

Aviary Design and Construction

By Bob Cleaver

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Continued from the October edition

You will find that along the side of the zinalume that has the peak there is



Fig. 7. Method of fixing where peak of zinalume meets edge of frame. Note also ground down weld.

only a very small portion available in which to attach the Tek screws (see Fig. 7). As the Tek screws are generally larger than the piece of zinalume you are trying to attach them to, I have found that they tend to distort the zinalume along this edge. I now use rivets for this purpose as shown in Figs. 7 and 8. Please also note the ground down treated weld and the position of the Tek screws within each valley.

zinalume together. There is a choice of ways to do this. Sometimes I will join them together before attaching them to the steel frame but mostly I would do it once the zinalume is in place and fixed.

The main reason for joining zinalume sheets together *before* attaching them to a frame is that if the frame happens to be the same size as the peaks in the zinalume, then you have a problem. This can be overcome by joining the zinalume sheets together, fix along one edge, then stretch or squeeze to suit the frame, fix the other edge and then finish in the normal manner.

You will also see from these pictures that I use rivets to join each sheet of

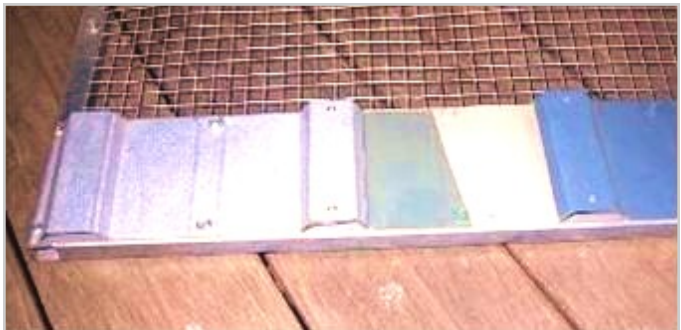


Fig. 8. Zinalume fixing points, with samples of some colour choices

Security Doors

This again, is an aviary of simple design, (see figures 9 and 10.), but which contains a security door. This arrangement can be either inside or outside the confines of the aviary. If it is on the inside you are going to lose a small amount of aviary space but it is easier to build as it takes less time, less material and is, therefore, less costly. It is simply a matter of constructing



Fig. 9. Aviary with internal safety door

two extra panels designed to fit inside the aviary at right angles to one another. One would be a door panel, the other a plain wire panel which will form a box inside the aviary with adjacent doors. The outside door should open outwards and the inside door should open inwards.

If you wish to build one on the outside of the aviary you are going to have to construct three panels (to form the “airlock”) and also a roof panel as well. It is purely a matter of choice and which of these designs better fits into your situation.

I have not spoken here much about building aviaries as fixtures or building *in situ*, as the principles involved are very similar, if not identical.


As mentioned earlier, it is a little difficult to put into writing *all* the intricacies of manufacturing an aviary without it becoming very difficult to read, and perhaps confusing to the reader. So I am going to suggest that if you are wishing to embark on such a project, and are in need of assistance, I will be only too happy to do what I can to get you out of whatever difficulty you find yourself in. Please feel free to contact me by email at bob@wombatrise.com. 



Fig. 10. Internal safety door shown