

Universal Cage

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1. Introduction

Congratulations on deciding to invest in the BASi Universal Cage as a “home sweet home” for your lab rodents. By purchasing this cage, you are showing your commitment to the refinement of animal studies and the reduction of animal numbers needed to get quality data.

Besides contributing to animal welfare, the Universal Cage was also designed to help you, the researcher. These cages have the ability to nest inside each other to reduce the storage footprint in between studies. Different style floors also allow researchers to easily customize the cage based on their animal model and specific application.

2. Specifications

Height	13 in (~33 cm)
Diameter	10.75 in (~27 cm)
Door Height	9.5 in (~24 cm)
For use/Applications	Microdialysis, blood/bile sampling, ultrafiltration, drug infusion/dosing, metabolic studies
Material	Polycarbonate; stainless steel accessories; Teflon coated funnel

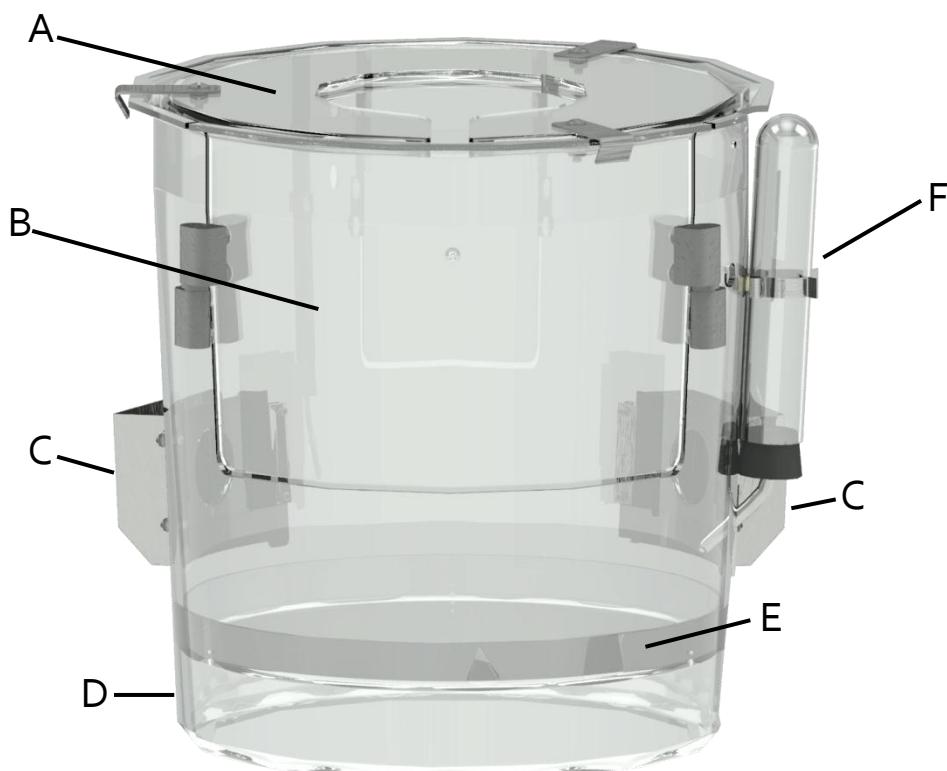
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3. Cage Configurations

The Universal Cage can be used for both mouse and rat studies. It also can be used for larger rodent metabolism studies.

3.1. Rat (No Metabolism) Configuration



- A. Polycarbonate Universal Cage Lid (CX-1306)
- B. Side Access Panel Door
- C. Stainless Steel Food Dish (CX-1200)
- D. Stackable Universal Cage Cylinder (CX-1310)
- E. Rat Solid Floor (CX-1241)
- F. Polycarbonate Plastic Water Bottle (CX-5000)

When setting up the Universal Cage for non-metabolism rat studies, the rat solid floor (E, see also Figure 1) should be dropped horizontally into the stackable universal cage cylinder (D) and pushed into place to ensure a snug fit. The cage was designed to have tapered sides so that the floor will not move once it is properly placed. To remove the solid floor, reach underneath the stackable universal cage cylinder and push up firmly on the floor with your hand.

