



# HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN INDIAN MYNA TRAP

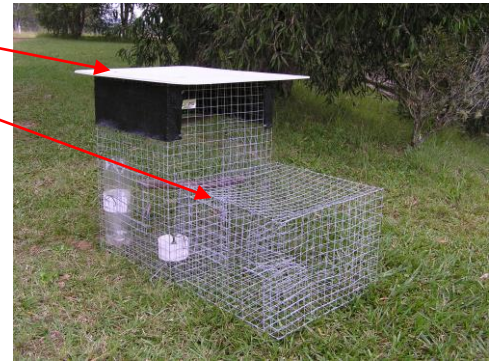
Peter Green from the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group designed the Pee Gee's Myna trap specifically for Indian (Common) Mynas and Starlings. Clarence Valley Conservation in Action (CVCIA) has made some modifications mainly for humane reasons, we still exclusively use and recommend this trap design. These traps are to be used for the sole purpose of removing Starlings and Indian Mynas. They must be used in accordance with your local Animal Welfare Act. Users of these traps must commit to the humane treatment and euthanasia of captured birds.

## DESIGN

The trap has two chambers, a holding cage (large) and a trapping cage (small).

These come apart for ease of transportation or storage and are clipped together when the trap is in operation.

Both cages have service doors. There are two walk in tunnels in the trapping cage and a vertical funnel in the holding cage. An opening in the small trapping cage corresponds to the opening for the vertical funnel in the holding cage (see *fig 1*). The coreflute roof and shade cloth provide shelter for trapped birds or your caller. Wire hooks are used to fasten the cages together and to secure the doors.



