

Cowbird “pick-up” Trap Construction Instructions

This is the “Pick-Up” style trap and it will fit in the bed of a pick-up truck. It measures 6’L X 4’W X 4’H.



- Materials needed:**
- Approximately 40 feet of 1” X 1” inch mesh wire (4 ft. tall)
 - 1’ X 4’ piece of plywood
 - cage clips and pliers
 - screen door spring
 - 6-8’ of heavy duty string
 - tie wire

Procedure:

- 1 Roll out wire mesh.
- 2 Measure out and cut 20’ for sides of trap.
- 3 Carefully bend at 4’, 10’ and 14’ so that a square trap that is 4’ X 6’ is created. *This can be accomplished by lying the wire between two boards – be careful to bend between the two wires and not right up against one or the other wires.*
- 4 Cut a 6’ piece to be used for the floor of the trap.
- 5 Use cage clips about every 4-5 inches to attach the floor and secure the side pieces.
- 6 Cut a 4’ piece of mesh wire and bend 90° at 1 foot to form an “L” shaped piece.

- 7 Cut a 3' piece of mesh wire and bend 90° at 1 foot to form an "L" shaped piece.
- 8 Attach the 2 "L" shaped pieces to form top and funnel drop area for slotted plywood trap piece.
- 9 Cut 1' X 4' plywood piece. Cut a 1 1/4" slot for drop slot – leave 4-6 inches of board on each side.
- 10 Drill holes in board about every 8 inches and attach in drop slot with tie wire.
- 11 Cut a 33" wide by 40" tall door in one of the 4 foot sides. *Be careful to leave the wires long on the trap so you can bend the wires back to prevent any one being scratched. Save the 33X40 piece to make the catch box out of later.*
- 12 Cut a 36" wide piece of wire mesh for the door of the trap and secure one side of the door with cage clips. *Wire the door shut in several places to prevent predators from entering and cowbirds from exiting.*
- 13 From the piece removed for the door, cut a piece 16" wide by 32" long. Bend this piece in the middle at a 90 degree angle. Cut another piece 14X14 for the inner springed trap door (*lay aside for now*). Cut another piece of mesh 16" by 48" off the original roll. Bend this piece into a "C" shape (16"X16"X16"). Cage clip the two pieces into a 5 sided box to for the catch trap.
- 14 Cut a 12" by 12" hole in the top center of the end with out the door (*about 4 inches from the top*). Position the catch trap over the hole and cage clip the trap to the large cage. *You might have to crawl inside the trap at this point – take the inner springed trap door in with you while you are at it.*
- 15 Attach the springed trap door with cage clips on the bottom of the 12"X12" hole.
- 16 Attach the spring to the upper part of the springed trap door (*position so that it will not hit the sides of the 12"X12" hole*).
- 17 Cut a 5X5 hole in the end of the catch trap for bird removal. *Be careful to leave the wire long on the catch trap so you can bend over the wires to prevent scratching or cutting of your arm.* From your scrap mesh wire, cut an 8"X8" door and cage clip to the catch trap on one side (*hinge*). *Wire this door shut firmly with tie wire.*
- 18 Attach spring to top of catch trap so that the springed door stays loosely shut.
- 19 Attach heavy duty string to springed door (on inside of trap) and run back to the door end of the cage. *This will allow you to pull the springed door open and scare the cowbirds into the catch trap portion of the trap to preclude entering the trap while birds are inside.*
- 20 *Add shade, poultry waterer, perches under the shade, bird feed, decoy birds and you are set.*