



Passive Avoidance step down

Cat. No. 7570

General

The Passive Avoidance step-down version, **for mice or immature rats**, Cat. 7570 is based on the step-down scheme in which the animal is dropped on an elevated platform which becomes uncomfortable because of vibrations.

The mouse steps down to an electrified grid.

The instrument basically consists of an **arena**, shaped as a cage (Cat. No. **7573**) and a control unit (Cat. No. **7571**)



for Mice

- The vibration intensity can be selected by a thumb switch.

Main Features

- Specifically designed for mice or immature rats
- Latency time recorded to the 1/10 of a second

Passive Avoidance Cage

The cage, made of Perspex sheets, is dimensioned 25 cm (width) x 25 cm (depth) x 15 cm (height). It is provided with a hinged top lid of clear Perspex and a suitable catch pan.

The cage floor is made of a set of 40 bars of stainless steel, diam. 0.2 cm, spaced 0.5 cm apart.

The bars are wired to a constant current 8-pole scrambling circuit, located in the control unit.

The detachable circular vibrating platform, Cat. 7577, at the centre of the cage, 0.3 cm over the floor level, fits on a protruding stud, which is fastened to the platform actuator.

Beside the standard platform, whose diameter is 7 cm, a larger platform, Cat. 7578, diam. 11 mm, is supplied with the standard package.

The actuator (the mechanism which energizes the vibrating platform) is located in the actuator block, fastened to the cage base.

Both the grid floor and the actuator block are fastened to the cage structure via large knurled knobs, to ease the dismantling of the whole, indispensable for a thorough cleaning.

Control Unit

The Control unit is lodged into a resilient metal cabinet. Its front panel features durable engraved indications.

The vibration intensity can be selected by a thumb switch.

The SHOCK thumb switch presets shock intensity in the range 0 to 2.9 mA, in steps of 0.1 mA.

Principle of Operation

When the elevated platform onto which the mouse (or immature rat) is dropped, becomes uncomfortable because of vibrations, the animal steps down to an electrified grid.

When the mouse confronts the electrified grid and returns to the platform, the pressing of the STOP key causes the cut off of the actuator power and hence the immediate stop of the platform vibration.

The STOP command also causes the latency counter to stop; the display located on the front panel of the Con-

trol Unit, records the latency time in tenth of seconds. The latency figure remains frozen on the display until another "session" is started by depressing again the START key.

Ordering Information

7570 SET-UP FOR PASSIVE AVOIDANCE (step-down), standard package, including:

7571 Passive Avoidance Controller

7573 Passive Avoidance Mouse Cage

7576 Instruction Manual

Specifications

Start	via the key on the control unit
Stop	via the key on the control unit
Shock	0 to 2.9 mA, in steps of 0.1 mA
Latency Time	4-digit LED display, 0.1s steps
Power Requirement	115 / 230V, 50/60 Hz, 18 W max.
Dimensions (7571)	26 (w) x 30 (d) x 12 (h) cm
Dimensions (7573)	28 (w) x 235 (d) x 26 (h) cm
Packing Dimensions	No. 1 Box 80 x 60 x 44 cm
Weight	Kg. 6.7
Shipping Weight	Kg. 16.5 (approx.)

A set-up for PASSIVE AVOIDANCE STEP THROUGH METHOD, is also available, for either mice or rats. Ask for details!

Bibliography

Papers which quote the P.A. Test (step-through)

- L. Ricceri et alia: "Postnatal Cocaine Exposure Affects Neonatal Passive Avoidance Performance and Cholinergic Development in Rats" Pharmacol. Biochem. & Behavior 45: 283-289, 1993