

1. INTRODUCTION

The PeeGee Trap is an inexpensive and easy to build mesh trap that was created by Canberra Common Myna Action Group and has been improved by Clarence Valley Action Group (CVAG).

PeeGee Trap is not for commercial use. Traps are not to be built and sold unless approval is gained from the original designer of the trap.

Traps are to be built and used for the sole purpose of removing Common Mynas from our environment in accordance with our local Animal Welfare Act.

If you are a participant of Brisbane Catchments Network's trapping program, before starting trapping birds you need to read the 'Protocol on Animal Welfare and Euthanasia', sign it and send it to B4C (b4c@bulimbacreek.org.au).

2. MATERIALS AND TOOLS

MATERIALS

- Cage mesh: White's aviary mesh wire 900 mm x 25 mm x 25 x 1.25 mm. Rolls available in 5, 10 and 30 metres.
- 2mm tie wire for latching clips
- Perch or tree stick
- Shade cloth

You have different options for assembling the cage parts. Depending of which technique you want to use you will need one of the following materials:

- 0.9 mm wire (approx 1.70 metres required per shuttle fill) – wire shuttle technique.
- Aviary clips – approx. 136 clips per three chamber cage – using aviary clips take less time to assemble.

TOOLS

- Pointy nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Pliers
- File
- Wire netting ring tool
- Aviary wire tool



FIGURE 4: MAIN TOOLS FOR BUILDING CAGES

3. THE DESIGN

The trap has three chambers: an entrance cage, a containment cage and a transport cage. The three cages come apart for ease of transportation, but are clipped together when the trap is in operation.

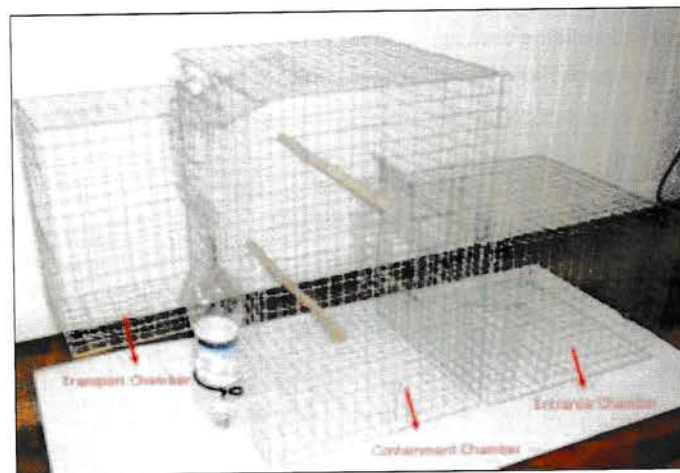


FIGURE 5: CAGE DISPLAY WITH ITS THREE COMPONENTS

The main parts of the cage are:

- **Feeding/entrance chamber:** food is dispersed on the floor of this chamber to encourage birds to go inside the cage.
- **Entrance tunnel:** entrance chamber has two entrance tunnels for the birds to come into the cage.
- **Containment chamber:** this chamber provides water and shade for trapped birds.
- **Vertical tunnel:** non-return tunnel through cage access to containment chamber from entrance chamber.
- **Transport chamber:** is the smallest cage to transport your trapped birds. The size of this chamber fits in a plastic box.
- **Doors:** allow keeping the birds inside when the chambers come apart.

