

# **INSTRUCTION MANUAL** **THE AUTOMATIC CHICKEN COOP DOOR OPENER™**

*Please Read This Manual Thoroughly Before Installing!*

**Visit [CheeperKeeper.com](http://CheeperKeeper.com) for more help,**

**or scan here for installation video.**



Please wait 30-60 seconds  
for your door to begin working  
after COMPLETE DARKNESS.



## **Quick Instructions:**

### **1. “Coop Hole”**

Measure the opening of your chicken coop hole approximately 8 inches wide by 13 inches high. Measure twice and cut once.

### **2. Install Rails and Door \*\*\* You will need a Phillips screwdriver!**

Screw one rail bottom hole first, and make sure it is the hole on the INSIDE track to Stop the Door. Screw second rail bottom hole next by placing door in rails and checking to see if the screws “STOP” the door **and** also slide freely inside the channels. Check for level, straight, and plumb the rails with the door. Screw tops of rails. Check door to see if it opens and closes smoothly. NO RESISTANCE. It should drop inside the rails easily.

### **3. Install Motor Box**

Lift Door all the way up so it clears the opening. Mark center hole of door or mark where the motor box lines up with the door. Remove cover of motor box and screw down the motor box through the deep holes onto the surface of the coop.

### **4. Insert Clip**

Bend and configure clip to hook into the door and then attach clip to nylon line loop hole. Twist and tighten clip securely for freezing conditions.

### **5. Insert Batteries**

Pay attention to + and – signs, and check battery wire connections into the proper color coded pins marked 1A and 2A.

### **6. Dark Test Run**

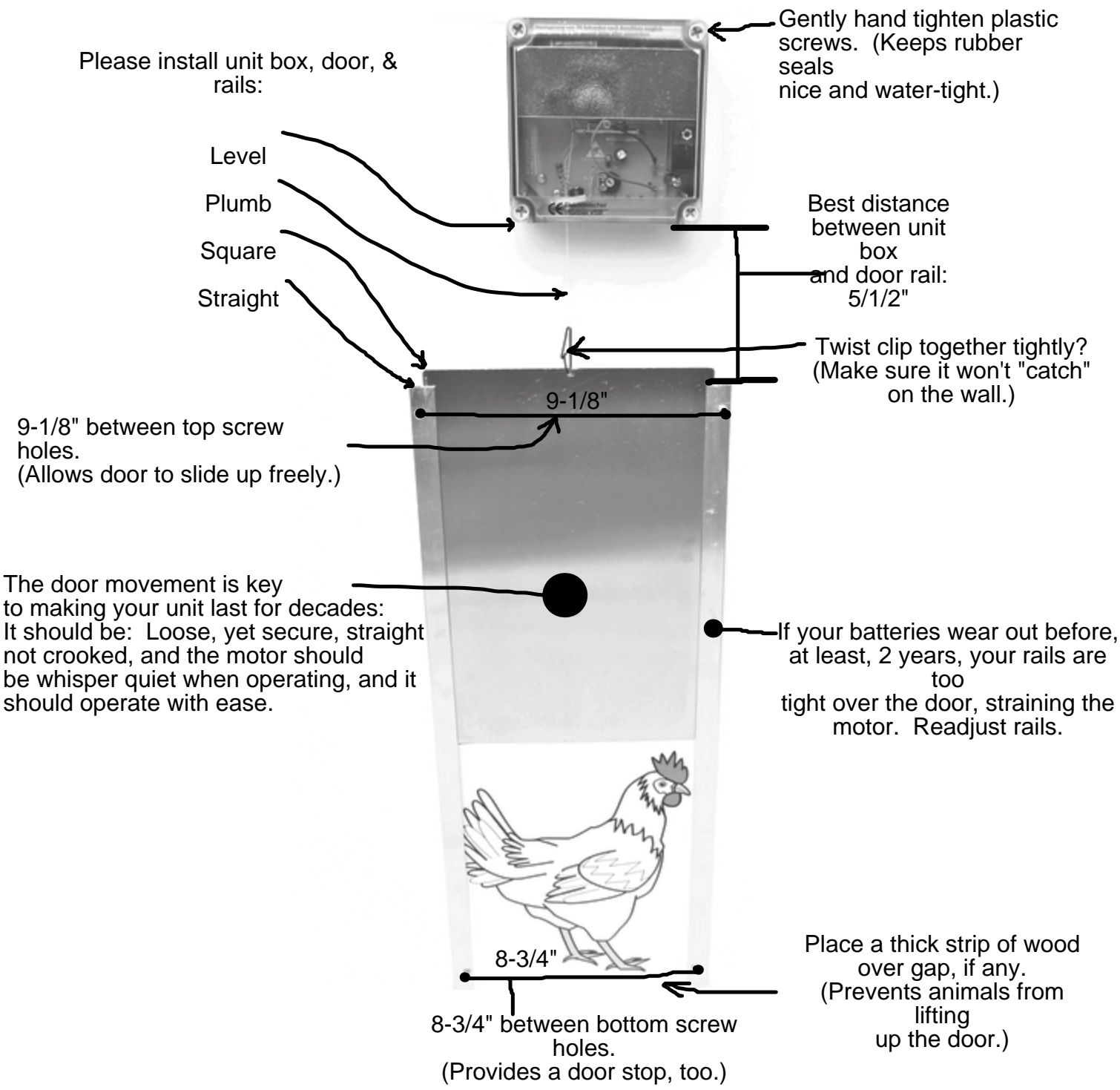
Darken or BLACK OUT motor box COMPLETELY and for up to 60 seconds to initialize solid state electronics to test for closing. If it closes smoothly without jamming, remove darkness and check for smooth opening, and CHECK FOR BLACK BEAD THAT LIFTS UP WHITE SPRING LOADED LEVER IN MOTOR BOX TO STOP THE MOTOR FROM LIFTING.