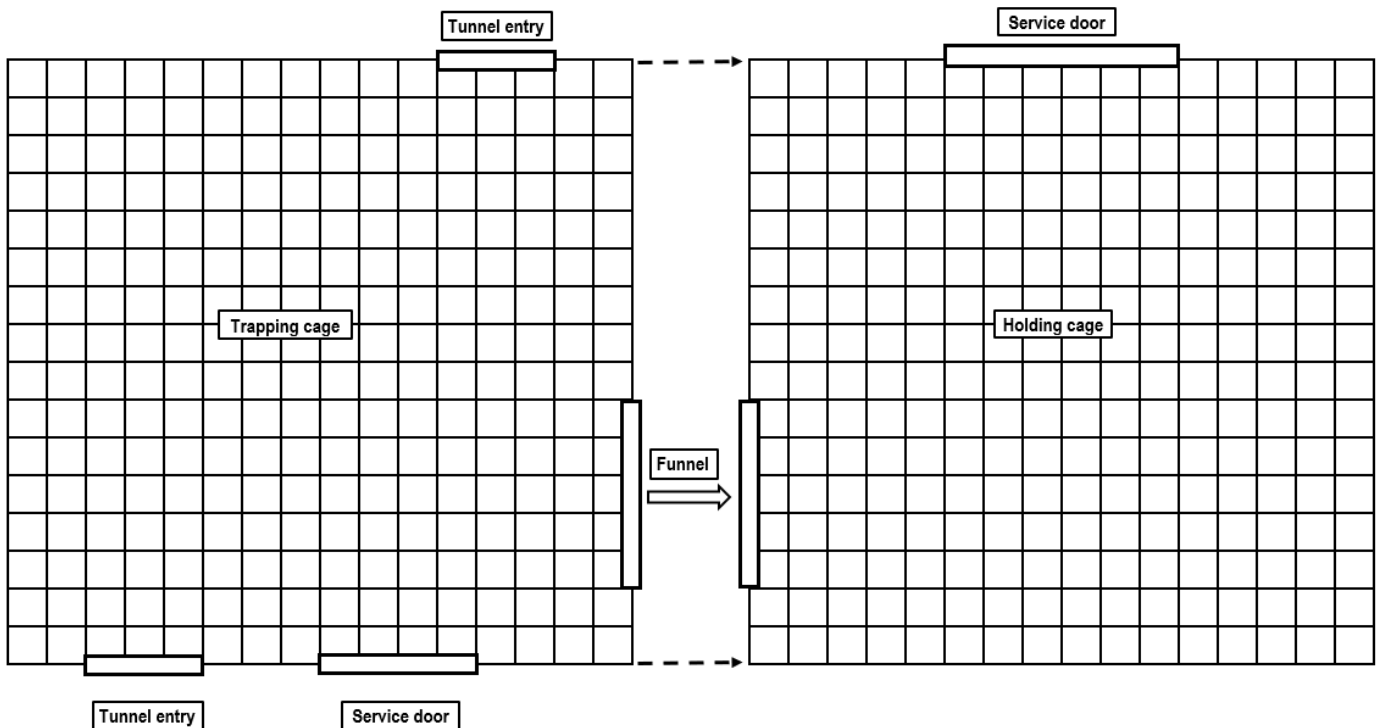
## GUIDE TO TRAPPING

- Place the trap in a relatively open area or where birds have been seen feeding on the ground on a regular basis. Observe the Mynas' habits. Look for their day and night use areas and place trap accordingly.
- Trapped native birds are protected by law and must be released as soon as possible so please monitor the trap regularly each day.
- Bait the Trapping compartment (smaller section of trap) with Lucky Dog Minis minced beef or similar (must be predominately red in colour). Cheezels or similar, found in the snack food aisle, can also be a good lure.
- Bait should be placed on a saucer in the centre of the Trapping section, a few bits can be sprinkled around the saucer and in the inner part of the entry tunnels.
- If the bait gets wet then re-bait with fresh biscuits, as it loses its attraction or smell.
- When in use please keep the trap clean, baited and the Holding compartment (larger section of trap) supplied with food and water.
- Only set up the trap and remove trapped mynas when no free-flying mynas are around. If a trapped Myna gives a distress call other mynas will be alerted of danger and may avoid your trap. Don't let them see you. Be careful not to educate them about the trap.
- The use of a caller bird (trapped Myna) should be considered, although this requires more effort, it has a better success rate. The "caller" can live in the larger (Holding) part of the trap. It must be looked after like a pet as a happy bird will encourage other mynas to visit it increasing your chances of trapping success.
- Patience and persistence are often required as the adults are clever birds and may take some time to catch. Success rate is higher during September to March as this is their breeding season and the young are less wary so easier to trap and the adult parents are looking for more food.
- Monitor any nesting boxes. If used by Mynas, destroy the nest and any eggs then clean out the nest box as mynas are dirty tenants. Use gloves when handling nest material and live or dead birds.

Native birds are protected by law so please make sure the bird you are trying to trap is an Indian Myna. If in any doubt please check the identification information provided on our website: [www.cvcia.com.au](http://www.cvcia.com.au) or Canberra Indian Myna Action Group: [www.indianmynaaction.org.au](http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au).

## MATERIALS

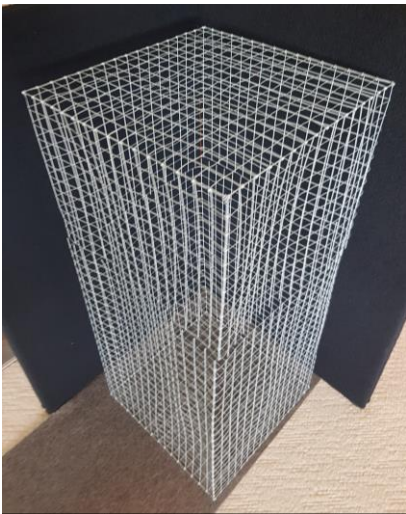
- Cage Mesh: 90 cm wide, 25mm x 25mm x 1.24mm (Whites Wires have 5m, 10m & 30m rolls available). A 5 m roll is plenty to make a trap with some to spare, a 10 m roll cut carefully will make 3 traps.
- Good flush side cutters to cut and trim wire. Using 'flush' cutters can reduce sharp edges
- 16mm netting clips and netting clip pliers are advantageous but shade cloth and doors can be secured with wire or cable ties.
- A pair of pliers, preferably long nosed, to put it all together.
- 2 mm tie wire for hooks and securing perches.
- Shade cloth and coreflute or similar for roof.
- Cable ties to secure roof, they can also be used for door hinges.
- A small off cut of 90mm plastic storm water pipe to make holders to easily secure the feed/water containers.