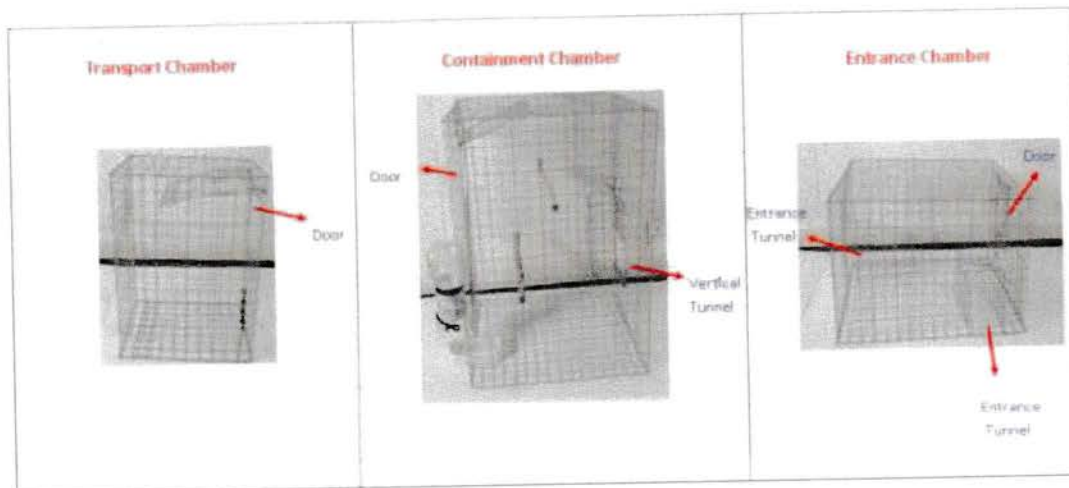


FIGURE 6: COMPONENTS OF THE CAGE

4. CAGE BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1. CAGE PLANS

Before cutting the panels and building the cage, you need to know where to cut the cage mesh roll in a way to use the material efficiently. Figure 5 and 6 show where you should cut and bend the roll.

