



TALL SCREEN CAGE SYSTEM ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS





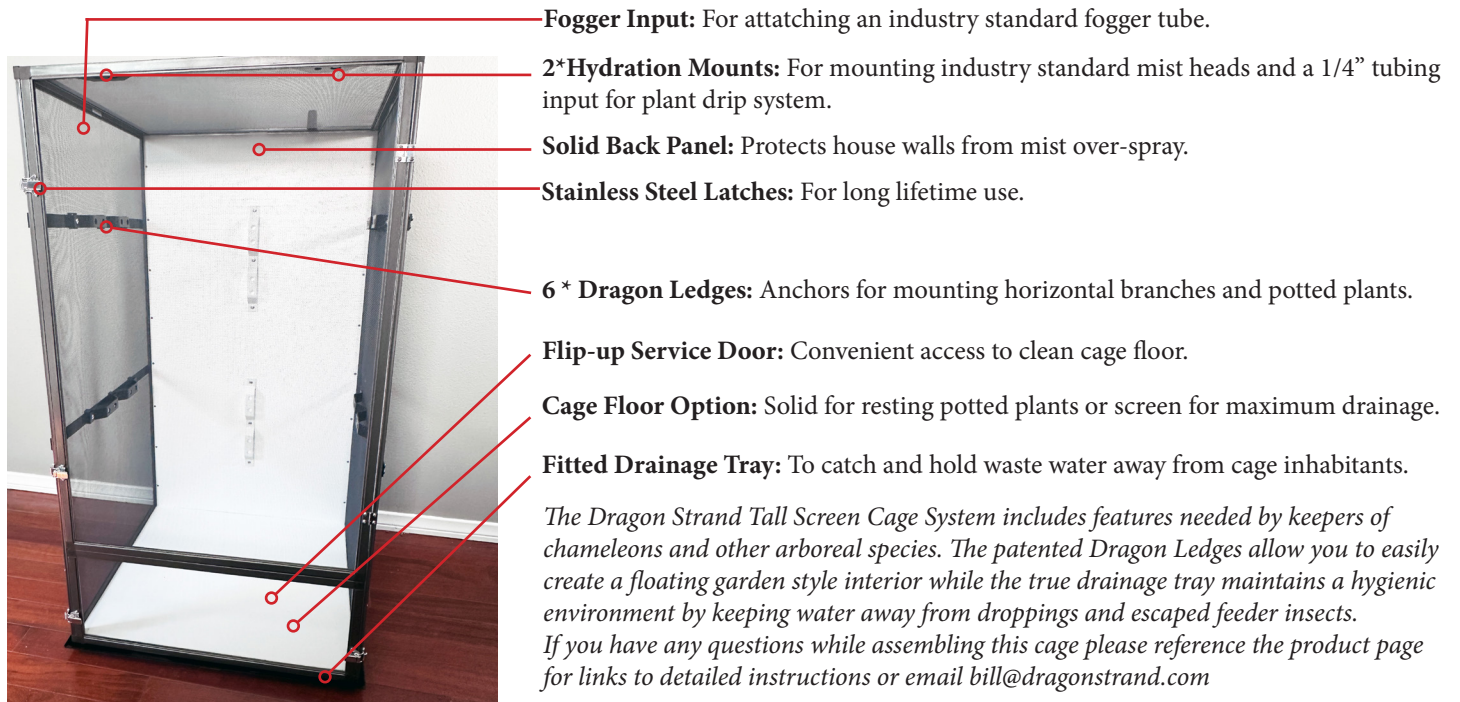


Scan this QR code for a video of these assembly instructions.
Or go to <https://dragonstrand.com/build-guide-tall-screen-cage/>



If you have any questions about these instructions call
(714)788-3617

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TALL SCREEN CAGE



Fogger Input: For attaching an industry standard fogger tube.

2*Hydration Mounts: For mounting industry standard mist heads and a 1/4" tubing input for plant drip system.

Solid Back Panel: Protects house walls from mist over-spray.

Stainless Steel Latches: For long lifetime use.

6 * Dragon Ledges: Anchors for mounting horizontal branches and potted plants.

