

The Spider Room

Saturday, 17 February 2007

Last Updated Saturday, 03 May 2008

Move the mouse about to see who is where in my spider room, and click an object to investigate further...

Welcome to the spider room ! This is an interactive Flash demo (no pun intended) that does several things... Firstly, it shows you what the diaries normally don't - my spider room, as a whole, and the various things in it, and secondly, it's a really quite handy 'how-to' for newbie spider keepers, offering advice on tank placement, tools required, with practical examples along the way. Unlike some other of my flash sites, this one is not huge to download, so pop on in, check out the 3D coolness, and look round my humble spider pantheon at your leisure. For those of you who were wondering why my spider room isn't covered in greenery and plants, and cool lighting, I have the answer. Some people really go to town on turning their spider rooms into fake jungles, but working on the theory that the spiders can't see well enough to tell what you have done, and therefore couldn't care less, I'd rather make their tanks more naturalistic, and keep the room hyper minimal, so that... you guessed it, there are very few places for escapee spiders to hide - not that this is regular occurrence !! I also have a VERY bright light in there, only turned on briefly for photos, when emergency help is required, or when trying to persuade any escaping spiders that they want to go find the dark tubes I have left out for them. Most of the time, the room is at slightly less brightness than whatever is going on outside, so they still have a good sense of what is day, and night, yet are never exposed to harsh direct sun. At night, there is a permanently on, but very very dim pure red LED light, which I use to go in and check on them periodically. Only the Poecilotheria and the Psalmopoeus seems to run from this - the others appear not to notice it at all.

UPDATE: As you will probably notice, this page is a bit time-sensitive, in that I don't actually live in the same house anymore, and the current layout of the spider area is very different to what is shown above. Also, the various spiders featured have grown substantially, and most have been moved to new tanks. However, this is still a very clear way to show the general sort of principals and ideas that should serve a new keeper quite well, so I shall leave it up and intact the way it is... I may even do an updated version at some point in the future, but that point is not now, because currently my T's live in a sectioned-off area of the lounge, which is hardly ideal for demonstrating some of the points described here. I hope to be moving to a much more permanent location in just over a year's time (probably sometime in 2009), where the girls will, once more, have an entire room to themselves...