

**THE PRACTICAL AND COST IMPLICATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT  
INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS CURRENTLY  
AVAILABLE**

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The paper describes the practical aspects of giving surgical instruments a unique identity so that they can be integrated into an instrument traceability system. It further examines the costs associated with these techniques. It discusses the ease of use and the difficulties associated with each method. The methods discussed are:

- RFID
- Laser colouring, laser etching, laser engraving and laser bonding.
- Dot-peen marking
- Electrolytic etching.