

# Instructions

## CHICKTEC VISION™ 40 INCUBATOR



# INSTRUCTIONS CHICKTEC VISION™40 INCUBATOR

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The **CHICKTEC VISION 40INCUBATOR** has been designed to give optimum performance combined with ease of use and can also be used as a short term brooder for a small number of chicks.

The electronic thermostat allows easy and precise temperature regulation which can be measured on the glass thermometer supplied. The silicon covered heating element coupled with the efficient, smooth-running fan ensures even distribution of heat. The constant-motion automatic turner favours correct embryo development.

## 2. BEFORE USE

BEFORE FIRST USE, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY DATA IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

**IF ALL ELSE FAILS READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AGAIN!**

## 3 UNPACKING THE MACHINE

Take the incubator out of the box and remove the internal components which are fixed with adhesive tape-Check that all components are present, as follows:

- 1 no. INSTRUCTION BOOK
- 1 no. THERMOMETER
- 1 no. WATER TROUGH
- 1 no. EGG GRID
- 1no. 2AFUSE

The incubator is fitted with a (approx.2m) single phase, electric cable with suitable 220/230V plug for mains connection. The label on the case of the incubator shows the voltage rating and power consumption.

**IMPORTANT: REMEMBER TO CHECK THE THERMOMETER FOR DAMAGE IN TRANSIT OR STORAGE. CHECK ESPECIALLY THAT THERE ARE NO GAPS VISIBLE IN THE MERCURY/LIQUID.**

### a POSITIONING:

Your incubation room should be dry and have a constant temperature of between 19-23 deg. C. Avoid extremes of temperature and make sure that the incubator is not placed in direct sunlight or near a heater. Place the incubator on a flat surface and close to an electrical power outlet.

*Please Note: The manufacturer disclaims any responsibility in case of improper use or placement, connection to any unauthorised apparatus or use by any unauthorised person.*

**THERMOMETER:** Insert the thermometer into its clip on the egg-turner grid and adjust it so that its bulb is level with the centre line of the eggs.

**Before first use,** clean the incubator inside and out following the instructions in Section 6.

Fill the water trough supplied with water and place it on the shelf next to the fan cage. (See later HUMIDITY section).

#### 4. USE AND CALIBRATION

Plug the incubator into the electric power and allow it to come up to operating temperature (101 deg. F). Allow the machine to run at the correct temperature for 24 hours *before setting the eggs.*

Check that the set temperature on the thermostat dial agrees with the reading on the mercury thermometer inside the incubator. If necessary, adjust the set temperature slightly by using a screwdriver in the central white screw on the thermostat box until the thermometer reads 101 deg. F (37.5 deg. C). It is important to check the temperature on the thermometer in the incubator.

#### HUMIDITY

It is important to understand that there can be no hard and fast rule for the amount of water required in an incubator as all the following variables come into play:

- ambient humidity in the room (affected by the weather and your local environment, e.g. on the edge of a lake!)
- the species of the eggs
- the porosity of the eggshells (can vary from egg to egg!)
- the time of year (warm weather usually means high ambient humidity and eggs laid towards the end of the season tend to be more porous)

Requirement for water in the incubator can be monitored by either weighing the eggs (or batch of eggs) (an egg should lose 13-15% of its weight during incubation) or by candling (the air space should be approx. 1/3 of the egg by the time it is due to hatch).

**As a starter, we suggest you fill the trough with water at the beginning of incubation and allow to run dry. Do not re-fill it until either:**

- 1. On candling, most of the chicks are shown to be through into the air space OR**
- 2. If not candling, approx. 30-50% of *the* eggs are pipped (cracked).**

**At this point the water trough should be filled and a second trough of similar size could be added.**

On subsequent hatches you may wish to increase or decrease the amount of water, depending on your findings with your first hatch. **If in doubt, it is better to add too little water than too much - more eggs are lost through too high humidity than any other single factor!** Remember, the depth of water makes no difference to the humidity levels in the incubator, it is the surface area which counts!

**In many areas of the UK it is often necessary to run the incubator dry.**

#### SETTING THE EGGS

Ideally, eggs for incubation should be between 3 and 8 days old and should have been stored at a temperature between 14-16 deg. C.

When the incubator has been running at the correct temperature for 24 hours, place the eggs in the incubator lying on the wire mesh, between the rods of the egg grid.