Flip-up Service Door: Convenient access to clean cage floor.

Cage Floor Option: Solid for resting potted plants or screen for maximum drainage.

Fitted Drainage Tray: To catch and hold waste water away from cage inhabitants.

The Dragon Strand Tall Screen Cage System includes features needed by keepers of chameleons and other arboreal species. The patented Dragon Ledges allow you to easily create a floating garden style interior while the true drainage tray maintains a hygienic environment by keeping water away from droppings and escaped feeder insects.

If you have any questions while assembling this cage please reference the product page for links to detailed instructions or email bill@dragonstrand.com

WHAT CHAMELEON KEEPERS NEED

A prime goal for the Dragon Strand Tall Screen Cage System is that it has the basic functions necessary for proper chameleon husbandry right out of the box. The basic needs of the chameleon keeper are:

PLANTS & BRANCHES MOUNTED HIGH UP

Mounting plants and branches in the mid to upper parts of the cage creates a dense foliage layer for your chameleon to feel secure and drink from. This is provided by the Dragon Ledges which are anchors that allow you to attach branches and potted plants to the sides and back of the cage instead of sitting them on the ground at the bottom.

MISTING MOUNTS AND FOGGING INPUTS

This cage system includes two Hydration Mounts which allow you to mount two standard .5" stem mist nozzles on the top frame as well as a fogger hose input that allows you to use a fogger with the standard 22mm fogger tube.

DRAINAGE SOLUTION: WHERE DOES THE WATER GO?

3) Collect drain water and keep it physically separated from the chameleon/poop. All the water has to go somewhere! The included drainage tray and PVC or screen floor panel work together to collect the misting and fogging water below the cage so that it can't mix with poop and have escaped feeder insects running through it.



PREPARING FOR ASSEMBLY

Tools Needed for Assembly:

Required



Phillips Head Screwdriver

Suggested



Scissors (to unwrap parts)

Suggested



Three Bowls to hold screws

Optional



WD-40 or Goo Gone (to remove stickers)

Before You Assemble:



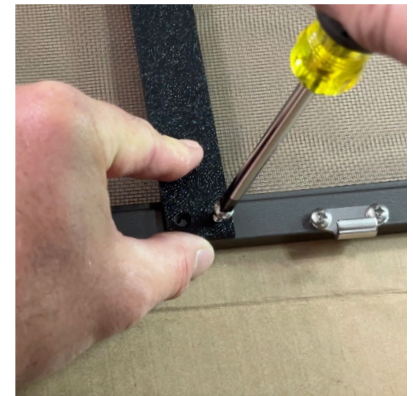
Do not overtighten screws - Use a manual screwdriver

When driving a screw into any material, tighten it until it is fully seated. Once it is fully seated, stop turning. Continuing to tighten the screw will result in “stripping” the screw hole which will mean the screw will be loose and not be able to grip. For this reason, do NOT use an electric screwdriver. It will not know when to stop and many a screw hole has been stripped by an electric screwdriver. The only way to recover from a stripped screw hole is to create a new hole so it is best to be careful from the start.



Drive screws carefully

It gets easy to want to speed things up, but keep the patience and focus when you are driving the screws in. A slip could easily send the screw driver through the screen panel. A slow, firm turn of the screw driver will give the best results and the feedback you need to know when to stop.



