

The Bellsouth Easy Drinker (Nipple) Kit (BEDNAK)

This Nipple Drinker kit includes most items needed to get up and running with your chook drinker system. Out of the box it will suit 20 to 30 chooks. Ceiling hooks and screws are not included, nor is a garden hose and fittings, we think we have included sufficient parts without supplying items that could be discarded. This kit is designed to be under cover. The kit includes more expensive infrastructure but can be expanded, within reason, with relative ease.

What comes in the kit?



Figure 1, Parts

Number	Part Number/Use	Quantity	Description
1	Included with 15	1	Breather for regulator Kit Part 15
2	PFSR2520	1	Reducing Socket 25mm to 20mm F-F (1" to ¾")
3	PFTAP1	1	Tap connector 25mm F (1")
4	LU4436	1	Clamp screw for cord (Kit part 5)
5	AGCORD4MMUV	2x3M	Polyethylene Cord For feeders and drinkers
6	BEDNLE3H	1	Line End and Breather
7	PFPR25	1	Pressure Reducer and filter, 1000Kpa(max) to 175Kpa
8	TPT	1	Roll of tape for plumbing
9	BELLCORDTOGGLE	2	Bellsouth Cord Adjuster
10	BEDNPORING	2	O-ring for Easy drinker Poles
11	BEDNPOLE	1xPAIR	Swaged pole for drinker system- with screw for joining
12	BEDNA36	2	Push fit Nipple assembly with 2 nipples
13	BEDNAH3A	2	Nipple assembly hanger
14	Included with 12	1	Nipple assembly clip
15	BEDNR65	1	Easy Drinker pressure regulator
16	Screws for 15	4	Used to screw in 18
17	Pipe support for 15	1	Goes under 18
18	Regulator hanger for 15	1	Used to hang the Regulator
19	Splash cups with 12	2xPair	Splash cups for nipples
20	Used with 15	1	Bung For Regulator, Nipples one side, Bung the other.
21	Used with 15	1	Push in adaptor, Regulator to Nipple Assembly
22	Used with 1 and 15	1	Red floating indicator for Regulator Breather (Not Pictured)
	BEDNE3D		Optional Elbow push fit (Not Pictured)
	BEDNHA		Optional Hose adaptor 15mm (Not Pictured)
	BEDN3J		Easy Drinker Nipple (Not Pictured)

Table 1, Parts list Description

Necessary Equipment

Depending on your chooks/bird accommodation you will need hangers/hooks, for the kits' ropes, or you can simply put the rope over a roof beam, you will need a screw driver, and a level eye. There is a reasonable degree of practical skill required for assembly, and pushing the nipple assemblies together will take firm, not rough, effort.

Notes

Nipple drinker systems are the most hygienic drinker system type available to the poultry enthusiast. They do have constraints, water pressure is one. Silky, and Polish and other very heavily feathered head type breeds will struggle to target a nipple. Some chooks, already accustomed to open water or trigger cup drinkers, may take a while to adapt, but adapt they do. The poultry keeper should trigger the nipples leaving a drop of water on them or possibly introduce the most precocious of their flock to the nipple and the rest will follow. Removing other water sources is advised so the flock will learn quicker. There is no 100% guarantee your birds will like nipples, however nipples are extensively used and it's highly likely your flock will come to use them. As is common, the flock will drink from a muddy puddle or other open water sources before the nipples, this is not evidence of nipples not working! Open water can be a source of shared disease or introduced disease, explaining why nipples are used so widely in the commercial world of poultry.

Depending upon your taps and hoses you may need additional connection parts or perhaps may not need all the parts supplied. We have assumed normal 20mm (¾ ") tap fittings and normal garden hose attachments. At times some hose attachments do not work with others, sometimes different brands do not work well with each other. There is nothing we can do about that, we have supplied what we have tested but you may need to supplement your own fittings if the connections supplied do not click in exactly into yours.

If you are not confident, or not keen or competent at plumbing, or are prone to over or under tightening things, perhaps get a plumber or a handy friend to help attach these fittings. Parts are of good quality but all such fittings can be broken if someone puts too much tape, overtightens, or pushes things on unevenly.

Water Pressure

This drinker system requires a Pressure Reducer(Part 7) if town or pump pressure is used (up to 1000Kpa. If you have more than 500kPa, then your plumbing is at risk, as are washing machines, water filters and dishwashers etc. If you have a gravity fed tank, then using a hose adaptor (with water filter) could well save you money. If you have water storage in which the top of the water is no higher than 30cm above the nipples, then you do not need the pressure reducer. To understand water pressure more, Bellsouth has an article on our Web site, in *Drinkers* on <http://www.bellsouth.com.au/index.php/faq/farmer-flocks-2/>

Assembly

Assembly is not particularly difficult, we have tried to write some instructions as succinctly as possible without many pictures, if you want pictures please refer to the video on the [Bellsouth YouTube Channel](#).

We start with the Regulator Part 15 (Parts 1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21.)

It is likely we will have assembled some of the **more difficult parts of this**, but we may not.

