

# Operation Manual

## Automatic Incubator

51185, 51186



Similar to image, may vary depending on model

Read and follow the operating instructions and safety information before use.

Technical changes reserved!

Due to further developments, illustrations, functioning steps, and technical data can differ slightly.

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## Introduction

Thank you very much for buying this quality product. To reduce the risk of injury, we ask you to always regard a few basic safety requirements, when using this product. Please thoroughly read the operating manual and make sure that you have understood it. Keep the operating manual for future reference.

## Safety notes



### Careful!

This device is not meant to be used by people (including children) with limited physical, sensory, or mental abilities and/ or lack of knowledge, unless they are supervised by a person responsible for their health and safety or have been instructed by this person on how to use the device. Children need to be supervised to ensure that they do not play with the device.



### Attention!

- Visually examine the device before every use. Do not use the device if the safety measures are damaged or worn. Never override safety measures.
- Only use the device according to the purposes in this manual.
- You are responsible for the safety in the working area. Always keep the working area clean and tidy, to reduce the risk of accidents.
- If the electricity cable or the electricity plug are damaged due to external influences, the cable must not be repaired, but needs to be exchanged. This work must only be carried out by a qualified technician.
- The rated voltage on the type label of 230 V AC needs to correspond to the existing mains voltage.
- The device must never be lifted, transported, or attached from its electricity cable.
- Ensure that the electrical plug connection is in an area protected from flooding and humidity.
- Always pull the electricity plug before carrying out any work on the device.
- Avoid exposing the device to a direct stream of water or rain.
- The operator is responsible for the compliance with local safety and installation requirements. If necessary, ask a qualified technician if unsure.
- In case of a failure of the device, maintenance work may only be carried out by a qualified technician.
- Read all safety notes and instructions. Non-compliance with the safety notes and instructions can lead to electric shock, fire and/ or serious injury.
- Keep all safety notes and instructions in a safe place, which is always accessible.

## Technical data

Temperature range of the display (°C)	30–39.5
Accuracy of the temperature measurement (°C)	±0.1
Humidity range of the display (%)	1–99 RH (relative humidity)
Accuracy of the humidity sensor (%)	± 3 RH
Functions	Adjustable temperature control Hygrometer to determine the air humidity Humidity display Temperature display Automatic turning system Turning/ breeding display  Item no. <b>51185</b> : with LED egg candler

## Maximal amount of eggs

- 51185: 56 chicken/duck eggs
- 51186: 56 chicken/duck eggs

## Surrounding conditions

Energy supply	230 V / 50 Hz
Relative air humidity (%)	between 55 and 75
Surrounding temperature (°C)	between 17 and 25

## The right location

For a good result, place the incubator into a heated room. There should not be any major fluctuations of room temperature inside it. Ideally, the room temperature should be comprised between 17 °C and 25 °C.

Additionally, there should be a good ventilation in this area. Especially with presence of several incubators, you should make sure sufficient ventilation. A natural air supply ensures that the developing embryos always have fresh oxygen.

Make sure that the incubator is placed on a flat, even surface and not in direct sunlight. Place it on a solid surface which is approx. 80 cm above the floor.

It is recommended to place the incubator far away from heating sources, drafts, and windows to avoid harmful temperatures fluctuations. Additionally, the incubator should be kept with the included polystyrene packaging, which provides protection.

## General information on breeding

### 1. How do the poultry eggs must be stored before placing them into the incubator?

Hatching eggs should not be kept longer than ten to twelve days. After that, the hatching success rate is very low. Store the eggs at a cool temperature (8–15 °C) and at a relative air humidity of 75 %. If the hatching eggs have been sent you via post, they should rest for at least 24 h before being placed in the incubator.

**Important:** The eggs should be stored lying and need to be rotated halfway around their longitudinal axis at least once a day.

### 2. When is the incubator ready?

The incubator should run for **at least 24 hours before placing any eggs into it**. If possible, let the incubator run for a week without eggs. Thus, you will easily see if all parameters can be adjusted and work as required. Additionally, you will learn how the incubator functions and adjustments work during this time. There is nothing more harmful to the eggs than wrong adjustments of the incubator. If everything works accordingly in the testing period, the incubator must be **cleaned thoroughly** with a suitable disinfectant.

