



# Assembly Instructions: Large Hybrid Atrium



The Dragon Strand Large Hybrid Atrium Enclosure includes features needed by keepers of chameleons and other arboreal species. The wide format gives you ample space to create the necessary gradients. All front panels are acrylic except for the middle front panel strip which will provide ventilation via the chimney effect. Your Large Hybrid Atrium comes with eight Dragon Ledges which will allow you to easily create a floating garden style interior. Three Hydration Mounts give you wide coverage within the cage using industry standard mist heads. If you have any questions while assembling this cage please reference the

## Tools Needed for Assembly:

- Phillips Head Screwdriver
- Scissors (to unwrap parts)
- Bowl (to hold screws)

## Optional:

WD-40 or Goo Gone (to remove stickers)

**Caution 1: Do not over-tighten screws!** Tighten the screw until it is fully seated in the frame and stop turning when the screw is tight. Forcing the screw beyond this point will strip the hole.

**Caution 2:** Beware of slipping with the screwdriver and punching a hole in the screen. Tighten the screws firmly and deliberately, but do not rush yourself or press harder than necessary.

**Success Hint: Open a screw bag only when it is required and store screws in a bowl.**

**Assembly Note:** Except for the Bottom Frame, the panel side with the sticker is the inside of the cage.

## Step 1: Unpack and Verify Contents

Carefully unpack the box and find each item. If there is anything missing or if there is shipping damage please contact me at [bill@dragonstrand.com](mailto:bill@dragonstrand.com).

### Cage Panels:

- (A) Left Panel
- (B1) Back Left Panel
- (B2) Back Right Panel
- (C) Right Panel
- (D) Bottom Frame
- (E) Top Screen Panel
- (F) Plastic Floor Panel
- (G1) Middle Face Screen Panel

### Acrylic Panels:

- (G2) Service Door
- (G3) Top Face Panel
- (H1) Main Door Left
- (H2) Main Door Right

Be as careful with acrylic panels as you are with screen! Acrylic can scratch. Leave protective covering on until last moment.

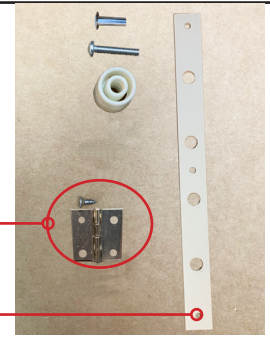
### Bag (P)

- (P1) 24\* Caps
- (P2) 24\* 7/8" Machine Screws
- (P3) 24\* White Barrels

### Bag (M):

- 4\* Hinges
- 16\* 3/8" #6 Countersunk Screws

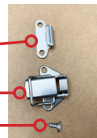
- (U) 8\* White Ledge



### Hardware Packs:

#### Bag (N):

- (N1) 2\* Keepers
- (N2) 2\* Latches
- (N3) 8\* 3/8" #8 Self-Tapper Screws



#### 3 \* Bag (J):

- (J1) 3\* Hydration Mount
- (J2) 3\* Grommet
- (J3) 9\* 1/2" Self-Driller Screws



#### Bag (K):

- 38 \* 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screws

#### Bag (S):

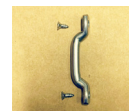
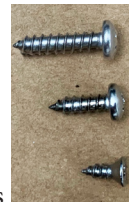
- 12 \* 1/2" Self-Tapper Screws

#### Bag (L):

- 30\* 3/8" #6 Countersunk Screws

#### Bag (Y):

- 2\* Door Handles
- 4\* 3/8" #6 Countersunk Screws



#### (W1) 1\*Main Door Stop

#### (W2) 1\*Service Door Strip

#### (W3) 1\*Middle Panel Strip

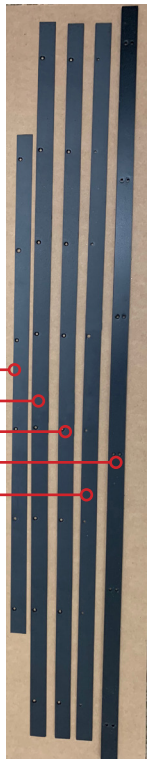
#### (W4) 1\*Back Mending Strip

#### (W5) 1\*Top Panel Strip

#### Bag (X):

#### (X1) 4\* Black Sash Lock

#### (X2) 8\* 5/8" #8 Counter-sunk Screws



## Step 2: Install Hydration Mounts (J)

Your Large Atrium comes with three Hydration Mounts (J1). These are designed to allow the mounting of industry standard mist heads. There is also a grommeted input for 1/4" tubing which will allow entry of any 1/4" tubing misting system even if the mist head does not fit the provided mist head hole. The Hydration Mount is designed to be installed anywhere along the inside top panel frame. The placement of the Hydration Mounts will be unique to your application and where you want the mist heads to be placed. Usually they are placed so they are able to spray the plant leaves. A standard full coverage configuration would be one Hydration Mount in each front corner and one in the middle front.

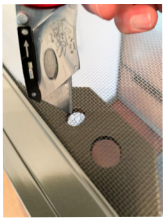
Install the Hydration Mount before assembling the cage, but wait until the cage is assembled before installing the mistheads. The grommet (J2) may be installed at any time now or in the future even after the cage is assembled.



