

Optirat GenII

SOP - Filter Media Replacement

The three Optirat GenII filters each have four components: a plastic retainer, outer stainless screen, filter medium, and inner stainless screen. The inner screen is slightly larger, has a finer mesh, and a formed shoulder, while the outer screen has a coarse mesh and is flat. It is critical that the fine mesh screen remains the inner layer of material: Filter damage will result if the screen positions are swapped or if the interior screen is omitted.

Filter life varies based on facility conditions, cage usage, and sterilization frequency. As a general guideline, cage filter paper is designed for up to 70 autoclave cycles and should be replaced at least every 2 years.

Animal Care Systems provides a leverage board with swiveling lever arm, trigger clamps, and a curved hand tool (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Front Filter Retainer Removal

1. Use both trigger clamps to secure the fixture to the work surface.
2. Set the cage base upon it so that the filters are in line with the board.
3. Place the edge of the curved hand tool underneath the latch of the blue retainer until it stops. The end of the curved tool should be oriented so its curve mimics the curve of the cage (Figure 2).
4. Raise the curved hand tool upward to unlock the latch (Figure 3). Repeat with the other latches to remove the retainer fully.

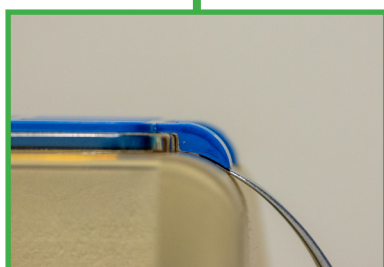
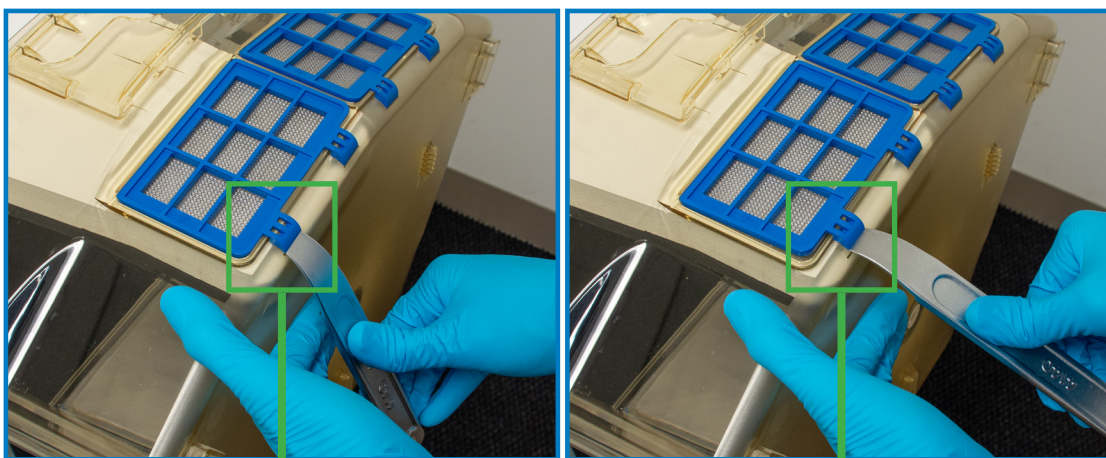


Figure 2

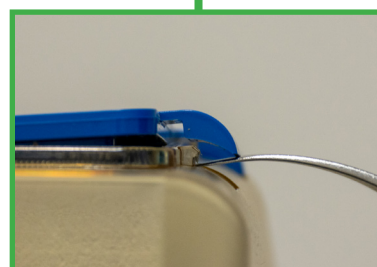


Figure 3

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Front Filter Medium Replacement

1. Remove the coarse screen (Figure 4).
2. Remove the used filter medium, and install a new medium (Figure 5), ensuring it sits within the fine mesh and is free of wrinkles and folds. The fine mesh below the filter does not need to be removed.
3. Re-fit the coarse screen (Figure 6), ensuring the filter medium keeps its position.

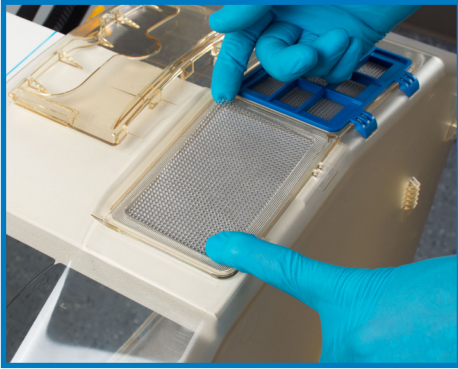


Figure 4

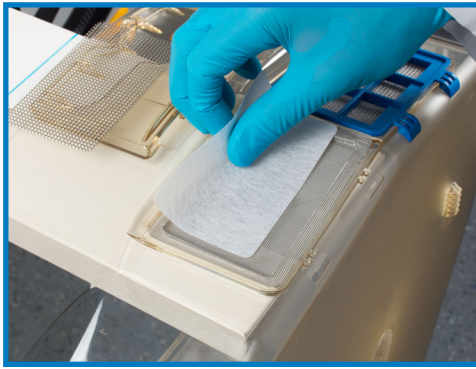


Figure 5

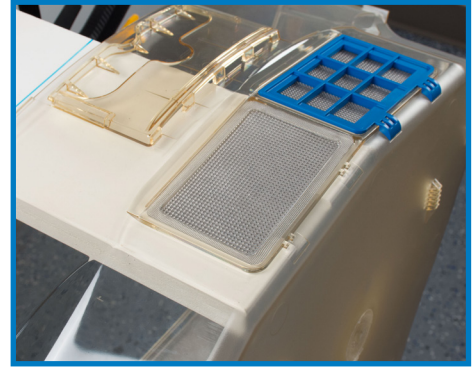


Figure 6

Front Filter Retainer Reinstallation

1. Insert the retainer's top edge into the groove within the top of the filter opening.
2. Swing the retainer down (Figure 7), and then lower the lever arm of the fixture down onto the retainer latch; the plastic teeth of the lever arm are designed to contact the latch when lowered to it.
3. Press downward on the lever arm firmly for each latch. An audible click verifies the latch is secure.
4. Repeat for the second retainer.



Figure 7

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Rear Filter Retainer Removal

1. Place the cage base onto the end of the installation board with the rear filter retainer facing upward.
2. Insert the curved hand tool fully into the space between the retainer latch and the cage base (Figure 8).
3. Gently lift the handle of the tool until the latch frees (Figure 9).
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for the other latch, and set the retainer aside.



Figure 8



Figure 9

Rear Filter Medium Replacement

1. Remove the used filter medium.
2. Set the new medium into the recess of the inner mesh so that the top edge of the medium is against the top edge of the recess (Figure 10).



Figure 10

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Rear Filter Retainer Reinstallation

1. Insert the upper edge of the rear filter retainer beneath the two tabs on the cage base.
2. Swing the retainer down, ensuring the filter medium remains in place.
3. Lower the lever arm of the fixture down onto the retainer latch; the plastic teeth of the lever arm are designed to contact the latch when lowered to it.