Assembly Instructions: Arboreal L

The Arboreal L is a cage designed to create a naturalistic arboreal environment. This enclosure is the result of a collaboration between Custom Reptile Habitats and the Chameleon Academy to provide features that will enhance your ability to create an environment in which your arboreal reptile will thrive. Allocate about an hour for careful assembly.
The model shown here has the optional printed backdrop.

Tools Needed for Assembly:
-Phillips Head Screwdriver
-Bowl (to hold screws)

Caution 1: Do not over-tighten screws! Tighten the screw until it is fully seated in the pre-drilled hole and stop turning when the screw is tight. Forcing the screw beyond this point will strip the hole. Use a manual screw driver. Powered screwdrivers can easily go to far before you get feedback that the hole is stripped.
Caution 2: Call a Friend! This enclosure is large and there are a couple of places where you may need the help of another person to manage the assembly and hold the panels in place while you screw them together.
Caution 3: Flat Surface! This cage will be assembled with screws and it is critical that these screws be installed straight in with the cage sitting on a flat hard surface such as a hardwood floor.

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 customer service at (888-673-7845) or via email at info@customreptilehabitats.net.

Take special care of the Enclosure Panels as they have combinations of glass inserts, screen coverings or photo backdrop overlays. There will be two glass doors that are packed in their own box. They are packed to withstand the delivery journey. Unpack these enough to verify they are undamaged and then leave them protected until when the cage is built and set-up. Install the glass doors last!

Contents


12*Branch Anchors

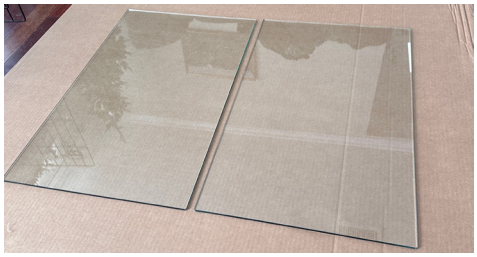

2*Door Handles


Screws

Fogger Input


2* #8 1/2”Screws

Glass Doors



Enclosure Panels


Left Side Panel


Back Panel


Right Side Panel


Top Panel


Floor Panel


Front Panel

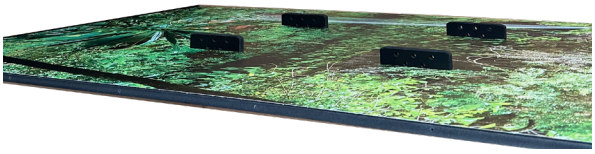
Note: This enclosure comes standard with black walls. These panels are shown with the optional Backdrop design may be different on your cage or may not be included depending on the options you selected upon checkout.

Step 2: Attach Branch Anchors

The back panel and both side panels will have four branch anchors each. These anchors will allow you to attach branches and potted plants up where your arboreal reptiles and amphibians need them. Each one of these is assembled by pushing one black anchor into each of the four slots in each side and back panel. Find the edge with two pre-rilled holes and this is the side that goes into the slot. Once they are firmly seated, the Branch Anchors are attached by two screws from the back of the panel. This may be tricky if your arms do not reach both sides of the panel at once to be able to hold the anchor and work the screw driver on the other side simultaneously. If you are alone, you can place the panel against the wall with the Branch Anchors being held in place between the wall and the panel. With light pressure from behind you can easily turn the screws. WARNING: Be sure the screws are going in straight. The Branch Anchors must be seated in their slot exactly straight and the screw driven in firmly, but slowly. If it is difficult to turn the screw, back off, and re-evaluate. The Branch Anchor may be misaligned or not seated completely in the slot.

There are four slots in each side and back panel. Firmly push the edge of the Branch Anchor that has two pre-drilled holes into the slot.

Attach the Branch Anchor with two screws from behind. You can use a wall to hold the anchors in place while you turn the screws.



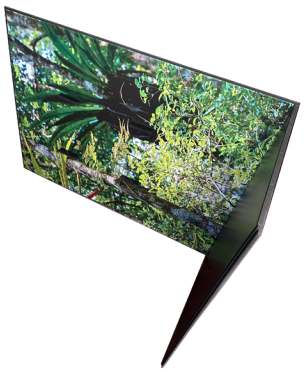
Repeat four times for each side and back panel.

