



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. PVC walls and back contains the mist in the cage. 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 product page for links to detailed instructions, email bill@dragonstrand.com, or call (714) 788-3617.

There are a lot of parts and hardware that bring the Large Hybrid Atrium together. Assembly will take about an hour. I have made these assembly instructions as descriptive and explanatory as possible. I know many people would rather not read assembly instructions, but this is a case where it is best to clear an afternoon and leisurely go through each step. No one likes to have to go slow, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as something like this can be. So, please read each section and I will give a full explanation.

IMPORTANT: Always assemble your cage on a hard surface (like a wood floor). Assembly on carpet can create a crooked cage!

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.

Assembly Note2: When we say "right" or "left" side it is from the view of us looking at the cage.

Assembly Note3: I have removed the protective film from the acrylic panels for clarity purposes in these instructions. You may leave the protective film on until assembly is complete.

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.

Cage PVC Panels:

- (A) Left Side Panel
- (B1) Back Panel (Left)
- (B2) Back Panel (Right)
- (C) Right Side Panel

Screen Panels:

- (E) Top Panel
- (F) Screen Floor
- (G1) Middle Face Panel

Acrylic Panels:

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

Frames:

- (D) Bottom Frame
- (H-DF) Door Frame

PVC sheet:

- (F) Plastic Floor Panel

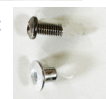
Bag (Fogger):

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



Bag (Ledges Mounting):

- 24* Caps
- 24* 7/8" Screws



8* White Ledges



Hardware Packs:

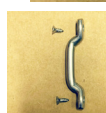
- Bag (Hydro Mounts):
- 3* Hydration Mount
- 3* Grommet
- 9* 1/2" #8 Screws



- Bag (Sash Locks):
- 4* Black Sash Lock
- 8* 5/8" #8 Screws



- Bag (Door Handles):
- 2* Door Handles
- 4* 3/8" #6 Screws



Bag (Hinges):

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



Bag (Latch Keepers):

- 2* Keepers
- 2* Latches
- 8* 3/8" #8 Screws

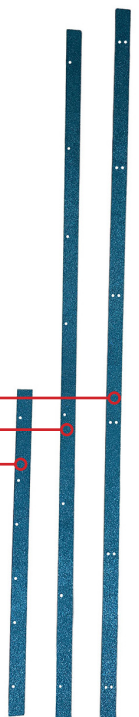


Screw Pack Bags:

- Cage Assembly
- Mending Plate
- Door Stop Screws
- Upper Face Panel
- Door Frame
- Assembly Screws

PVC Strips:

- 1*Back Mending Plate
- 1*Service Door Stop
- 1*Door Stop



Drainage Tray

Left and Right side



Hardware ID Chart



Latch & Keeper



Sash Lock



Hinge



Handle



Dragon Ledge



Hydration Mount



Fogger



2 Part Drainage Tray

Step 2: Attach Side Panel Hardware



Left Side Panel (A): Attach one keeper



Right Side Panel (C): Attach one keeper

Step 3: Attach Top Panel Hardware

The top panel will have the Hydration Mounts and the Fogger input. These are all optional.

Hydration Mounts: These wedges will allow you to mount standard 1/2" diameter misters such as the standard MistKing or Cli-Mist nozzles. There is also a grommated hole for 1/4" tubing in case you want to add in a plant drip system or use any other hydration equipment that works with 1/4" tubing. There are pre-drilled holes on the inside of the Top Panel for the three included Hydration Mounts. Do NOT install the grommet before mounting the hydration mount. You will mount the Hydration Mounts and then, when you are ready to install the mist heads you will cut a hole in the screen to allow the mist head through. If you want to use the grommated input then, once you make the hole for the 1/4" tubing input you install the grommet. The Grommet can hide loose wire ends.

Fogger Input: This input works with both 22mm hoses (common reptile foggers) and the Exo-Terra 16mm hose. It is not designed to hold the weight of the hose so you will have to make sure the weight of the hose is supported elsewhere. There is a set of pre-drilled holes in the middle top of the Top Panel.