Open a screw bag only when necessary and use bowls

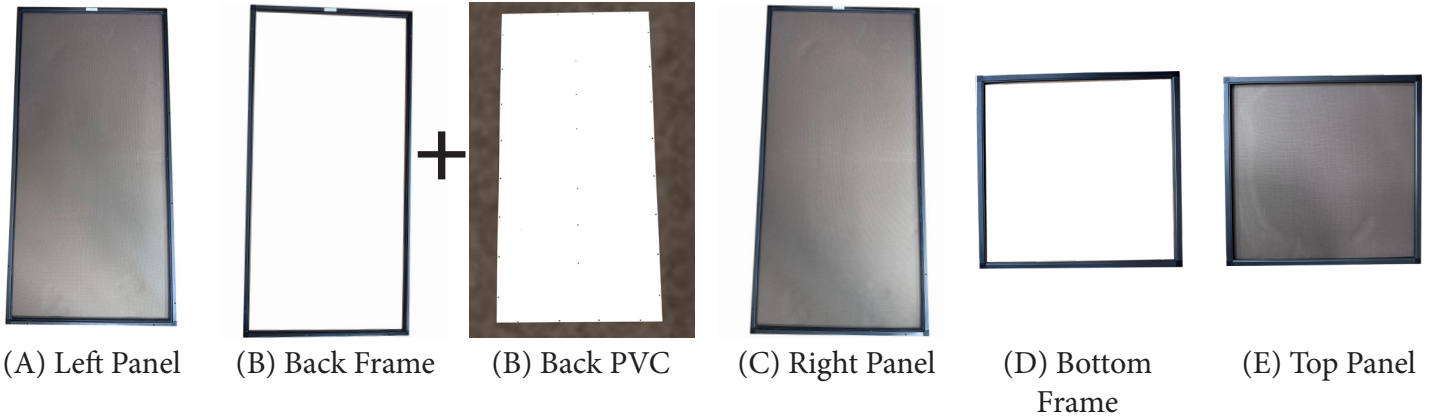
The screws and hardware are put into separate bags to make it as easy as possible to know what screws go with which step. But screws are small and like to roll away. The best way to manage the screws is to open a screw bag only when you get to the step that needs it and put them into a bowl to contain them. There are a couple cases where you need to use some of the screws in one step and then the rest later. If you allot three bowls to this project you will be able to allow for each of these instances and still have all the screws safely contained where they can't get lost.



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. I will replace any damaged item. If shipping damage is found, please continue on to review the rest of the items and compile a comprehensive list.

Cage Panels:



(A) Left Panel

(B) Back Frame

(B) Back PVC

(C) Right Panel

(D) Bottom Frame

(E) Top Panel



(F) Plastic Floor Panel

(G) Service Door

(H) Main Door

(I) Screen Floor

Drainage Tray

Plastic Parts:

2* White Ledge

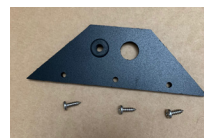
4* Black Ledge

4* Side Brace

1*Door Stop



12* Spacer Clip



Hydration Mounts Bag:

2* Hydration Mount
2* Grommet
6* 1/2" Screws



Fogger Bag:

1* Fogger
2* 1/2" #8 Screws

Hardware Packs:



Labeled Bags:

Doorstop Screws

Back Panel Screws

Hinges

Cage Assembly Screws

Latches/Keepers



Ledges Mounting Hardware (White)



Ledges Mounting Hardware (Black)



Hinge Bag:

2* Hinges

8* 1/4" #8 Screws



Latches/Keepers Bag:

4* Latches

4* Keepers

16* 3/8" #8 Self-Tapper Screws

Ledges Mounting Hardware

16* 1/2" Self-Driller Screws

1* 1" Self-Tapper Screw

12* 5/8" Machine Screws

6* 3/8" Machine Screws

18* Caps

STEP 2: ASSEMBLE THE BACK PANEL

To assemble the back panel, find the frame (B) and the corresponding PVC white plastic sheet. Remove the protective film from the PVC, align the pre-drilled holes on the PVC and the aluminum frame, and carefully attach the two using the Back Panel screw pack. Note that there are two types of holes drilled in the frame and PVC. The smaller ones are for mounting the PVC to the frame and the larger ones are for assembling the completed panels together to form the cage. If the hole is too big for the panel mounting screw then it is a cage assembly hole.



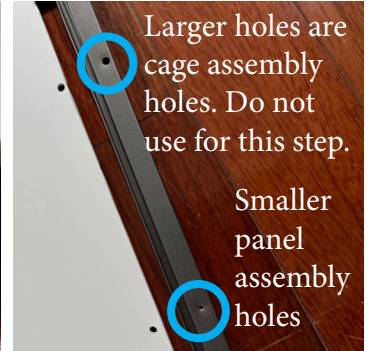
Remove protective film from PVC sheet. (the protective film may be on the inside or outside of the PVC sheet)



Align the holes drilled in the PVC sheet with the predrilled holes in the back frame. Flip or turn PVC panel until they match.



