

# Animal Care | Systems

## Standard Operating Procedure Optimice® Pleated Filter Media Removal for Testing

### Tools Required

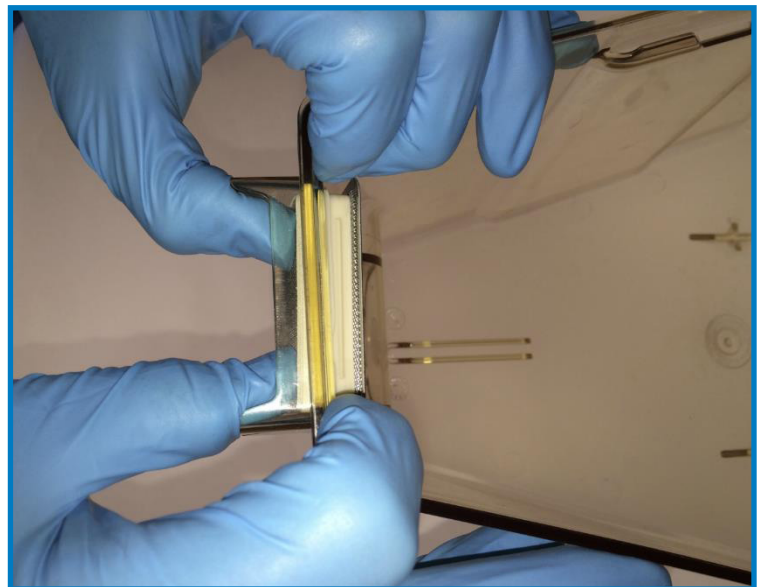
- Phillips-head screwdriver
- X-acto knife or box cutter (new blade for each filter)
- Forceps
- Falcon tube
- Gloves
- Disinfectant (10 percent bleach)



### Filter Removal From Cage

Remove filter from cage as aseptically as possible, ideally in a biosafety cabinet or cage changing station.

Do not touch filter unless gloves are disinfected. Change gloves between each filter extraction procedure. Disinfect and wipe tools with a chem-wipe between each filter extraction procedure.



# Standard Operating Procedure Optimice® Pleated Filter Media Removal for Testing

## Filter Extraction

1. Begin with disinfected work surface and tools. Remove screws, faceplate, and inner screen.



2. Cut filter medium in as large a rectangular shape as possible.



3. Remove filter medium with decontaminated forceps by pulling it from the lower ribs. **Do not use forceps that have not been decontaminated.**



Lower ribs

4. Squeeze filter ribs together with forceps so it will fit in the Falcon tube. Place into tube with the cage-facing side of the filter toward the tube interior. When collecting filters, avoid cross-contamination, and store tubes in a container to minimize contamination of the tubes with filters. Store samples at  $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in a **non-defrosting** freezer. Temperature fluctuations in frost-free freezers may degrade filter samples over time.

