



User manual



Starter Set Cork

Instructions for use

This **starter set cork**, with prefabricated tunnels and chambers, is suitable for various ant species. Especially for species that also nest in (dead) wood. The material itself is natural cork, which is pressed and then glued with resin. This is absolutely harmless and non-toxic for the animals.

Note: The nest is only to be used in a dry formicarium. If the nest is kept permanently moist, the material may mould.

Step 1

Search for a suitable location

In order not to expose the ants to unnecessary vibrations and temperature fluctuations, a suitable and stable place should be chosen.

Attention:

- do not place near windows (sunlight)
- do not place near radiators
- do not place on vibrating surfaces
- do not place near music equipment
- do not place near noisy machines
- do not place over electrical appliances
- do not place in a room with strong odours (e.g. kitchen)
- do not place in a smoking room

Step 2

Control

Check the complete contents of the kit to make sure everything is present.

Content:

- 1x ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10 - flat
- 1x Ant arena frame 20x20
- 1x Ant arena cover 20
- 1x ANTCUBE - Ant farm - L - 20x20 - standing
- 1x Cork nest 20x20 - standing
- 1x 0,5m tube transparent 14/10 mm
- 1x ANTCUBE - Red foil 20x20 - self-adhesive
- 1x Substrate - sand-loam beige - 1000g
- 1x Grid insert - 50mm - stainless steel
- 1x Formicarium plug for 50mm bore
- 1x plug for 27mm bore
- 1x Grid cap - 16mm - stainless steel
- 1x Basin connector for bore 27 and tube 10-16 mm - M25
- 1x Formicarium nut M25 grey
- 1x Drinking trough 2ml - 360 degrees
- 1x Food dispenser 2ml - dosable
- 1x Mini thermo-hygrometer analogue - display - hanging
- 1x Ant outbreak protection oil 10ml
- 1x Tweezers spring steel - wide - soft
- 1x Tweezers plastic transparent
- 1x pipette 3ml
- 1x Hand magnifier - 2x - 30mm
- 1x Food Mix Set - standard + sponge
- 1x Foam wiper 150x18x2,5mm

Step 3

Assembly

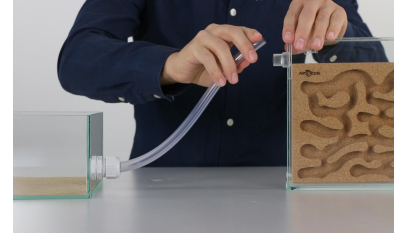
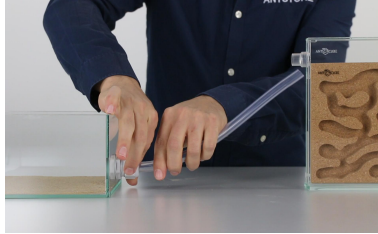
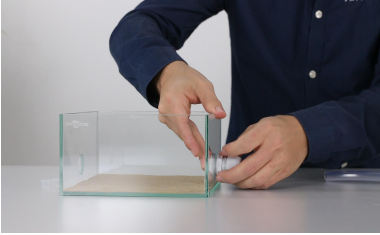
First we fill the **ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10 - flat** with the **substrate - sand-loam beige - 1000g**. The layer should **not be higher** than 1-2mm, otherwise there is a risk that the ants will dig themselves in and not use the farm or nest area intended for them.



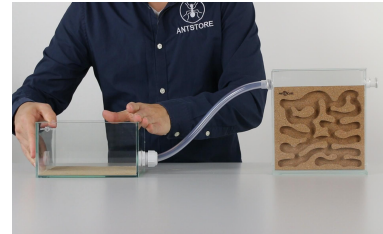
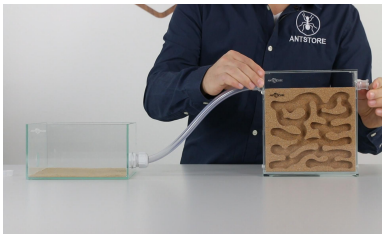
- The **ANTCUBE - cork nest 20x20 - standing** is placed in the **ANTCUBE - ant farm - L - 20x20** - inserted **standing up**. The lid is then placed on the farm.



