

THE REAL SEED CATALOGUE

The best vegetable seeds for the Kitchen Garden

~ UK Ltd Company No. 5924934 ~ DEFRA Registered Seed Merchant No 7289 ~

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Open-Source, DIY Seed Cleaner Plans

Released for the benefit of small independent seed producers.

This design combines traditional zig-zag aspirator design with a 'swirl chamber' just below take-off to allow repeated sorting of each seed as it is poured through.

Suitable for small seed (poppy, amaranth) to medium seed (squash, sunflower)

Construction cost was less than 5 GBP using scrap materials.

Using purchased materials cost would be under 50 GBP.

Remember though that this is only designed for small-scale batches: lots of a few grams to 10kg or so. Bigger than that you'll need a different solution because the square-rule law applies - if you double the size you'd need 4 x the suction!

If you make one, please email us a picture of yours! We'll put them up here.

[Courgettes & Summer Squash](#)

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[Onions - normal](#)

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[Parsnips, Root Chicory & Root Parsley](#)

[Peas](#)

[Pumpkins & Winter Squash](#)

[Radishes \(salad. & cooking types\)](#)

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DIY Seed Cleaning machine

Seed Cleaning Machine Design by [The Real Seed Collection Ltd](#)
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[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Important - read the link above before you make one.

*Basically you can make one for your own use,
but you have to tell people where you got the plans (including a link to us),
and can't sell copies of the machine for a profit.*

You are free to adapt the plans and improve it - but the same rules then apply to the new design.

Thanks! Ben.

AND HERE ARE SOME THAT PEOPLE HAVE MADE FROM OUR PLANS, ALL OVER THE WORLD:

[booklet](#)

[Drying your seed](#)

[Seedsaving Book](#)

[Threshing & Winnowing](#)

[Pepper/chilli seed tricks](#)

[Cabbage \(etc\) seed details](#)

[Start a Seed Circle!](#)

[Isolation cage plans](#)

[Open-source Seed Cleaning Machine](#)

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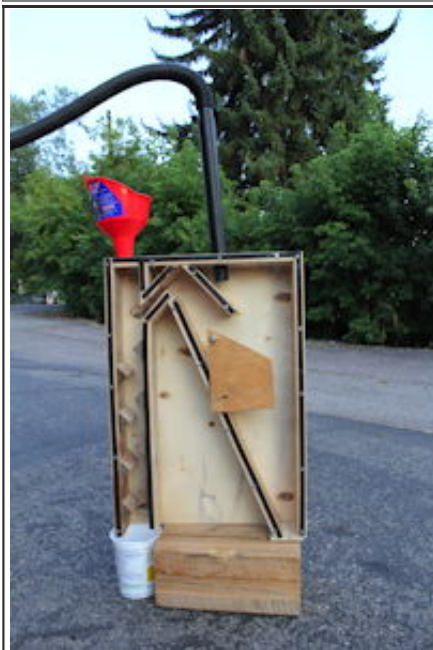
[Guide to Summer Sowing](#)

[Guide to Autumn / Winter Sowing](#)



Just wanted to say thank for the seed cleaner plans! I'm using it to winnow roasted coaco beans and seperate them from the husks. I did my first trial run today and it worked fantastic.

Thanks,
Caleb Olson



Hi!

I recently discovered your plans for the home made seed cleaner and decided to try it out. Attached is a photo of the one I built. ... Thank you so much for posting your plans and the video- it was incredibly helpful and nice to be able to access those.

Prairie Wolfe, MPG Ranch

[Why GMO seed is STUPID](#)

PAYMENT



I found your youtube video and web page on the seed cleaner and made one up yesterday. I left out the holes to adjust the suction and instead wired up a dimmer switch to control the speed of the vacuum. We will probably try it out this evening on the 10 gallons of amaranth that we didn't get cleaned from last year's harvest. The front on mine is some left over double wall greenhouse plastic panels. The back is left over plastic corrugated.

George Adams



Good evening seed collectors,
the processing of our winter wheat was greatly speeded up after I had made the seed cleaner, based on your design. A picture goes as proof. Many thanks and if you ever consider the benefit of making a handthresher ...
With best regards,
Paul Liebelt



I saw the video Ben did and decided to get making one straight away. I find it works best with smaller seed and sorting out the dust and chaff as well as the thinner ones. I will make a few adjustments to make it more air tight but I am very impressed and it's saved me a lot of time when it comes to cleaning seed I have saved myself. Maybe with a different powered Hoover the results would allow me to clean up larger seed such as beets.

- Jack

At last we have finished the seed cleaner - it was my Christmas gift. We are most grateful to you for sharing your design and for the very helpful video.

The cleaner works perfectly except we have an issue with static electricity. It must be the composition of the acrylic sheet on the front. I have sprayed it with a solution of liquid fabric softener and that helps to reduce it somewhat. We added a carry handle and designed feet that fold up for storage. Think we'll make a larger funnel hole to allow for cleaning beans.

I am the person who contacted you about cleaning lettuce seed. The cleaner is excellent but I wondered about the height of the first wedge. If it were just a shade lower, the seed might not bounce up and be drawn into the outlet so easily. It's hard to say, really. I look forward to experimenting with next year's seed harvest and



cleaning.