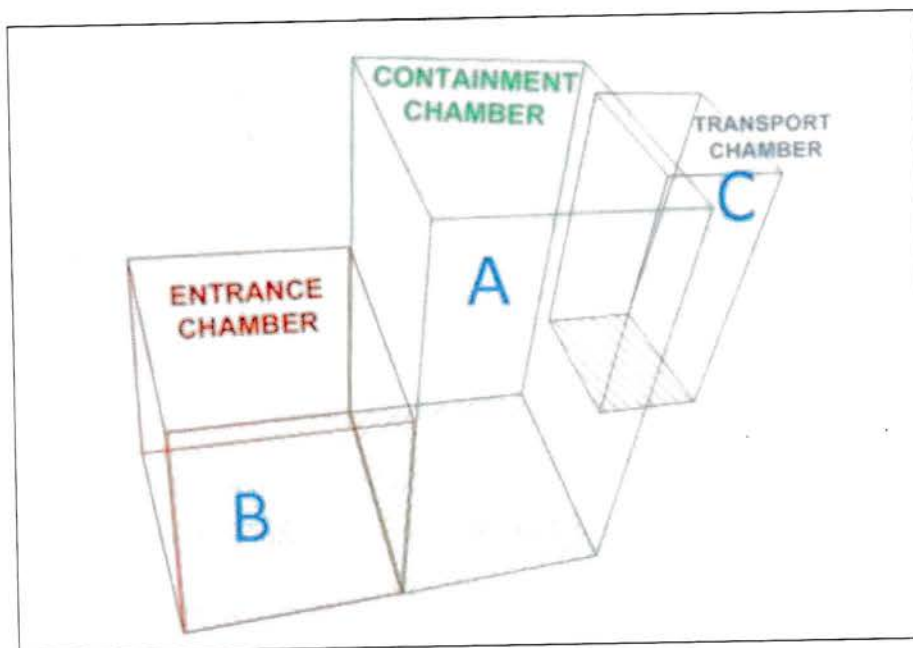


FIGURE 7: DRAWING OF CAGE PARTS

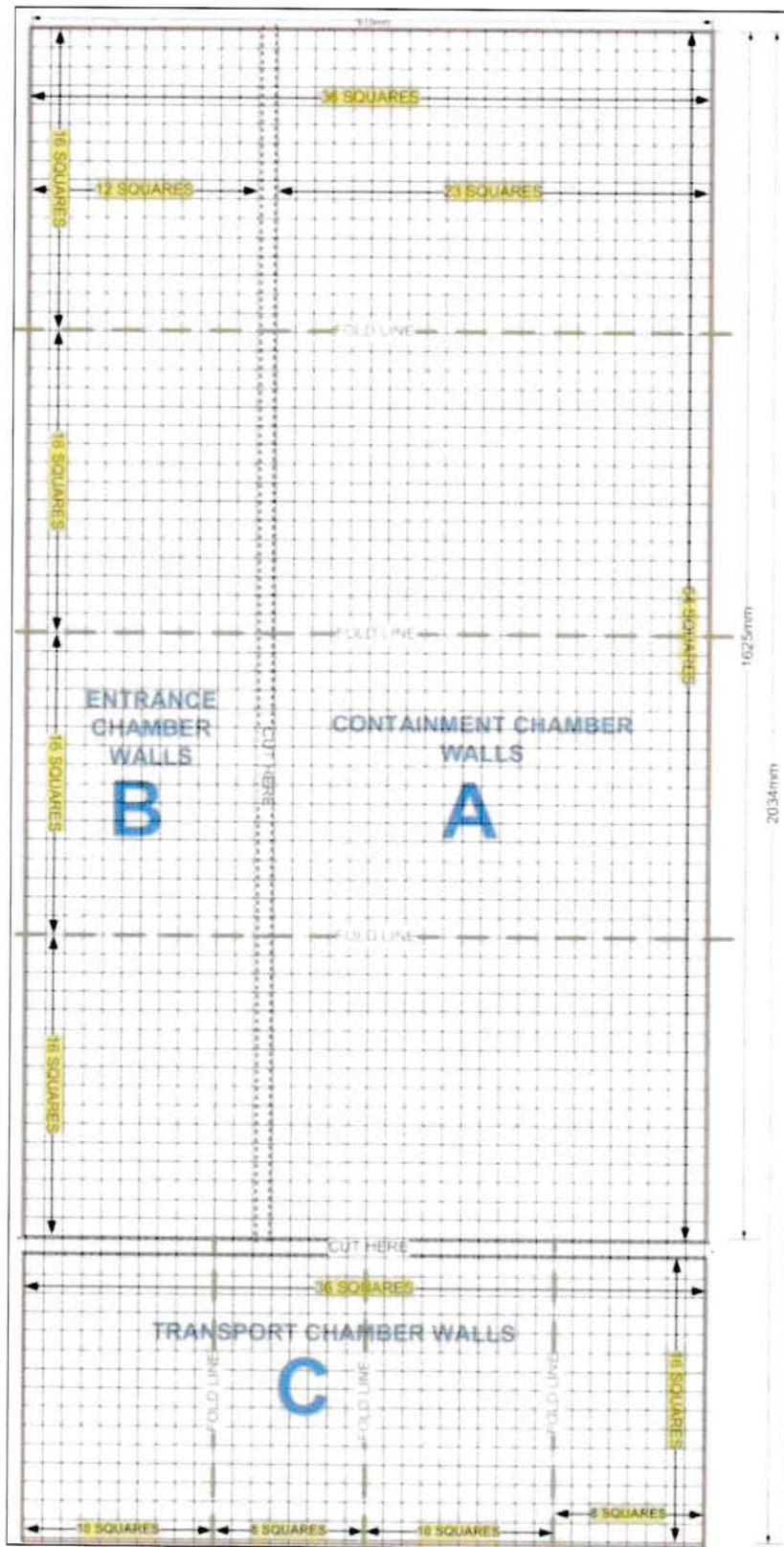


FIGURE 8: PLANS OF CHAMBER WALLS.

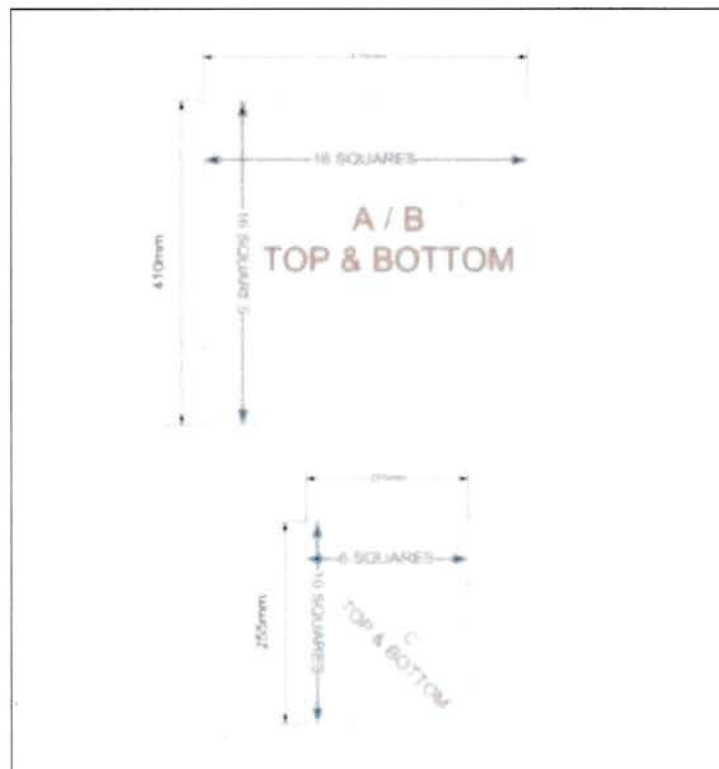


FIGURE 9: PLANS OF TOP AND BOTTOM PART OF CHAMBERS.

4.2. MAKING THE CHAMBERS

Note: Rolling, wire shuttle and clip are different techniques to assemble the cage parts. In the following instructions the clip technique is described in each step. You could choose your preference in the way of assembling.

CUTTING THE PANELS

Step1: Cut a panel 64 squares long from a 900 mm wide (36 squares wide) roll of Wire Cage Mesh (25 mm x 25 mm squares).