**FOR A MANUAL INCUBATOR, ensure that the eggs are turned three times a day by pushing or pulling the turning rod to roll all eggs backwards or forwards, alternately.**

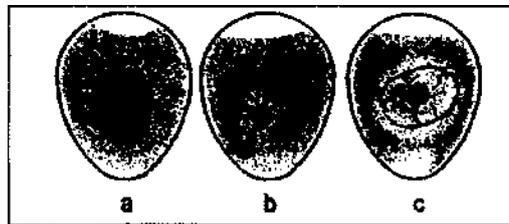
**FOR ALL INCUBATORS discontinue turning, by disconnecting the turning mechanism removing the egg grid, two days before the eggs are due to hatch.** The eggs should then be laid directly on the mesh floor of the incubator.

**EGG CANDLING**

It is advisable to candle (inspect with an electric egg candler) all eggs between the 8th and 10th days to eliminate 'clears' (infertile eggs) and any early 'dead in shell'. These should be removed from the incubator to prevent infection of the remaining eggs.

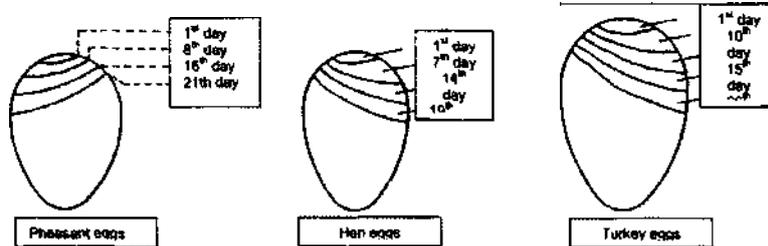
Candling should be undertaken in a darkened room. A healthy fertile egg should show a dark reddish spider-like formation of veins with a dark centre which should be visible, depending on egg shell colour and thickness from the 4th-7th day. An egg which 'glows' uniformly, showing a slightly heavier central yolk is 'clear' or infertile and will not hatch. An egg which shows a distinct 'blood-ring', or a dark dot with no radiating veins has died and will not hatch. All clears and dead-in-shell should be removed. Success in candling comes with practice - keep trying!

- a) 'Clear' infertile egg
- b) Normal embryo development
- c) Blood-ring, early dead in shell



Eggs with extra dark shells are very difficult to candle and may need a 'high-intensity' candling lamp.

When candling, you should also monitor whether the air space is on course to fill approx. 1/3 of the egg by the time it is due to hatch. If the air space is growing either unusually large or is unusually small, adjustments should be made to the humidity levels and the amount of water in the incubator.



## HATCHING

Turning of eggs should be discontinued two days before the eggs are due to hatch. As described in the HUMIDITY Section, do not add water until 30-50% of the eggs have chipped. Once the water trays have been filled up, the incubator should be left closed until all hatchable eggs have hatched. Poultry type chicks should be left in the incubator for 24 hours until they are dry and fluffy and then transferred either to an electric brooder or under an infra-red lamp. Heat will be required for up to 6 weeks, depending on the weather and time of year.

For small numbers of chicks, and especially altricial types (chicks hatched without feathers or down) the incubator can be used as a brooder by removing the wire mesh and water troughs and putting a layer of wood shavings on the floor of the incubator - but this will not be sufficient for the full 6 weeks! Altricial types can be placed in small plastic tubs. Food (good quality chick crumbs) and water should be supplied from 24 hours after hatching and care should be taken to ensure that all chicks are actually eating and drinking.

### 5. USEFUL TIPS:

1. **In case of power cuts**, place a hot water bottle or other container in the incubator (taking care that the eggs are not actually in contact with it) and cover the incubator with a blanket until power is restored. Eggs are amazingly resilient and may well hatch even after becoming quite cold - so don't give up hope! The most dangerous time for power cuts is during the first few days when the embryo is very fragile. Eggs which have been subjected to loss of heat may hatch a day or two later than schedule.
2. **For waterfowl eggs**, it is recommended that, from the 15th day onwards, the eggs are taken out of the incubator once a day and lightly sprayed with cool water; they should then be left out of the incubator for 15 minutes. **DON'T FORGET TO REPLACE THEM!** This procedure should be repeated until the day before they are due to hatch. (Contrary to what you might expect, this has the effect of increasing the porosity of the egg shell and therefore increasing weight loss).
3. It is recommended that the incubator is operated on an all-in/all-out system, but if eggs are set weekly, the following procedure is recommended for water supply:
  - a) add a second water trough during the hatching period of every cycle.
  - b) take away both water basins after the hatching of each batch of eggs, clean them both well and replace **only one water trough two days later**, allowing the incubator to remain dry for a period to regularise humidity.
4. It is recommended that the incubator room should be clean and hygienic, in order to obviate any bacteriological infection.
5. Please note that during incubation, and especially hatching, the operator could be exposed to bacteria and other organisms and therefore the following procedures are recommended:
  - a use of suitable protective clothing ( disposable latex gloves, masks, overalls, disposable overshoes)
  - cleaning and periodic disinfection of the incubator room
  - careful hand washing before and after contact with eggs using a proprietary antibacterial gel soap or waterless hand cleanser.
  - avoidance of food and drink whilst operating the incubator.
  - It is **essential** to clean and disinfect the incubator immediately after each hatch. Dirty incubators become a source of infection for future hatches.