Plan view of trapping and holding cages *fig 1*

## CUTTING & FOLDING

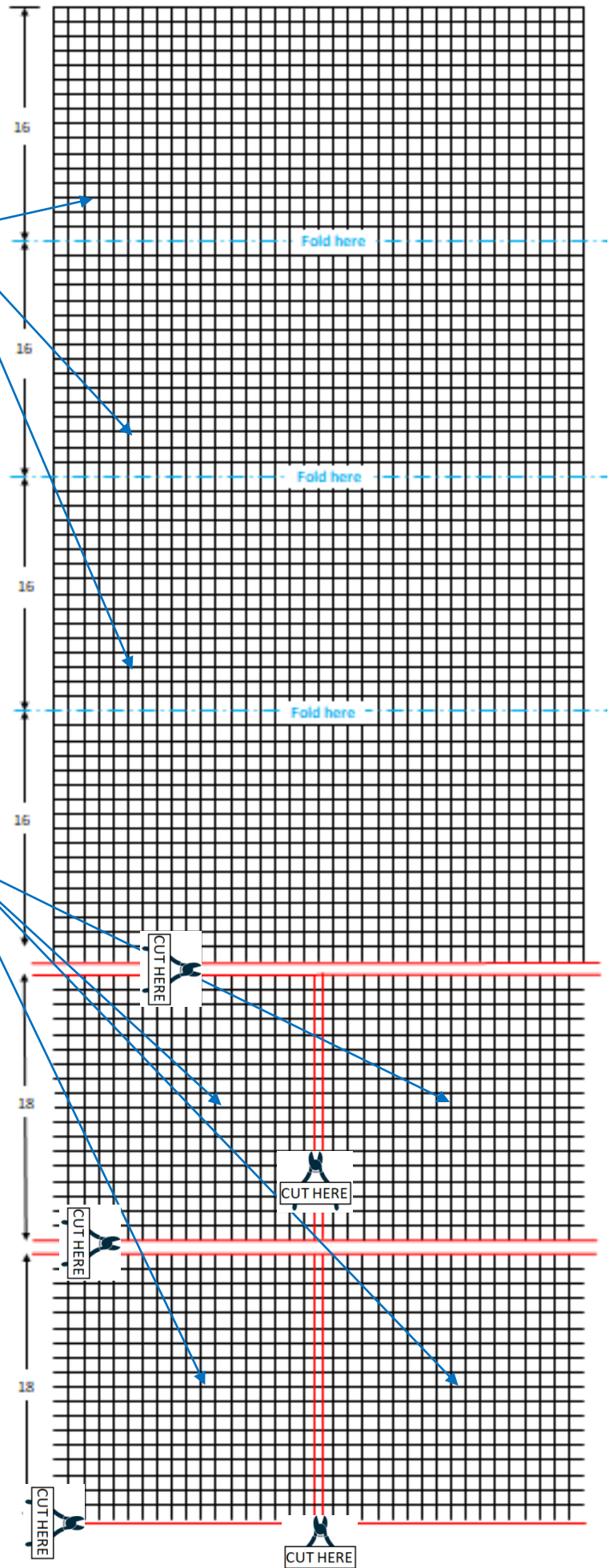
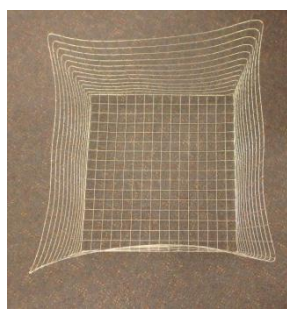
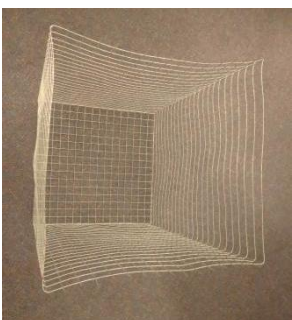
- Cut the full width (36 squares) of the roll at 64 squares long plus a fringe see *Fig 2*. This piece will make the outsides of your two cages.
- Mark at each 16<sup>th</sup> square and fold to form three corners (as shown) so you have an open-ended wire tube.
- Use the fringe wire to secure the final corner of your tube which will now be 16 x 36 squares.