The intended humid and warm climate in the incubator is a good breeding ground for bacteria and fungi. Not disinfecting the incubator invites the growth of these, posing a threat to the entire brood. **Thus: Before the first breeding and after every new breeding, thoroughly disinfect the incubator.**



You need to make sure that the disinfectant is suitable for the material of the incubator. Otherwise, the material can be attacked and the hatching process endangered.

**Important note on parameters:** Be sure to properly understand the term “internal temperature” (“internal”). Do not confuse the term “internal temperature (inside egg)” with “internal temperature (inside incubator).” The internal temperature within the incubator constantly changes up and down. The internal temperature of the egg thus is the average temperature of the temperature fluctuations in the incubator.

### 3. Which temperature should my incubator have?

The required temperature depends on the individual type of animal. For every type of animal has its own requirements and even amongst poultry there are differences regarding the temperature required during the breeding process. The required temperature depends as well on the type of incubator.

#### An example based on a chicken egg:

With so-called surface incubator (breeding on an even surface), the breeding temperature is measured on the height of the upper edge of the egg and should be between 38.0 °C and 38.3 °C. If a so-called motorised incubator (breeding process on several levels one above the other) is used, the measured temperature should be at around 37.5 °C at any point of the egg.

An overview of various **poultry** types and the breeding temperatures required:

Type of poultry	Breeding temperature (°C)
Chicken	37.4–37.6
Duck	37.4–37.6
Pigeon	38.5
Goose	37.6
Quail	37.6–37.8

**Note:** A short temperature drop while checking the eggs usually is not a problem for the embryos. Contrariwise, temperatures exceeding the recommended one are harmful and even deadly and should be avoided at all costs.

### 4. Does my thermometer show exact values?

Thermometers are not exact. Keeping the temperature constant might be difficult, even with good thermometers. If running a big incubator over a longer period of time, you can optimise the temperature, regardless of what the thermometer states.

After the first breeding process, you may modify the temperature (set it to a higher or lower value).

With poultry: If the hatching takes places in an early stage, the temperature should be lowered. If the hatching is delayed, it needs to be increased.

**How to check the thermometer:** Keep notes regarding the time of the brood, as these are a reliable aid. You will soon have the required routine to select the right adjustments and settings for a successful hatch.

Alternatively, an additional thermometer can be placed in the incubator to be able to see the various temperature differences and readjusting the temperatures of the incubator accordingly.

### 5. How high must the air humidity be?

The air humidity required varies again depending on the brooded type of animal and needs to be changed during the breeding process.

Inform yourself beforehand on the requirements to be met in the incubator. To give you two examples:

#### Chicken eggs:

Day 1–18: 50–55 % air humidity  
From day 19: 70–75 % air humidity

#### Quail eggs:

Day 1–14: 55 % air humidity  
From day 15: 75 % air humidity

The air humidity is increased towards the end of the breeding with poultry eggs to soften the hard egg membrane. Without increased humidity, the chicks can neither break through the membrane nor through the egg shell. Yet, the humidity should not be increased too much, as the chicks might drown.

**Note:** The humidity is checked with a so-called hygrometer. It is near enough impossible to keep humidity as exact as temperature, especially in small incubators. Just try to keep it as exact as possible. The temperature is the significant criteria. Even a small deviation (even a couple of degrees) can ruin the breeding process or lead to a bad result.

**Important:** The air humidity changes just like the season.

If the breeding is carried out in January and February, it is very difficult to keep the humidity at the desired level, as the external humidity is rather low (depending on the location).

In June and July, the external humidity usually is higher, resulting in the humidity in the incubator being higher than desired. To avoid these problems, change the water surface in the incubator: To increase the humidity and thus to enlarge the water surface, place an additional container with water/a few small moist sponges in the incubator. Alternatively, the eggs can be sprayed with fine water mist. To reduce the humidity, decrease the water surface by using smaller containers.

**Important:** Choose the shape and execution of the water containers keeping in mind, that they should not become a fatal danger for the hatched chicks and reptiles.

