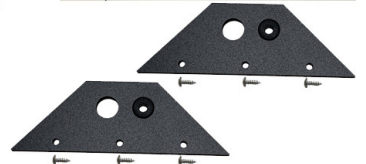




Tall Hybrid Cage System Assembly Instructions







If you have any questions about these instructions call (714)788-3617 or email bill@dragonstrand.com

Getting to know your Tall Hybrid Cage System



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.

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 Hybrid 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 Hybrid 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?

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

Please Read!

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:



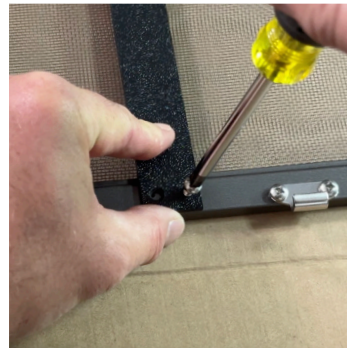
Do not overtighten screws - Use a manual screwdriver

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.



Build your cage on a hard flat surface

To get the best, straight connection for your cage, make sure that the floor you are building on is hard and flat. Hardwood floors are excellent. Avoid building the cage on carpet.



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. If any issue is found, please continue on to review the rest of the items, and compile a comprehensive list for when you contact me.

Cage Panels:

Note: The side and back panels look similar. Each has a label on the inside telling you which it is.



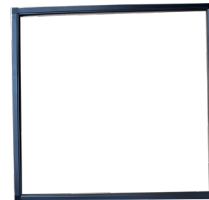
(A) Left Panel



(B) Back Panel



(C) Right Panel



(D) Bottom Frame



(E) Top Panel



(F) Plastic Floor Panel



(G) Service Door



(H) Main Door



(H-DF) Main Door Frame-Top



(I) Screen Floor



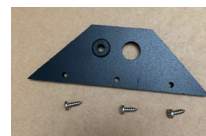
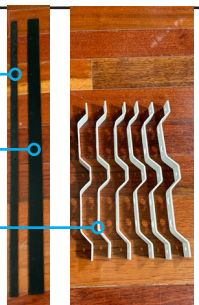
Drainage Tray

Plastic Parts:

1* Door Stop Spacer Strip

1* Door Stop

6* Dragon Ledges



Hydration Mounts Bag:
2* Hydration Mount
2* Grommet
6* 1/2" Screws



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



Ledges Mounting Hardware

Hardware Packs:

Labelled Bags:

Doorstop Screws

Cage Assembly Screws

Top of Door Assembly



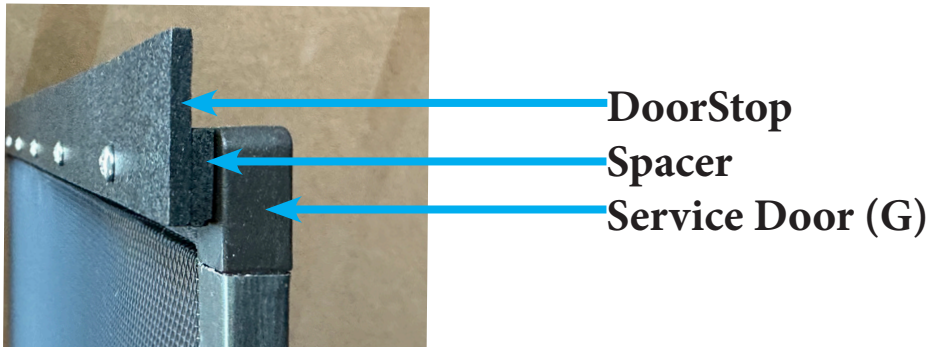
Latches/Keepers Bag:
4* Latches
4* Keepers
16* 3/8" #8 Screws



Hinge Bag:
2* Hinges
8* 1/4" #8 Screws

Step 2: Assemble DoorStop

The Service door require a door stop to be attached. The doorstop assembly consists of two black PVC strips. Remember that these strips need to be installed so that they hang over the edge of the service door. This is the part that will stop the service door from swinging inside the cage. **When screwing in the screws, be extra careful to not turn the screw beyond when it is fully seated.**



