

# 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 to trap Indian (Common) Mynas and Starlings. Whilst Clarence Valley Conservation in Action (CVCIA) has made some modifications mainly for humane reasons, we still exclusively use and recommend this trap design.

Users of the trap must commit to the humane treatment and euthanasia of captured Indian Mynas.

It is extremely important that correct advice and procedures for trapping be sought as incorrect technique can lead to trap shyness of birds, and may compromise the trapping program for all.

More information about trapping and euthanasia is available on these websites:

[www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au) or [www.indianmynaaction.org.au](http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au)

## DESIGN

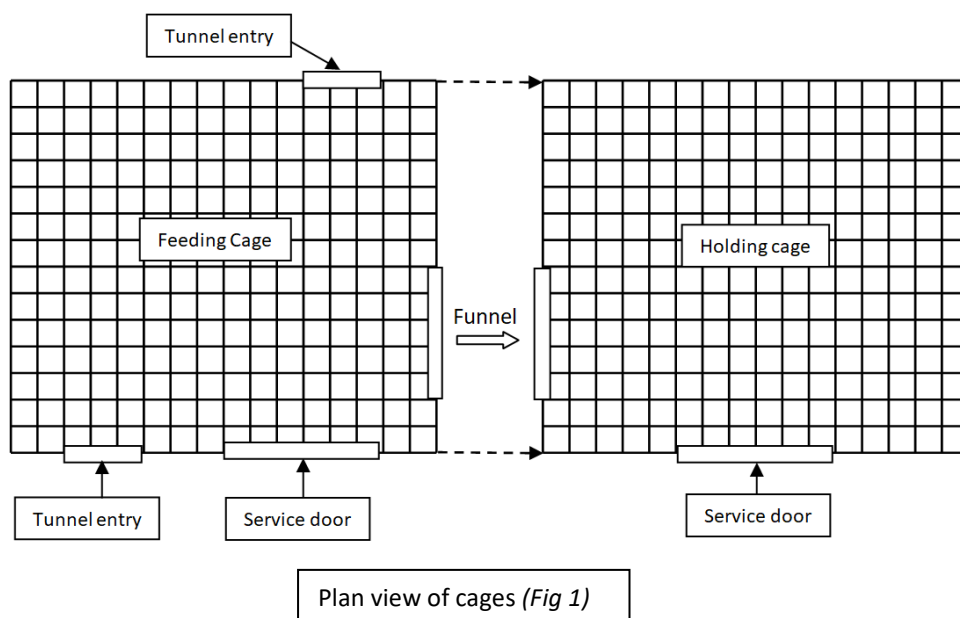
The trap has two chambers, a feeding cage (small) and a holding cage (large). These come apart for ease of transportation or storage, and are clipped together when the trap is in operation.

Both cages have access doors. There are two walk in tunnels in the feeding cage and a vertical funnel in the holding cage. An opening in the small feeding 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.



## MATERIALS

- Cage Mesh: 90 cm wide, 25mm x 25mm x 1.24mm (Whites Wires has 5m ,10m & 30m rolls available). A 5 m roll (\$26) is plenty to make a trap with some to spare, a 10 m roll cut carefully will make 3 traps.
- Good side cutters to cut and trim wire.
- 16mm Netting clips and netting clip pliers (\$20) 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 use for door hinges.
- A small off-cut of 90mm plastic storm water pipe to make holders to secure the feed/water containers.