## 6. How long is the incubation time?

Poultry type	Incubation time (days) [normal deviation: 1–2 days]
Chicken	20–21
Duck	28
Pigeon	18
Goose	30
Quail	16–18

## 7. Poultry eggs: When start to turn and how frequently? When do the eggs not must be turned any longer?

**The incubator does not have an automatic turning mechanism; thus, the eggs need to be turned by hand.** The embryos are very sensitive in the first days, therefore shakes should be avoided. This also means that the eggs should only be turned from the fourth day onward. The easiest method of assistance is to carefully mark the egg on two opposite areas, to see to which area the egg needs to be turned to. It is recommended to turn the eggs 5 times a day with a minimum of 90°.

Additionally, the incubator should be kept closed within the first three days of breeding, if possible. This allows for a better climate to build up.

**Important:** In the last two to three days of the breeding process the eggs must not be turned any longer. For the chicks are finding a hatching position, which must not be changed any more.



## 8. What is to regard with the last days of the breeding process?

In the last two to three days before hatching, the poultry eggs must not only not be turned anymore, but also does the entire incubator need to stay closed. For the humid-warm atmosphere needs to be preserved during the last days of the breeding to soften the egg membrane and enable the hatching process.

Now you can choose if you wish to switch off the turning mechanism via the functional menu (therefore, set the turning interval/turning duration to "0") or to remove the whole turning insert. In case you remove the turning insert, carefully open the device and take out the egg. Then place them on the bottom of the device. Try to keep opening of the device as short as possible, then spray the eggs with warm (**not** boiling!) water from a spray bottle. Thus, in most cases, the damp-warm climate inside the device will be preserved.

**Note:** Most chicks are not able to cope with a complete collapse of the climate.

## 9. Poultry eggs: What happens after hatching?

Congratulations, your chicks have hatched! Have a little patience, as the freshly hatched chicks should stay in the incubator for approx. 24 hours longer to be able to recover and dry off.

**Important:** Remove the water container. Otherwise, the humidity is too high for the chicks, and there is the danger of the chicks drowning. However, you must develop a sure instinct for possible Johnnies-come-lately still need humidity to hatch.

If these latecomers, pecking the egg from the inside, have difficulties getting through the eggshell, you can provide a starting aid by carefully opening the eggshell a little bit. Certainly, a sure instinct is needed as well in this condition for you must not help them too early. Oftentimes, a wrong humidity can be the reason for that, as the egg membrane can dry and get stuck to the chick before it is able to get out. Thus, the chick cannot turn any longer and hatch.

**Note:** There must be a sufficient fresh air flow, too, as the young animals can otherwise suffocate in the closed container. If an integrated air hole is available, it will ensure for fresh air.

## Operation

### Before the eggs are placed in the incubator, regard the following:

- Open the packaging and check the content on integrity.  
**Note:** The incubator should stay in the styrofoam packaging. This, on the one side helps save energy, on the other side the eggs are protected from external influences. If there are no holes for the according connections and switchboards, these need to be added. Carefully use a sharp knife or small saw.
- Open the lid of the incubator and remove all included parts, except for the turning mechanism.
- In the lid of your incubator, you will find a connection point for the cable of the turning mechanism, besides the thermometer and the humidity sensor. Place the cable of the turning motor of the lower bit into this connection point, so that the turning mechanism is connected to the electricity circuit.
- If all cables are connected properly, check the compliance of the operating current as stated on the device with the used mains voltage. If it matches, the device can be closed via the lid and the electricity can be switched on. The device will start heating to the temperature, which is analogously shown on the system's switchboard.
- Leave the incubators run for at least 24 hours without any eggs inside and get accustomed to the functions of the incubator. Make sure that all parameters can be adjusted without a problem and how to change settings, such as the temperature alarm (regarding the paragraph "**Display, function buttons and basic settings**").

- Check the individual values with the help of an additional thermometer and hygrometer. If necessary, calibrate the values. Test how you can keep the desired air humidity at the right level/ how much water is required to stay in the desired range.
- If the incubator works without a problem, and you are accustomed with the functions, unplug the incubator and clean it from the inside and the outside with a suitable disinfectant.