Thanks again - Frances

note from Ben: Yes, seed bouncing up from the first wedge into the vortex can be an issue. However, while moving the first wedge down might help, I worry it could destroy the 'swirl' effect. Instead, I would suggest moving or angling the funnel to the left more, so the first thing the stream of seed impacts is the second wedge, on the left.

Greetings from Sao Paulo Brazil! I just finished my seed cleaner based on your design. I use it to separate my cocoa nibs from the husks and it works fine! Losses are only 17%!!

Many thanks for posting all the project in such greater details. It worked fine.

I attached a picture of the cleaner.



Best wishes,

Andre

The machine you see on top is a coffee beans grinder that I use to crack the roasted cocoa beans. The beans are smaller than usual since I use native ones from the Amazon Rain Forest, which is collected by the locals from trees near their homes. There is no organised plantation! The coffee grinder manages to crack them rather well. Other crackers I used broke them too much and the recovery rate was smaller.

Usually, small chocolate producers like me use the Chocolate Alchemy winnower (The Aether Winnower), which achieves a recovery rate around 80%. The Real Seeds winnower of yours gives me 83% and occupy much less space than the one from Chocolate Alchemy. On top of that it is much nicer to the eyes!!

I attached a small 1/6 cv motor and speed control to the axis of the grinder to save time and increase productivity.

I want to thank you for the detailed plan you



provided.

By following it carefully I've made my winnower work at the first attempt. It is wonderful. I believe it is "healthier" for the beans to drop on piece of wood than through plastic pipes.

Below is the end result after the first batch of cacao beans.

All the best to you.

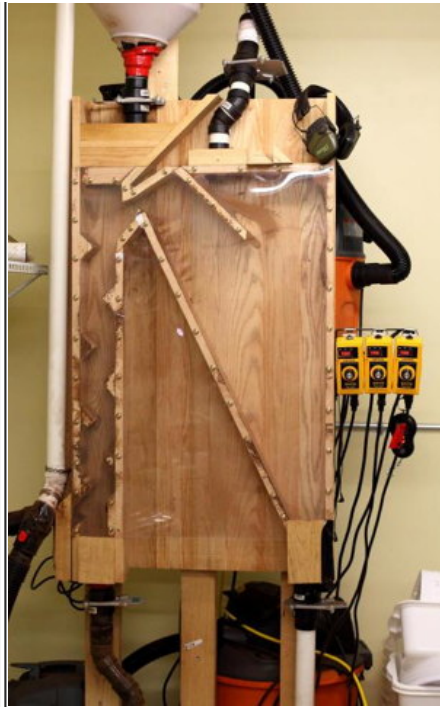
Thanks again - Alain d'Aboville

This is one I spotted in a blog about Humming Bird Chocolate. Looks like its been modified with the addition of at least 2 extra vacuums to take away the debris and feed in cocoa nibs.

I would suggest thinking carefully about how its going to work if doing this - you'll get 'interesting' effects of the suction in different directions!

The original design assumes open air pressure at the bottom left and a closed-off collector.

Note the ear-defenders!!!



Dear Ben,
Just finished my first seed cleaner and wanted to send you a picture to add to your collection. I am in Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada and I am using it to separate the cocoa nib from the hulls and it seems to be working well. Can't thank you enough for posting the design online.
Best regards,
Erik



Hi Ben,

Attached is a photo of the seed cleaner I built from your plans. I use it for cocoa beans and it works great. I am about to make a demonstration video using it. Most people who see it working just smile in amazement. Thanks so much sharing the plans.

Best Regards from California, USA,

Thomas Snuggs

The Real Seed Catalogue is produced by The Real Seed Collection Ltd ~ Company No 5924934 ~ VAT No 841181938 ~ DEFRA registered Seed Merchant No 7289 ~

Our Unique Structure: Because we have no shareholders, the main aim of the company is not to make huge profits, but instead to supply great seeds to home gardeners at reasonable prices, and to educate people about home seed-saving. As part of our ethical policy, all staff are paid the same hourly wage, including the directors.

Our Unique Guarantee: We have spent years trying to find the best varieties for you to grow. We think these are the best seeds you can sow, and we really hope that you enjoy growing your vegetables from them. We will immediately refund or replace if you are in any way less than delighted with them, even including the flavour of the resulting crop!

Gardeners Should Save their Own Seed: Because none of these seeds are hybrids, you can save your own seed for future use: there's no need to buy new each year. Saving your own is easy. You will get great seed, and great vegetables adapted to your local conditions. Do have a go - read the seedsaving instructions we provide with every order, and also on this site. ~ *We have sent out over 104,000 sets of free home seed-saving instructions!*~

Our Seed Club: Due to really daft seed laws, many of our fantastic vegetable seeds can only be supplied to members of our Seed Club, because they are not on the EU-approved list of permitted vegetable varieties! But membership costs just one penny per annum. *When we process your order, you will be charged a penny for*

a year's Seed Club Membership. For more details see our [terms and conditions](#).

Climate Change: Real Seeds is powered by Good Energy- the only 100% Renewable Electricity Supplier