Use screws in the bag labeled Back Panel Screws to carefully attach PVC to frame. Do not overtighten!

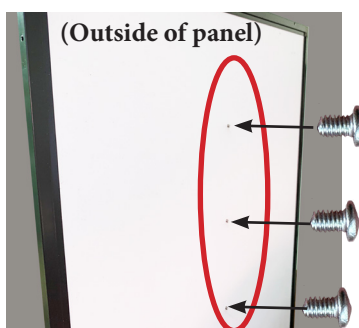


If the hole is too large for the panel mounting screw it is a cage assembly hole. Skip the larger holes for this step!

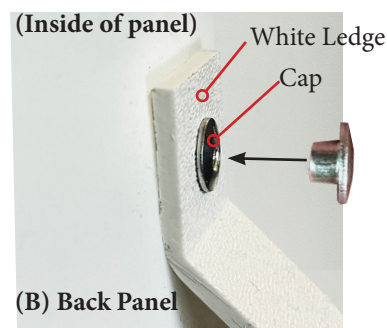
STEP 3: INSTALL BACK DRAGON LEDGES

Use white plastic Dragon Ledge pieces and “Ledges Mounting Hardware - White” bag. Dragon Ledges are mounted on the INSIDE (PVC side) of the back panel. Back panel (B) has pre-drilled holes for two vertically orientated Dragon Ledges. The inside of the panel is the side with the PVC.

The Dragon Ledges are attached using a machine screw and cap. If you are finding that the screw and cap are not twisting smoothly into each other you can screw them together separately to get it loosened up. (A drop of WD-40 will make it even easier)



Push a 3/8” Machine Screw from outside of Back Panel (B) to inside (PVC side).



On the inside, place White Ledge across screw end and tighten down with one Cap per screw end. Twist cap and screw together tightly. Repeat until both Ledges have three screws each,



Completed Back Panel Assembly.

The inside of the back panel has the white PVC which covers the frame. You only see white PVC. The outside has the frame. So the screws come in from the outside and the Dragon Ledges/cap come from the inside of the back panel.

STEP 4: INSTALL HARDWARE

All latches, keepers, and hinges are mounted on the outside of the panels in pre-drilled holes.

Hardware ID:

Latch



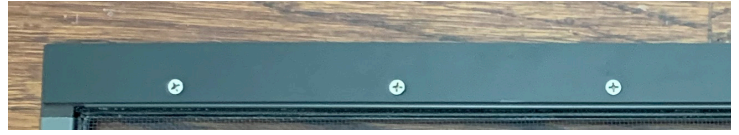
Keeper



Hinge

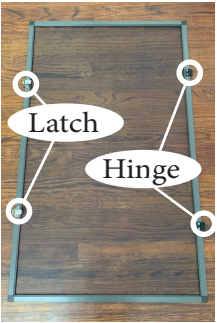


Door Stop (W)



Installation:

Main Door (H)



Service Door (G)

Front

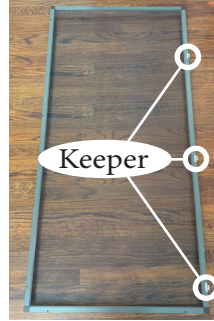


Back (Door Stop)



IMPORTANT: The DoorStop should stick out over the edge

Left Panel (A)

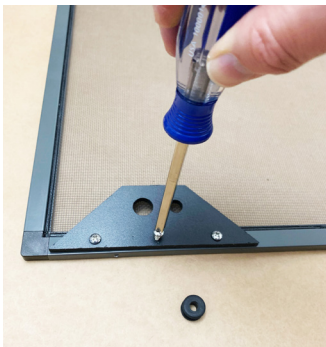


Right Panel (C)



STEP 5: HYDRATION MOUNTS & FOGGER INPUT

The two Hydration Mounts are mounted on the underside of the (E) Top Panel on pre-drilled holes. The grommet is used to allow a 1/4" drip system tubing, but do not install the grommet until after the cage is assembled. The larger hole is for Mist King value mist heads (not included) or equivalent. Install the actual mist heads into the hydration mounts after the cage is together. The fogger input may be mounted in the pre-drilled holes on the top of the side panels. Choose the side that is best for your design. You can put the fogger input on at any time before or after assembly. You can even set up the entire cage before you decide which side is best and attach the fogger then.



