With the move from eggs to the more effective rabbit-based stoat lure,Erayz, predation of the bait by mice became a frustrating issue.The field life of Erayz is 4 weeks however during mouse plagues bait could be consumed in a matter of days thereby reducing the effectiveness of the trap as well as adding significantly to bait costs.

Some community conservation groups have resorted to placing the bait in tea infusers however even bulk imported varieties are not cheap and the small holes may not allow efficient odour dispersal. Our design costs about 60c each in material.

The prototype was made from standard 12 mm mesh however Nik Joice, the DOC Senior Biodiversity Ranger, advised us that small mice could get through so we managed to source Whites Mouse & Snake Mesh which is 6.5 mm X 6.5 mm and is available from Bunnings Warehouse in 5 or 10 meter rolls.

The template is 37 squares X 33 squares producing a 70 mm X 70 mm X 70 mm cage. We staple the cage to the end bar of the hinged-top box as shown however it could be hinged off the base or side of a conventional box. A cardboard or rigid plastic template is used to cut out the mesh then the cage is formed over a 70 mm X 70 mm wooden block held in a vice.

The Erayz is fixed to a central nail with 2 flathead nails keeping the bait off the trap base to prolong field life.It sits beside the usual nail egg cradle to provide bait flexibility.