## 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.

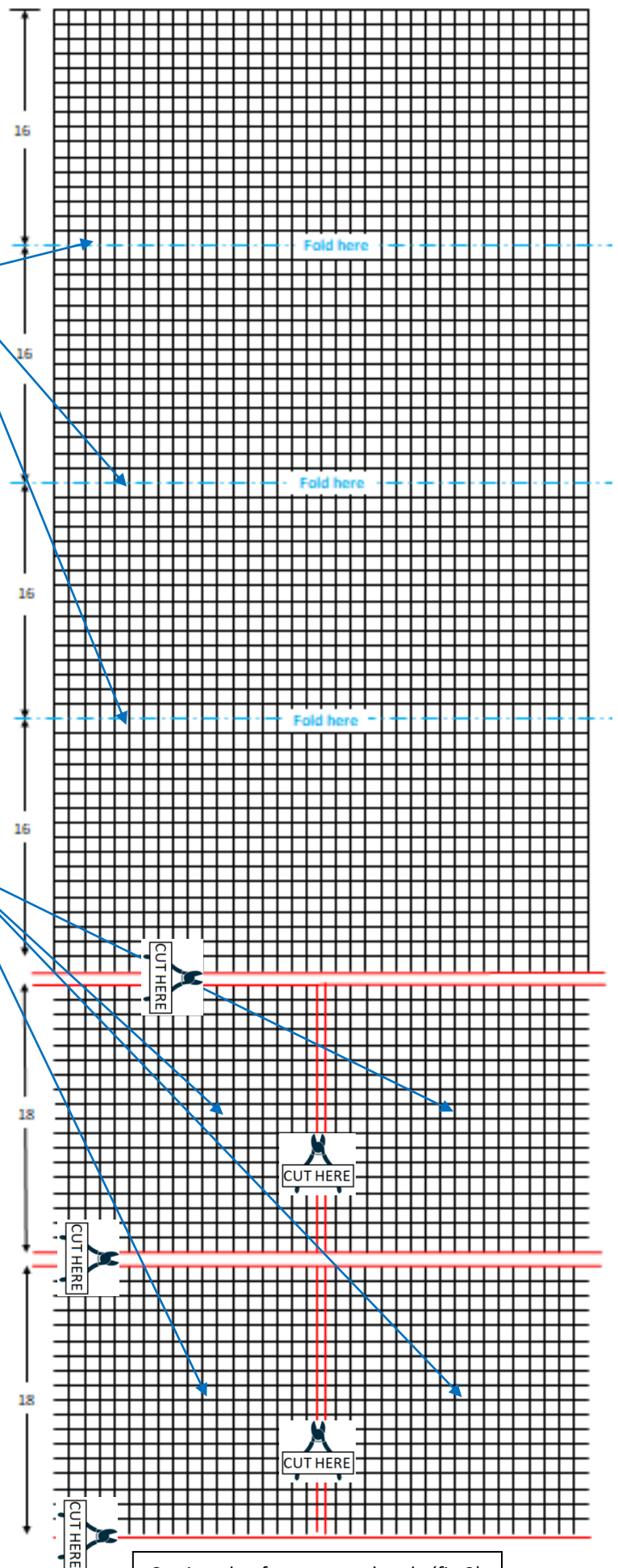
Photo of tube with top & base fitted



- 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 to wind around tube ends.
- Set aside the other two ends to attach later.
- 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 12th and 13th squares.

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

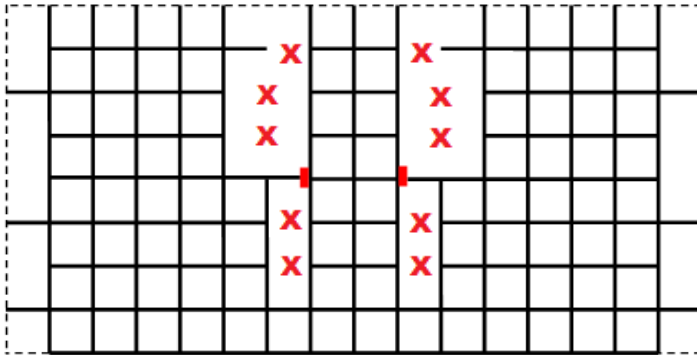
Photo of topless cubes after cutting



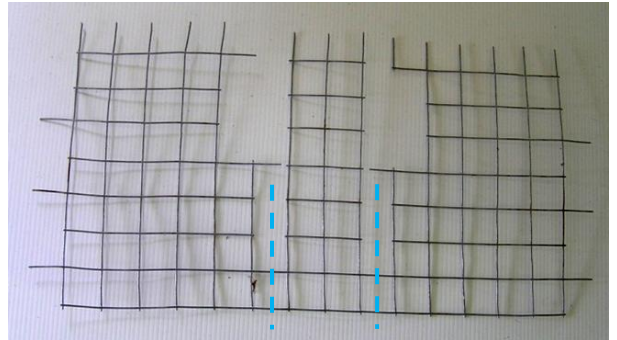
Cutting plan for cages and ends (*fig 2*)