Tube with top & base fitted

- Next cut out the four ends (tops & bottoms) these are 16 x 16 squares fringed on all sides (all up 18 x 18).
- Attach one at each end using the fringes remaining on the tube to wind around the ends.
- Set aside the other two ends to attach later. (P 8)
- You now have a wire tube closed at both ends. Measure and mark this tube 12 squares from the base all the way around and cut out the fringe wires between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> squares.

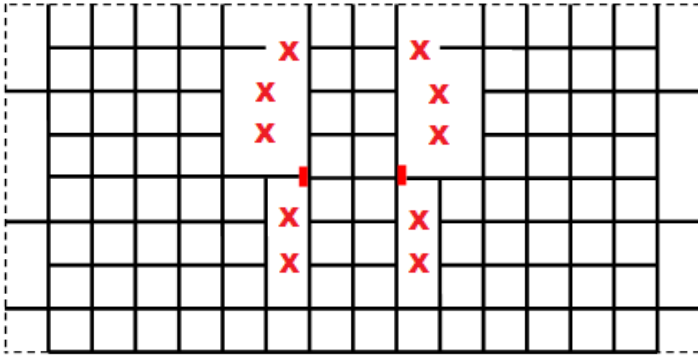
Now you have two topless wire cubes - one 12 squares high and the higher section 23 squares high. These will form the trapping and holding cages as pictured below.



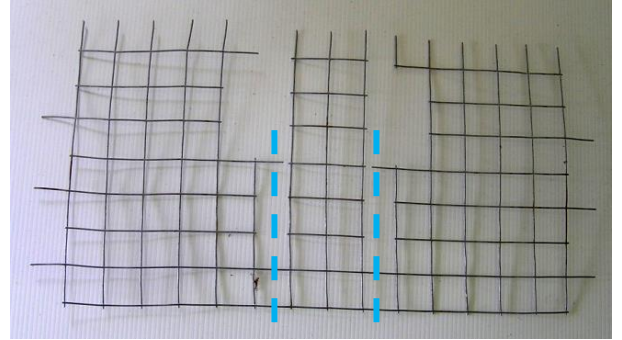
Cutting plan for cages and 4 ends (*fig 2*)

## TRAPPING CAGE FITTINGS

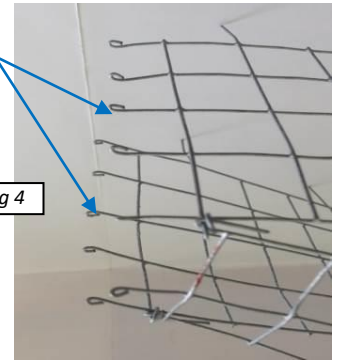
1. Cut two sections of mesh 16 x 8 to form the two entry tunnels. Trim as shown and cut at red lines.



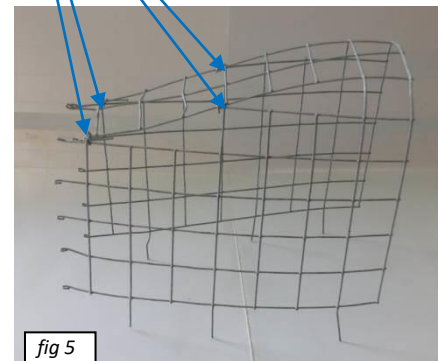
Cut plan for tunnels (*fig 3*)



2. Tightly loop close upwards the ends of the tunnels to prevent injury to captured birds (*fig 4*).
3. Fold in a slight curve across the middle 4 squares, as shown in *fig 3 right*, along the blue dotted lines.
4. Using the 4 top end wires, tie off the two bent sides around the narrow centre strip.
5. Cut two tunnel entries into opposite sides of trapping cage (*fig 1*), 2 squares from the left corner and 6 squares high, as shown in *fig 8* below.
6. Using end wires on tunnel, attach sides of tunnel to the floor of trapping section (*fig 6*). Opening of tunnels are 3 squares wide at entry and 2-2½ squares wide at the inside end.



