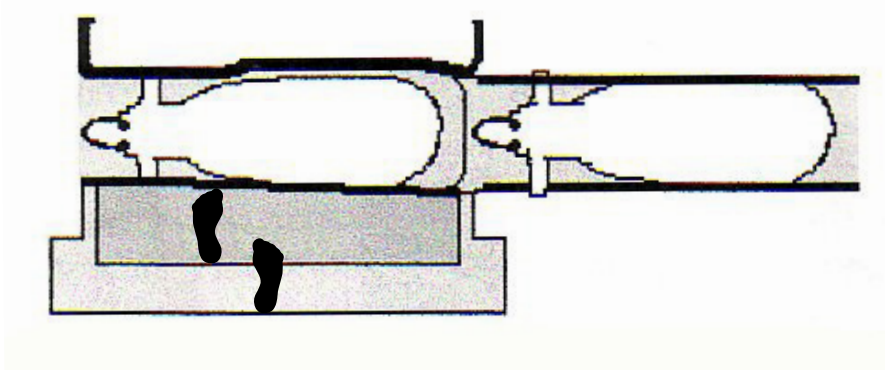


An optional 3 way shedding gate can be fitted to the connecting tubes on the handler if required.



Foot Positions for Operation

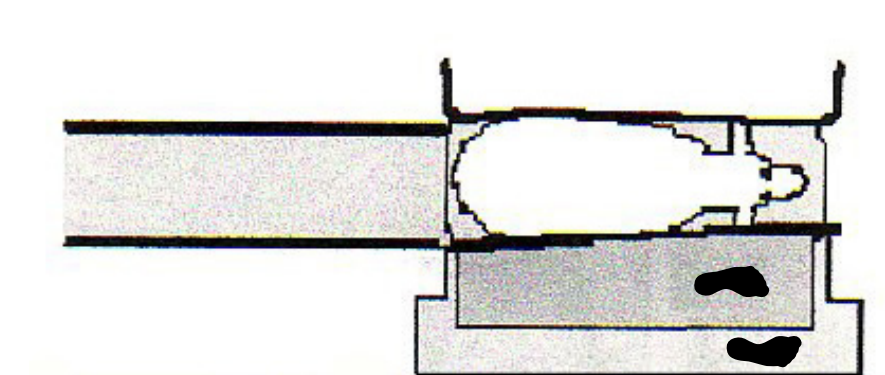
Caution:- Always use solid protective footwear when using your CombiClamp. Avoid placing toes under the edge of the pressure plate when closing.



Weighing (with sheep entering from either direction)

Vaccinating (Right handed)

Alternate your leg position to prevent your legs from tiring.

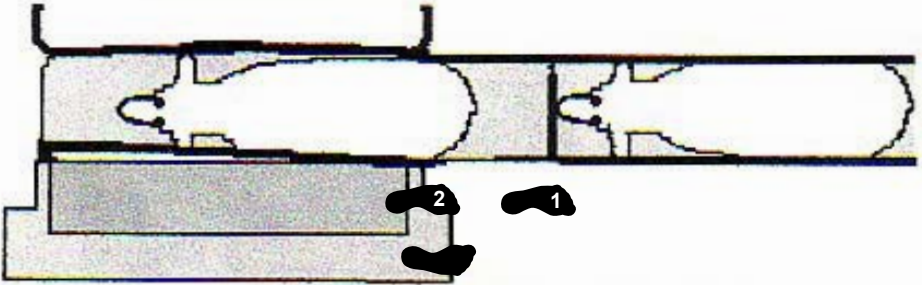


Drenching and Mousing (Right handed)

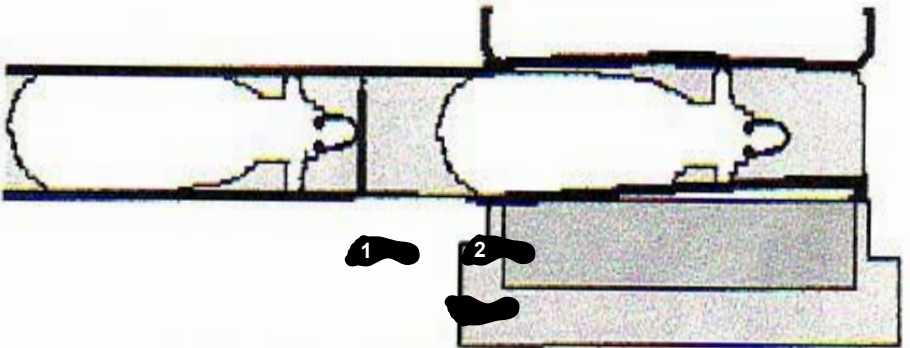
Mousing can also be done from the left hand side of the sheep, as per Vaccinating position.