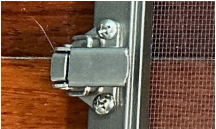
- 1) Find the screen Service Door (G).
- 2) Locate the top of the panel on the inside which has six pre-drilled pilot holes.
- 3) Lay down a Doorstop spacer strip across the six pilot holes on the bottom and then lay a doorstop strip on top of the spacer strip. Make sure the doorstop strip is extending beyond the frame and not over the screen. Tack the complete stack down with six Doorstop screws in the doorstop screw bag.

Step 3: Install Hardware


All latches, keepers, and hinges are mounted on the outside of the panels in pre-drilled holes. Remember to drive the screw in only until it is flush and tight. Turning beyond that will strip the screw hole and make it useless.

Parts ID:


Latch



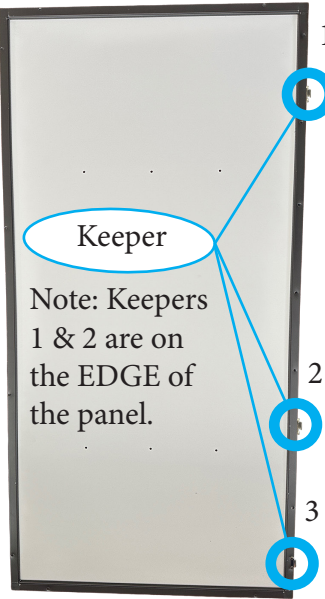
Keeper




Hinge



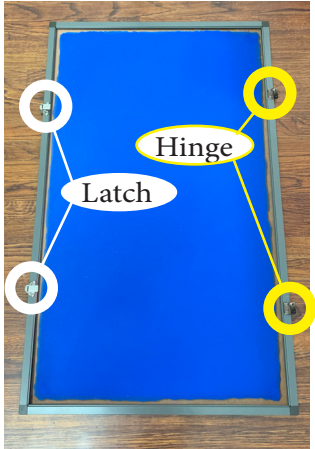
Left Panel (A)



Right Panel (C)




Main Door (H)



Warning! The latch and hinge holes on the main door (H) look similar, but the hinge holes are a little closer together. To verify the correct placement, put a latch or hinge in place and confirm you can see a predilled pilot hole under each screw hole **before** screwing the first screw in.

Service Door (G)
Front



Step 4: 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 panel. There is a place for it on either side and the back. 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.



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.

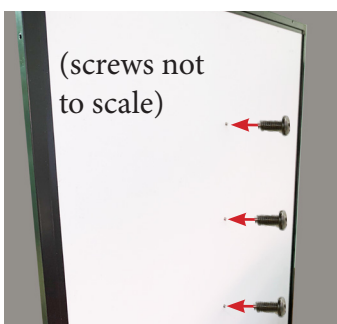


Use the two fogger screws to mount the fogger input anywhere you desire on the top panel.

Step 5: Install Dragon Ledges

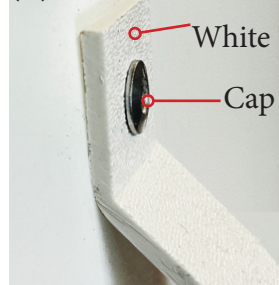
Use white plastic Dragon Ledge pieces and "Ledges Mounting Hardware" bag. Dragon Ledges are mounted on the INSIDE (PVC side) of the back and side panels. Back panel (B) has pre-drilled holes for two vertically orientated Dragon Ledges while both the side panels (A) and (C) have pre-drilled holes for two horizontal Dragon Ledges each. The inside of the panel is the side with the PVC. Latch hardware will be on the outside of the panel. Please double check before installing Dragon Ledges! If you can see the frame you are looking at the outside side of the panel. The Dragon Ledges need to be on the inside of the panel.

Installing Back Panel Dragon Ledges



Push a Machine Screw from outside of Back Panel (B) to inside (PVC side). The outside of the panel is the side where you can see the aluminum frame.