### **7. Light Sensitivity Adjustment**

Watch at night and following morning for your flock’s personal preference on opening and closing times and adjust the light sensor accordingly following instructions on the ***Light Sensitivity Adjustment*** page.

### **Not working? Here’s the quick troubleshooting!**

- Check the batteries! Although we ship fresh batteries, sometimes they go bad. Replace with new ones and try again.
- Did you darken the Unit Completely? Try again. Or, please wait until complete night time darkness and check again, then wait until morning.
- Door could be jammed. Inspect door for easy sliding and adjust for smooth operation.
- Check battery pack terminal connections for contact with 1A and 2A, or 1B and 2B. Blue/Black dot to black wire, red dot to red wire.
- Is the door attached? The motor unit needs weight to operate. Hang the door and try again.
- Inspect black battery pack for intact wiring, broken wires (red, black), correct battery placement (+, -), solid contact with pins 1A, 2A, etc., and corrosion due to cross wiring (blue/green colored crust).



\*\*\*Troubleshooting with the AS Outside Light Sensor:

If you have the AS light sensor installed and your door isn't working, try operating the door WITHOUT the AS Light Sensor, and if it works, then you have a broken Light Sensor. Email us for replacement if it is under the one year warranty.

## **Detailed Mounting & Operating Instructions for the (VSBb-HS-1)/Unit\*.**

\*You Will Need a Phillips screwdriver.

**Important:** Before mounting, please read these instructions thoroughly. Do not bend or straighten any parts of the Unit. Do not apply voltage to any part of the Unit until instructed. Do not carry out any manual functioning test before mounting Unit. Do not use pesticides or poisons on or near the Unit, as they may damage the electronic components. Failing to comply with these warnings will void your warranty and we will decline your repair orders. **Warning:** There may be *sharp corners to the stainless steel, use work gloves.*

1. **Install Sliding Door.** **ALWAYS SIZE UP RAILS AND DOOR BEFORE CUTTING YOUR HOLE TO BE SURE OF A GOOD FIT.** Place the two rails and the sliding door over your chicken opening to see if it will cover your hole. Make any modifications, if necessary. Once you're satisfied with the location, screw down the two lower screw holes in the rail first, and size them up by keeping the door inside, *the door will be stopped by bottom of these lower screws*, so size up accordingly. Leave enough height off the bottom of the closing door for any potential loose frozen chicken poop which would prevent proper closing. Finish screwing the top screws with the door now inside the rails permanently. Check for satisfactory results in sliding up and down. Bend and install included clip in the door lift hole.