*fig 4*



*fig 5*



*fig 6*

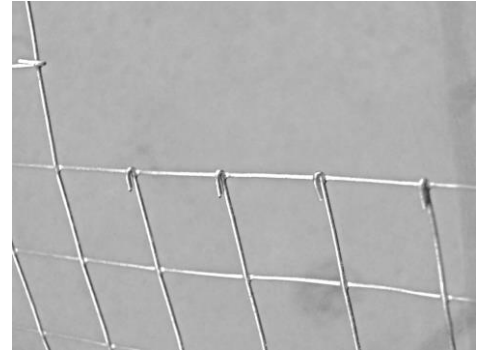
7. Secure the front of the tunnel by using the fringe of the cage opening. The end result of the tunnel is shown in *figs 7*. The tunnel tapers from 6" high to 4" and narrows from 3" to 2-2½", this assists in preventing the birds from escaping.



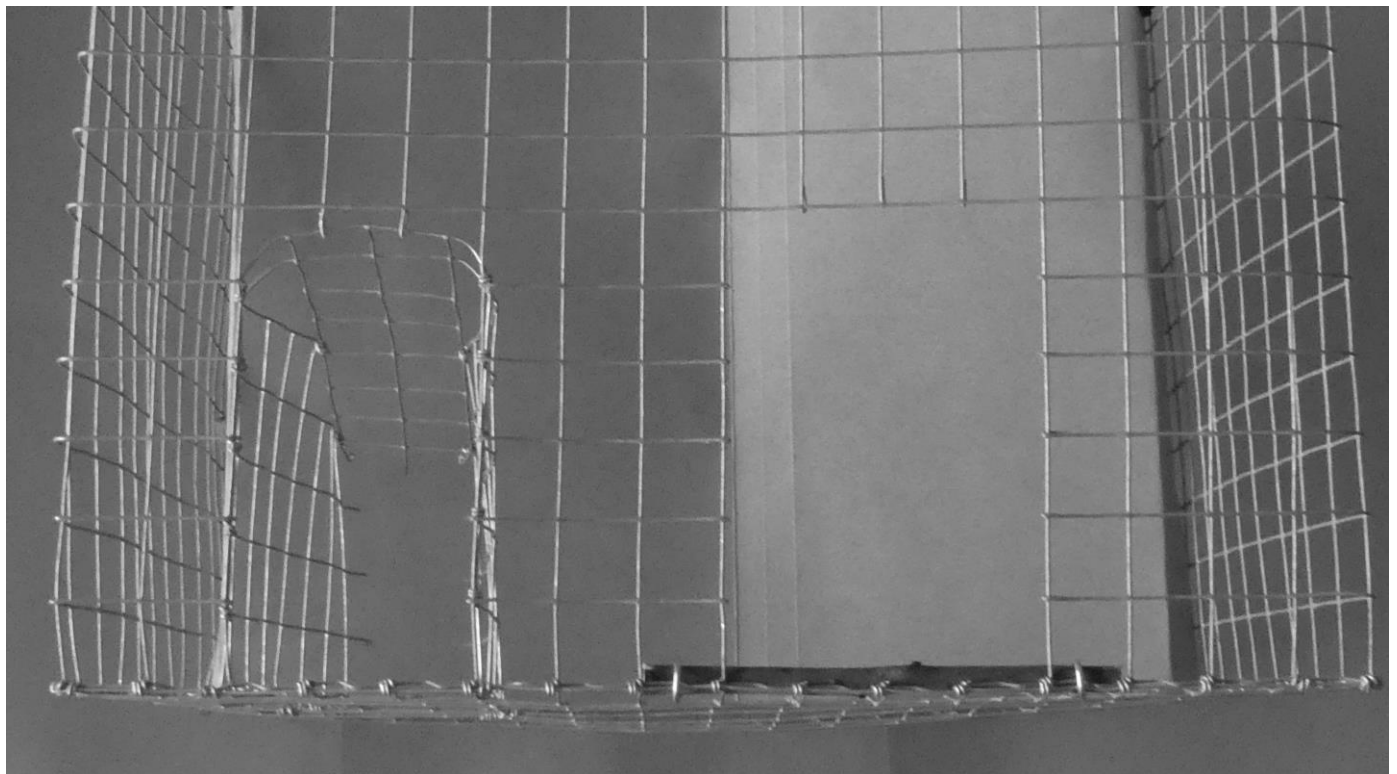
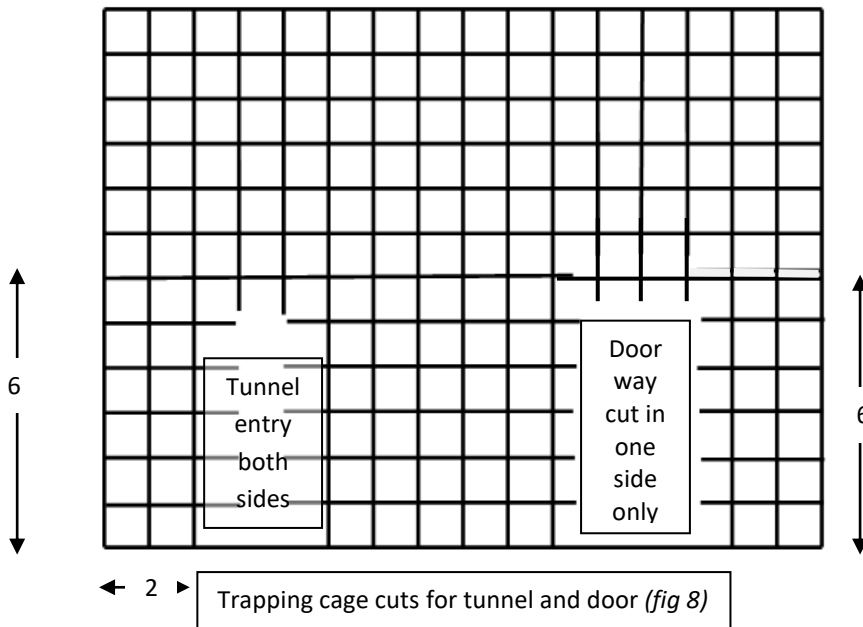
Tunnel fitted to trapping cage *fig 7*