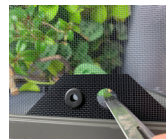
If installed, remove grommet before attaching Hydration Mount. Place Hydration Mount over pre-drilled holes on the front underside of the top panel and screw in with 1/2" Screws. Repeat for second Hydration Mount.



The fogger input is installed in pre-drilled holes on the top of either of the side panels. Optimal placement depends on your internal design.

Installing a Mist Head:

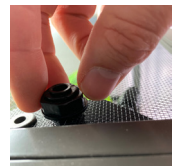
Mist heads are purchased separately. Install the mist heads after the cage is assembled. To install the Mist heads you will cut an X pattern in the screen above the main hole in the Hydration Mount. The loose screen strands will be covered by the holding nut of the mist head.



Cut "X" pattern in screen top.



Insert Misthead from inside



Tightly screw on nut

Installing the grommet:



To Install Grommet: Cut "X" pattern in screen from top.



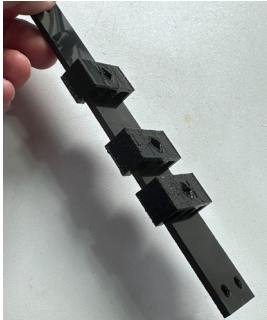
Insert Grommet. Squeeze grommet to push it through.

Note: If you are not going to use the grommet input then you may skip these two steps. You can install the grommet at any time in the future you choose.

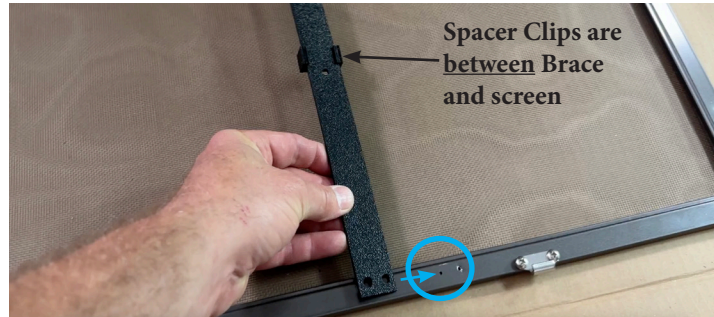
STEP 6: INSTALL SIDE PANEL DRAGON LEDGES

Each side panel will hold two Dragon Ledges each. Each Dragon Ledge consists of a Brace on the outside, Clip Spacers between the Brace and the screen, and then the Ledge on the inside of the side panel. The inside and outside parts are held together by a screw/cap assembly.

Attaching Outside Braces



1) Slide three Clip Spacers onto a Brace.



2) Find predilled holes on outside of the Left side panel assembly. Place Brace on the side panel with the three Clip Spacers between the Brace and the screen so the mounting holes line up.



3) Use four Ledge Mounting screws to attach Braces to the side panel.

Repeat steps 1-3 until both side panels have two braces installed each.

Adding Ledge Parts



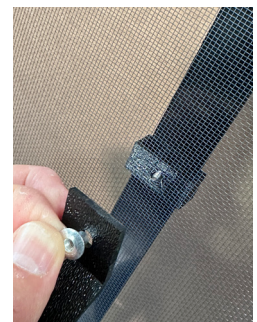
4) Small holes need to be made in the screen for the screw to go through. These holes will be completely covered with the Dragon Ledge assembly.



5) Use the long, pointed screw included with the Ledges Mounting hardware to go through the Brace and Clip Spacer and puncture the screen. Push and/or turn the screw until it makes a clean hole in the screen.



6) Insert a machine screw from the Ledges Mounting hardware bag into the throughhole in the Brace from the outside of the side panel.
Note: The screw will not go all the way through. The cap will come to meet it.



7) Put a cap in the mounting hole of a Ledge part, line it up with the screw, and twist the screw and cap together with a screw driver on the screw and your finger holding the cap from spinning.

