Versalab INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY AND USE OF THE 20 x 24 PRINT BASKET rev.2

Note that GPM = gallons per minute. The following is the complete list of parts included with your washer accessory. In some cases we have included extras of some of the small items in case of accidents.

5 separator panels (white styrene)

6 no.8 stainless steel studs

12 no.8 stainless steel nuts
12 no.8 stainless steel washers (large hole)
8 no.4 stainless steel washers (small hole)

32 3/4" long nylon spacers
26 5/8" long nylon spacers
50 1" long nylon spacers

4 lengths 1/8" polyethylene rod

2 3/4" square x 11+" long gray plastic bars with polyrod loops (print weights)

WASH

The first job is to wash all the components. Most of the parts have manufacturing lubricants and releases on them that should be removed to protect your prints. We suggest you wash all the parts thoroughly with hot detergent water. Don't mix up the three sizes of nylon spacers and try to keep the separator panels in the same order that they were packed.

PRINT BASKET ASSEMBLY

The quick story

The print basket consists of 5 white plastic separator panels fastened together by stainless steel studs. The panels are held apart, creating the four slots for prints, by the nylon spacers. At the bottom are thin plastic rods which support the prints. Note that the separator panels have a small hole in one corner to provide a reference for position.

We expect the four slot print basket to be fine for virtually all papers. The print space is 2 5/8" wide. If you find that the paper is hurt by the smaller space, the basket can be assembled to provide only three slots -- these slots will be 3 1/2" wide. The wash will be the same in either case. Each version is detailed below.

Note: In order to make the washer pleasant to use and safer for your prints, we have rounded the top edge of each separator. Sometimes we aren't perfect. Please check to make sure that this was done adequately. A quick dab with even a fingernail file will do it. Using a sharp edged tool is fine also, providing you use it as a scraper since sharp edges dig into the soft plastic.

detail
You will be building up this 20x24 print basket by stacking things together on a table top or work surface.

For a 4 slot print basket --
Prepare the studs by placing a no.8 washer (large hole) and then a nut right at one end of each of them. Take one of the panels and place it on the work top with the reference hole at the upper right and the long side nearest you. Put one stud up through each of the six side holes of this panel. The panel should now be laying flat with the studs sticking up through the holes.

On each of the studs, put two 1" spacers plus one 5/8" spacer (in no particular order). Then put another panel over the studs. Keep the panels oriented as they came packaged with the reference holes all in a line. Keep building the print basket in the same fashion, using the same quantity of spacers per slot. Put on the last panel.

Now put a no.8 washer and a nut on each stud and tighten the nuts. Set the basket upright so that the panels are vertical and sitting on their long side. This is how it will sit in the tank. Tighten the nuts firmly enough that the basket moves and feels like a single unit, but not so tight that something is stressed.

You should now have a fairly rigid assembly that consists of 5 separator panels held together by the studs.

Note that the four holes for polyrod are higher up on the separators in order to keep the top edge of the print handy. Put one of the polyethylene rods through the same hole in each of the separators (running parallel to the studs). Position them so that about the same amount sticks out each side of the basket. Place a no.4 washer over each of these ends. Squeeze the end of the rod with pliers quite hard. This should squash the end of the rods so that they do not pull back through the washers.

For a 3 slot print basket --
A 3 slot basket is built up the same as the 4 slot, except that it uses only 4 of the separator panels, and uses a different mix of spacers. After you have the six studs through the first panel - just as you did with the 4 slot - you put on 3 of the 1" spacers, and 1 of the 3/4" on each of the studs. This first slot will therefore be 3 3/4" wide. Now add a panel. This time put on 2 of the 1" spacers, and 2 of the 3/4". This slot, and the next, will therefore be 3 1/2" wide. Add a panel and repeat 2 of the 1" and 2 of the 3/4". Finish up as the 4 slot with the washers and nuts

FINAL
Set the print basket into the tank. Make sure that the bottom end of the siphon pickup hose is between the end of the basket and the end wall of the tank and about in the center as per the original 16 x 20 drawing. Finished.

INSERTING PRINTS
Lift the print out of the fixer or holding tray holding the four corners together, allowing the print to be in a gentle U-shape across the 24" dimension, emulsion side in. Lower it into the slot until it rests on the polyrod. The special print weights provided need to be used only if you find that the top edges of the print have a tendency to fall in towards each other, usual only in the 4 slot configuration. The loops of the print weights, inserted into the slot, will keep these edges spread apart.

WASHING
Because the total print surface is actually less than in the original 16 x 20, and the prints are held in a perfect wash position, you are likely to find the wash time (use same GPM) the same or less.

versalab

tel. 505-771-9177 email - info@versalab.com