

## Building Cochin Coops By Bruce D. Robinson

I've had Cochins on and off for over twenty years. I remember my father building cages during the winter for the very first Cochin Bantams that he bought for me. From those first cages I have experimented and modified the design. Through process of trial and error I have burned more cages than most people ever build. My current cage design is a result of this process; they are what I like and they work for me.

The first thing you will need to measure the length of the space you want to fill with cages and document all dimensions. In a 12' length I install 7 or 8 holes that are 30" or 36" deep. The bottom set is 36" high then the two top sets are 18" high.

I purchase most building materials from my locally owned lumber yard - they sell a higher quality grade of lumber for prices comparable to the chain stores. Begin with fir 2x4's 12 feet long, then have the lumber yard rip them in half so you end up with 1.5" x 1 3/4" x 12' boards - then paint them white before cutting to length. Screw pre-cut pieces using 2 3/4" or 3" deck screws, then put the wire partitions in using 1" x 2" wire (there is a seller on eBay that has factory second wire dirt cheap).

Install 3/8" plywood on the tops of the bottom two sets of cages which serves as the floors to the top sets, then put the cage sets into place and screw into the wall and floor. I buy double 4.5" white vinyl siding, cut it lengthwise and nail to the fronts of the cages as a shaving stopper. For the taller bottom sets I use 1" x 8" plastic trim boards. Then hang the doors using 1/4" tubing straps - I buy these from Fastenal. Space out and cut 3" x 6" holes and wrap in wire edge guard and hang the water cups on the outside. I will use an inward rabbit cage latch and hammer a finish nail and bend over 1" that the latch will slide behind.

I single cage all my birds and find cleaning the shavings is easy with just a dust pan. I hope this give you some ideas that you can use. Remember that it's easier doing it right the first time.

Happy cage building....

Bruce