8. In one side only cut the door opening as shown in *fig 8* folding back the half-sized fringe edges so that the opening has no sharp edges to scratch you during use (*fig 9*).
9. In the side to the right of the door opening as shown in *fig 1* cut the opening to the holding cage funnel. This is a 5 x 5 opening, starting 4 squares up and 2 squares in from the edge, folding back the half-sized fringe edges so that the opening has no sharp edges (*fig 9*).



Folded fringes in openings (*fig 9*)



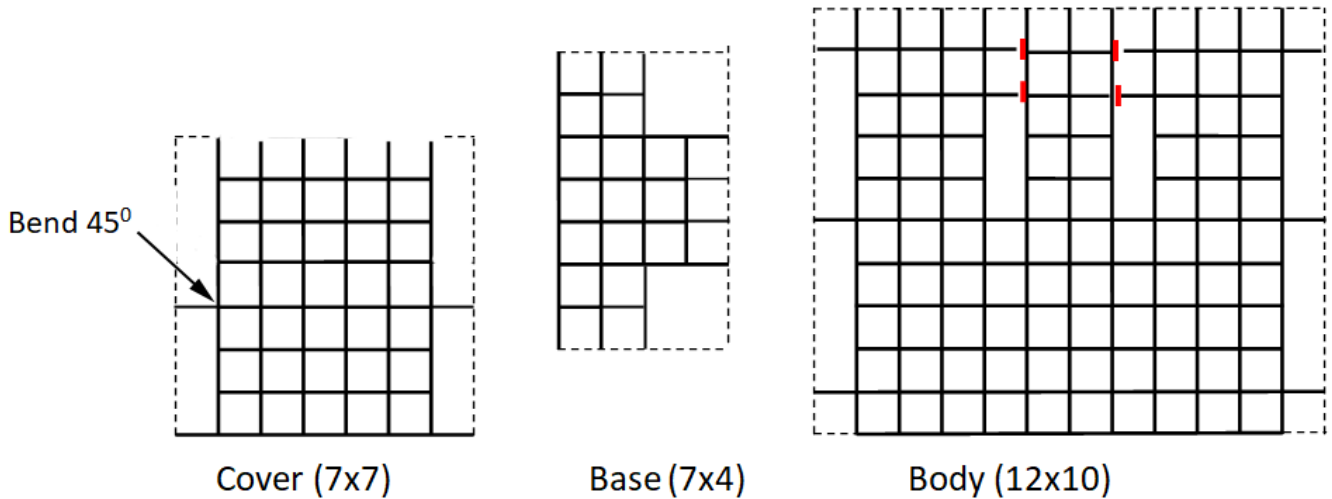
Lower half of trapping section with tunnel installed and hole cut for service door. Note stick across doorway to assist unwanted species to find exit to escape.