Attach Hydration mounts on the underside of the Top Screen Panel in three places



Attach Fogger Input on the topside of the Top Screen Panel



Step 4: Attach Door Stops

The Left Main Door (H1) and Service Door (G2) have strips of black PVC that work as doorstops. You will be able to see where they go because of the row of pre-drilled holes on one side. Find the PVC strip that matches the pre-drilled holes and screw it in with the DoorStop screws. Make sure the Door Stop extends over the side of the panel. This is what stops the door. IMPORTANT: Be mindful to stop turning once the screw is fully seated.

Left Main Door (H1)

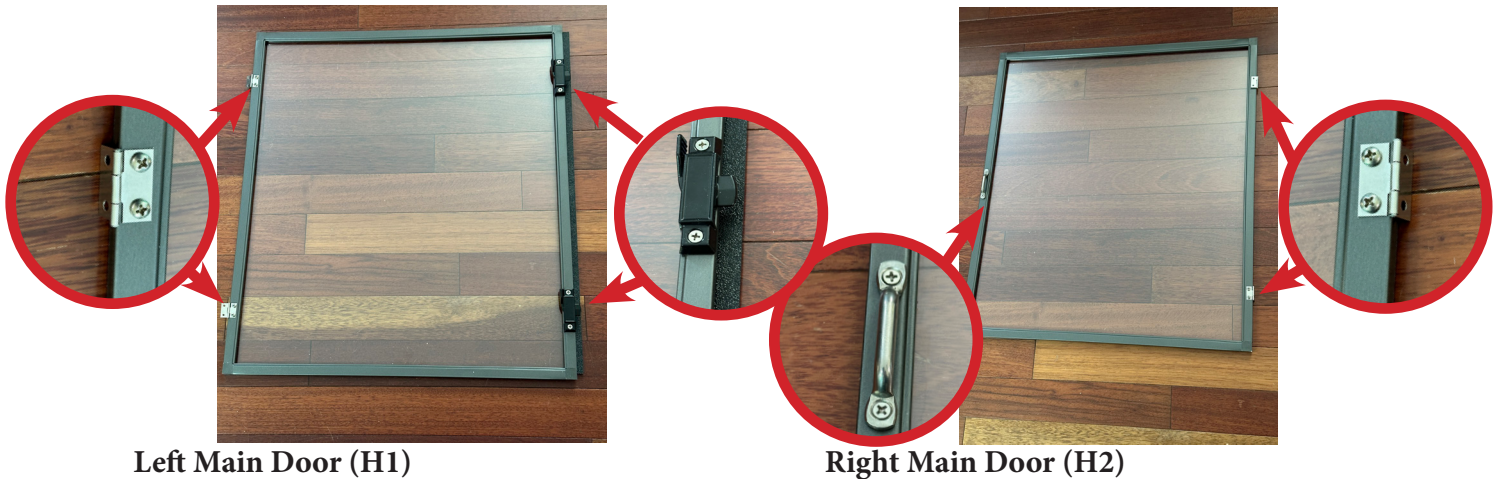


Service Door (G2)



