

# Martha Tent Setup Video Transcript

**This is my Martha tent.** A Martha tent is used to create a controlled environment inside of your house so that humidity, carbon dioxide and temperature can be pretty easily controlled for the sake of the fungi. The name Martha tent actually comes from some underground mushroom growing community as it related to Martha Stewart's line of grow tents. And so the names sort of stuck. Now, the components are actually pretty easy, I normally keep it closed. I've opened it up a little bit, so that you can see more easily inside of it. The first component is the greenhouse. I used a five tiered greenhouse. I wanted to have the extra room to put things in and also there's a matter of stability.

Okay, if you take a look on the floor, you will see my ultrasonic humidifier, as well as the struts that will keep the base of the tent resistant to things like cats and little children. This is a good thing. So I like the five tiered tent. This is my ultrasonic humidifier. And one lesson that I can offer you is to not cheap out on your humidifier. I did: I bought a \$30 version, it lasted me five days and puked out. No bueno. This is a slightly more expensive model. It's not top of the line. But so far, so good. I have it connected to controls that are plugged into my power strip that's plugged into my last home GFCI. That's part of what dictated the location of the tent in my house.

Okay, and one thing that I plan to add to these controls is a humidity controller. Those are actually pretty simple as well. You plug your ultrasonic humidifier into the humidity controller, you plug your humidity controller into the power strip, and you can set your humidity to within a few degrees of what the mushrooms need. You know if they're colonizing, if they're fruiting, that kind of thing. Thirdly, kindly note that the board my humidifier is sitting on is sitting on a plastic surface. You can use drip pans for these you can use tarps. I had handy a garbage bag in the right size and my Grow Tent is two by two by six feet tall. You will be cleaning that garbage bag off often because the humidity doesn't just go away it will kind of drip back. And you do want that tarp to catch the water as it cools. And you do want to clean it on a fairly regular basis.

Okay. Another component is the temperature and humidity monitor very easy; battery powered. to let me know what's going on. A fourth component I believe is the four inch duct fan. The duct fan is important to help with airflow throughout the Martha tent. Fungi respire in exactly the same way we do: they breathe okay, and a natural product of that respiration is carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a fruiting inhibitor so too much carbon dioxide means you won't get any mushrooms. Use the duct fan in the negative pressure mode to draw the air up from the lower portion of the tent and send it out. You want the duct fan in the negative

pressure mode. Now there are duct fans that will actually sit on the shelf and that's fine. You know you can sit your humidity controller on the shelf if you want to. I prefer to use the shelf for other things.

Another thing to notice about the duct fan is that I have a filter over it. I've chosen to use a coffee filter. You can use a reusable filter if you'd like along with a zip tie. The point here is to keep spores from entering your living space. And they will, especially if you're using a tray method or that kind of thing inside of the tent. Okay. So you definitely want to be aware of that. Now, notice that I do not have my tent packed full. These are my sawdust blocks, some of them are fruiting and they are not in contact with one another. The reason for that is because contact facilitates contamination. And even after you have done everything possible to sterilize your blocks to take care of them, and make sure it doesn't happen to inoculate them in you're still airbox, contamination can still happen if they are in contact with one another. So that's why you don't want to fill the Martha tent to the brim.

So anyway, this is my tent, you can put it in just about any corner of your house, you will want to keep it out of direct light. Okay, direct sunlight will heat up the tent far greater temperatures than the fungi require in order to grow and can actually be rather counterproductive. So put it out of sun, not in sunlight, away from sunlight, away from direct light. If you have it by a window one thing that you can do with the duct fan is use a flexible duct to vent the spores out the window. You know, that's an option if you have one. Otherwise, like I said, use the filter. Keep it out of the light, keep the air flowing. I have my duct fan on a timer because it is a bit noisy. I have it running two hours, a clip, three times a day. And it seems to be working just fine. So this is the tent, it is very easy to set up. I'm sure you guys have set up these kinds of greenhouses before they don't even come with instructions. Put your ultrasonic humidifier on the bottom, put your duct fan on the top. Attach it to your controllers, and you should be good to go. I hope my video was useful to you. Happy shrooming!