## HOLDING CAGE FITTINGS

Cut three pieces of wire to make the funnel as follows:

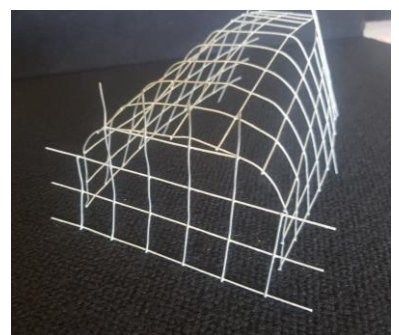
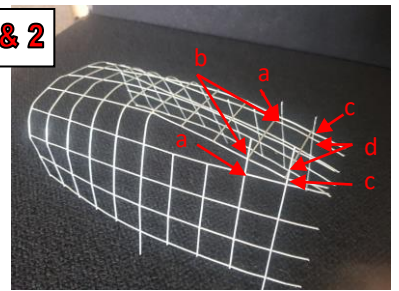
- Cover = 7 sq x 7 sq.
- Base = 7 sq x 4 sq.
- Body = 12 sq x 10 sq.

Trim as shown leaving wire ends as shown for joining:

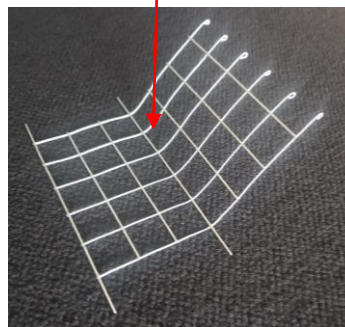
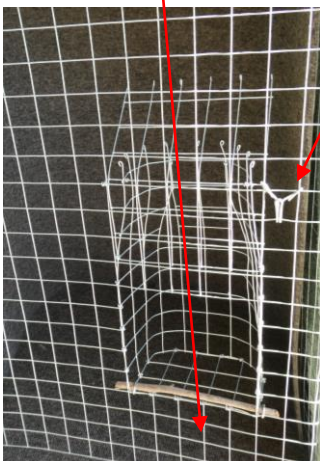


1. Bend body (10 x 9 + fringes) into a gentle "U" shape.
2. Tie top *a* to *b* and *c* to *d* on both sides, using end wires, bend to form a half funnel.
3. Bend sharp wire at the top of funnel into small, tightly closed loops to prevent injury to captured birds (*see picture step 5*).
4. Tie in base section using the end wires looped around the base.
5. Bend cover at 45 degrees at 3rd wire from the end and tie cover to body 5 squares up from bottom and 1 square in at the top.
6. As shown in fig 1, the entrance to the funnel corresponds to the exit from the trapping cage. Cut 5 x 5 opening in holding cage, leaving fringe wire for attaching, 4 squares up from base and 2 squares in from edge. Attach funnel to the opening inside the holding cage using fringe wire and to the base with fringe pieces on funnel.
7. Attach a small stick across the inside base of funnel entry to assist birds to locate the entry. (Note: 1 of 2 guide-hooks to attach trapping cage.)

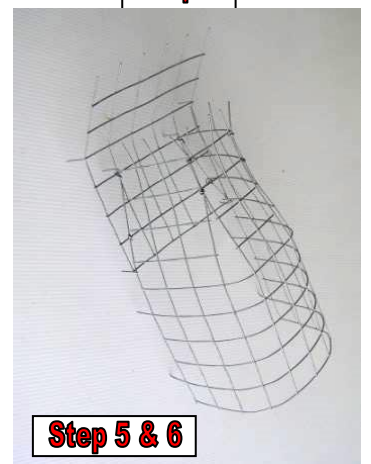
**Step 1 & 2**



**Step 4**



**Step 5**



**Step 5 & 6**

## DOOR CONSTRUCTION

Doors can be of any suitable size. We use 9 x 8 folded to make a door 7 x 6 for the trapping cage as this is generally only for servicing and 12 x 10 folded to 10 x 8 for the holding cage as it is easier to service the food and water, and remove trapped birds if the opening is larger.

