



Mini II Eco and Mini II Advance Incubation Starter Packs

Pack Contents

Mini II Eco or Mini II Advance Incubator (as ordered)
EcoGlow Safety 600 chick brooder
OvaView egg candling lamp
OvaScope egg viewer (Advance pack only)
Feeder
Drinker

Please check the contents of the pack and contact your dealer or Brinsea Products if anything is damaged or missing. To register each of your new Brinsea products please visit www.brinsea.co.uk and follow the link on the right hand side of the home page to qualify for your free 3 year guarantee.

Go to www.Brinsea.co.uk and register as a free member of the Brinsea Email Group to receive the latest news and information such as advance notice about new products, special offers, exclusive competitions and much more.

Introduction

The Brinsea Mini Eco and Mini Advance Incubation Starter Packs provide the equipment needed to artificially incubate and rear 'precocial' species (i.e. chicks able to walk, eat and drink immediately after hatching) such as domestic species including bantams, peafowl and ducks and game birds such as quail and pheasant. Brinsea Products sell a wide range of books on breeding and rearing birds which will provide invaluable information for the beginner.

Detailed operating instructions for the incubator, brooder, candling lamp and OvaScope egg viewer (Advance only) are included with each component of the pack. Please take time to read the instructions and familiarise yourself with the products. Successful incubation requires control of a number of factors and it is important to follow recommendations in the instructions to obtain the best hatch.

Getting Started

The incubator needs to be located in a heated (minimum 17°C), draft free location out of direct sunlight. Set the equipment up and allow it to operate for a couple of days before setting eggs to ensure it has stabilised and to familiarise yourself with the controls.

Fertile eggs are now widely available. It is recommended to start with some low cost eggs to gain experience with the equipment and incubation techniques. Eggs may be stored (ideally at about 15°C and turned daily) for up to 14 days if necessary though fresher eggs are more likely to hatch.

Follow the detailed instructions supplied with the incubator for more information.

Hatching

Be sure to have the brooder set up in time for the hatch and plan how the chicks will be homed. Read the instructions for the brooder carefully. Chicks make a lot of mess so cover surfaces to protect them where necessary. Have some chick crumb or similar feed for new chicks ready.

The chicks will need to be kept secure in an indoor pen with enough space for the brooder, feeder and drinker and for the chicks to freely move around. Chick Enclosure Panels are available from Brinsea Products which interlock to form a suitable enclosed space.

Warning: Some very small chicks (e.g. quail) can drown in a drinker so place clean pebbles around the trough to prevent this.

When eggs hatch leave them in the incubator for around 24 hours to dry. They still get the nutrients they need from the absorbed yolk. Avoid opening the incubator too frequently as it is important to maintain high humidity for other hatching eggs. Once dry, move the chicks to the brooder enclosure and immediately offer food and water. If a chick fails to thrive move it back to the incubator for longer. Closely monitor new chicks for the first few days when they are most vulnerable.

The chicks will consume a surprising amount of food and water (and kick plenty around them). Check on levels frequently. Clean the floor of the enclosure daily.

As the chicks grow they will become more independent of the warmth of the brooder and will quickly require larger housing arrangements. Be sure to have homes ready for the chicks.

Further Information

For a large range of books and accessories for rearing birds contact Brinsea Products at the address below.

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Brinsea Products Ltd, 32-33 Buckingham Road, Weston Industrial Estate,
Weston-super-Mare, N. Somerset, BS24 9BG
Tel: +44 (0) 345 226 0120 Fax: +44 (0) 1934 708177
e-mail: sales@brinsea.co.uk website: www.brinsea.co.uk