The idea is to preheat the primary air at the end of the burn so that it does not cool the char. This enables the coals to stay hot and so smooth the transition from wood fire to charcoal fire. The perforated plate is heated with radiant heat from the hot coals, and the primary air passes through the perforations, picks up the heat and carries it back into the coals. This is a very simple and inexpensive solution. I made the total open area of the plate 1.5 times the full open area of the primary control so as to minimize any added flow resistance

Perforated plate

Pyrolysis chamber

Char

Hot char

Radiant heat heats the perforated plate

perforated plate

Primary air is preheated as it passes through the heated, perforated plate