

## Setting up a small-scale mushroom fruiting chamber

For anybody who's truly new to growing, I recommend starting on a very small scale, and getting a few grows under your belt before making large-scale plans. We have a setup that we use for testing our fruiting blocks that is cheap and easy to build, and that can produce 30 pounds or more of fresh mushrooms in a week. It's a good starting point, and to put things in perspective, 30 pounds of oyster mushrooms will fill 5-6 16" x 24" x 6" crates, and, depending on where they are sold, should generate an average of at least \$300 in sales.

Here's our setup in a couple of photos:



What you'll see is that we've got really heavy-duty clear plastic wrapped and taped around three sides of the shelves to hold in humidity while allowing light in. Ideal shelves are the typical 4' x 2' x 6' heavy-duty, 5-shelf wire shelves available at Lowe's or Home Depot for about \$100.

On the far side of the shelves you can see where I've got a small fan going through the plastic. I just cut a slightly undersized hole in the plastic and forced it through, then taped around it . Here's the fan, it's only \$13 at Amazon: [Amazon.com: ELUTENG 80mm Fan 12v Power Supply PC Fan 3 speeds, DC Fan 12V 1A case Fan Fan Compatible with Computer / PS4 / TV Box/AV Cabinet/Router Multi-Way : Electronics](#)

Also inside the tent is a humidifier. You could also pipe the humidity into the tent from the outside if you wanted to run some tubing from the humidifier, rather than having it inside. The humidifier is plugged into a humidity controller, which turns power on and off to maintain a setpoint. Ours is set generally to come on at 88% and kick off at 92%. Here's the controller on Amazon, for \$43. You can also get a DIY humidity controller that you wire into an extension cord yourself for about \$15 if you want to save a little money and don't mind having something a little less polished. [Amazon.com: Inkbird Humidity Controller IHC200 Humidistat Mushroom Greenhouse Pre Wired Outlet Dual Stage Humidifier Dehumidifier\(New Version\) : Appliances](#)

We have the fan and the humidifier both plugged into the humidity controller, so that the fan only comes on when the humidifier runs. It still brings in plenty of fresh air, and helps keep the humidity in.

The other thing we have is a shower curtain set up for the front barrier, to make it easier to access the inside. It required us to leave some overlapping plastic on the sides and top so there aren't large open areas. Movement of air out of the tent just happens around the bottom, rather than having a set outlet.

Other than that, we've got LED lights on a 12 on / 12 off timer overhead. That's it. The entire build took no more than an hour, most of that time spent trying to be sort of neat in wrapping and taping the plastic. We only have two shelves in this one, because we're not fruiting many blocks, but in the past we've typically set them up with all five, the top one covered in plastic and the bottom four in use.