The **basin connector for hole 27** and hose **10-16 mm - M25** is now screwed to the arena. To do this, insert the **0.5 m transparent 14/10 mm hose** into the connector and screw it tightly with the **formicarium nut M25 - grey**. The end of the hose is now pushed onto the socket of the farm and connected together.

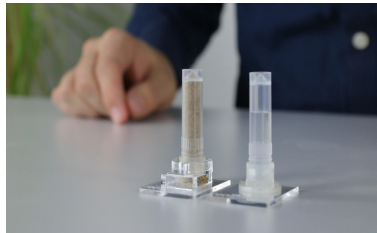
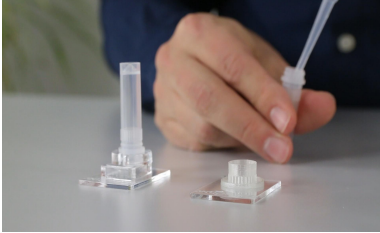


- With the existing **grid cap - 16mm - stainless steel** and the **formicarium plug for a 27mm hole**, the still open sockets of the farm and the arena are closed.



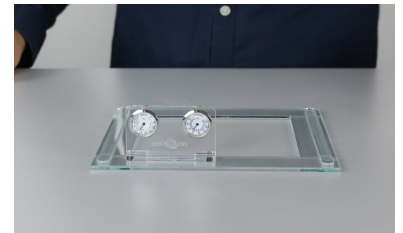
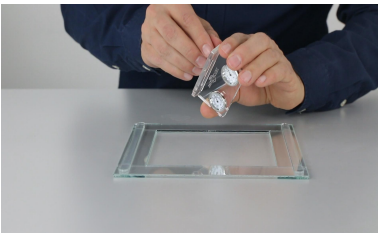
- **With** the help of the **plastic pipette 3ml**, the **drinker 2ml - 360 degrees** is now filled and food is added to the food **dispenser 2ml - dosable**.

These are then placed in the front area of the arena. This facilitates food control and makes it easier to see if the containers need to be cleaned.

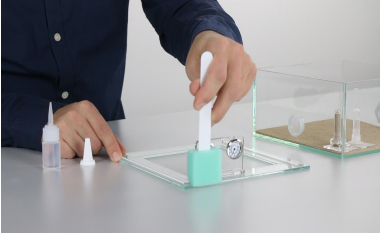


- When everything has been placed correctly, the **mini thermo-hygrometer analogue - display** - is attached to the underside of the frame (**Ameisenarena frame 20x20**) in a **hanging position**. For this purpose, the protective film of the adhesive surface must be removed.

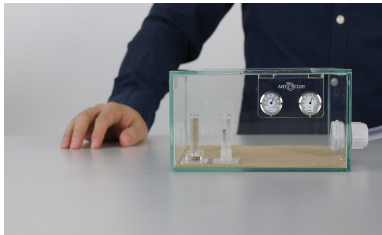
IMPORTANT: The thermo - hygrometer must be attached to the inside of the frame and **not to the outside of the frame**, otherwise the frame will not fit on the arena. There is only one attempt at fixing, as the glue holds very well and it is difficult to remove it later.



- The **ant escape protection oil 10ml** is now applied to the inner frame. For this we use the **foam wiper 150x18x2.5mm**. Alternatively, a household cloth or your own finger can be used. The layer should only be applied very thinly!

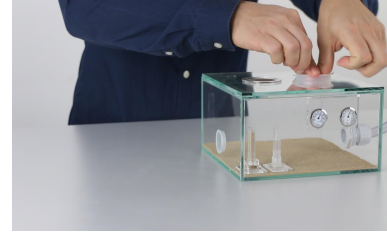
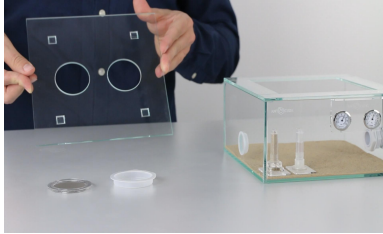


- The frame is placed on the rubberised rim of the arena. Please make sure that the frame is securely closed to the arena.