Step 2: Cut the panel into 2 pieces starting 13 squares in from the edge of the 900 mm (36 squares) wide side and cutting through the entire 64 squares length. Snip the protruding wire pieces from the long panel to leave a clean edge. These 2 pieces will form the feeding and containment chambers, when folded and assembled. Any remaining sharp points should be filed to make blunt.

BENDING THE PANELS

Step 3: Bend the long panel at right angles at the 16th, 32nd and 48th square to form the four sides. Bend the weld over the weld to avoid the wire separating at the weld. This will form the Containment Chamber

Step 4: Repeat step 3 for the short panel. This will form the Feeding Chamber.

SECURING THE CHAMBERS

Step 5: Secure the sides of both long and short panels, using the aviary clips. As a guide fix every 4th square. The clips become firmer if given a second pinch using the tips of the clip tool. Care should be taken to line up edges of panels and squares. It will probably be easier to begin with the shorter Feeding Chamber panel.

MAKING TOP AND BOTTOMS PARTS

Step 6

- To make the End Panels cut 2 sections from the Wire Cage Mesh roll each measuring 36 squares (900 mm) x 16 squares.
- Take 1 section and count 16 squares cutting it to form a clean edge. Count another 4 squares and cut to form a clean edge. The result will give 2 end panels each 16 squares x 16 squares, having clean edges all round. Remember to file off any sharp points.
- Repeat the process with the 2nd 36 square x 16 square section.
- You now have 4 end panels which will form the top and bottom of the Feeding and Containment cages. Set 2 aside for later use.

Step 7: Add 1 end panel to the bottom of the Containment Chamber, again using aviary clips. Using a second end panel repeat this for the Feeding Chamber.

CUTTING OPENINGS FOR COMPONENTS

Step 8: Cut the openings to receive the water bottle saucer, the tunnel entrances, the valve chamber and door opening to the transport cage in the positions designated. Snip the wire one square less than the openings all round, so that the sharp wire ends can be bended over to give smooth edges all round.

4.3. MAKING DOORS

Cut the doors to the appropriate size, folding in the edges on all sides. This creates snag free edges and stiffens the doors.

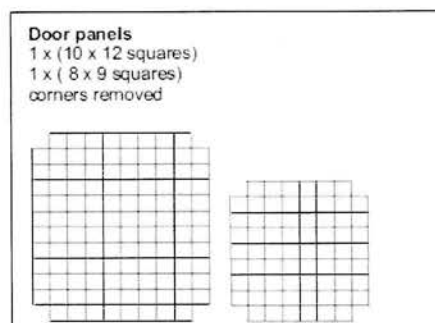


FIGURE 10: DOOR PLANS

4.4. MAKING TUNNEL ENTRANCE

1. Cut two 3 x 6 square openings for tunnels on sides adjacent to doorway. These should be offset (see plan view).
2. In the two 14 X 7 squares of wire cut for tunnels, cut as shown by red line, leaving end wires as shown below.
3. Fold at right angles at 2 remaining squares.
4. Slightly bend down narrow strip between the two sides and tie off using end wires.
5. Clip or tie large end inside the openings in the small feeding cage.

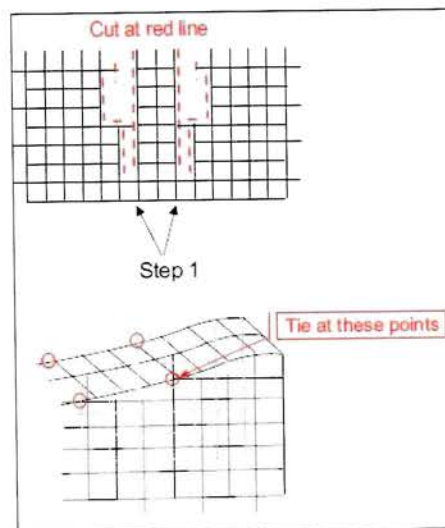


FIGURE 11: FEEDING CHAMBER ENTRANCE PLAN.

4.5. MAKING THE VERTICAL VALVE

To assembly the vertical valve you need 3 components: body, cover and base.

- a) **Valve body:** 12 x 9 squares with selvedge removed from 1 end, sides clipped leaving 2 wires per side for tying.
- b) **Valve cover:** 7 x 7 squares, clipped to 5 squares wide on 7 wires leaving 2 loose ends for tying.
- c) **Valve base:** 7 x 4 squares, clipped to 5 squares wide on 2 wires.

