

"HOMEMADE INCUBATOR"

Cochin Housing

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My homemade incubator setup. This was a non-working soft drink cooler that I salvaged. Insulated great and has adjustable shelf tabs already installed for bottled Pepsi products. It will hold temp for an hour with no power. I used the existing fan and that alone produces enough heat to reach 90 degrees. I used 2 heating elements from Styrofoam incubators and a GQF thermostat. I plan to upgrade to a digital from an incubator supply house. The two liters are in place as heat sinks to hold temp and I monitor my temps from inside the egg as opposed to worrying about the air temp all the time. You can see a plastic toy egg filled with vegetable oil and a thermometer inserted and sealed. I use a spot check thermometer and cheap \$2 aquarium thermometers from Walmart. I dry incubate - meaning I add no water until the last two days . . . that's the cake pan in the bottom. It works amazing if the thermostat cooperates.

The bottom two shelves are covered and have dividers allowing me to hatch different crosses while keeping them separate. Once hatched, a color coded paint drop on the forehead keeps track until I wing band at a few weeks old!

I have made several like this from small dorm fridges but this one holds a ton of eggs and looks cool! I cut a big window in the dorm fridges with a Sawzall and put Plexiglas double pane windows on those.

The turners are the most expensive part and they were leftovers from all my foam ones over the years. If I built one from scratch, I would build a large turner like in a Sportsman model.

One other incubating tip . . . I always hang a down feather from a piece of dental floss at the farthest point away from my fan. One glance at that thing waving around tells me my fan is still running and I have good air movement throughout!