



**User manual**



**Starter Set Digfix**

# **Instructions for use**

This **starter set Digfix**, is suitable for all ant species. It can be kept dry or slightly moist. It is composed of Digfix plates and is suitable for all species from dry or very humid regions, as well as for species that live in wood.

**Note:** If the nest is kept permanently damp (too wet), mould may develop due to food remains.

## **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
- 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 in stock.

### **Content:**

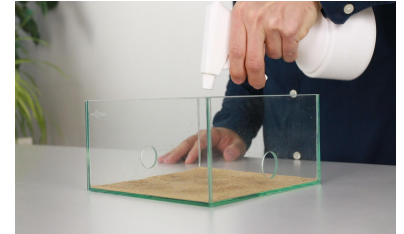
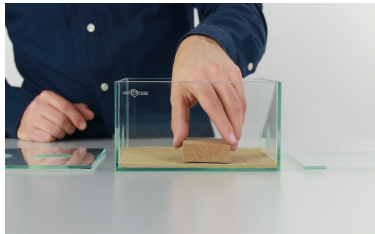
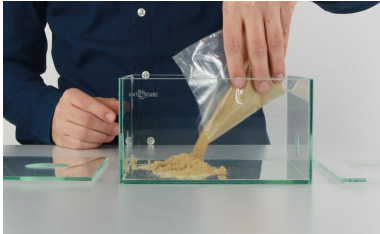
- 1x ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10 - flat
- 1x Ant arena frame 20x20
- 1x arena cover 20
- 1x ANTCUBE - Ant farm - 20x20 - standing
- 1x Digfix plate
- 1x 0,5m tube transparent
- 1x ANTCUBE - Red foil 20x20 - self-adhesive
- 1x Substrate - Sand-Loam beige - 200g
- 2x Formicarium plug for 50mm hole
- 1x plug for 27mm hole
- 1x cap for 6mm socket
- 1x Basin connector for hole 27 and tube 10-16 mm - M25
- 1x nut M25 - grey
- 1x Drinking trough 2ml - 360 degrees
- 1x dispenser 2ml - dosing
- 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

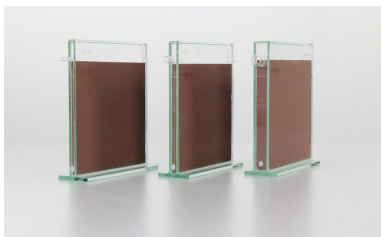
#### **Assembly**

- First we fill the **ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10 - flat** with the **substrate - sand-loam beige - 200g**. 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.

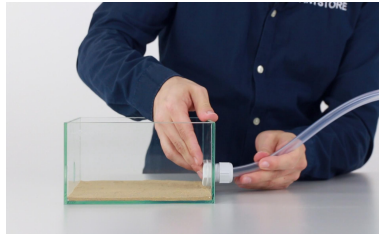
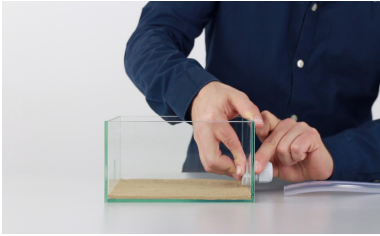
Because of its dryness, the substrate must be slightly moistened, e.g. with the help of a spray bottle.



- The **ANTCUBE - Ant farm - S, M or L - 20x20 - standing** incl. the **ANTCUBE - Digfix plate 20x20 - S, M or L - standing** is now ready. The accompanying farm lid should be 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 **transparent 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 **formicarium cap for the socket** and the **formicarium plug for the 27mm hole**, the still open sockets from the farm and the arena are closed.



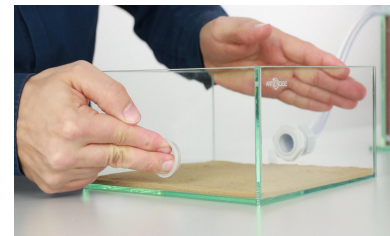
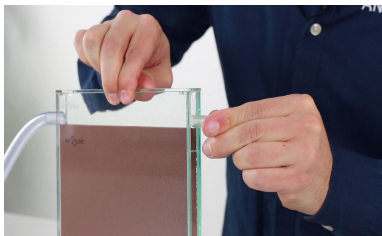
S



M

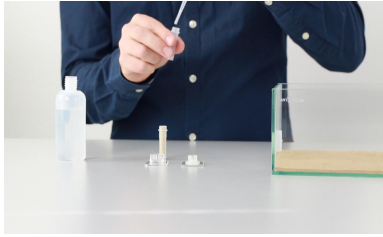


L



- **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 makes food control easier and it is easier to see if cleaning of the containers is necessary.