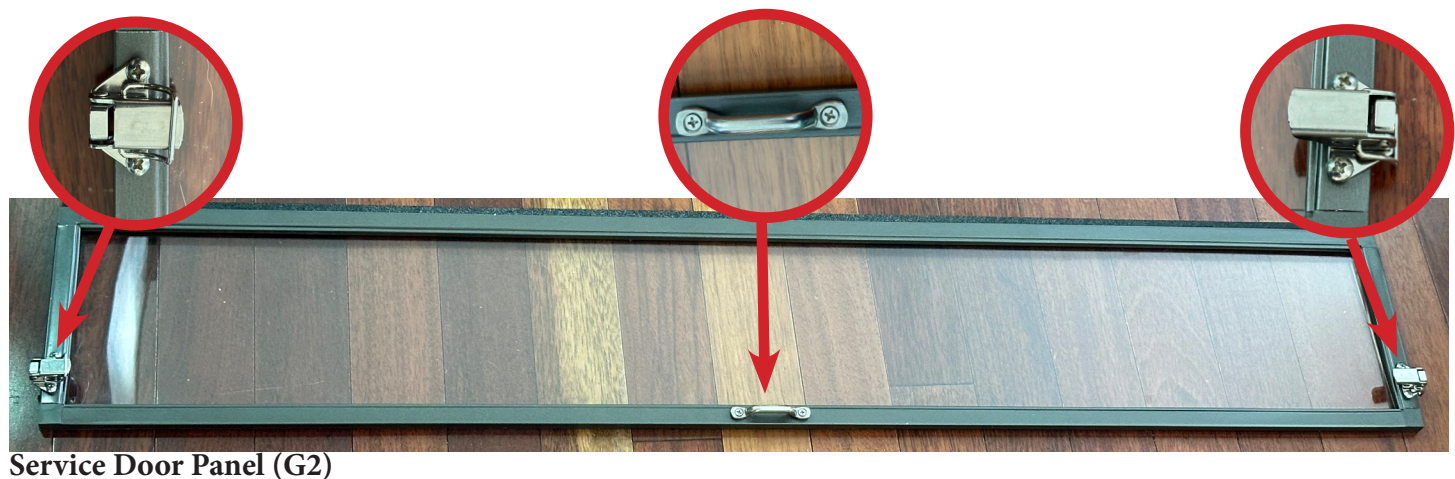
Step 5: Front Hardware

Here we will attach Latches, Sash Locks, Hinges, and Handles



Left Main Door (H1)

Right Main Door (H2)



Service Door Panel (G2)

Step 6: Back Assembly

The back of the cage consists of two panels labelled B1 and B2. The frame is on the outside.

1) Locate the B1 & B2 back panels

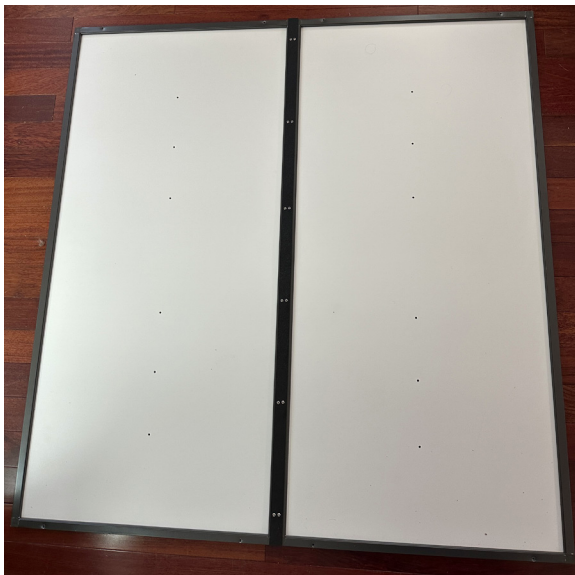


2) Place both back panels with the PVC side down. The frames will be visible on top.

3) Locate the pre-drilled mending holes along the top of one side of each back panel



4) Arrange the back panels so that the sides with pre-drilled holes are next to each other



5) Place the Back Mending Plate over the pre-drilled holes on both back panels and verify that the holes in the Back Mending Plate line up with the holes on both back panels.



6) Use the 12 screws in the Mending Plate Screws bag to connect the two back panels into one large panel assembly.

Step 7: Attach Dragon Ledges

Top Level Summary: Each Side and Back panel will have two sets of three pre-drilled holes. The side panels will have them horizontal. The back panel will have them vertical. Attach two Dragon Ledges per panel.

IMPORTANT: Dragon Ledges go on the PVC side of the sides and back panels. This is the side which does NOT have the frame.

Dragon Ledges are attached by a screw coming from the outside and a cap coming from the inside. They meet in the middle so do not expect the screw end to be seen over the Dragon Ledge piece.

If you have trouble getting the screw and cap to thread together smoothly, don't worry—this can happen sometimes. Try twisting the screw and cap together outside of the cage first to get the threading started and break through any tightness. Once they're turning easily, you can install them as shown. A small drop of WD-40 can also help if things feel stuck.



1) Find the inside of the panel. Inside = no frame (final back assembly shown)



2) Put screw from Ledges Mounting Screws bag from the back of the panel



3) Place Dragon Ledge over screw from the inside.



4) Tighten cap. If cap is hard to screw on see note in page introduction.



5) Repeat for other two mounting holes



6) Repeat for all side and back panels (Final side assembly shown)

Step 8: Assemble Cage

The Large Hybrid Atrium is a large cage and it would be helpful to have another person to help hold panels. I will give hints as to how to use the wall, but another person would be ideal!