*(Easier and faster drenching method shown on page 15).





Dagging or Crutching (Right handed)
Bi-fold gate removed



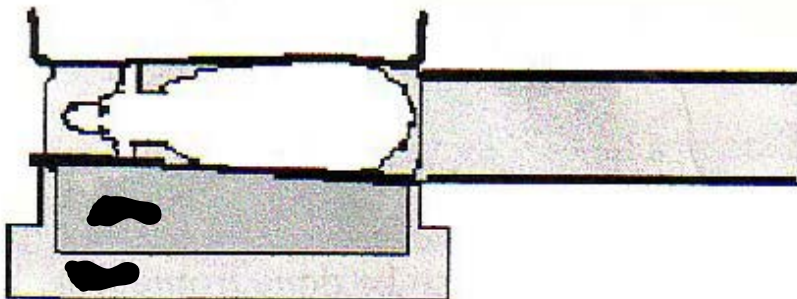
Dagging or Crutching (Left handed)
Bi-fold gate removed

(Use this method if you have to step forward to bring sheep up)

Stand with the inside foot (1) in front of handler and rest the toes of the outside foot (2) on the edge of the pressure plate. When the sheep enters, place your weight back on the outside foot, then step back onto the pressure plate with your inside foot. Lean your hip against the cushion and use your hand on the tail of the sheep to make it stand up or to adjust position. To adjust position of the sheep, take a little weight off the pressure plate, move sheep then apply pressure again, or walk along the pressure plate to the other end, hand under chin of sheep, raise pressure plate slightly whilst you adjust sheep, close down again, then walk back to dag position.

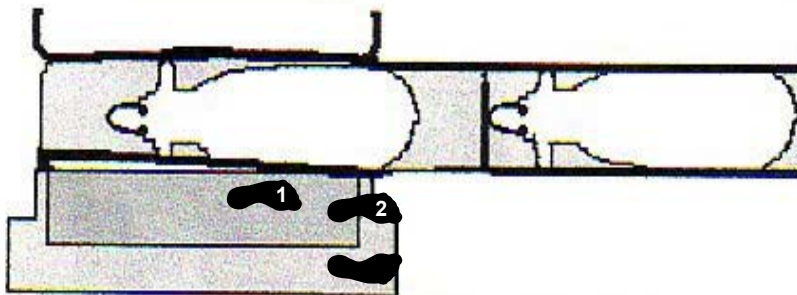


Foot Positions for Operation (continued)



Capsuling

You may prefer to turn the Handler around

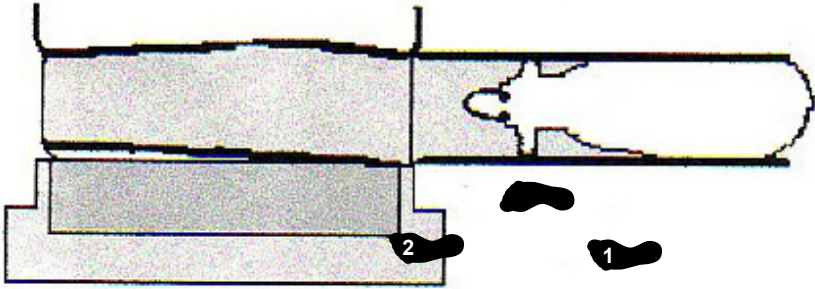


Right Hand Dag

Step forward with inside foot, once sheep is caught.

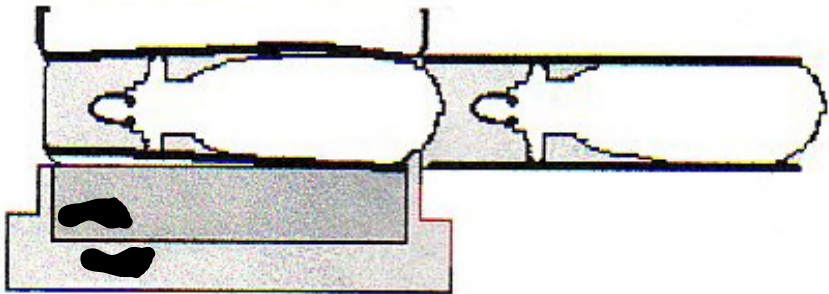
Remove Bi-Fold gate when dagging ewes, then you can dag through the gap without closing the stop gate every time. Every time you open the stop gate, it will sweep out the dags.





Chasing sheep up into Handler

Walk along behind the sheep with your hand on its tail. Time it so that you step onto the pressure plate with your outside foot.



***Drenching**

Stand facing the oncoming sheep. Hide left arm behind yourself as sheep enters. Once caught, swing left arm under sheeps jaw. The sheep will raise its head allowing you to drench with right hand.

Reverse foot and Handler positions for Left hand operators.





the perfect partner

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