2. **Mounting the VSBb Unit.** (Mount it outside of the coop if you did not buy the **AS Light Sensor**.) Size up the location of the unit box by lifting the door up (maximum 24") to create proper opening hole and then make sure the nylon pull cord is centered over the door lift hole (center). This is where you will now attach the Unit. Remove the four plastic screws and screw the wood screws in the holes that were just revealed. Hand tight, firm and flush, but without compromising Unit. Once screwed in, just lift up the door completely and attach the nylon pull cord to the door clip, twist and secure wire clip, and it will look perfectly centered and the Unit will be holding the door open.

3.) **Install Batteries.** Install batteries in correct position, replace battery carriage in Unit and close Unit back up with the plastic screws, (hand tighten only).

4.) **Test the Unit.** Darken the Unit by placing a towel over the Unit and holding for 10-60 seconds. This darkening will simulate the night, and allow you to test the Unit before dusk. The Unit lowers the door, and then raises it up again after 10 seconds like the dawn. It should be satisfactory, if it is not, reposition any and all components and test again until you're confident of operation.

5.) **Adjusting the light sensitivity.** The adjusting device inside the Unit (above the pins 5 and 6, slot marked with arrow) has been set at the factory for early opening. If it is still too bright for closing at this time, turn the controller clockwise ¼ turn and check the adjustment from a distance, and adjust by a ¼ turn clockwise for later opening, or counter-clockwise for earlier opening. The arrow dial moves freely with little effort; **DO NOT FORCE**, stay within the easy movement. Prevent any other unnatural light source, i.e. outside lighting, flood lamps, car headlights, etc., from triggering the Unit.

6.) **Maintenance.** Do not lubricate the pull cord by oil or grease.

**Pull cord:** Pull cord may become weak after about 10 years of service. But try and check on the condition of the pull cord from time to time. For replacing the pull cord, darken the Unit, let door drop down, remove batteries and draw out remaining cord.

Replace with masonry line of same diameter, and reverse operation to wind cord back in by installing batteries and applying slight tension on line as it winds back up, guiding it properly. Improper replacement will void warranty of Unit.

**Batteries:** Check every 6 months for opening and closing speed of door to ensure battery charge is satisfactory. Replace with 4 AA alkaline batteries in approximately 2-4 years. We do not recommend rechargeable batteries, as they can still have charge but not enough voltage to power the door.

### 7.) **Technical Data:**

Maximum Door Weight: 7 pounds

Minimum Door Weight: .5 pounds

Operational voltage: 6-12 volts

Operating Time: 40 seconds (Full cycle up and down)

Stroke length (pull cord): 23"

Maximum Door Weight When Using Pulley (UR): 13 pounds

Operating Temperature of Motor/Door Unit: -45F to 220F

Operating Temperature of AA batteries: -4 F to 113F

Delay: 10 seconds opening, 1 second closing (Lightning Proof)

Aluminum Hen Door: 8-21/32" by 13-1/8"

**8.) Warnings and Advice:** If installing the Unit above the 45<sup>th</sup> degree parallel please be advised that Weasels, Bobcats, etc., could still be hunting in summer by the time the door opens (w/ factory setting at about 4 a.m. opening at dawn, in summer). Please adjust factory settings (between pins 5 and 6, see below, or include a timer (pins 3 and 4).