Step 3: Attach Panels Together

The critical thing in attaching all of these panels together is that they be screwed with the panels at 90° angles. These panels are heavy and you may create a new screw hole if you force a screw in at an angle. The first connection is the one you want to pay special attention to. If you have corner clamps then bring them into this construction! Otherwise, a way to support your panels at a 90° angle is to place the panels around a large box or other object with 90° angles.

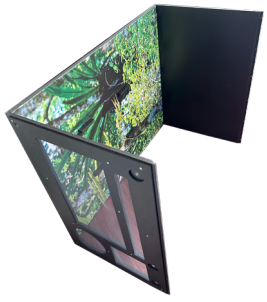
When you drive the screws in there should be a little resistance as you turn the screw tightly in place. But there are pre-drilled holes and so you should not feel great resistance. If you feel like this is harder than it should be then check to ensure the holes are lining up and you are driving the screw in straight.

- **Build your enclosure on a hard, flat surface! Do not build on carpet. An uneven surface may misalign your cage assembly.**
- **These panels are heavy. The enclosure is best assembled with a helper!**



Attach Back and Floor Panels

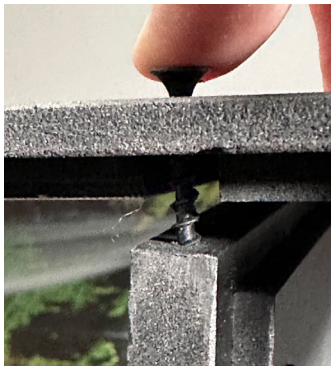
The first connection is the most important so make sure the back and floor panels are at a 90° angle. The floor panel has a sticker designating where the front is. Screw down the other end to the bottom side of the back panel.



Attach Top Panel and Left Side Panel

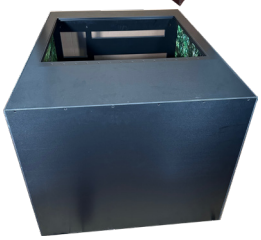
The process to attaching the left side and then the top panels is identical. First, lay the panel in place. Use walls or a helper to support panels. Before you start installing the screws, verify that the pre-drilled holes line up on both sides.

Step 3: Attach Panels Together Continued



Attach Right side Panel

The final side panel is easiest to install with the left side on the floor. Lay the right side panel down where it is supported by the back, floor, and top panels. Be careful as it can easily slip! It is important that you make sure that the pre-drilled screw holes are lined up. Be especially cautious about screws going in at an angle on this step. It will help to put the screw through the side panel hole and lift the side panel up just enough to direct the screw point into the pilot hole. From there, carefully and slowly drive the screw in straight. It is important to drive the screws in straight and not at an angle.



Attach the Front Panel

With the assembly on its back, place the front panel in place (without the main glass doors!) . Note that there are screws to hold the front panel on the bottom, sides, and top.

Step 4: Fogger Input

Attach Fogger Input

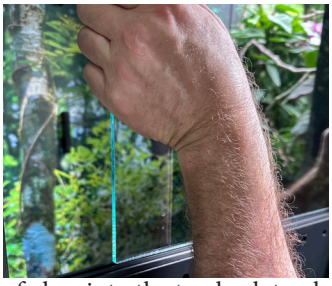
The fogger input at the back left side is an optional item. The fogger hole is screened and so is secure. Align the fogger input with the pilot holes and screw in.

Step 5: Installing Glass Doors

Note: You may install the glass doors at any time after assembly, but remove them when building out the inside. You do not have to install the glass doors now. The safest approach is to keep the glass doors in their protective shipping container until you are done building out the enclosure and are ready to do the final step of installing the glass sliding doors.

The glass doors will be packed in a highly protected box. When ready, carefully remove the glass panes. Once installed, the glass doors will slide by each other. One will be in the front track and the other in the back track

Front track and Back track



Install back panel first by placing top of glass into the top back track and then swing lower end of glass into the bottom back track. Let down gently.

Install front panel by placing top of glass into the top front track and then swing lower end of glass into the bottom front track. Let down gently.

Step 5: Installing Door Handles

Remove backing from one double sided adhesive strip and place it on the door handle as shown. Make sure it has fully adhered and then stick the door handle on the glass at a comfortable level to reach. As the enclosure can be placed at different levels, the ideal spot may not be at the middle. The ideal spot is where it is comfortable for you to reach.