(B) Back Panel



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,



Back Panel Assembly



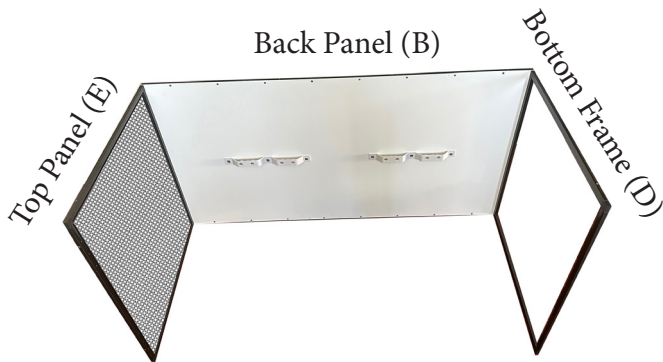
Side Panel Assembly



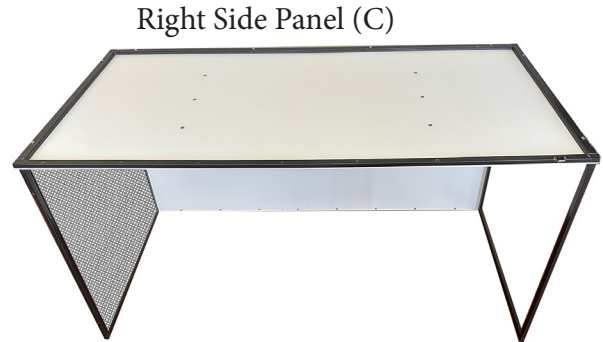
Repeat for side panels (A) & (C). Ledges on side panels are horizontal.

Step 6: 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.



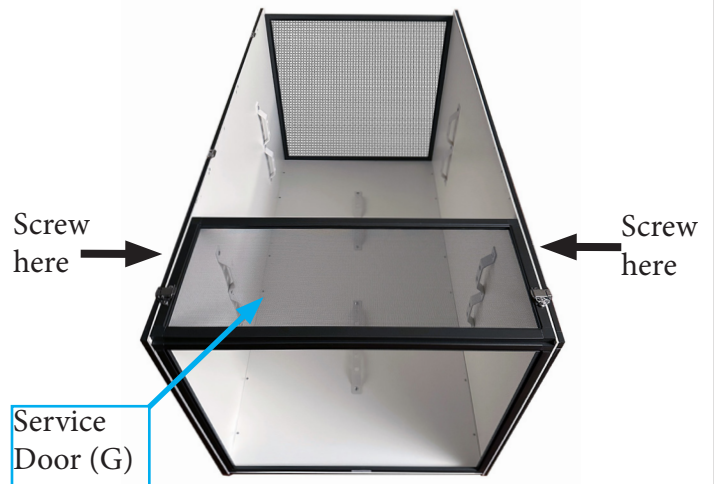
2) Add Right Side Panel Assembly (C) with eight 3/4" Cage Assembly screws each. Stickers are on the inside top of the panel. Attach to Top Panel (E) first to avoid slipping and possible screen damage. Dragon Ledges go on the inside. Keeper hardware goes on the outside and front.



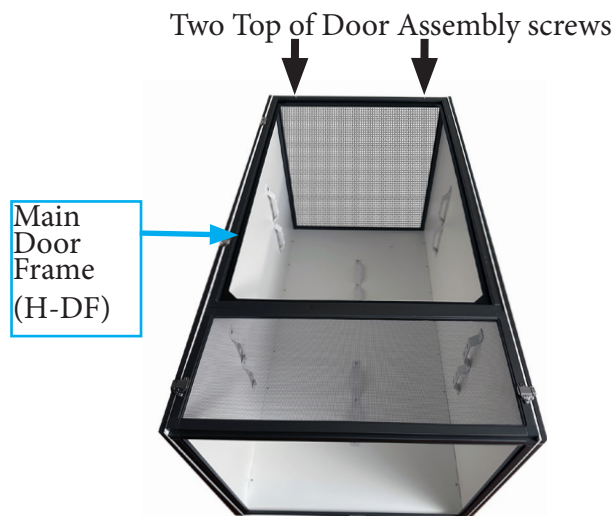
3) Add Left Side Panel Assembly (A) with eight 3/4" Cage Assembly screws each. Stickers are on the inside top of the panel. Attach to Top Panel (E) first to avoid slipping and possible screen damage. Dragon Ledges go on the inside. Keeper hardware goes on the outside and front.



