

# Wickets By Mel

## Triumph Showdog Solutions

### The Moleskin Method

Moleskin can be used to train Sheltie and Collie ears. The moleskin method is a bit more complicated than the Japanese tape method.

Supplies needed for the moleskin method are:

- Moleskin (I prefer Andover Extra Heavy moleskin)
- Doc Brannen's Grooming Adhesive or Latex Cement
- Yarn
- Ear Glue (Jiffy Sew, Speed Sew, or Tear Mender)
- Rubbing Alcohol or Alcohol Wipes

Cut the moleskin into the following sizes:

- Two pieces 3" by 1 ½" (used for 1<sup>st</sup> pieces)
- One piece 3" by ½" (used for 2<sup>nd</sup> piece)
- Two pieces 1" by 1" (used for 3<sup>rd</sup> pieces)

Clean inside of the dog's ears well with alcohol wipes or rubbing alcohol using cotton balls. Use a flea comb to help clean any 'sticky' residue left from previous tape or moleskin. Let ear dry.

Remove the backing from one of the 3" by 1 ½" pieces. Spray sticky side of moleskin with Doc Brannen's Grooming Adhesive. (Note: I put a piece of paper towel on the table and place the moleskin on the paper to spray with the adhesive.) Wait a minute before proceeding.

Stick together two 3" by 1 ½" pieces of moleskin by placing 'sticky' side of piece above against the moleskin of piece with backing still on.

Cut doubled piece of 3" by 1 ½" piece of moleskin in half to form two 1 ½" by 1 ½" pieces. Trim each piece as shown below in Figure 1. The piece will go inside lower part of dog's ear.

Remove backing from the two trimmed pieces of moleskin. Place sticky side up on paper towel and spray with Doc Brannen's Grooming Adhesive. Let stand for 30 seconds. Then place one piece in bottom of dog's ear with the curved part at the bottom next to bony protrusion in the lower part of the ear. Press well. Repeat with the other piece in other ear.

Make brace from the 3" by ½" piece of moleskin. Punch hole in either end of moleskin with a small nail or awl. Thread a piece of yarn (5 – 6" long) through each of these holes. Then cut moleskin in half to provide two pieces – each 1 ½" by ½" (Figure 2).

Remove backing from the two pieces of moleskin with the yarn in place. Place sticky side up on paper towel in sink. Spray with Doc Brannen's and let stand 30 seconds. Then place one piece on the top part of the moleskin already in the dog's ear, with the yarn on the inside part of the ear. Repeat with the second piece on the other ear, again making sure the yarn side is on the inside (see Figure 3). Press well.

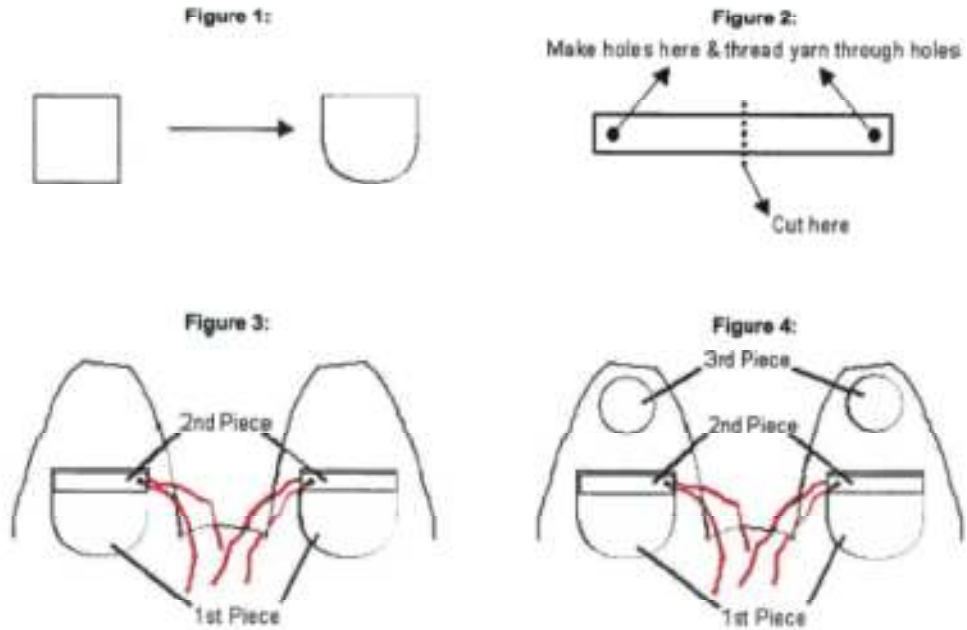
Trim two 1" by 1" pieces into circles. Remove backing from these two pieces of moleskin. Spray sticky side with Doc Brannen's. Let stand 30 seconds. Then place one piece on the top part of the ear. Place other piece in top part of the other ear (see Figure 4) Press well.

Tie yarn in a knot to pull ears up and trim excess yarn.

Spread glue sparingly on the circles in top of ear. Tip ears over and glue top piece to lower piece. Make sure tip of ear is in the proper location. Repeat for 2<sup>nd</sup> ear.

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## The Moleskin Method – Figures



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