

THRU Lines Tool

Step 1– Open Ancestry.com

Step 2 –Click on DNA

Step 3 – Click on “True Lines”

Step 4–You will see your Direct Line Relatives (Parents. Grandparents etc,)

Step 5– Place your cursor over one of your parents – note the number of DNA matches you have.

Step 6– Click on that parent, This will open a new window that will show you the DNA matches and how they relate to you. As you see each match, check your tree to see if you already have them. If not then add them to your tree . You may need to, add others in their line to get to your match i.e. their parent(s), grandparents etc.

Step 7-40 – Continue to select each relative and examine the matches as they relate to you.

Caution: Some of your line may be in Green and therefore, you may or may not be able to enter these people in your tree.

Common Ancestors Tool

Step 1– Open Ancestry.com

Step 2 –Click on DNA and then DNA Matches

Step 3 – Click on “Common Ancestors” button

Step 4– Scroll down to the person you want to work on, and click on them.

Step 5– Note the common Ancestor(s)—Look over their tree for help on determining the line to you.

Step 6 – Click on the Common Ancestor(s)

Step 7 – Look at your line to see if you agree with it. Now look at the other line, is it all clean and complete, or does it have green highlights? If it has a green image, you need to be very careful adding that person to your tree. You need to analyze the name, dates etc. to be certain it matches up. If it does not fit in well, you have two choices: 1) wait on adding that cousin until you can verify the line or 2) add the “proposed” line for now and work on proving it.

Step 8 – If the people are not green and are not currently in your tree, you need to decide if you are comfortable adding the new people into your tree.

Step 9 – If you have the cousin’s line in your tree, verify that the data matches yours. If not you need to resolve the differences i.e dates etc.

Step 10 – If you enter your new cousin into your tree you then need to go back to the list of DNA matches, find the cousin and change their settings as follows:

- a) Write down the cousin’s name, side of the family and the level of cousin to help you fill out the details.
- b) Once you have found their match in the list, go to the end under (Do you recognize them?) And click on the “Yes” button.
- c) A window will open up on the right of the screen, make certain the maternal or paternal designation is correct. If not, correct by selecting the right one.
- d) Then click the “Next” button. A new window will open up for you to select the proper relationship. Find the right one and click on it. If you don’t see it on the initial, list, click on the “Show more possible relationships”
- e) Once you have clicked on the proper relationship a new window will open up and you now can click on the “Confirm” button.

Note: At rare times you will not see the right relationship. Then select the nearest to the correct one.

The Colored Dot Tool

This tool will help you code your matches as to which of your Great X? Grandparent's lines most likely contain your common ancestors between you and the new "cousin".

Before you start this tool, you need to prepare a list of your grandparent pairs . The farther back the better. In other words, using your Great X2 grandparent pairs is better than using your Grandparent pairs. The farther back the better.

(I will show you how I picked my set of Grand X? Grandparent pairs.)

Once you have the list of Grandparent pairs you can begin the following steps.

Step 1– Open Ancestry.com

Step 2 –Click on DNA/DNA Matches

Step 3 –Click on the "Groups" button.

Step 4– Scroll down to the "Custom Groups".

Step 5– Click on "Create Custom Group"

Step 6 - Enter the names of the pair

Step 7 - A color will be suggested, but you can select a different color by clicking the box to the right of the color and selecting any available color.

Step 8 - Continue until you have entered all of the groups.

Step 9 - Now you are ready to assign a colored dot to your matches.

Step 10 - Go back to your list of matches and select a person you already know what relation they are to you by clicking In their name

Step 11 - After double checking your match, click on the "Shared Matches" option

Step 12 - You now have a list of every one who is a match to both you and your known relative, now assign the colored dot(s) that you share with your known relative to your unknown matches.

Step 13 - Check the trees of all of your unknown matches in this step to see if there are enough people listed to help you determine your relationship

Step 14 - Continue to do this for each of your known matches.