## Adding the eggs

- As soon as the incubator has been cleaned, you can place water into the grooves. Please note, that the air humidity should be noticeably lower at the beginning of the breeding process than towards the end (at least for most bird types). Therefore, only fill a little bit of water into the grooves at the beginning. The incubator has a small opening on the side (see picture 3), through which water can be filled when needed (too low air humidity). Thus, the lid does not must be opened during the breeding process.

**Note:** Please note the individual requirements of every type of animal. Do not place too much water into the incubator as this can lead to bad hatching results. Ideally, you have already found out how much water is required at the beginning.

**Note:** If the humidity is too low, even though the two grooves are filled with plenty of water, a bowl can be added to the incubator. Please be careful not to make the eggs or the inlay wet. Do not keep the incubator open for too long, when placing the bowl, as this can have a negative impact on the hatching result.

**Important:** Choose the shape and design of the water bowls, making sure they do not pose a fatal risk to hatched chicks and reptiles.

After adjusting the according parameters of the incubator, the eggs can be placed into the incubator with the tip downward. Set the number of days to 0.



Fig. 3: Opening for water refill

- Regularly check the temperature and humidity on the control panel of the incubator and, if necessary, alter the parameters. Pay attention to the water level in the grooves of the incubator, there should always be enough water.

**Important:** There must be no water on the egg inlay! This can otherwise have a negative impact on the hatching results!

- Towards the end of the hatching process, the poultry eggs must not be turned any longer. The automatic turning mechanism needs to be switched off then. Therefore, the electricity supply needs to be disconnected between the turning motor and the turning insert, by disconnecting the cables. The according cables can be found in the turning insert.

- It is also possible to remove the turning mechanism entirely. Open the incubator, disconnect both cables of the turning motor from one another and lift the turning mechanism out of the incubator. Then place all eggs carefully back onto the insert in the incubator. Spray the eggs with warm water and carefully, yet fast place the eggs, allowing for the humid and warm climate to be kept sustained.

**Important:** Please note that the incubator should not be opened towards the end of the breeding process with more sensitive species. Thus, ensure that the humidity is high enough, as soon as the eggs are placed still and the turning mechanism is switched off. During the hatching process, the lid should remain closed. Water can be refilled via the hole, to avoid the eggshells from drying out.

- During the hatching process, the lid should remain closed. Water can be refilled to protect the eggshells from drying out.
- If the chicks have hatched, you need to ensure they cannot drown, whereas chicks still breeding need to hatch.

## Display, function buttons, and basic settings



On the outer right corner of the incubator is a connection for the electricity supply. It is important to connect the electricity completely into the connection point, to allow the incubator to function properly. As soon as the incubator is connected, it can be switched on and off via the button.

On the display there are multiple display areas (2–5) which show information on various parameters. Additionally there are further symbols (1, 6, 7, 8) on the display which show information on the processes in the incubator.

Besides the display and the “on/off” button, there are four more buttons with which the incubator is operated (see the section “**Description of the function buttons**”).

The incubator with the item no. **51185** has one more button, “egg candler” (9). This allows to screen the eggs.

Display area ...	shows
2	the turning frequency in [hours:minutes].
3	the day.
4	the air humidity in %.
5	the temperature in degrees Celsius.
Symbol ...	shows if/that
1	the egg turning mechanism is switched on.
6	the ventilator is switched on.
7	the air humidity is too low.
8	the heater is warming up.
<i>Only with item 51185: 9</i>	the egg candler currently is in use.

### Description of the function buttons

The incubator has four buttons, which are required for the operation of the incubator. The buttons and their possible combinations will be explained in the following paragraph. Before operating the incubator, ensure that it is properly plugged into the according area.

The buttons are positioned the following from bottom to top, next to the display on the right-hand side: "set," "+" and "-." On the left-hand side of the display, there is the "reset" button.