Waterproofing your enclosure To make the enclosure water tight, a bead of silicone can be applied to the seams between the panels. A 100% aquarium safe silicone cartridge is available as an optional item to purchase, though silicone is easily found from many sources. The requirement is that it is aquarium grade silicone to ensure it is safe for living organisms. To apply a silicone bead, lay down a moderate line of silicone where the panels meet each other around the bottom panel and up the sides as far as it needs to be water-tight. Get a small bowl of water, dip your finger in the water and use your wet finger to gently smooth out the silicone into the crevice. Wipe excess silicone off onto a paper towel. Let the silicone dry at least 24 hours before putting in substrate or water. A fan can be used to speed up the drying process. Once the silicone bead is dry, pour water into the bottom to test the seal before filling with substrate.


Lay down a bead of silicone along the joints


Use a wetted finger to smooth the bead into the seam

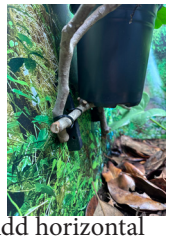

Wipe excess silicone off finger with a paper towel

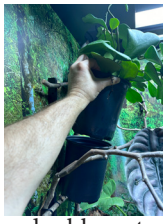

The finished seal!

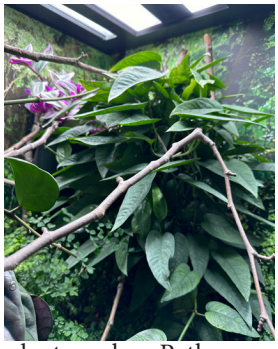
How to use branch anchors There are four branch anchors each on the sides and back panels. Branches and potted plants may be attached directly to the branch anchors using zip ties or a non-toxic glue/silicone. Numerous holes allow you to use zip ties to attach branches in many orientations. The most effective way to use these anchors is to zip tie some thick branches vertically across the anchors and then any pots and branches can be attached to the vertical branches. This allows you the freedom to install your items at whatever height fits your design. 1/2 Gallon or 6" pots are a manageable size for plants suspended in the branches.
If you use zip ties be careful to avoid sharp edges when you clip the tails. If you use adhesives make sure it is completely dry before adding your animals.


zip ties can be used on any side

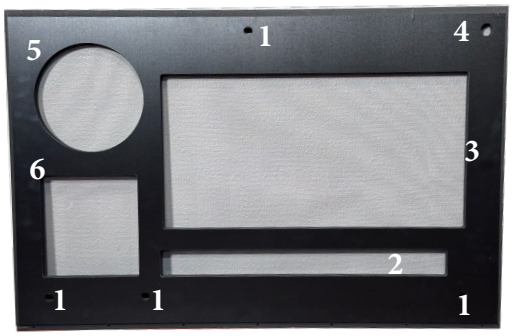

Use a thick vertical branch to provide an anchor spot anywhere along the side


Add horizontal branch pieces to support potted plants


The double-pot method allows easy removal or relacement of plants.


Vining plants such as Pothos are ideal for quick cover

Populating the top The top of your enclosure comes with cut-outs which facilitate different aspects of lighting and hydration.



1. **Misting Nozzle inputs** - remove cap to install Mist King nozzles
2. **Front LED light bar Cut-out (21" x 2")** - for 24" LED light bar
3. **Main Light Area (22" x 11 1/4").** Sample options:
   a. Quad 24" T5 fixture with 3*6500K + 1*UVB bulbs
   b. 2* 24" LED bars + 1* 24" T5 UVB fixture
   c. Radiant heat panel
4. **Fogger hose input**
5. **Basking cut-out (7 3/4" diameter)** - 8" Dome fixture for basking bulb
6. **Ventilation square (7" x 7 3/4")**- leave empty for chimney effect or add water proof fan to aid in ventilation.

If you have any questions about your order, delivery or parts, Custom Reptile Habitats has a dedicated customer service number where you can call and speak to a live person. We want you to have the best experience possible and are here to help! Call toll free 888-673-7845.
For questions about husbandry using the Arboreal series, Bill Strand, through the Chameleon Academy outreach, has weekly live sessions on YouTube and can answer questions in real time.