These recommendations have to be considered fundamental to the protection of both the eggs and the operator.

## 6. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

For optimum performance, please observe the following:

- Don't expose the incubator to external weather conditions
- Don't use the incubator in particularly hot, damp or cold locations. A shed or similar in midsummer or midwinter is NOT suitable as the incubator thermostat cannot cope with extremes of temperature.
- Avoid dropping or jarring the incubator as this is likely to damage it.
- Always unplug the incubator from the mains before cleaning or maintenance.
- Avoid putting strain on the cable when the incubator is moved. Always remove the plug from the mains by grasping it firmly, not by pulling on the cable. Use of extension cables is not recommended.
- For cleaning and disinfection, follow the instructions below:

## 7. HOW TO CLEAN THE INCUBATOR:

In order to guarantee essential hygiene it is recommended that you clean and disinfect the incubator before and after use.

Wipe with a damp cloth using a suitable mild, non-corrosive disinfectant, such as Chicktec Hatchery Sanitiser, Disifin, F10 or other incubation disinfectant. The base and water troughs should be clean with normal domestic detergent.

**NOTE: After each cleaning and disinfection, the machine should be switched on for about 2 hours, with the id/door half open, to eliminate accumulated damp air and prevent condensation. If this procedure is not followed and the incubator is put into storage without drying out, condensation formed could destroy the electronics on next using.**

The following can prejudice the conformity of this appliance to EU requirements and also the proper working of the equipment:

- Connection to an incorrect electrical supply
- Incorrect installation or incorrect or improper use not conforming to instructions
- Replacement of any parts not conforming to those supplied by the manufacturer or as authorized
- **THE EQUIPMENT MUST BE EARTHED**

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### CHICKTEC VISION 30 INCUBATOR

POWER SUPPLY	230V/50HZ
POWER CONSUMPTION	80 WATTS
SIZES	390 X 390 X 300mm
NET WEIGHT	7.5KG

<b>EGG CAPACITY</b>	<b>Hen/Duck/Turkey</b>	<b>25-28</b>
	<b>Bantam/Pheasant</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>Partidge/Quail</b>	<b>72</b>
	<b>Red Leg Partridge</b>	<b>54</b>
	<b>Goose</b>	<b>9</b>

Species	Days	Species	Days
Hen	21	Pekin Duck	27-28
Quail	16-17	Wild Duck	25-26
Turkey	28	Barbary Duck	34-35
Guinea Fowl	26	Red Legs	23-24
Partridge	23-24	Pheasant	24-25
Goose	30	Bobwhite Quail	22-23

## GUARANTEE

This incubator is fully tested by the manufacturer before delivery.

Therefore the manufacturer does not accept any responsibility for damages direct or indirect caused during transport, including those to electrical parts caused by improper machine use or improper connection to the power supply.

The guarantee includes repairs or replacements of all the parts which are found to be defective in the 12 months following the delivery of the machine to the customer and applies when the customer informs the manufacturer or his agent, no later than the eighth day from when the fault occurred. The guarantee includes all technical telephone support but the customer is liable for all shipping costs for sending all defective parts to be replaced to CHICKTEC and all technical call-out charges.

The warranty does not cover any indemnity due to machine failure or damages pertinent to hatchability (eggs not hatched).

All investigations and repairs must be effected by the manufacturer's authorised personnel to avoid invalidating the warranty.

CHICKTEC and its distributors will not be responsible for loss of eggs, chicks, stock or revenue in the event of equipment failure, however caused, and the user is advised to arrange his own insurance cover where the loss of power or electrical or mechanical failure might result in unacceptable losses.

**CHICKTEC INCUBATORS**  
**WHITTINGTON WAY, CHESTERFIELD, S41 9AG**  
**TEL: 0700 INCUBATION (4628228)**