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Creating a Cage from Wire Shelving and Correx

What is Correx?

Correx is a lightweight and very pliable card-like material. It's available in a variety of colours and comes in sheets of varying sizes. PHS Teacrate is the number one supplier of Correx in the UK and they are working with me at Rodents with Attitude to bring you everything you need to easily make a homemade cage.

What You Need

1. Some wire shelving grids, available from all good DIY stores or from Ebay. You can use either solid panel grids or grids made from mesh. I have used both types of grid in this guide to show you how they look when made up into a cage. If using a mesh grid, please ensure that the holes are small to minimise the risk of your guinea pigs getting feet or legs stuck in them.

2. A sheet of Correx, available in the UK from PHS Teacrate.

3. A sharp DIY knife - children should not use this unsupervised!

4. A pencil.

5. A sharp pair of scissors. I used a good pair of kitchen scissors, and again, children should not use these unsupervised.

6. Some gaffer tape. You can find this in all good DIY stores.

7. A tape measure.

8. A metal ruler.

Step One

Build your cage using your wire shelving grids so you can determine the size of Correx needed. Using your tape measure, measure the INSIDE floor area of your cage - mine measures 29" x 44". Now reduce this by one inch - mine is now 28" x 43". You now have the floor area of your cage. Add four inches onto each side (remember, you have four sides!) to make the flaps - this gave me a new measurement of 36" x 51". This is the size of Correx you need.

This is my cage made with wire shelving grids:

Step Two

Next you need to mark out the flaps on your newly cut piece of Correx. Use your tape measure and pencil to mark four inches in from each side and draw a line. Do this with all four sides of the Correx.

Step Three

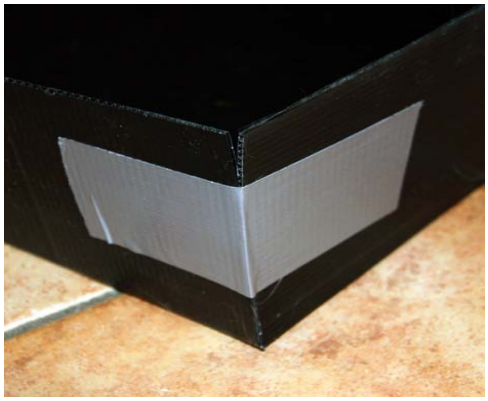
Use your scissors to cut out the squares in each corner. You won't be needing these, so you can throw them away. You should have something that looks like this:

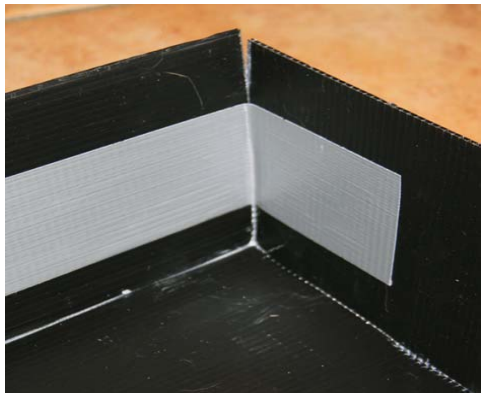
Step Four

You now need to use your metal ruler and sharp DIY knife to very carefully score along the lines. Be careful not to cut all the way through the Correx - the scoring allows the flaps to easily bend up at the sides. Should you accidentally score too hard and end up with some holes along the lines you drew, you can close these up using your gaffer tape. Once scored, gently bend the flaps upwards to make sure your scoring has the desired effect.

Step Five

Now you need to use your gaffer tape to tape the corners together and make a tray. I taped up both the outside and the inside of the corners for extra stability. For extra waterproofing you can tape along the fold lines in the corners and on the flaps inside and outside if you want to.





Step Six

Place your new Correx tray into your cage and you're done!

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