1. **Press "reset" briefly: This button allows to turn the eggs manually.**
  - Pushing the button once shortly will turn the eggs. The symbol 1 will blink in the display.
  - The countdown for the automatic turning is then reset to 2 h again.
2. **"Set": This allows to set the basic temperature of the incubator.**
  - Pushing the button once shortly will allow you to set the basic temperature (parameter ID: PP).
  - By activating the "+" and "-" buttons, the desired temperature can be adjusted, by pushing the "set" button again the data will be saved.
  - The pre-set temperature is 38.5 °C, the basic temperature can be chosen between 30 °C and 39.5 °C.
3. **Holding "set" for longer than 3 s: This will open the menu for the finer parameter settings (see table 1).**
  - The individual parameter will show in the display, with an alphanumerical combination (parameter ID).
  - With the "+" and "-" buttons you can choose between the individual parameters.
  - If you wish to adjust one of the parameters, push the "set" button then alter the shown value up or downward by pushing the "+" or "-" button.
  - Pushing "set" again, will save the alteration and will bring you back to the standard display.

Finer parameters	Parameter ID	Adjustment range	Standard setting	Note
Alarm, fluctuation of decreasing temperature	AL	0–15 °C	1.0 °C	This setting can be chosen, to sound an alarm when a temperature below the setting is being reached. After setting the parameter "PP" to the value, e.g., to 38 °C, and you wish to have the alarm set for 33 °C, you will need to set the parameter "AL" to 5.
Alarm, fluctuation of increasing temperature	AH	0–15 °C	1.0 °C	This setting can be chosen, to sound an alarm when a temperature above the setting is being reached. After setting the parameter "PP" to the value, e.g., to 38 °C, and you wish to have the alarm set for 40 °C, you will need to set the parameter "AH" to 2.
Alarm, fluctuation of humidity	AS	1–99 %	45 %	Here you can adjust when the alarm is to sound in case of a fluctuation in humidity. By setting the required humidity, the alarm will sound if the humidity measures deviate from the setting. Important: The humidity needs to be regulated manually by adding water to the incubator. The alarm will only notify you, that the humidity is too low/ high. The setting



				needs to be adjusted manually for each breeding phase.
Calibration	CA	0–9.9	0.0	Measure with an additional thermometer and match it according to the deviation.
Heating start	LS	20–30 °C	30 °C	
Heating stop	HS	30–50 °C	39.5 °C	Please note that the radiator will switch off when reaching the entered value, but will still radiate some warmth and the temperature might still rise a little bit in the incubator. E.g., this means that a temperature of 38 °C can be reached, when setting the temperature to 37.8 °C. If you wish to avoid this, the temperature of the heating stop needs to be corrected downward.

Table 1: Adjustment of the finer parameters via the “set” buttons

4. **“Reset”**: Keep this button pressed for a longer duration (approx. 8 s) will reset all settings back to the factory settings, a peep sound can be heard. This is the only way to reset the day count back to 0.

 **NOTE:**

As from version quarter 1/2021, the procedure for resetting the number of breeding days has changed: Press and hold “Reset” for approx. 3 s, pull out the mains plug and plug it in again. The display shows a countdown to 0. After the countdown has elapsed, the number of breeding days is reset.

### Troubleshooting (problems with the chicks)

#	Problem	Possible Reasons	Measures
1	Too much egg white or too many unfertilised eggs	(a) Wrong ratio of male and female animals	(a) Check mating conditions according to breeder’s recommendations.
		(b) Male animal malnourished	(b) Feed roosters separately, so that chickens do not take most of the food.
		(c) Interruption of male animals during mating	(c) Do not use too many male animals; keep breeding roosters together; build a non-permanent solid separation wall between individual breeding coop or separate them within bigger breeding coops.
		(d) Damaged combs and gills on roosters	(d) Ensure that their coop is comfortable and there is enough suitable drinking water.
		(e) Rooster too old	(e) A young rooster is required.
		(f) Sterile rooster	(f) An unsterilised rooster is required.
		(g) Egg has been stored for too long or under the wrong circumstances beforehand	(g) Do not keep eggs for more than ten to twelve days; store them at cool temperature (8–15 °C) with relative humidity of 75–80 %. Turn eggs at least once a day around their longitudinal axis