Push (20) into (15), on the unused pipe hole on the side you are not installing your nipple assembly.

Place (17) into top of (15) then screw on (18) with screws (16) provided. A powered driver is best.

Grab (21) and carefully place into (1) then push (1 with 21) into (15) firmly, ensuring spring support is engaged Regulator should look like Figure 2.

Next let's move on (Parts 12, 21, 6, 19)

Push the two assemblies (12) together then push in (21) to where it fits

Push (6) onto the opposite end

If you wish you can push parts (19) into the assembly or wait till later...once pushed in they are in.

Assembly should now look like Figure 3



Figure 2, Regulator

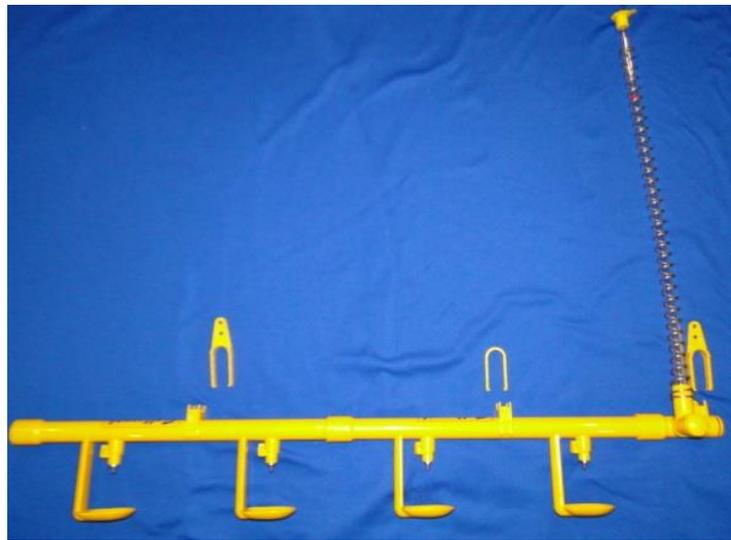


Figure 3, Nipple assembly

Moving on further (Parts 13, 14, 11, 10, 21), Parts 15 and 18 are involved as well.

Unscrew the self-tapping metal screw from pole (11), push poles together, line up holes and re-screw to secure the poles together. Decide where you would like to locate the O-rings (10) on the pole. They should be located in such a way so as to help stop the pole from sliding off the nipple assembly.

You may now chose to push (21) into the nipple assembly, aligning with notches as needed, then push assembly and adaptor (21) into the assembled regulator (15), the pole should slide through the Regulator hanger(18), with about 7-10cm overhang.

Align the joined poles with nipple assembly and clip in parts (13 & 14), push O-rings (10) snugly up against the hangers, clips, Regulator hanger, or End piece, (not having the O-rings on the outer extremities is wise). We suggest pushing part 13 into the line end part (6) for hanging purposes.

Hanger rope etc. (Parts 4, 5, 9) Parts 18, 13, 6, 1 are involved as well

Run one cord (5) through regulator hanger (18), the other through a hanger (13) (either attached or to be attached to the line end (6)). Loop and secure with cord clamp screw (4) (Figures 4, 5).

Run the other end of each cord through the little holes in the breather tops, on through the cord adjusters (9), loop around and secure back to the cord adjuster (9) with clamp screws (4) (Figure 6). You will need to undo this later to secure into your shed, it's easy enough to re-attach the clamp screw (4).



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Pressure reducer connections (Parts 2, 3, 7, 8)

Now ensure the pressure is ok before connecting your own hose (13mm garden hose assumed). Drinker system should look like Figure 7.

Using Teflon Tape (8), in moderation, secure reducing socket (2) to the top of pressure reducer and filter (7).

Using same tape (8), in moderation, secure tap connector (3) to 'bottom' of pressure reducer (7)

Note the arrow on the pressure reducer, this is the direction of water flow. Water flows 'top' to 'bottom'. Secure this assembly to your tap, again using Teflon Tape (8) in moderation.

Secure all tightly and securely without breaking parts or your tap. Put a bucket underneath and check operation and check for leaks.

Attach your hose to the assembly, ready for connection to drinker system. Pressure from this assembly is now reduced to about 18m of head or 175 kPa, this is acceptable for the regulator and other regulators, but you may not like it for watering, you could put your own double adaptor in as needed.

Figure 8 shows pressure reducer attached to tap, one different fitting is used, but the kit is less complicated.