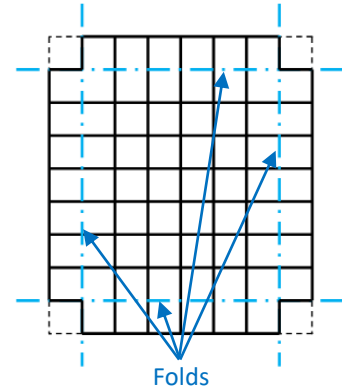
Cut off the corner squares as shown and then fold the edges one square in as shown to strengthen the doors making a door that is 2 squares smaller than the full cut out.

### Trapping cage doorway:

- Cut opening in one side of trapping cage as shown in *fig 8*. Leaving the base edge intact and counting from the base up.
- Fold over the ½ sized fringe to prevent any sharp edges causing injuries when servicing trap (*fig 9*).
- The door should be fitted at ground level in the trapping cage to allow for any (Bluetongue) lizards or snakes accidentally trapped to exit the trap easily rather than having to find the opening and up climb a wire side.
- Arrange door so that the vertical and top edges of the door overlap by 1 square. Attach door to the top of opening using 2-3 netting clips or cable ties.
- Fit door latch (or a similar fastener) made from wire (see below) to side of cage to close door firmly to cage.

### Holding cage doorway:

- Cut an 8 high x 6 wide opening for door with a ½ fringe, half way up one side and in the middle (*fig 1*).
- Fold over the ½ sized fringe to prevent any sharp edges causing injuries when servicing trap (*fig 9*).
- Arrange door so that vertical and top edges of the door overlap by 1 square. Attach door to the top of opening using 2-3 netting clips or cable ties.
- Fit door latch (or a similar fastener) made from wire (see below) to side of cage to close door firmly to cage.

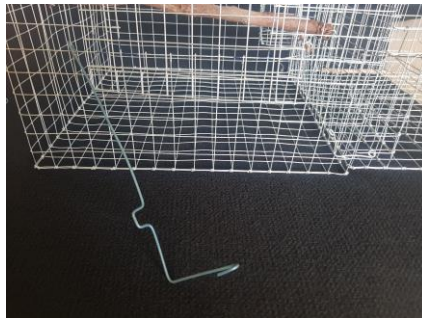


## DOOR LATCHES

Make latches out of 2.5 mm wire to fasten doors; 2 guide-hooks (photo P6) and latches to attach the trapping cage to the holding cage.



Wire hooks for the doors etc.



## FINISHING TOUCHES

**Perches:** Secure two perches in the middle of the holding cage (photo P8) so the birds have somewhere to sit during their stay. The upper perch is fitted 6 squares down, not too close to the funnel top to reduce the chance of escapees, also not directly above feeders to reduce fouling. Fit the lower perch at a convenient spot. A happy myna will call its mates down to the trap and increase your success in trapping.

**Drink containers and holders:** 65mm lengths of 90mm storm water pipe can be used as clips to hold your food/water containers as shown below in the holding cage.

**Mirror:** (Optional trapping hint) A mirror can be located opposite the entry tunnel. It may sometimes help to entice the bird through the tunnel but there is no guarantee, a caller in the holding cage is far more successful.



Feed container holders also note door latch



Mirror opposite tunnels

With all the interior fittings etc completed you should now attach the wire tops for both cages by winding the fringe over the cage tops.

### Shade Cloth & Coreflute Roof

To provide shelter for trapped birds, attach a length of shade cloth about 18 cms wide around three sides at the top of the holding cage using netting clips or cable ties. Do not cover the side where the funnel leading into the cage is located, as this can deter birds from going up the funnel.

Finally attach a piece of coreflute about 45 x 50 cms to the top of holding cage using cable ties, keep the longer overhang away from funnel.



### THE FINISHED PRODUCT.....



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