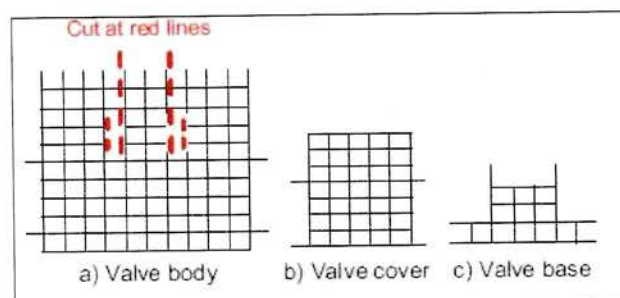


FIGURE 12: THREE COMPONENTS OF THE VERTICAL VALVE.

Assembling

1. Bend body (10 x 9) into a gentle "U" shape. Tie top at a,b and c,d ,using end wires, to form a slight funnel (see figure 10).
2. Tie in valve base.
3. Bend valve cover at 45 degrees at 3rd wire from the end Tie cover to body valve (5 square up from bottom of and 1 square in at the top).
4. Clip inside to the opening in the holding cage. Cut 4 x 4 opening in holding cage directly from the base and 3 squares in from the edge. Cut corresponding 4 x 4 opening in feeding cage.

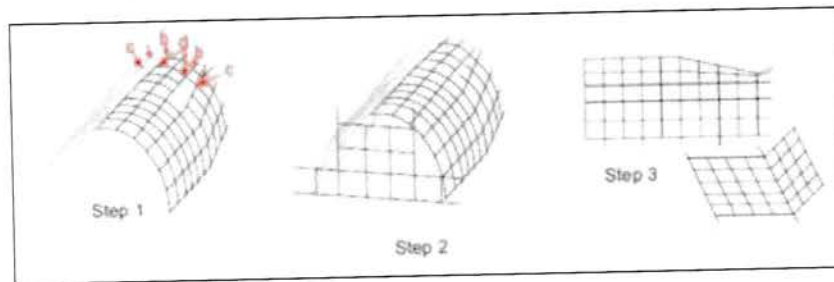


FIGURE 13: ASSEMBLING VERTICAL VALVE COMPONENTS.

4.6. OTHER COMPONENTS

WATER FOR BIRDS

1. Position and attach a water bottle to the outside of the cage, securing it with an elastic strap.
2. Alternatively, use a commercially-available water container.

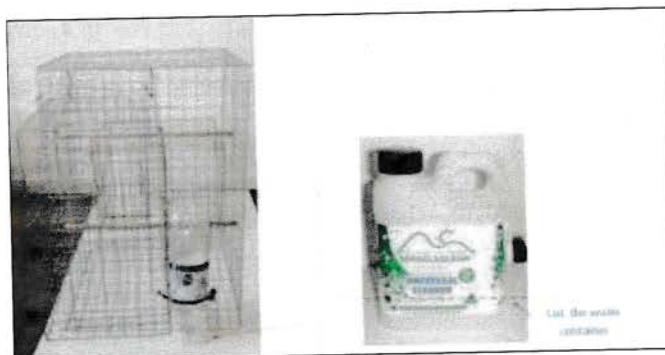


FIGURE 14: HOW TO MAKE AND ASSEMBLE THE WATER CONTAINER



COMMERCIAL WATER CONTAINER

HOOKS

Make hooks out of tie wire or bicycle inner tube or elastic to fasten doors. Attach the containment chamber to entrance chamber.

SHADE CLOTH

Attach a square of shade cloth to the top of both cages using netting clips, to provide shelter from the elements for trapped birds. If you are not using shade cloth, be sure to place a towel or hessian sack over holding cage during trapping.

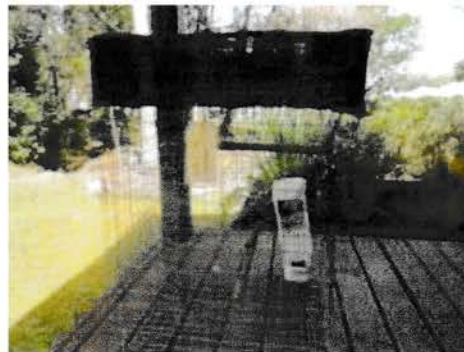


FIGURE 15: SHADE CLOTH COVER ON THE CAGE

PERCHES

Place a perch in both the cages to assist with the birds transfer from one cage to another, and for extra comfort. Diameter of the perch should be about 2 cm. Select a stick, from a native non-poisonous plant and from an area which has NOT been sprayed or treated with insecticides or herbicides.

REFERENCES

PeeGee Copyright

Trap Designed by Peter Green . Member of Canberra Common Myna Action Group.

Email: peegee@actwagl.net.au