- 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.

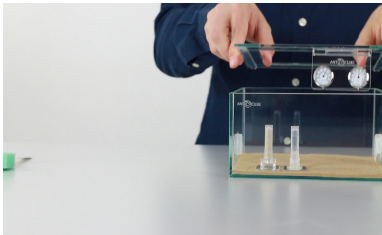
**IMPORTANT:** The thermo-hygrometer must be attached to the inside of the frame and **not to the outside of the frame**, otherwise the frame will not fit on the arena. There is only one attempt at fixing, as the glue holds very well and it is difficult to remove it later.



- 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!

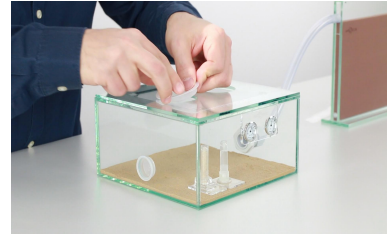
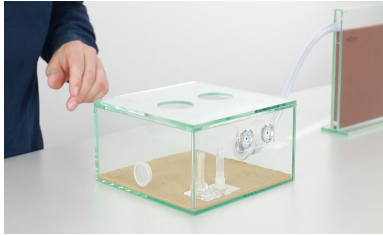


- The frame including the previously glued-on thermo-hygrometer is placed on the rubberised edge of the arena. Please make sure that the frame is securely closed with the arena.

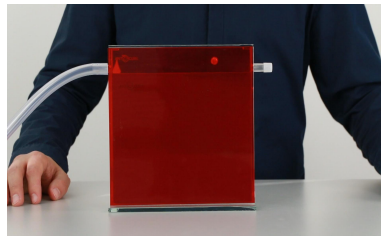


**The arena is now safe and the animals can no longer escape through the oil!**

If required, the supplied **ant arena cover 20x20**, with the two interchangeable inserts **formicarium plugs for 50mm hole**, can of course also be placed on the arena frame.



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.

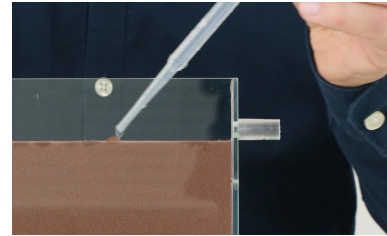
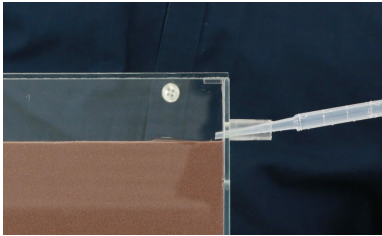




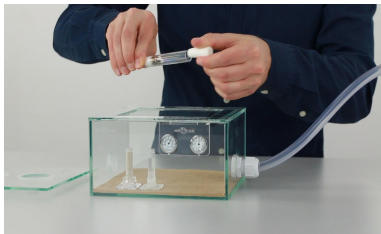
## Step 4

### **Settling the colony**

Before we put the animals in, we have to humidify the farm according to the species (not every ant species needs humidity in the Digfix plate). To do this, we remove the formicarium cap at the top right of the farm. The pipette is then inserted through the socket and the Digfix is moistened with water. When filling for the first time without the animals, you can also simply remove the farm lid.



Now remove the plug from the nest tube and place it 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.



### Explanation of individual components:

- The **arena** serves to ensure that the animals can supply themselves with food and water accordingly. Furthermore, they can take out their waste 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**.
- The **farm** serves as a nesting area for the animals, where the queen and about 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.
- 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.



### **Hint:**

With the Digfix plate, the ants can create their own chambers and passages according to their own needs. These passages do not collapse and are very easy for the ant keeper to see.

Most of the time, the ants tear out small and also larger pieces from the Digfix plate to create the necessary space for themselves and to build.



There is a helpful video on our website specifically for the ANTCUBE Starter Set Digfix:



<https://www.antstore.net/shop/de/Ameisen-Starter-Sets-Ameisenfarmen-antfarm/Starter-Sets---Digfix-254/ANTCUBE-Starter-Set-M---20x20---Digfix-5523.html>

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