

## Choosing an incubator

Two very important things to note when buying an incubator.

Firstly, there is no such thing as a set-and-forget incubator. Even the most advanced incubators need some hands-on work, daily observation of temperature and candling of eggs.

Secondly, there is no “best” incubator for all situations as what is the “best” for you may not suit another. The incubator hatch rate is determined by factors including quality of fertile eggs, user experience, breeder bird's diet, egg storage and handling conditions, breeder genetics and more.

The three main things to consider are egg capacity, budget and bells-and-whistles:

### *Egg Capacity*

How many eggs would you like to incubate at a time? We have incubators with capacity ranging from 3, 10, 20, 50 and up to 670 chicken eggs (depending on egg size):

- [Rcom 3](#) incubator will hold up to 3 chicken eggs or 7 quail eggs
- [Rcom 10](#) incubators will hold up to 10 chicken eggs
- [Rcom King Suro](#), [Rcom 20 MX](#) and [Rcom 20 Pro](#), [Covatutto](#), [Lyon TX](#) incubators hold up to 20 chicken eggs, 10 duck eggs or 40 quail eggs
- [Bellsouth 100 with semi or auto turner](#) will hold up to 48 chicken eggs
- [Rcom 50 MX](#) and [Rcom 50 Pro](#) incubators will hold up to 50 chicken eggs, 24 duck eggs and 116 quail eggs
- [Lyon RX \(Rollex\)](#) incubator holds up to 89 chicken eggs
- [Bellsouth 100 manual](#) incubator will hold up to 100 chicken eggs
- [Maru CT190](#) cabinet incubator will hold up to 128 chicken eggs
- [Maru CT380](#) cabinet incubator will hold up to 252 chicken eggs.

### *Budget*

How many eggs you need your incubator to hold will narrow the range of incubators to one or two that will be suitable. From there, make a decision based on your budget, which will need to be considered against the incubators bells-and-whistles.

### *Bells-and-whistles*

How much do you want your incubator to do for you? As it says at the beginning, there is no such thing as a set-and-forget incubator, but you can get a considerable amount of extra features as the price increases. The more you are willing to spend, the more the incubator will do for you. That said, you will learn a lot more about the incubation process the more hands on you are.

As an example, let's say you want to buy an incubator for 15 eggs. The options available are an Rcom King Suro, and Rcom 20 Standard, an Rcom 20 Pro or a Bellsouth 100 (auto, semi-auto or manual) or Lyon TX which vary on the price scale.

If you have a larger budget and want the incubator to be able to do quail and duck eggs as well then the Rcom 20 Pro is probably the best bet as it has settings for the different breeds that can be programmed and saved and has fully automatic turning. If you want the same capabilities but have a small budget, then a Bellsouth 100 manual is just over a quarter of the price and will also be able to do any of those

breeds but will require a lot more observation and work turning the eggs and maintaining good humidity.

If you had a modest budget but only wanted to do chicken eggs then an Rcom King Suro might be your best option.

Check out our [eshop](#) for incubator details and pricing.

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POULTRY EQUIPMENT