Turn the B1/B2 panel on the left side when viewed from the front) using a wall for support (or another person). Attach Bottom Frame (D) and Top Panel (E) using Cage Assembly screws. Use the predrilled screw holes on the bottom and top of the back panel assembly.

Alignment guide:

The Dragon Ledges should be on the inside

The Hydration mounts on the top panel are on the inside and the sticker on the Bottom Frame is on the **outside** of the cage.



Carefully place the Right Side Panel assembly on the right side of the cage. Ensure that both the Bottom Panel and the Top Panel are supporting the side panel. Use the Cage Assembly Screws to affix the Right Side Panel Assembly - starting with the Top Panel first! To stabilize the pieces, screw in one screw to the Top Panel, another screw to the Back Panel and then one to the Bottom Panel. With all three panels connected you can lieisurely drive in the other screws.

Caution! If the right panel falls it could rip the top screen panel. It is imperative that this step be done with all attention to keeping the right panel from falling.



Carefully turn the cage right side up and screw on the Left side panel with the Cage Assembly Screws.

Step 9: Attach Service Door

The Service Door Assembly is attached by two screws coming in from the sides. This is so the Service Door can flip up for convenient spot cleaning of the floor or to switch out floor panels. Insert the Service door at the bottom of the front of the assembled cage frame and then use two Cage Assembly Screws, one from each side, to attach the Service Door Assembly. You may have to peek on the side of the Cage Door Assembly to verify where the pilot hole is to line it up. Once the Service Door is attached, you can latch it down and it will stay put for the rest of the cage assembly.



Attach Service Door with a Cage Assembly screw from either side. once the screws are in place, latch the door down to keep it from swinging open.



The Cage Assembly with Service Door Assembly attached

Step 10: Assemble Door Frame

The Door Frame Assembly attaches the Upper Face Panel (G3) with the Door Frame (H-DF) and the Middle Face Panel (G1). Lay the Door Frame face down (Name label sticker can be seen) and slide the Upper Face Panel under the PVC sticking out from the top (where the Door Frame sticker is). Line up all the pre-drilled holes and attach using Door Frame Assembly screws. Repeat the process with the Middle Face Panel on the bottom of the Door Frame.



Upper Face Panel (G3)

Door Frame (H-DF)



Door Frame (H-DF)

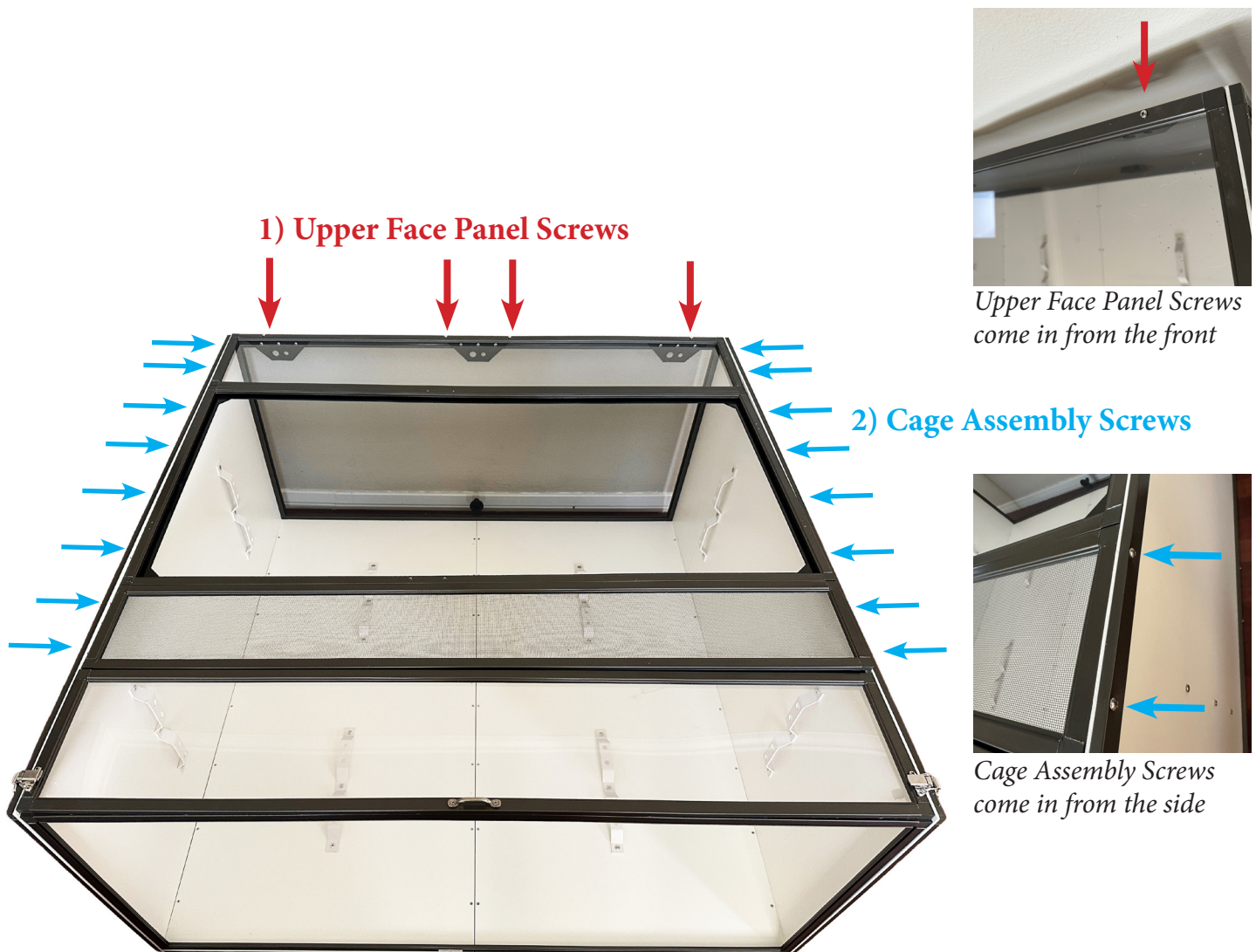
Middle Face Panel (G1)