## FEEDING CAGE FITTINGS

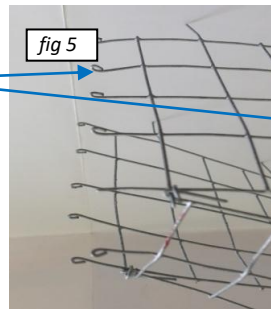
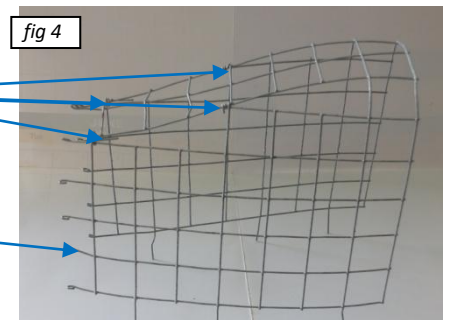
1. Cut two sections of mesh 16 x 8 to form the two entry tunnels. Trim as shown and cut at red lines



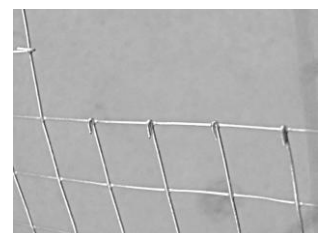
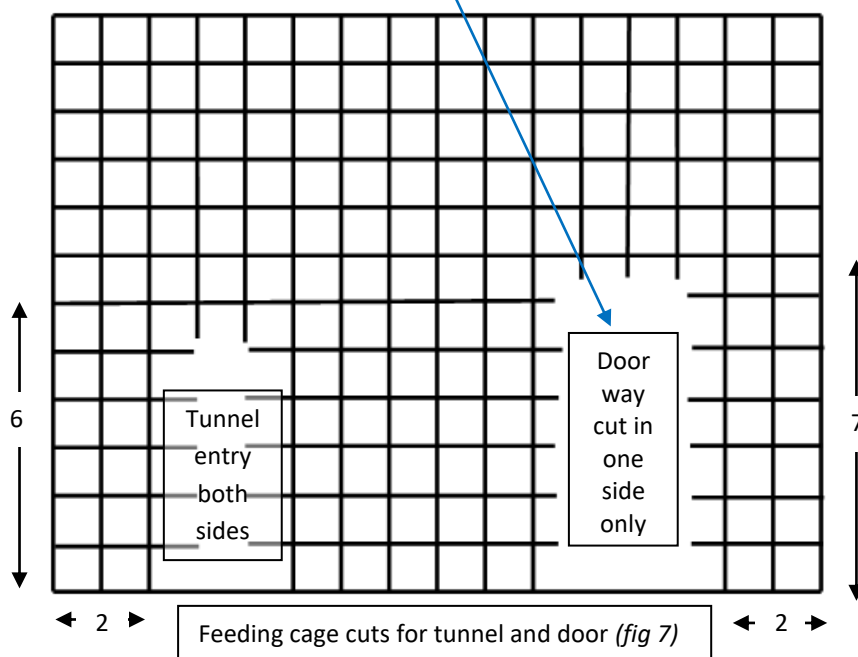
Cut plan for tunnels (fig 3)