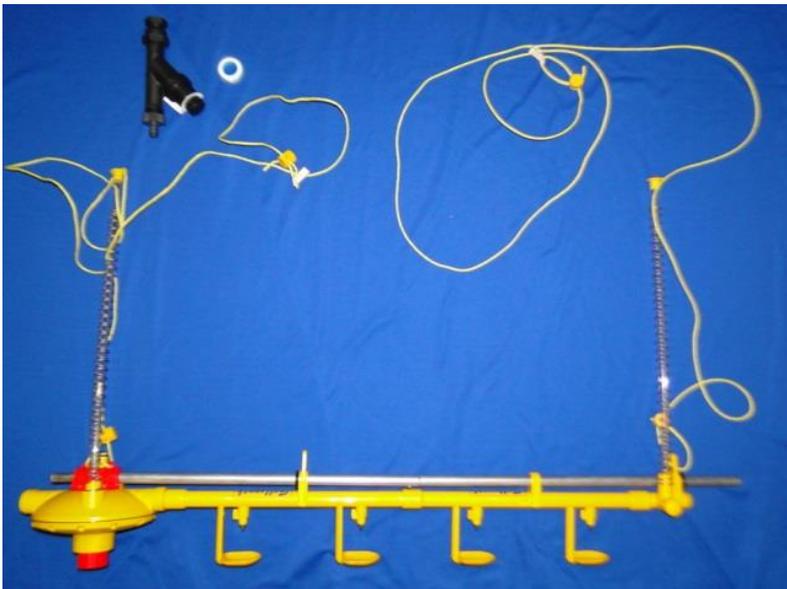


Figure 7, Drinker Assembly



Figure 8

Installing into Chook Pen

You need to have installed hooks into your ceiling from which to hang the system, or have rafters to loop the yellow cord around. Measure the distance between regulator cord and end of line cord or wherever you have decided to attach the cord using the hanger clip (13) and install your hooks accordingly.

Undo the cord clamp screw (4) leaving cord adjuster (9) in place, loop cord through your hooks, hangers, or rafters and re-fasten the cord to the cord adjuster using cord clamp screw. Check all is well, then adjust the height of the drinker system, allow yourself time to become familiar with the system.

Attach your hose, when this happens the hose can make the system uneven, so it may need to be secured to prevent the nipple system tilting, in testing, we used some excess rope to tie the hose up to the ceiling so it hung down nicely.

Get the hose to hang down rather than across the floor where it could be a trip hazard for you or your chooks.

The nipples height should be the eye height your smallest chooks, or even higher, so the chook's beak, when pecking the nipple can accept water swiftly without dropping water onto the splash cups. A decision is needed if you have bantams mixed with large chooks; to lower the system or put a block underneath, to allow smaller chook access?

Drinker system should look like Figure 9, inside of course.

If the chooks use the system as a swing or perch and you want to stop this, you can buy some wire and string this through the hanger clips to the regulator which will make it more uncomfortable.

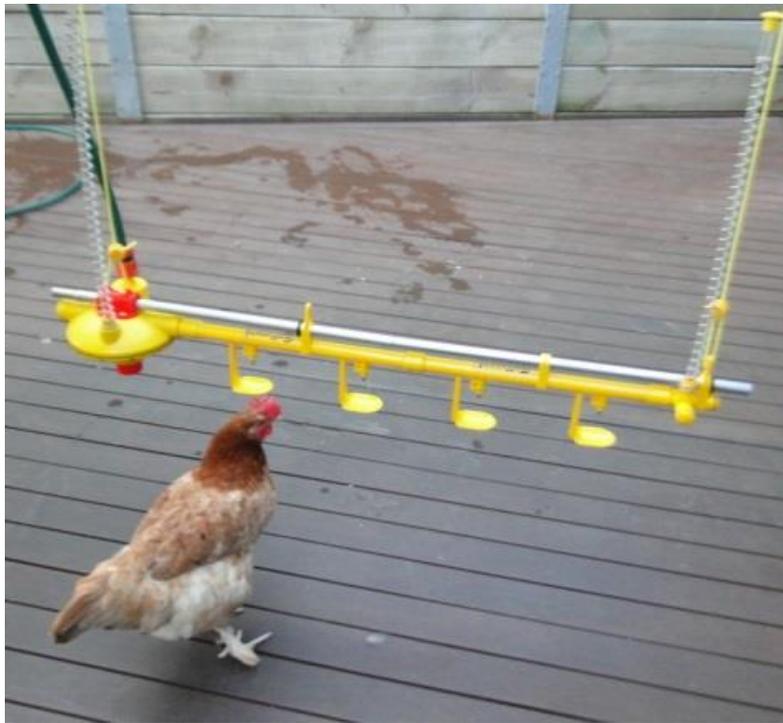


Figure 9, Assembled and hung nipple drinker

Flushing (Part 6), involves Part 1 and 15 and your own tube (if you want to use the feature)

The Line End (6) includes two outlets which allow a 15mm (1/2") connection to be installed (in one or other). This will allow flushing of the line to clean or allow cooler water through. Your flushing tube must flush lower than the top of the breathers (1, 6).

Red adjuster under the regulator (Parts 15, 22)

The regulator allows some adjustment of the water pressure to the nipples, so turn red 'knob' under the regulator clockwise to increase the pressure (grown birds), the red ball moves higher in the breather. Anti-clockwise for reduced pressure (i.e. for chicks). In general keep the red indicator (22) midway up the breather.

All done

Adjust to correct height for your flock. This is a little higher than eye height of your smallest bird, but watch how they use it. Check all is working, show it off to your flock. Check system regularly for wear and tear, ensure chooks can access the water.