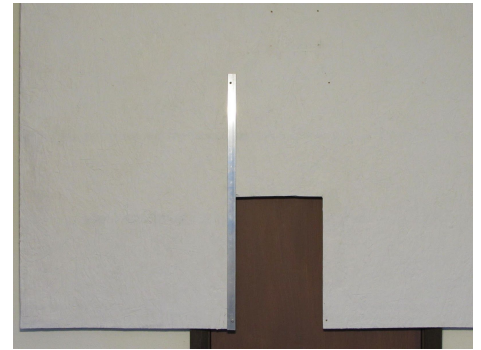
### **VISUAL STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION GUIDE TO DOOR KIT UNIT**



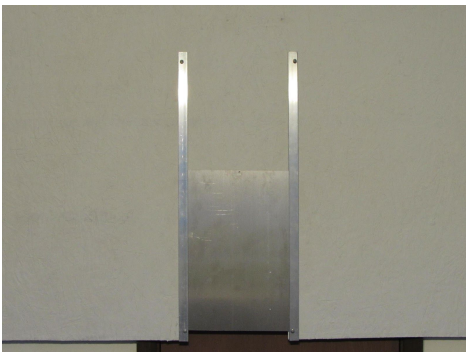
**1.** Measure twice, cut once:  
Door (8" W x 13" L)



**2.** Place first rail with bottom screw toward opening to "stop door".



**3.** Install first rail both screws:  
Level + Straight.



**4.** Configure metal over opening,  
Slide up and down to check space



**5.** Install bottom rail as the other  
"door stop".



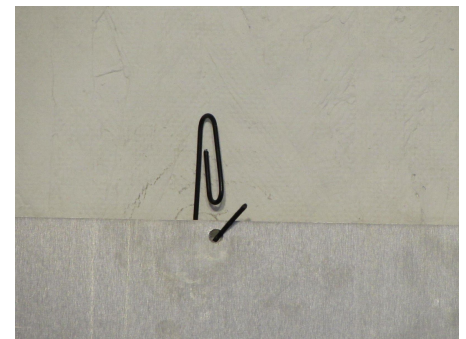
**6.** Check for smooth gliding: Go  
up and down, finish screws.



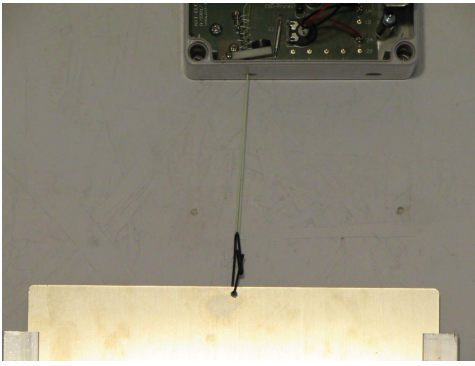
**7.** Open gate *ALL THE WAY*.



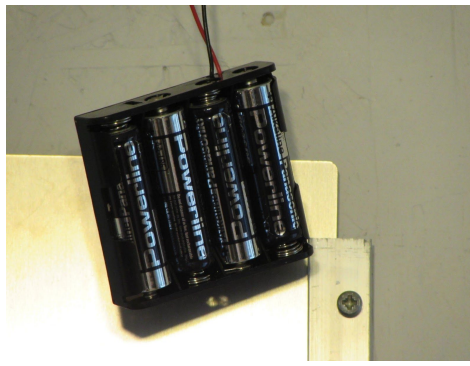
**8.** Match up Opener Unit



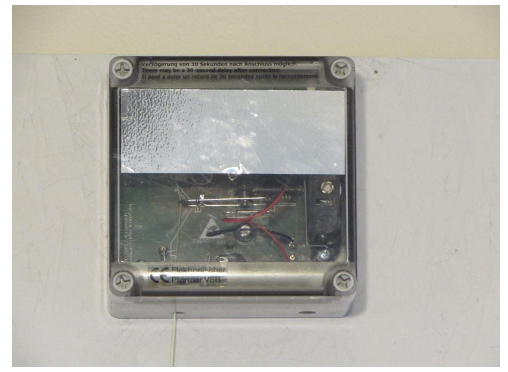
**9.** Install clip in door, first.  
Bend to fit, twist securely.



10. Loop the clip and Twist securely.



11. Install batteries, follow + & -



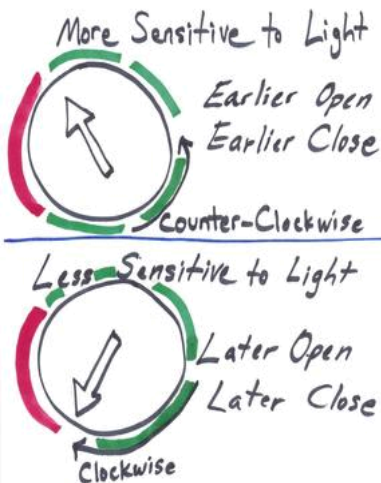
12. Cover unit hand tight to seal.



