

Incubator Operation

- A. **Location:** The location of the incubator is important to successful operation. A room temperature of 70 to 75 degrees is ideal. Fresh air, without draft, is necessary. Be sure no direct sunlight strikes the incubator and that it is level. Locate the incubator away from fans, heaters and air conditioners. Position it so air can move around it freely – do not place the incubator in a corner.
- B. **Temperature:** An automatic electric switch, operated by a wafer thermostat, is assembled inside the incubator at the top. The adjusting screw protrudes through the side or top for easy regulation. Turn the adjusting screw to as indicated on the side of the incubator to increase or decrease temperature.

The wafer thermostat expands while the incubator is heating and eventually expands enough to make contact with the switch, cutting off the current. As soon as it registers 99-101°, turn the adjusting screw to the right very slowly until the light goes out. Watch the thermometer. If it falls much below 100°, turn the adjusting screw to the left until the light burns again. Adjust in this manner until you have the temperature regulated at 99-101 degrees. Tighten the lock nut on the adjusting screw. The temperature will rise slightly above 100° and fall somewhat below 100° because a simple thermostat is not extremely accurate. What is important is to get an average temperature in the 99-101° range and to avoid temperatures higher than 102° for extended periods.

Allow incubator to regulate to approximately 100 degrees before you place eggs in it. This time could vary depending on the distance from time of pick-up as well as your environment. Allow the incubator to warm back up to 100° before adjusting the temperature screw.

- C. **Humidity:** Keep water in the water pan at all times during the incubation period. Refill the pan with lukewarm water. Also, you can weave moist handi-wipes around the eggs to help with the humidity. If a film develops on the water pan, you must empty dirty water and replace with lukewarm water.
- D. **Ventilation:** Keep the air holes in the incubator open. Do not place tape over the holes.