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



5) Lay Main Door Frame (H-DF) in the front space. Use 12 Cage Assembly Screws along the sides and two longer Top of Door Assembly screws for the top.



6) Lay Main Door (H) into Main Door Frame (H-DF). The hinges are on the right. Screw down hinges with hinge screws. Remove protective film on door.



Step 7: The Final Steps

Cage Floor Selection & Drainage Tray

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



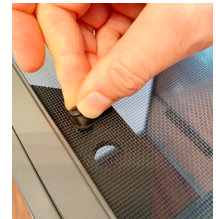
Installing grommet & 3rd party Mist Heads

To install a mist head or the grommet, take a sharp blade and cut the screen in an X shape. For a mist head the threaded stem comes up from inside the cage and then the fastening nut will cover all the loose screen wire.

For the grommet, make your hole and then press half the grommet through the hole. The grommet will cover the loose screen wire. Note: Install the grommet only if you plan on using the hole! There is no reason to install the grommet if you are not planning on using it. You can install the grommet at any time in the future if you change your mind.



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

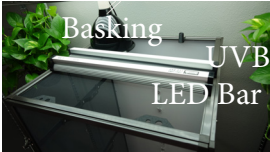


Insert Grommet.
Squeeze grommet to push it through.



Cage Set-up Strategy

The following is a summary of a successful cage set-up. This set-up will work for both screen and hybrid cages



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



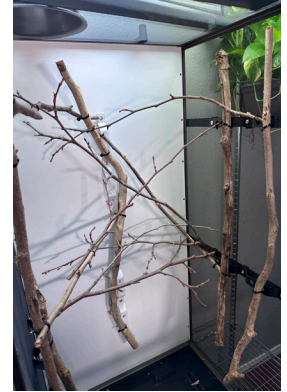
Use thick branches attached vertically to give you the ability to mount items at any height.



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.



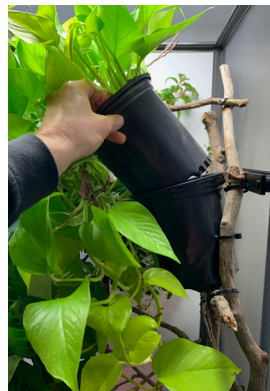
Build out a branch network behind the area that you plan on placing the pots.



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



6" diameter landscaping pots are recommended.



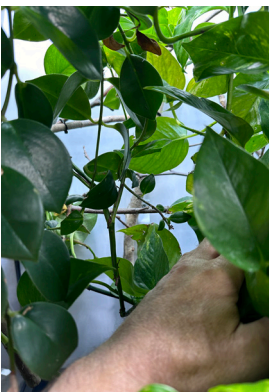
The double pot method allows easy mounting and future maintenance or replacement



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



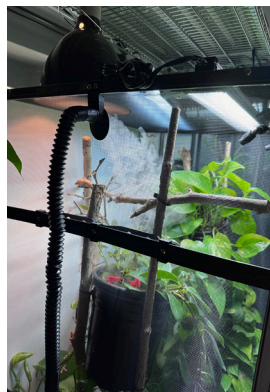
Add any necessary support branches to firmly mount pots in place.



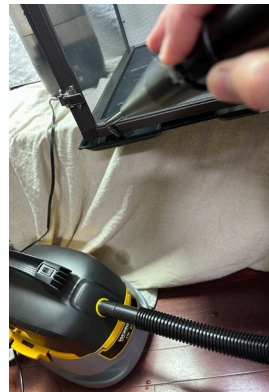
Choose strategic positions for sleeping perches based on where plant foliage will hide them.



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.