Step 11: Drop In the Door Frame Assembly

The Door Frame Assembly will not be rigid so be careful to support all pieces when you pick it up and lay it into the remaining space on the front of the cage assembly. The acrylic Upper Face Panel rests against the Top Panel and the Middle Face Panel rests on the door stop of the Service Door. You should not see any of the screws of the Door Frame Assembly. The screws are on the backside which should be inside the cage.

- 1) Attach the Upper Face Panel to the Cage Assembly with the four Upper Face Panel screws.
- 2) Use Cage Assembly Screws to attach the Door Frame along the left and right sides.



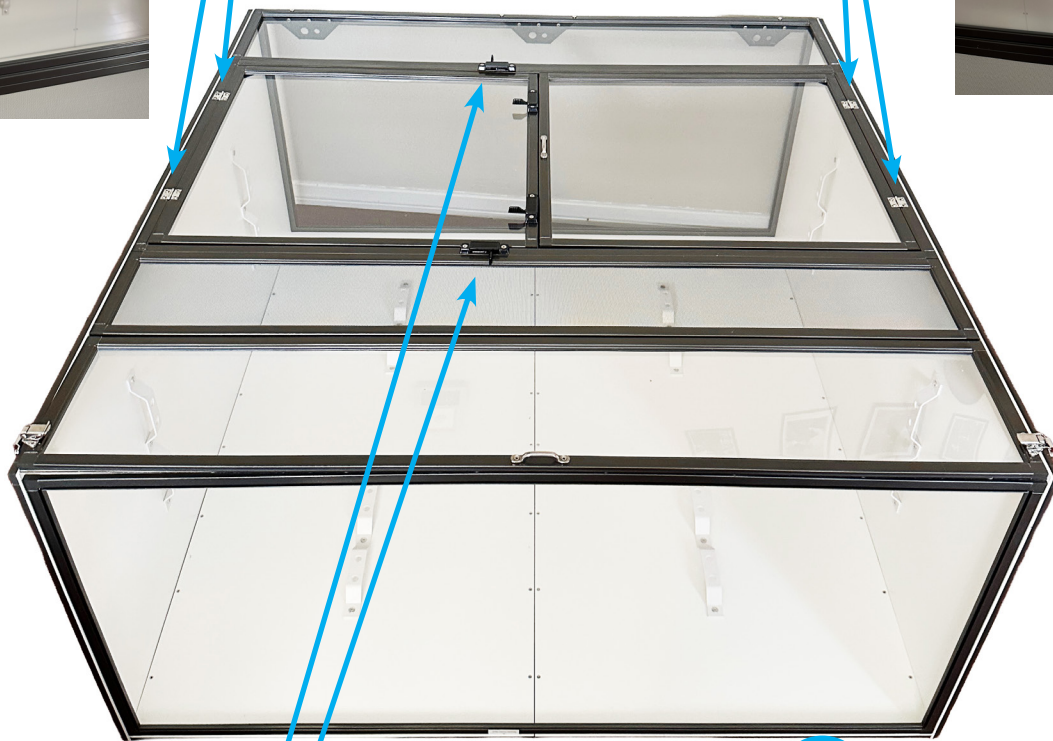
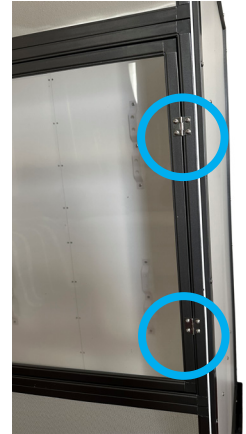
Step 12: Drop In Doors

