

McCallum Made Chicken Tractors

JUMBO ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Customer,

Thank you for purchasing our Chicken Tractor! Please find below some instructions for assembly. These are not hard and fast rules, but are simply a guide for those of you who are not construction-minded. Good luck!

Tools required for the job:

- 2 adjustable spanners
- Electric or cordless drill with a 5/16" tec driver bit



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. I will assume for assembly that you have a spare pair of hands to help. Assembly for the jumbo is best done with two extra helpers on hand. The two top lids (big full size doors) are identical so there is no ‘front’ one or ‘back’ one.

Preliminary

1. Bolt the “z” shaped towing lug to the bottom of the back panel. Use two 40mm long bolts 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 300mm apart).

3. You should have 2 handles left. These handles are used on the Side Panels of the chicken tractor to support the side wheels (more on this later). Go to each side panel and in the middle of the mesh section you will see 2 screws in the metal upright. Again take these screws out and put the handle in place. Before tightening the bolts, slip the stainless steel ring over the handle so that your finished job looks like this.



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. Pick up one of the side panels and attach it to the middle top panel as shown below. Use the 50mm bolts for this purpose. Only tighten bolts finger tight initially until all panels are assembled.



2. Now pick up the front top door (the one nearest the photo in the picture above) and attach it to the side panel. Get your helper to support the front panel from the underneath as if they just stand up and hold the edge of the sheet metal then they won't be much help at all. Once the two bolts from side panel are attached to the top panel, climb under the chicken tractor and attach the two top panels together using 4 bolts. When you have attached these three panels together, your chicken tractor should look like this.



3. Now open the top door completely so that it folds back onto the middle meshed panel.
4. Get your assistant to lift the middle meshed panel to waist height. This will allow you to attach the front panel at 5 points. I do not have photos of this stage, but once the five bolts have been attached and the top door reclosed your chicken tractor should look like this



5. Now attach the other side panel using 5 bolts.
6. **Now becomes the most difficult part of the assembly. You will be best served with 2 Assistants at this point. What you need to do now is lift the other top door and attach it to the side panels. The reason this is difficult is that you are working against gravity and you are working with a hinged door.**
7. The easiest way to do this is to get your helpers to lift the top door above their heads and lower it into position with them crouching beneath. When it gets into position it should be easy to quickly put the bolts into either end to hold it in place.
8. Once you have released your helpers, make sure you also go under the chicken tractor and attach the panel to the middle panel.
9. And now finally attach the back panel. Open the top door fully so that you have clear access to the bolt holes and attach at six places. When all bolts are in place and all the nuts are on the bolts, you can release your helpers as the rest of the job can easily be done by one person.
10. 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 off skin.** You should end up with a chicken cage – no wheels

or insides at this stage, but a complete solid box.



Post Assembly.

All that remains to do now is sort out the wheels and insert the insides.

1. Before attaching the side wheels, fit a wheel to each axle (with a washer on either side), and then the nylock nut. They should look like this.

2. Now, place the side wheels one on either side of your chicken tractor directly below the handles holding the stainless steel ring and through the 12.7mm hole. Tighten the nylock nuts from the inside of the chicken tractor. The



nuts should be tightened quite firmly, but not so tight that the wheeled legs cannot rotate.

3. To assemble the **trolley jack**, place wheels on axles, and tighten the nylock nut. Bolt the towing arm to the towing handle through holes provided. The trolley jack is now complete.

4. To prepare the chicken tractor for movement, lift the chicken tractor by rotating the side arms and slipping the stainless steel ring over the arm to hold it in place. Attach the trolley to the towing lug and move your chicken tractor wherever you want to.

5. You should now be left with six lengths of steel and 2 pieces of sheetmetal. Two of these lengths of steel should have 8 holes in them. These are the supports for the weather shields and they are attached on the inside of the chicken tractor between the uprights on the side panels.

Before installing these consider your environment. During summer, especially in the northern or inland parts of Australia there is no real need to install these weather shields (except to provide shelter or shade for the laying box). In a lot of southern Australia you may decide to leave the weather shields 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.

If in doubt, install the weather shield on one side and place the laying trays in the corner. If you decide to install both weather shields then the inside of the chicken tractor (looking from the front door) should look like this.



6. The remaining 4 lengths of tube only have 2 holes in them. These 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 2 piece of tube can be used as roosts. If you have a preference for timber roosts or roosts made from tree branches, them 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.



Your Chicken Tractor is now complete. Happy Chook Keeping!