If you choose to use the 1/4" input remember to remove the grommet (J2) **before mounting** as it will be close to impossible to remove when up against the screen.



There are three self-driving screws (J3) that you will press and drive into the aluminum frame for a strong attachment. Place the Hydration Mount on the underside of the Top Panel (E) flush with the edge. Be very careful not to slip with the screw driver and make a hole in the screen.



When it comes time to install the grommet or mist head, use a sharp knife and cut an "X" pattern in the screen above the Hydration Mount hole. **Remember, you do not have to do this now!** Then install the grommet or mist head. It is best to install the mist head after cage assembly is complete.



When it comes time to insert the grommet, squeeze the grommet to push it through. It is designed to provide a tight fit around the 1/4" tubing and to cover any loose screen strands from the cutting.

## Step 3: Install Latches, Keepers, and Hinges

To start assembly we will install the hardware in pre-drilled holes on the different panels. .

### Introduction to Hardware Parts

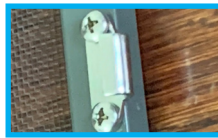
Handle (Bag Y)



Latch (N1)



Keeper (N2)



Sash Lock (Bag X)



Hinge (Bag M)



Black Strips (W1, W2)



### Step 3.1: Top Face Panel (G3)

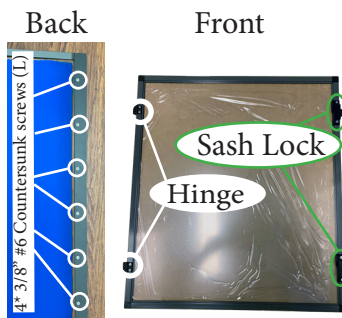
Install Top Panel Strip (W5) on rear of Top Face Panel (G3) with eight 3/8" #6 Countersunk screws (L). Then turn over and install one Sash Lock (X) on the front.



### Step 3.2: Main Door Left (H1)

First, use four 3/8" #6 Countersunk screws (L) to attach Main Door Strip W1 to the **backside** of left door panel (H1).

Then turn H1 over and attach the specified hardware. The Pole Keepers are installed through holes in W1.



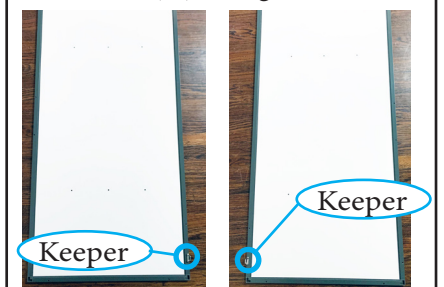
### Step 3.3: Main Door Right (H2)

Front



### Step 3.4: Side Panels (A) & (C)

Left Panel (A) Right Panel (C)

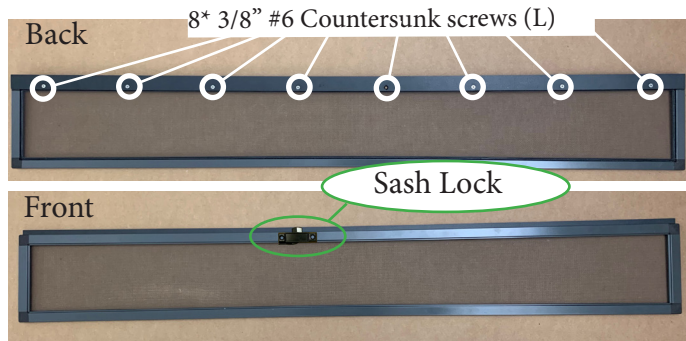




### Step 3.5:

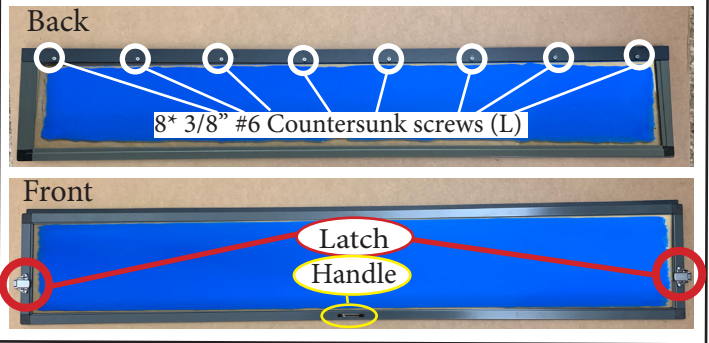
#### Middle Panel (G1)

First, use eight 3/8" #6 Countersunk screws (L) to attach Middle Panel Strip (W3) to the **backside** of middle panel (G1). Then turn (G1) over and attach the Sash Lock (X) on the front.



