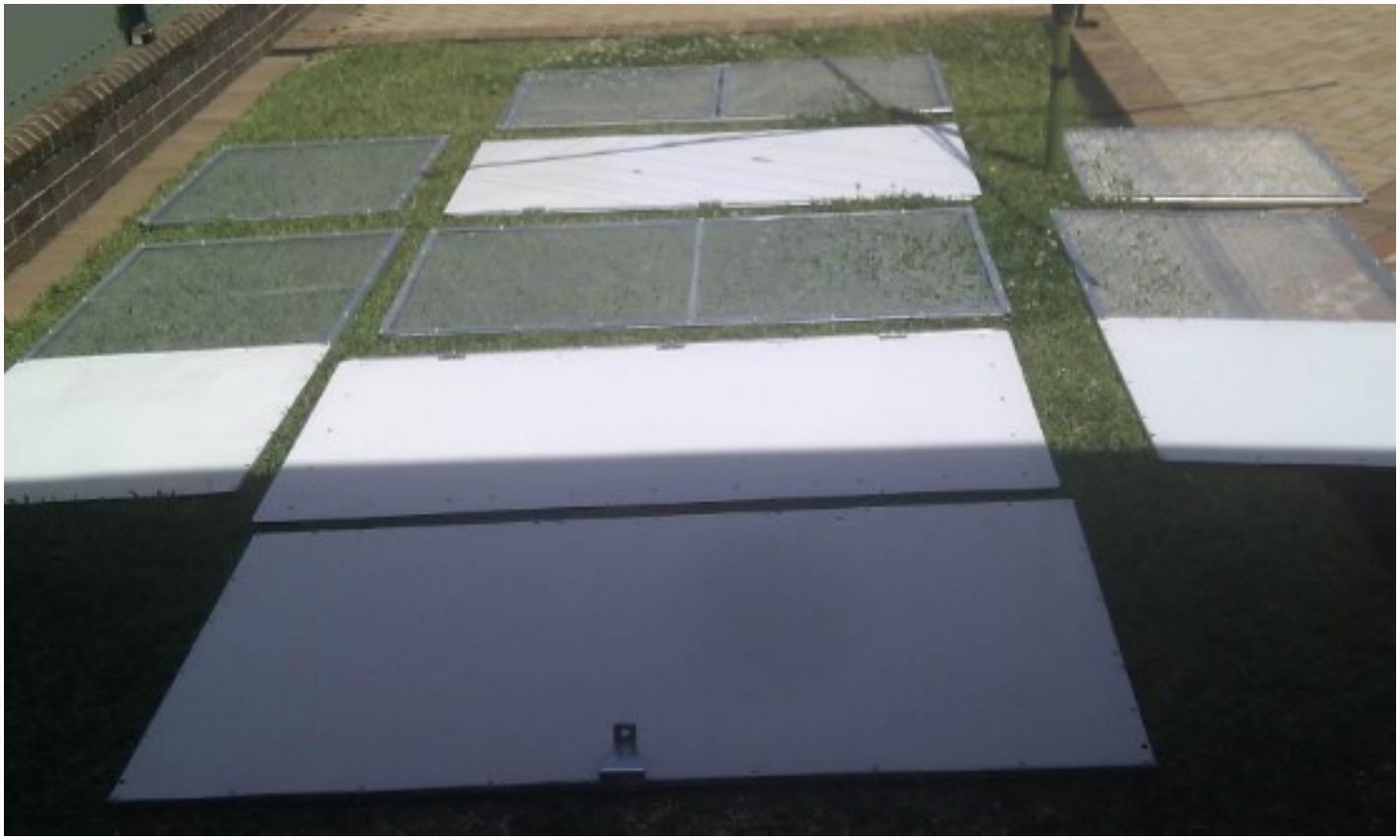
McCallum Made

Master Model Assembly Instructions

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 the side panels are now a single piece 2.7m long rather than 2 shorter panels). Also note the two top lids (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 (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. Please get 2 handles and 2 stainless steel rings from the parts box. These are used on the Side Panels of the chicken tractor to support the side lever arm. On the meshed side of the panel you will notice a 12.7mm hole drilled through the upright. Grab a tape and measure up from the bottom of the panel near this hole. You should notice two screws in the frame approx 740 and 840mm up from the bottom. These are the screws with which the handle needs to be attached. Before attaching the handle slip the stainless steel ring over the handle so that it hangs as shown.

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. 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 first picture in these instructions) 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 this.

3. Get your assistant to lift the middle meshed panel to waist height. This will allow you to attach the back panel 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.

Internals

1. You should now be left with five lengths of steel tube and two pieces of sheet metal. Two of the tubes are the supports for the weather shield and they are to be attached on the inside of the chicken tractor between the side panels. Look for the holes in the side panel that go through the two tubes that are welded together. Use the 70mm bolts to attach the tubes to the side panels. 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 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, 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.

3. When you have finished your internals should look something like this. Your Chicken Tractor is now complete.

Final notes

***

The coloured sheet metal on your chicken tractor comes with a clear protective film to protect the sheet during the manufacturing and delivery process. It is highly recommended that you remove this film after assembling your chicken tractor as the film breaks down under UV light and will eventually start to flake off which causes a big mess. Also, please note we make liberal use of galvanising paint in the factory so if your sheet metal looks like someone sprayed paint on it don't worry because that paint is on the clear film and will be removed at the same time as the film.

***

If you have chosen to include fox mesh in your order you will note that you have received 3 sheets of mesh. Place these sheets on the ground and roll the chicken tractor over the mesh to form the floor. The weight of the chicken tractor is sufficient to hold the mesh in place and stop access from outside predators.

But wait - shouldn't there be a way to attach the mesh to the tractor to make a "proper" floor? We honestly don't think so and here is why.

In an ideal world your chicken tractor would not have a floor and the chickens would have unlimited access to the ground. However in an ideal world we would not have foxes to deal with so compromises have to be made. If you make the decision to attach the mesh to the tractor (which can be done - either with cable ties or tie wire etc) you have now made it much harder to clean the floor, some of the mess will come with you each time you move the tractor and you cannot move the chicken tractor with the chickens inside as they will have nothing to stand on. Conversely if you do not attach the floor it is easier to clean, you can move the tractor with the chickens inside and you can easily move the chickens off the mesh for a period of time that suits you requirements - such as when you are home in the garden and foxes are no threat.

The only time I would consider attaching the floor is if you intend to set up the tractor in a corner of your yard and not move it very often letting the chickens free range all day. In this case, attaching the floor so that it is secure makes some sense even though it is not necessarily required.