Repeat steps 4-7 until all Ledges have been assembled

Finished Dragon Ledge Assembly



STEP 7: ASSEMBLE CAGE PANELS

1) Construct cage core with Back Panel (B), Top Panel (E), and Bottom Frame (D). Use two 3/4" Cage Assembly screws each. Bottom Frame sticker is on outside. Other panels are installed with stickers on inside.



2) Add Left Side Panel Assembly (A) with eight 3/4" Cage Assembly screws each. Stickers are on the inside top of the panel. Attach to Top Panel (E) first to avoid slipping and possible screen damage. Dragon Ledges go on the inside. Keeper hardware goes on the outside and front.



3) Add Right Side Panel Assembly (C) with eight 3/4" Cage Assembly screws each. Stickers are on the inside top of the panel. Attach to Top Panel (E) first to avoid slipping and possible screen damage. Dragon Ledges go on the inside. Keeper hardware goes on the outside and front.



4) Complete Front by first installing the Service Door (G) with two 3/4" Cage Assembly screws from the sides.



5) Lay Main Door Assembly in the front space. Use last four hinge screws to attach Main Door Assembly.



You have both a solid white floor and a screen floor panel included. The white floor can be used if you want to put potted plants on the floor. The screen floor panel offers maximum drainage and can be used if you suspend all the plants with the Dragon Ledges. Select desired floor panel and place entire cage assembly on top of Drainage Tray. Front of Drainage Tray is identified by a sticker on the bottom.



Solid Floor



Screen Floor

CAGE SET-UP STRATEGY

The following is a summary of a successful cage set-up. The Dragon Strand website has a detailed guide if you would like more guidance on these techniques and purchasing lights & hydration equipment. The next page has a QR codes that will lead you to a greatly expanded multimedia build guide which will guide you through the steps you need to create the best habitat for your chameleon or other arboreal reptile. At that link you will find 1) Shopping list for equipment and tools, 2) a way to determine proper distance between basking branch and heat/UVB bulbs, 3) branch selection guide, 4) plant selection guide.



This build guide will assume the basking bulb is in the back left corner and the UVB bulb across the middle.



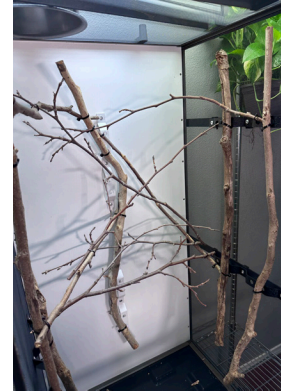
Use thick branches attached vertically to give you the ability to mount items at any height.



Zip ties can be used to attach branches, but make sure you do not leave sharp ends when you cut the tail.



Set up the Basking Branch so it is the proper distance from the bulb to give the desired temperature.



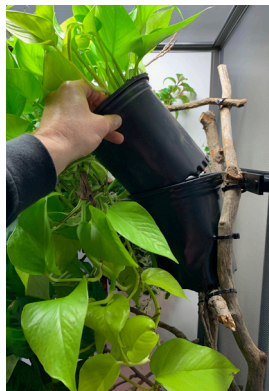
Build out a branch network behind the area that you plan on placing the pots.



Place pots to provide necessary coverage. Three mature plants are usually sufficient.



6" diameter landscaping pots are recommended.



The double pot method allows easy mounting and future maintenance or replacement



Attach pots with three anchor points for maximum stability. Drill holes in the mounting pot for zip ties



Add any necessary support branches to firmly mount pots in place.



Choose strategic positions for sleeping perches based on where plant foliage will hide them.



Fill rest of space with network branches. But do not block the top of the pots where you will be inserting the plants.



Select which side is best to install the fogger input. There are pre-drilled holes on both sides.



Drainage tray can be emptied using an inexpensive wet/dry vacuum. (see shopping list on the build guide)

FURTHER RESEARCH



Build Guide with videos



Chameleon Care Info



Chameleon Videos
& Live Discussions



Thank you for your support of the Dragon Strand Chameleon Caging Company. This purchase supports ongoing chameleon educational outreach through the Chameleon Academy.