13. Darken Unit with hat or towel (10-60 seconds to initialize motor)



14. Test for smooth opening up after removing darkness.



**LIGHT SENSITIVITY ADJUSTMENT**

**Monitor the first couple of nights and adjust accordingly:**

**CLOSE LATER:** Turn clockwise, every quarter turn is about 15 minutes later.

**CLOSE EARLIER:** Turn counter-clockwise, every quarter turn is about 15 minutes earlier.

**OPEN LATER:** Clockwise.  
**OPEN EARLIER:** Counter-clockwise

15. Your opener is equipped with a light sensitivity adjustment dial, see the black arrow in the white dial. It is pre-set at the factory for medium sensitivity to daylight. It rotates, from a clock perspective, to the most sensitive to light at 11 o'clock, and the least sensitive to light at 7 o'clock. You can adjust the settings with a small knife tip or a small screw driver, but you must stay within the range of the dial. Never force or crank, it glides smoothly within its range.

16. If you need exact time settings, you can use the BS-D Digital Timer by Cheeper Keeper, sold separately. It will have all the detailed instructions you need for connecting and operating to your Automatic Chicken Coop Door Opener by Cheeper Keeper.

17. OFF GRID + SOLAR Solar panels can be used that can generate at least 6-12 volts of continuous power to a battery of 6 or 12 volts. Connect to Pins 1A and 2B, red is hot/positive, black is neutral/negative.

## Electrical Connection for AS (Outside Light Sensor) into VSBb/Unit (Sold Separately)

1. After VSBb/Unit has been installed on the inside of the henhouse, test Unit for proper installation. Giving enough length for **AS** sensor to find daylight.
2. Slip **AS** wires through exposed hole on bottom of VSBb/Unit (NOT Pictured).
3. Plug **AS** wires (**White wire to 6, Brown to 5**). Turn white arrow dial to the 3 o'clock position as if you were looking at a clock.
4. Move sensor to the outside of the coop where it can clearly sense the daylight, (it doesn't have to be direct sunlight, any light is fine). Fasten safely and securely with staples or preferable cable/telephone clips. Do not puncture wires.
5. Place black cap on **RS**. This prevents accidental opening in case light is switched on inside the henhouse. See Photo 2. Cover Unit and test by darkening **AS** sensor end.

Photo 1: Arrow Position, Wires

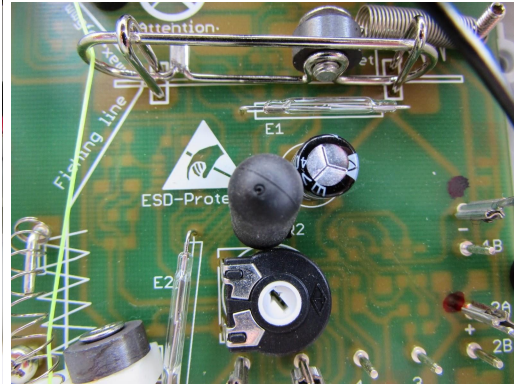
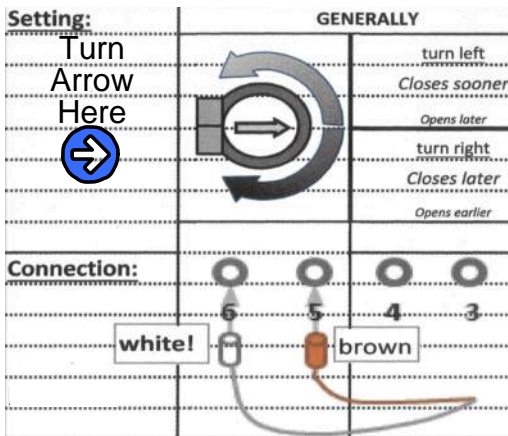


Photo 2 Black Cap (RS)

### Timers and Battery power from Solar Panels and Charging Device:

Timers can be purchased separately either from Amazon (part # BS-D) or any battery operated timer on the market provided you can remove the two wires and attach an alligator clip and clip to pins **3** and **4**. Pins **3** and **4** are the factory override connections used for timing this VSBb Unit. Jump connect pins 5 and 6.