- 1) Place (H1) Door Left into the door frame and line up the hinges with the hinge holes in the door frame. Use four hinge screws to attach the door to the frame with both hinges.
- 2) Make sure the sash locks on the left door are in the open position (lever sticking out) and rest the Door Right (H2) in place. Attach using four hinge screws for both hinges.
- 3) Attach two Sash Locks on the door frame above and below the left main door.

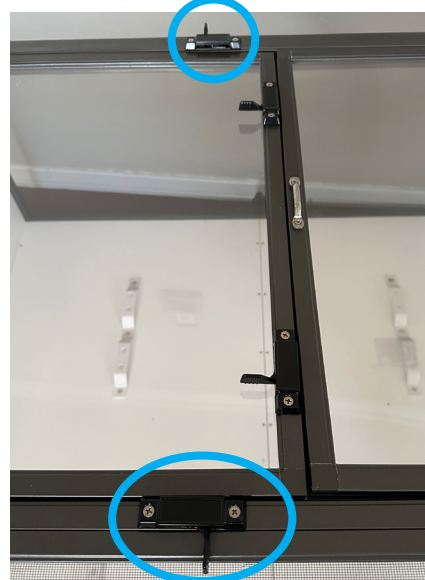


1. Two Left hinges

2. Two Right hinges



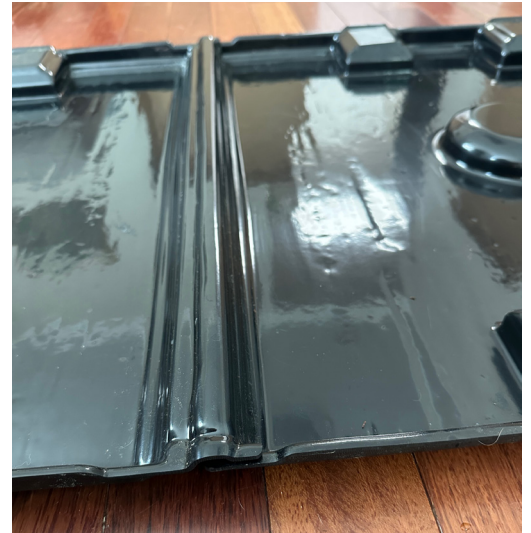
3. Two Sash Locks



Step 10: Assemble Front of Atrium



Put Cage Assembly right side up and slide the selected floor panel in. You can choose either the solid PVC panel or the screen panel. Store other floor panel in safe location for optional future use.



Hook Drainage Trays together. One has a lip that you lay on top of the side of the other.

Place Large Atrium Assembly on top of drainage tray assembly.



The completed Large Hybrid Atrium

Afterwards: How to Install Misting Nozzles

You can wait to install the mist nozzles until after the Atrium assembly is completed. With the Hydration Mounts in place they are ready when you are. Creating the holes for the misting nozzle and the 1/4" tubing is the same. Cut the screen out with a utility (or any other) knife and insert your hydration device. The loose strands from the screen will be covered with the misting nozzle nut or by the 1/4" grommet.



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.

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!