### Step 3.6:

#### Service Door (G2)

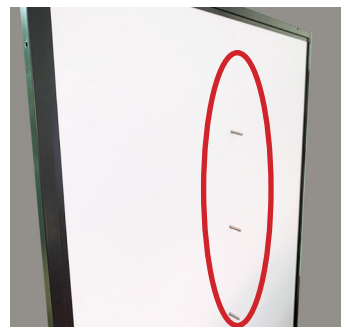


**Note:** The protective material on the acrylic may be a different color than what is depicted here

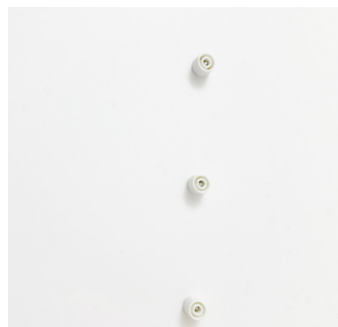
### Step 3: Install Dragon Ledges

Dragon Ledges are mounted on the INSIDE of the back and side panels. Each back panel (B1 & B2) has pre-drilled holes for two vertically orientated Dragon Ledges while both the side panels (A) and (C) have pre-drilled holes for two horizontal Dragon Ledges each. The inside of the panel is the side with the label stickers on them. Please double check before installing Dragon Ledges!

#### Installing Dragon Ledges



Push (P2) 7/8" Machine Screws from outside of Back Panel (B1) to inside (sticker side). Do this in six places on back panel.



In six places, insert (P3) White Barrels on Machine screw posts on inside of Back Panel (B1).



Put one (U) White Ledge across 3 barrels in two places and insert one (P1) Cap per barrel. Twist cap and screw together tightly.

#### Completed Back Panel Assembly



Repeat for other back panel (B2) and side panels (A) & (C).



### Step 4: Connect Back Panels B1 & B2

Back panels B1 & B2 are mended together to create one large back panel. One side on the back will have a row of pre-drilled screw holes running along the long side of the panel. Place the back panels next to each other and line up Mending Strip (W3) with the holes. Use 12 \* 1/2" Self-Tapper Screws to connect the two back panels.

Back

Front



## Step 5: Construct Cage



Step 5.1: Turn the B1/B2 panel on the left side (when viewed from the front) using a wall for support. Attach Top Panel (E) and Bottom Frame (D) using 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screws (K). The latch on the top panel and the sticker on the Bottom Frame are on the **outside** of the cage.



Step 5.2: Place Right Panel (C) on the assembly and attach using 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screws (K). The Dragon Ledges are on the inside of the cage. **Important: Quickly start with one screw per side to stabilize the assembly. The Right Panel (C) is heavy and will easily fall.**



Step 5.3: Carefully rotate the assembly to the opposite side and repeat instruction 5.2 with the Left Panel (A)

Step 5.4: Install Top Face Panel (G3) with eight 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screws (K).



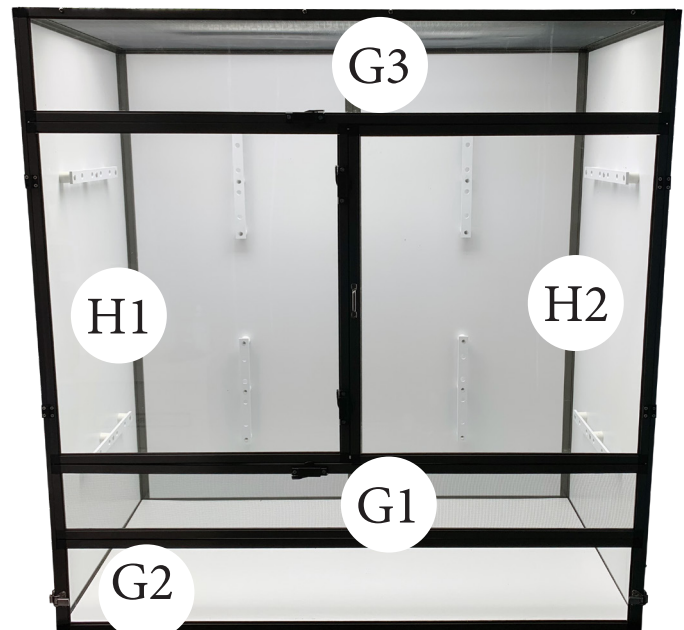
Step 5.5: Install Service Door (G2) with one 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screw (K) on each side. **Note: Acrylic can scratch. Leave the protective paper on until you are ready to use the cage.**



Step 5.6: Install Middle Face Panel (G1) with four 3/4" #8 Self-Tapper Screws (K).



Step 5.7: Once plants are mounted and placed inside, install Main Door Left (M1) and Main Door Right (M2) by attaching hinges to the side frames using eight 3/8" #6 Countersunk screws (M). Remove protective covering when ready to use the cage.



**CAUTION: The acrylic doors are heavy. An empty cage can tip forward with doors open. Install doors only after adding plants to the inside. This also protects the doors from scratching during internal set-up.**

Thank you for your support of the Dragon Strand Chameleon Caging Company. This purchase supports my ongoing chameleon educational outreach and keeps them free for the benefit of the entire community. In addition to the caging specific resources at <https://dragonstrand.com>, you may enjoy the free Chameleon Academy at <https://chameleonacademy.com> which offers an extensive look at chameleon husbandry.

There, or on any podcast app, you can also find the **Chameleon Academy Podcast**. By looking this up in your podcast app you can enjoy a free weekly educational chameleon radio show anywhere you go!