This Unit can also be powered by a 6 or 12 volt battery charged properly by a charging device and appropriate sized solar panels. Use the main power pins 1A and 2A, or 1B and 2 B. Red is power positive or hot wire, and Black is negative or ground wire. Please seek a qualified advisor on solar power and battery powered equipment.

### Notes on Finishing your Door:

If you have heavy infestation of raccoons, we highly suggest installing a strip of wood like a 1" x 2", 2" x 2", (shave off the sharp corners for chickens' feet) at the bottom of the door. Raccoons have been known to lift the door with their hands and nose and slip underneath, but instances are very rare.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

### ***My chicken door does not work, it does not open. What should I do?***

\*\*After installation, please wait 24 hours before contacting us to see if the door does work by morning.

- It might be the batteries, replace and check and make sure the black battery pack is firmly placed in the metal pins marked 1A and 2A, or try 1B and 2B and follow the red and black dots with the right colored wire. Please do not insert the wrong wire into the wrong pin, as this will short the Unit and void the warranty.

- The door must be hanging on the Unit. It must have enough weight to work. Did you install the door? Try adding some more weight to your door, like a heavy bolt attached with some wire just to check.
- Since you installed the door in the OPEN position, you should test the door before going to bed. Did you make sure and darken completely the Unit to test if it will close? Make sure to let NO light into the Unit, AND COVER COMPLETELY FOR 10-60 SECONDS to initialize the Unit.
- Check to see if the door isn't jammed, and loosen up side rails and allow door to move freely again. Then, wait 30 seconds for Unit to begin operating again.
- Make visual inspection to see if the nylon line cable is following the "fishing line" line diagram on green panel. Or, switch wires over to **1B** and **2B**, blue/black dot for black wire, red dot to red wire.
- THE RAILS MUST BE PERFECTLY STRAIGHT AND DO NOT BIND THE DOOR.
- Try and darken the unit, tug down on the door and wait about 30 seconds to see if it starts.

***My chicken door was working and now it stopped. What should I do?***

- Be sure there are NO outside flood lights in the area of the Unit to keep it from closing. (Moon is OK.) Next, try and remove the AS Light Sensor to see if it's not the problem, sometimes they get dirty. Always test your unit without the AS light sensor to determine if it is a bad AS light sensor.
- Try switching up connections to **1B** and **2B**. Blue/Black dot to black wire, red dot to red wire.
- You may need to add weight to the door, like a bolt or something heavy attached to the wire clip or the green loop line or the hole in the factory door. This is because it may not be sliding effortlessly inside the rails. Try redoing the rails for best results.

**WARRANTY**

Your Cheeper Keeper is warranted for **1 full year from date of purchase** from any and all factory malfunctions or shipping damage. Please contact us at [info@cheeperkeeper.com](mailto:info@cheeperkeeper.com) for assistance.

*FOR FASTEST SERVICE AND FASTEST RESULTS:*

*-Contact us by email at [info@cheeperkeeper.com](mailto:info@cheeperkeeper.com)*

*-Include order number or Amazon order number.*

*-Include photos of complete installation AND a photo of the inside of the unit box without the cover on.*

*This will help us help you to get you the right parts or replacement normally within 2-3 business days.*

***PLEASE PACK ENTIRE PACKAGE WITH ORIGINAL CONTENT BEFORE RETURNING TO AMAZON.***



Thank you for your business and support. If it's not **5 star** service, please email and we'll make it **5 stars**. If the product itself is not **5 stars**, please email us at [info@cheeperkeeper](mailto:info@cheeperkeeper) and tell us what will make it **5 stars** and we'll fix it right away so we can remain a **5 star** product. Or, leave comments, suggestions and advice on our website so we can make it a **5 star** product thanks to your help. We depend on our customers to guide this product's growth. Thank you.