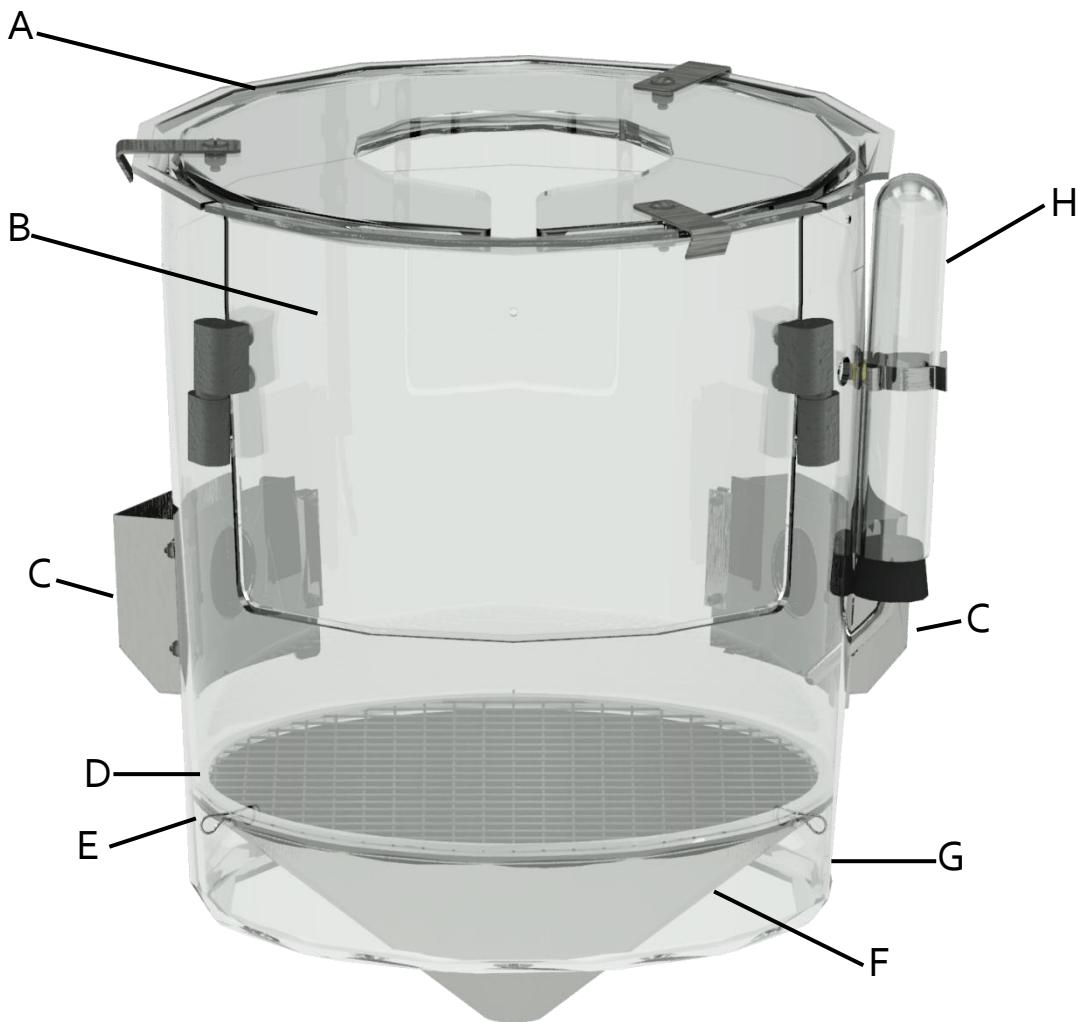
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Figure 1. Rat Solid Floor (CX-1241)

3.2. Rat Metabolism Configuration



- A. Polycarbonate Universal Cage Lid (CX-1306)
- B. Side Access Panel Door
- C. Stainless Steel Food Dish (CX-1200)
- D. Mesh Metabolism Floor (CX-1243)
- E. Hairpin Clip (to secure mesh metabolism floor)
- F. Funnel (CX-1244)
- G. Stackable Universal Cage Cylinder (CX-1310)

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H. Polycarbonate Plastic Water Bottle (CX-5000)

Metabolic setup instructions:

1. Take the hollow universal cylinder and slide the funnel into the cage with the black part facing up.
2. Place the cage on the stand or cart. The funnel will be supported by the black platter of the Rreturn™.
3. Slide mesh flooring into place over the funnel.
4. To secure mesh floor:
 - i) Gather the three provided hairpin clips and locate the equidistant holes. There will be two vertical holes (the bottom one bigger to allow for easy maneuvering of the pins).
 - ii) Insert the hairpin clip with the curved side facing the down (Figure 2) and insert the linear part of the pin into the rim of the mesh flooring.
 - iii) Check the final positioning of the pin to make sure it is under the floor and that the tip is not poking up into the cage. This will help prevent the animal from being able to access the pin or hurt their paws (Figure 3).
 - iv) Please note: the mesh floor may need to be uninstalled in order to remove the cage from the Rreturn™.
5. In order to prevent water from dripping through the mesh floor, the water bottle clip can be rotated to the left to allow the water bottle sipper to sit comfortably in the side cutout of the closest food hopper.



Figure 2. Close up of how to align hairpin clip with holes in the Universal Cage

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Figure 3. Hairpin clip inserted in Universal Cage wall to secure mesh flooring

3.3. Mouse Configuration



- A. Polycarbonate Universal Cage Lid (CX-1306)
- B. Side Access Panel Door
- C. Stackable Universal Cage Cylinder (CX-1310)
- D. Mouse Solid Floor (CX-1242)
- E. Polycarbonate Plastic Water Bottle (CX-5010)

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When setting up the Universal Cage for mouse studies, the solid floor (Figure 4) is inserted through the top of the cage and will rest on three acorn nuts. Acorn nuts will already be installed if the cage was ordered with a mouse floor. If you decide to run mouse studies after purchasing the cage for rats, then the acorn nuts will be included with your shipment of the solid mouse floor (CX-1242). To install the three acorn nuts, you will need a flat head screwdriver and pair of pliers. Locate three, small, equidistant holes located approximately 1/3 of the way down from the top of the cage. At each hole, use the pliers to hold the acorn nut in place while you tighten the washer and screw into the cage wall. The lip of the mouse floor should rest comfortably on the three acorn nuts.



Figure 4. Mouse Floor with Lip

4. Care Instructions

The Universal Cage and solid floors are cage wash compatible. Hairpin clips and the mesh floor from the rat metabolism configuration are hand wash only. We recommend that all accessories be hand washed to ensure a longer product life. It is advised that cleaning detergents containing chlorine be avoided on stainless steel accessories.