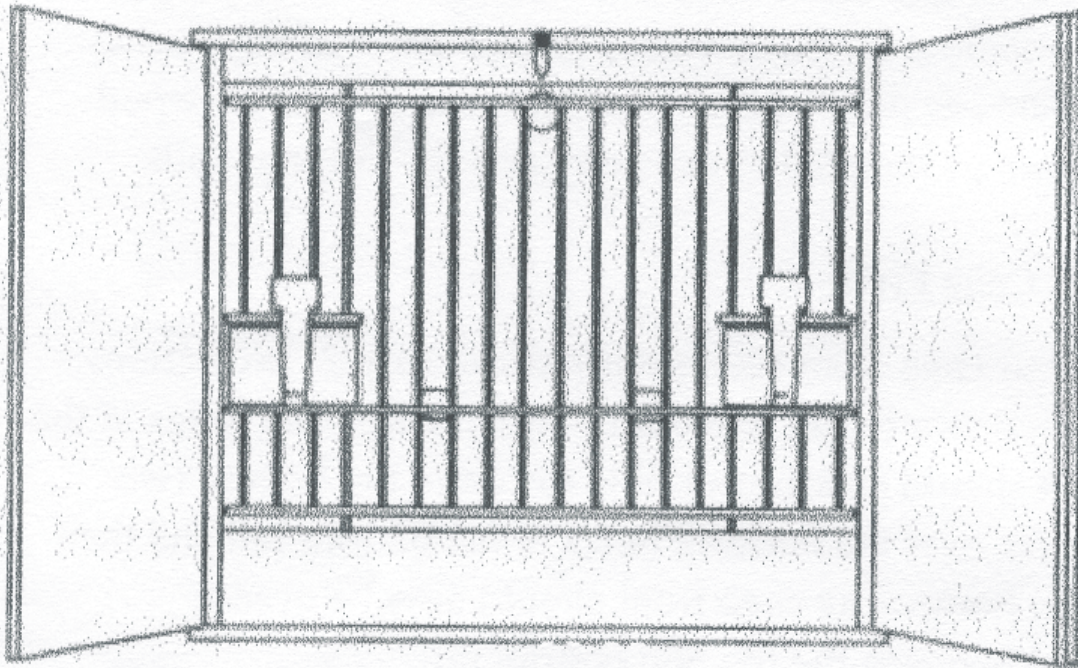


Show Cage Sizes—Roller Canaries



This fact sheet details the specification of the Show Cage that is required to exhibit Roller Canaries in the United Kingdom.

Other fact sheets in this series are available covering the requirements for other species of birds.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STANDARD ROLLER CANARY SHOW CAGE

The construction of a well-finished contest cage that conforms to National Roller Canary Society standards is well within the scope of the average DIY woodworker. The principal requirement for the successful completion of a project of this type is not so much the possession of elaborate woodworking tools or machinery but rather the application of patience and care. It is important, however, to use appropriate and well sharpened tools.

This is particularly important when using a sheet material such as plywood, which is used almost exclusively for the body of the contest cage. Of equal importance is the selection of the right type of plywood. Good quality birch plywood, although more expensive than the plywood typically seen in the large DIY outlets, is well worth the extra cash outlay. It is fine grained, easy to work and can be readily brought to a fine finish prior to painting.

The sand trays, seed and water hoppers, hopper clips, shutter turns and cage fronts, can be purchased from the National Roller Canary Society.

Initial Preparation

Full sets of working drawings are available, and fanciers should become familiar with the various components of the cage, before ordering materials.

It should then be possible to calculate the amount of plywood and other timber required in relation to the number of cages being made. In doing this remember that the direction of the plywood grain should run parallel to the longest side of each plywood panel. Don't be tempted to use softwood for the cage rails.

Chromed Cage Front

Cut the four cage front fixing wires down to ½" projections. Push the top two fixing wires fully into the housing holes in the top rail. It should now be possible to centre the bottom two fixing wires over the housing holes in the bottom rail and then push them home. The cage front should now be evenly positioned between the top and bottom rail.

Perches

Strong panel pins or a length of 14 gauge wire to form perch pins leaving a 3/16th" projection for housing in pre-drilled holes in the back panel. Before drilling the pin housing in the panel ensure that the fitted perches will run parallel to the top, bottom and side panels.

Painting

A number of factors need to be taken into account if the paint finish on the cage is to be of a high quality. The wood must be brought to a smooth finish and then made dust free. Brushes and paint should also be dust free. Avoid using brushes that are unduly large or small for the job.

Don't skimp on the number of coats of paint applied, and don't expect it to be a quick job. Allow paint sufficient time to dry before re-coating and remember that 'patience is a virtue'!

Sand surfaces between each coat.

Many paint manufacturers now produce combined primer/undercoats some of which are suitable for use on both metal and wood. A paint of the type which is mid-grey in colour would make an ideal base coat for both the green interior and the black exterior of the contest cage. The prescribed colour for the cage interior is currently 'Predicament' (code U36), made by Leyland Paint.

The finger hole edges are to be black, as are the edges of the door and door opening and shutters.

The exposed edges of both the top and bottom rails, the underside of the sand tray and its exterior sides are also to be black. The cage interior, including the top surface of the sand tray is to be green.

The brass shutter turn is left unpainted.

Contest Cage Components

Left-Hand Panel

9½ x 5 inches

Back Panel	10½ x 8¾ inches
Right-Hand Panel & Door Panel	9½ x 5 inches
Top Panel	11⅛ x 5½ inches
Bottom Panel	11¼ x 5½ inches
Door Shutters	Two of 9¼ x 55/16th inches
Top Rail	½ x ⅜ x 10⅛ inches
Bottom Rail	1½ x ⅜ x 10⅛ inches
Shutter Cover strip	⅝ D moulding

Material

The body of cage to be made from ¼ inch Birch plywood.

Top, bottom rails and door shutter moulding, made from Ramin (a semi hardwood).

Metal work

Door Turn	Tinned wire
Sand Tray Turn Door Pull	Tinned wire
Door Hinge	Punch bar
Door Assembly Staples	Panel Pins

Shutter Turn and Screw Cage Front	Brass
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Drinker/Seed Hopper Clips	Aluminium
Sand Tray	Aluminium
Perch Pins	Panel Pins

Door Hinges

Each Hinge made from punch bar with a rivet used to form a hinge pivot.
Hinges fixed in position with gimp pins.

Side Door To Right hand panel

Hinges made from tinned wire.

Cage Front	Chromed
Drinker Hopper	Plastic
Seed Hopper	Plastic

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