2	Blood dots pointing to an early death of the embryo	(a) Temperature of incubator too high or too low	(a) Check thermometers, thermostat, and electricity, follow manufacturer's instructions.
		(b) See 1 (g)	(b) See 1 (g).
3	Broken egg-shells	(a) See 2 (a)	(a) See 2 (a).
		(b) Eggs not turned properly	(b) Turn eggs frequently, at least 4–5 times a day; always turn them into opposite direction.
		(c) Deficient feeding if high death rate on days 10 and 14	(c) Check feeding.
		(d) Ventilation of the incubator faulty	(d) Increase air flow by normal means.
		(e) Infectious diseases	(e) Only use eggs from healthy stocks; check hygiene measures.
4	Eggs, which will not hatch	(a) Inefficient humidity inside incubator	(a) Increase evaporation surface with water or sprays.
		(b) Too high a humidity at too early a stage	(b) Check humidity temperature measurements.
		(c) Problems with the food	(c) Check feeding.
5	(a) Too early a hatching	(a) Too high a temperature inside incubator	(a) (b) (c) Make sur property of temperature regulation or adjust it properly.
	(b) Hatching too late	(b) Temperature too low in the incubator	
	(c) Sticky chicks	(c) Temperature inside incubator probably too high	
6	Deformed chicks	(a) Temperature is too high in the incubator	(a) See 2 (a).
		(b) Temperature in the incubator is too low	(b) See 2 (a).
		(c) Eggs turned improperly	(c) See 3 (b); ensure to insert eggs with wider part first.
7	Chicks with straddled legs	Breeding inlay too slippery/smooth	Use wire inlay or cover slippery/smooth ground with e.g., sackcloth.
8	Weak chicks	(a) Incubator or hatchery overheated	(a) See 5.
		(b) Use of small eggs	(b) Only use eggs of average size.
	Small chicks	(c) Too low humidity in the incubator	(c) See 4.
	Heavily breathing chicks	(d) Too high a humidity inside incubator	(d) See 4.
		(e) Possibly infectious disease	(e) Bring chicks to veterinarian surgeon for diagnosis.
		(f) Lower temperature during incubation time	(f) See 2 (a).
	Weak chicks	(g) Ventilation of incubators too low	(g) See 3 (d).
		(h) Omphalitis (navel infection)	(h) Clean and disinfect incubator as well as entire equipment.



<b>9</b>	Irregular hatching	Eggs too different in size and age	Set eggs at least once a week, never keep them for longer than ten to twelve days before breeding them, only breed average sized eggs
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### Troubleshooting (technical problems)

#	Problem	Possible reason	Measures
<b>1</b>	The display has a loose contact/ does not shown anything	(a) Plug is not connected properly to the incubator	(a) Check the plug and push it into the incubator again
		(b) Plug is not connected properly to the socket	(b) Reconnect the plug to the socket and check the placing of the socket
		(c) Too little voltage	(c) Connect the incubator to another socket
		(d) Damaged cable	(d) Exchange the electricity cable
		(e) Loose contact in the display	(e) Check whether the connection pieces are loose (e) Exchange the display
<b>2</b>	Display does not show any numbers but only the same letter	(a) The temperature sensor is broken	(a) Exchange the sensor
		(b) The humidity sensor is broken	(b) See 2 (a).
<b>3</b>	When turning the incubator on, the fuse blows every time	(a) Short circuit due to entered humidity	(a) Incubator needs to be replaced
		(b) Short circuit due to broken fan	(b) Fan needs to be exchanged

## Disposal regulations

EU guidelines regarding the disposal of scrap electric appliances (WEEE, 2012/19/EU) were implemented in the law related to electrical and electronic equipment and appliances.

All WiTec electric devices that fall under the WEEE regulations are labelled with the crossed-out wheeled waste bin logo. This logo indicates that this electric equipment must not be disposed with domestic waste.

The company WiTec Technik GmbH has been registered in the German registry EAR under the WEEE-registration number DE45283704.

Disposal of used electrical and electronic appliances (intended for use in the countries of the European Union and other European countries with a separate collection system for these appliances).

The logo on the item or on its packaging points out that this item must not be treated as normal household waste but must be disposed of at a recycling collection point for electronic and electrical waste equipment. By contributing to the correct disposal of this item you help protect the environment and the health of fellow human beings. The environment and the health of living beings are threatened by inappropriate disposal.



Recycling materials helps reduce the consumption of raw materials.

Additional information on recycling this item can be provided by your local community, municipal waste disposal facilities or the shop where this item was purchased.

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