

the **CHICK-BATOR**



SET UP

1 — Install 7 watt light bulb into the socket of the cordset. Plug in to see that it will light up. Should the bulb fail over time a replacement 7 watt night-light bulb can be obtained from a hardware store.

2 — With cord set unplugged, attach the socket with bulb to the yellow incubator base. Do this by inserting the



small screw through the hole from the outside in the yellow base. A phillips head screwdriver may be necessary to screw it through the hole. Next insert the screw into the metal tab on the socket. The bulb/socket should be aligned so that the cord set will rest in the notch on the rim of the base about an inch away from the socket. Tighten the screw so that the socket is held firmly to the bowl and the bulb/socket is about parallel to the rim.

3 — Cut the foil square in half (note: do not cut the foil barrier attached to the wire screen). Insert one half of the foil into the bottom of the yellow bowl, running it behind the bulb and leaving the upper edge of the foil just below the rim. This completes the assembly of the incubator, however, as the incubator is light weight and the electric cord is stiff, stabilizing the incubator is advised. Do this by placing books or weighted blocks around it or tape with heavy tape to the surface of a board, or fasten with small washer and wood screw through the bottom of one of the legs which will not be holding water.



4 — Unfold the wire screen to a 90° angle, leaving the foil barrier strip in place on the screen. Insert the screen into the bowl of the yellow base with foil side pointing up. Place the screen so that it will be about parallel with and clear of the bulb/socket before pressing the screen into the bowl. Press down just enough so the screen floor is held firmly by the sides of the bowl and that the floor is level.



5 — Place the clear dome on top of the yellow base so that the notch in the dome is aligned with the cord set and bowl notch. The dome should sit evenly on the rim of the base. If the dome is being held off by the vertical screen, press down on the screen floor a bit more so that the dome will not touch it.

SETTING THE EGGS

1 — With the light unplugged, pour a small amount of water into one of the three legs of the Chick-Bator. This may be done with a straw or a dropper and may be poured through the wire floor. Avoid wetting the bulb and socket. Water in the leg should be present during the complete incubation process. Depth of the water is not important, but it will need to be added several times to prevent it from going dry. Eggs require this moisture to prevent them from losing too much fluid during incubation. Short periods of no water in the incubator should not be harmful to the eggs.

(continued on back)

2 — Before placing the eggs in the incubator, find a small object about the height of the eggs (laying on their sides) to support the thermometer temporarily. Place support and thermometer on wire floor. This will allow you to get the temperature properly set without putting the actual eggs at risk of a temperature spike. Plug in the cord set so that the light is on and begins to heat the incubator. The desired temperature setting is 100° F. It may take up to 4 hours to heat up all of the incubator and reach a stable temperature. In most cases further adjustments may be required to obtain 100 degrees.

3 — The Chick-Bator works best in a thermostatically controlled room between 70°F and 75°F. If temperatures do not reach 100°F. first try adding the 2nd foil half to the outside surface of the dome from the dome rim upwards and covering the dome half over the bulb. Allow several hours for the change to take effect. If still below 100 then supply additional foil, or simply adjust the room thermostat as necessary. If the temperature is above 100°F then remove the foil as necessary and/or lower the thermostat setting in the room. Thermometer ranges from 98°F to 102°F are acceptable, but the more time the eggs spend at 100°F the better chance of success.



4 — Once the incubator has stabilized at 100°F remove the support place the eggs on the wire floor. Lay the thermometer on top of the eggs in the middle of the chamber. The eggs will heat much slower so allow about a day for the temperature to reach 100°F. Do not let the temperature exceed 105°F.

5 — Eggs have a set number of days that they require to incubate before they will hatch. This begins when the eggs are placed in the incubator and are at about 100°F. The end of the first 24 hours of incubation should be considered the end of the first day. For example, Bobwhite quail (solid white egg) require 23 days, Cortunix quail (speckled egg) 18 days, and Chicken 21 days.

6 — Eggs should be allowed to rest naturally on their side during incubation. Avoid allowing the egg to set with the pointed end up for long periods either before or during incubation. Once incubation begins, turn the eggs twice daily. To help with this, use a pencil to mark an "O" on one side and an "X" on the other. Turn the X's up and next time turn all O's up. It is not harmful if an occasional turning is missed.

7 — Stop turning the eggs 2 to 3 days before expected hatch date. Add water to a 2nd leg of the incubator bottom, then replace the dome. Do not remove the dome again until after the hatch date.

8 — The number of eggs to hatch cannot be predicted. Egg handling, age, fertility, temperature extremes before and during incubation are just some of the factors affecting the results. Following the above instructions closely are all that the operator can do to improve the chance of a successful hatch.

AFTER THE HATCH

1 — When chicks hatch allow a few hours for them to dry before removing. Chicks can remain in the incubator for up to 24 hours and may go up to 48 hours without food or water. However, exposure to food and water as soon as possible is advised.

2 — Chicks require supplemental heat after they are removed from the incubator. Use a poultry brooder, heat lamp, or invert the Chick-Bator base with bulb in a box. The rim of the bowl should be parallel to the floor of the box, just high enough for the chicks to walk under. Use the thermometer to check temperatures. Temperatures above 95°F are best. Higher temperatures are acceptable as long as there are cooler areas in the box where the chicks can take a break from the heat. If the chicks group together under the heat source, the temperature may be too low. If the chicks stay away from the heat source, it may be too high. Adjust the distance of the heat source to regulate temperature. After the first week, reduce the temperature by 5°F per week until you reach approximate room temperature.

3 — Feed can be obtained from a feed store and can be sprinkled on a paper towel at first. Water should be in shallow containers like a jar lid with small pebbles or marbles in it to help prevent drowning. Both should be kept near the heated area. Avoid handling the chicks outside of the heated area for long periods of time. Be sure that your chicks always have food, water and a clean home. If your chicks get too big for the house, don't turn them loose. If you do not have the facilities to care for them properly, it is suggested that you give them to a local hatchery, farm, Humane Society, feed store or pet dealer.



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