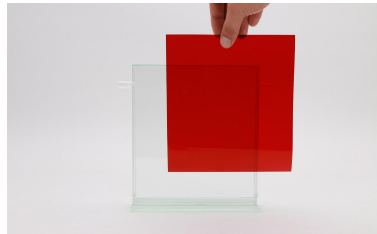


The arena is now safe and the animals can no longer escape through the oil!

If required, the supplied **ant arena cover 20x20**, with the two interchangeable inserts **grid insert - 50mm - stainless steel** and **formicarium plug for 50mm hole**, can of course also be placed on the arena frame. The grid insert ensures a good air exchange.



If necessary, the **ANTCUBE - Red Film 20x20 - self-adhesive** can be placed on the front area of the farm to give the ants an underground feel and the chance to build closer to the glass.



Step 4

Settling the colony

Now remove the plug from the nest tube. This is then placed in the arena so that the ants can get used to their new environment and move in. When all the ants have moved in, the empty tube can be removed.



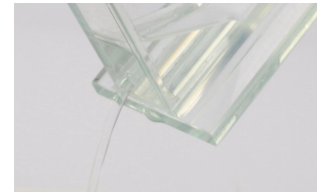
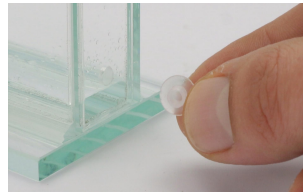
Hint:

When the colony grows larger, the ants may bite pieces out of the cork material. This means that they can also design this installation according to their own needs later on.



Cork itself does not store water, it merely penetrates the pores or flows through the socket at the top of the farm straight down when it is moistened. Moistening tends to create a high humidity. However, the nest itself must not stand in water.

If water does collect underneath the farm, we have an opening at the side at the bottom of the farm to remove excess water if necessary. This way there is no danger of rotting.



Ants are very clean animals that carry their waste out of the nest. Nevertheless, it can happen that the animals place their waste in the nest. This can happen especially with small colonies living in a nest that is too large.

In order to minimise the formation of waste, only a small area should be offered to the animals at first in finished nest systems. Access to other chambers can be blocked with suitable soil substrate so that the animals only open the other passages and chambers as the colony grows and then use them for themselves.

For this purpose, you can use the supplied sand-loam substrate, which needs to be slightly moistened before introduction.



Explanation of individual components:

- The **arena** serves to ensure that the animals can supply themselves with food and water accordingly. Furthermore, they can bring their waste out there.

The **frame** is placed on the arena as a break-out protection.

- The **cover** is an additional break-out protection and the holes can be closed with **plugs or grid inserts** for ventilation.

The **farm** serves as a nesting area for the animals, in which the cork plate is inserted, in which the queen and approx. 90% of the workers stay with the brood.

- The **hose connector** is suitable for the transition from the arena to the farm and is important for the transport of food and waste.

The sand-loam **substrate** is suitable for filling the arena so that the floor is covered. In addition, the substrate can also be used for the cork nest, e.g. to close off individual chambers and entrances.

The **thermo-hygrometer** is used to monitor the temperature and humidity in the arena.

- The **break-out protection oil** additionally serves as protection on the frame. The animals find no adhesion through the oil film and cannot run over the protection.

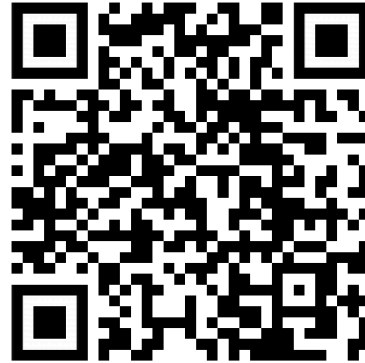
The tweezers **plastic transparent** are used for gripping solid objects and the **tweezers spring steel - wide - soft** are used for gripping ants so as not to injure them.



- With the **hand magnifier - 2x - 30mm** we can observe small objects well.



On our website you will find a helpful video especially for the Starter Set Cork:



<https://www.antstore.net/shop/de/Ameisen-Starter-Sets-Ameisenfarmen-antfarm/Starter-Sets---Kork-255/ANTCUBE-Starter-Set---Kork-5508.html>

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