

McCallum Made Chicken Tractors

MASTER ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Please find below some instructions for assembly. These are not hard and fast rules, but this is the way that I assemble a Master model chicken tractor with assistance from an 8 yr old.



Now, I cannot really stress this enough – PLEASE wear an appropriate pair of gloves when assembling your

chicken tractor and make sure that anyone who assists you is also wearing gloves. I also recommend that long sleeves are worn – you are working with metal and there is always the possibility that you will drop something on yourself.

Assembly Instructions:

The best place to assemble your Chicken Tractor is on the back lawn. Big, flat open space is ideal. Lay out all the components as per the photo on the front page. (Please note I have changed the side panels – the 1.8m side panel is now made with 100% mesh cover and the 90cm side panel is 100% sheetmetal cover). The two top lids (full size doors) are identical so there is no ‘front’ one or ‘back’ one.

Parts

When you open the cardboard box you will find a plastic laying box and a number of fasteners.

Preliminary

1. Bolt the “z” shaped towing lug to the bottom of the back panel. Use two 40mm long bolts (which come with nut and washer attached to identify them) for this job. The two holes in the z shaped bracket correspond with the two holes in the bottom of the back panel.



2. Attach two handles to each of the top doors. If you look carefully, you will notice that there are two pairs of tec screws in each top door about 100mm apart. These screws can be undone, and then put the handle back into place and retighten the bolt. (I know this description is difficult but in practice it should be easy – you have 4 handles and 4 sets of screws – all the other screws are 250 – 300mm apart).



3. You should have 2 handles and 2 stainless steel rings. These handles are used on the Side Panels of the chicken tractor to support the side lever arm. Go to each side panel and on the meshed side of the panel you will notice a 12.7mm hole drilled through the upright. (The location of the hole will be in the middle of the meshed side panel – not on the end as above)



4. Grab a tape measure and measure from the corner closest to the hole along the 915mm length. The handle needs to be attached (using the self-drilling screws and your electric drill) so that the bottom hole is at 540mm and the top hole is at 640mm. Before attaching the handle slip the stainless steel ring over the handle so that it hangs as shown here.

You have finished the preliminaries and it is time to start the assembly proper. You will need someone to give you a hand for the next steps.

1. The first thing to do is to attach the long and the short side panels to each other so that you end up with one long side panel measuring about 270cm. You will notice that one end of the meshed side panel has three holes that line up with 3 holes on the sheetmetal covered side panel. Connect using 50mm bolts and put a bolt in all three holes.



2. Pick up one of the side panels and attach it to the middle top panel as shown. Only tighten bolts finger tight initially until all panels are assembled.

3. Now pick up the front top door (the one nearest the photo in the picture) and attach it to the side panel. Get your helper to hold the door open so that you can access the bolt holes without effort. Once the two bolts from side panel are attached to the top panel, climb into the chicken tractor and attach the two top panels together with 4 bolts. When you have attached these three panels together, it should look like the picture below.





4. Get your assistant to lift the middle meshed panel to waist height. This will allow you to attach the back panel at 5 using 5 bolts. If you have a stronger helper than I, it is easier to attach the back panel with the roof door opened completely (180 degrees) and laid back on the mesh panel provided the assistant can hold the weight.

4. From now on the job should become pretty obvious. Attach the other side panel and the side panel extensions. Once you have attached all of the panels the chicken tractor should look like this.



5. Go all around the chicken tractor and tighten the bolts with your spanners. There is no need to overtighten the nuts as this is only a chicken shed, not the wheel nuts on your car. **Keep your gloves on because if your spanner slips**

and you bash your knuckles or fingers into the cage you will take of skin. You should end up with a chicken cage – no wheels or insides at this stage, but a complete solid box.

Internals

1. You should now be left with five lengths of steel and two pieces of sheetmetal. Two of these pieces of tube are the supports for the weather shield and they are attached on the inside of the chicken tractor between the uprights on the side panels. In order to attach these supports, you will need to remove 2 of the bolts that are holding the side panels together – the top hole and the middle hole. Replace these 50mm bolts with the 70mm bolts supplied and these should then be long enough to hold the supports in place. The pieces of sheetmetal are then to be attached using the tec screws.

Before installing these consider your environment. During summer, especially in the northern or inland parts of Australia there is no real need to install the weather shield (except to provide shade for the laying box). In a lot of southern Australia you may decide to leave the weather shield in 12 months a year, perhaps with the exception of the odd summer heat wave. The decision to install or not to install or when to install these weather shields is entirely up to you and is part of the trial and error of having chickens. Please do not leave the weather shield in during heat waves!



2. The remaining 3 lengths of tube are to be used across the support bars welded into the inside of the 'shed'. Two of

the bars should be used to support the plastic laying boxes. Attach the bars with 50mm bolts and the laying box should just sit between the tubes held in place by the box's lip. The final piece of tube can be used as a roost. If you have a preference for timber roosts or roosts made from tree branches, then simply cut and insert your own roosts using the support bars for support. We supply steel roosts because they deter mites and can also be used to support a floor if required.

3. When you have finished your internals should look something like this- but please note this photo is from a Jumbo Model as I forgot to photograph the inside of the Master!

Your Chicken Tractor is now complete. Happy Chook Keeping!