2. Fold in a slight curve across the middle 4 squares, along the blue lines shown in *fig 3 right*.
3. Slightly bend down narrow strip between the two sides and tie off using end wires.
4. Loop the ends of the tunnels to prevent injury to captured birds. (*fig 4 & 5*)
5. Cut two tunnel entries into opposite sides of feeding cage (*fig 1*), 2 squares from the left corner and 6 squares high, as shown in *fig 7* below.
6. Tie large end of tunnel inside the tunnel openings in the cage using fringes on cage and under tunnel to secure (*fig 6*)
7. In the side to the right of the door opening as shown in *fig 1* cut the exit to the holding cage funnel. This is a 5 x 5 opening 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.
8. In one side only cut the door opening as shown in *fig 7* folding back the half sized fringe edges so that the opening has no sharp edges to scratch you during use.



Tunnel fitted to feeding cage (*fig 6*)



Folded fringes in openings (*fig 8*)

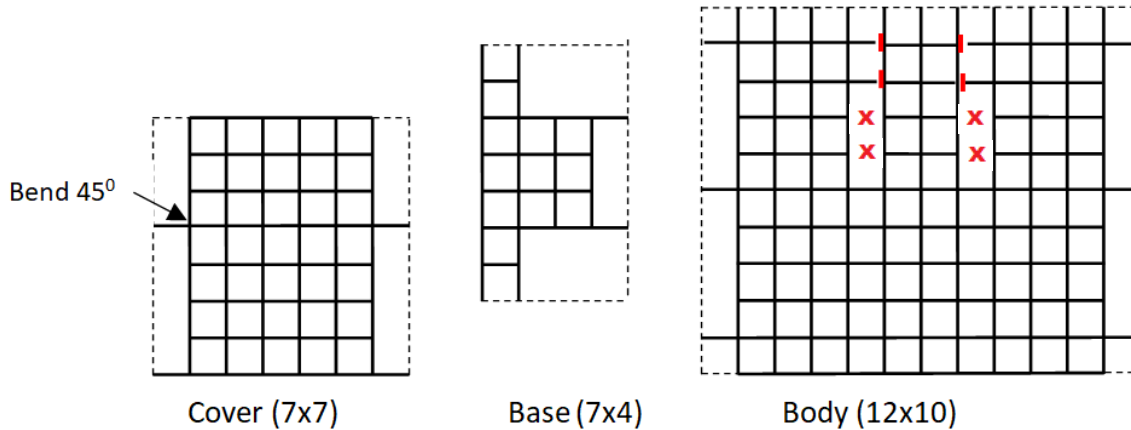


## HOLDING CAGE FITTINGS

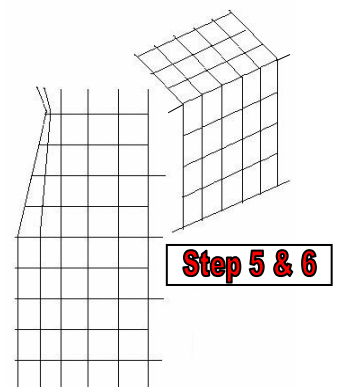
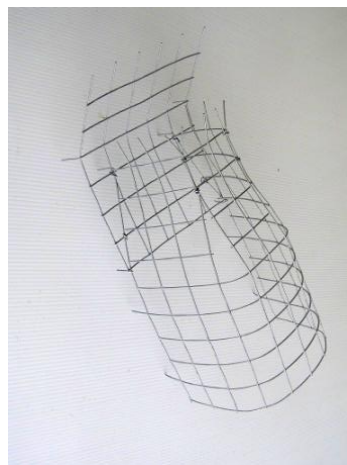
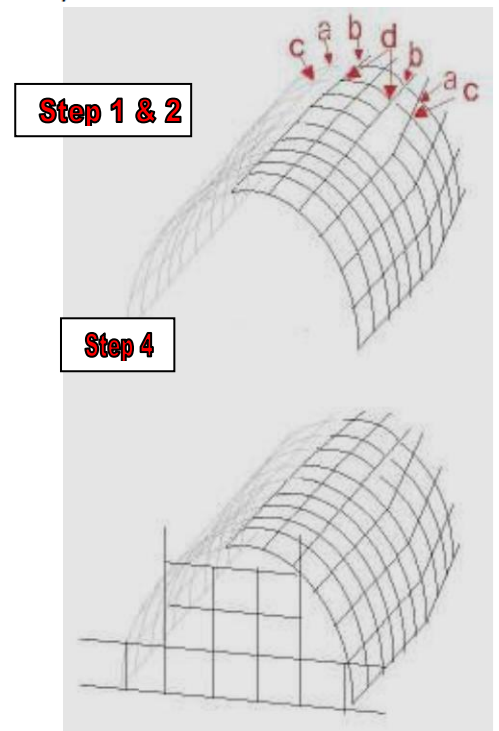
Cut three pieces of wire to make the funnel as follows:

- 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:



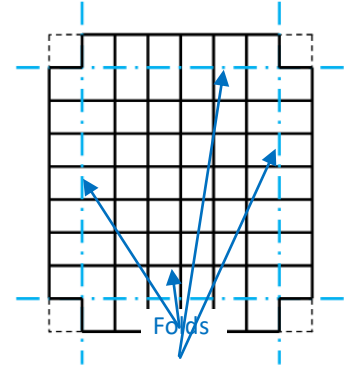
1. Bend body (10 x 9 + fringes) into a gentle "U" shape.
2. Tie top a to b and c to d on both sides, using end wires, bend to form a half funnel.
3. Bend sharp wire at the top of funnel into a small closed loop to prevent injury to captured birds (*fig 5*).
4. Tie in base section.
5. Bend cover at 45 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. 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.



## DOOR CONSTRUCTION

Doors can be of any suitable size. We use 9 x 8 folded to make a door 7 x 6 for the feeding 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 catch the bird 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.



### Feeding cage doorway:

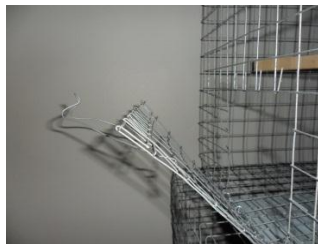
- Cut opening in one side of feeding cage as shown in *fig 7*. Leaving the base edge intact and counting from the base up.
- Fold over the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sized fringe to prevent any sharp edges causing injuries when servicing trap (*fig 8*).
- The door should be fitted at ground level in the feeding cage to allow for any (Bluetongue) lizards or snakes accidentally trapped to exit the trap easily rather than have to climb a wire side.
- Arrange door so that the vertical and top edges of the door overlap by 1 square. Attach door to the base using 3 – 4 netting clips or cable ties.
- Fit hooks made from tie wire (see below) to top of door to fix firmly to body of cage.

### Holding cage doorway:

- Cut an 8 high x 6 wide opening for door with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  fringe, half way up one side and in the middle (*fig 1*).
- Fold over the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sized fringe to prevent any sharp edges causing injuries when servicing trap.
- Arrange door so that vertical and top edges of the door overlap by 1 square. Attach door to the top of opening using 3 – 4 netting clips or cable ties.
- Fit hooks made from tie wire (see below) to bottom of door to fix firmly to body of cage.

## HOOKS

Make hooks out of 2mm tie wire to fasten doors, and to attach the feeding cage to the holding cage. A couple of pegs will provide extra security.



Tie wire hooks for the door.

## FINISHING TOUCHES

**Perches:** Secure two perches in the holding cage (see page 6) 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 chances.

**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.

**Mirrors:** A mirror located opposite the entry tunnel may help to entice the bird through the tunnel sometimes this helps but there is no guarantee, a caller in the holding cage is far more successful..



Feed container holders also note door catch



Mirror opposite tunnels



## 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 holding cage using netting clips or cable ties. Do not cover side where the funnel leading into the cage is located, as this can deter birds from going up the funnel.

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.

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



**Tops:** A mirror located opposite the entry tunnel may help to entice the bird through the tunnel

## THE FINISHED PRODUCT.....

