

Thoughts on Loft Design by Bob Bollinger

I have several loft design features that I implemented more for the breeder than the birds. I am allergic to feather dust and minimizing my exposure was paramount in my loft design. The most noteworthy feature of my loft is a solid wall with plexiglass windows and a storm door that separates the main entrance walkway (aisle) from the birds. In the walkway I keep my supplies, feed, records, and etc. I consider this to be the dust free or clean area. (Figure 1 shows a top view of the loft) The back wall of the walkway has windows, which allow fresh air to circulate in the aisle. The plexiglass windows allow me to observe the birds and record information in the dust free area. The only exposure to the birds is when I enter the storm door to get into the bird's sections.

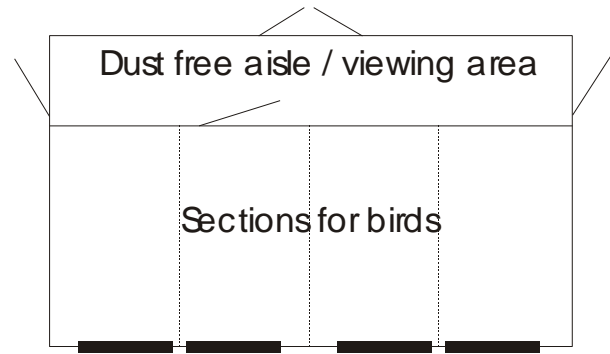


Figure 1

Inside the bird's sections I have a slatted wood floor. This allows the droppings to fall through to the underside of the loft. When doing routine perch and floor scraping the waste also falls through. I used vinyl lattice to skirt the bottom of building. This allows continuous air movement below the building. In the gap between the building and the ground I put several chickens. They keep the droppings stirred up so they don't pack and smell. Keeping the waste out of the loft minimizes the ambient dust in the bird's sections.

The front of the loft is made up welded wire assemblies. (Figure 2) They are industrial products for tool cages and such. The sections come as a 4'x8' assembly of galvanized rods on 1½" x 3" centers. They are self-supporting and can be cut with a bolt cutters and mounted in place. The open front allows maximum airflow in the loft. The airflow helps clear the dust away also. The open front can be a challenge in the winter. I do cover some of the openings with plastic during cold weather to keeps the birds out of the draft.

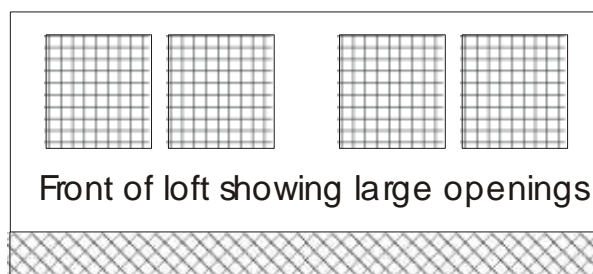


Figure 2

I hope this helps.