**General**

The instrument basically consists of a tilting-floor Passive Avoidance Cage divided into two compartments by a partition which embodies a sliding door. The tilting floor ensures a simple and reliable detection mechanism to score the animal's movement across the two compartments.

The Passive Avoidance controller incorporates the controls, latency time display and a constant-current high precision 8-pole shocker, connected to the cage grid floor.

An intense light in the white compartment supplies the necessary aversive stimulus.

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**Main Features**

- Silent and automated sliding door to divide the two compartments (no stepping motor!)
- Reliable tilting-floor detection mechanism
- Foot Pedal for hands-free operation
Passive-Avoidance Cage (step through)

Two types of cages are available:

- **7552**, designed for **Rats**, dimensioned 52x30x35 (h) cm, inside dimensions 40x20x22 (h) cm
- **7553**, designed for **Mice**, dimensioned 47x18x26 (h) cm (inside dimensions 39x9.5x16.5 (h) cm)

The cages are divided into two sections, the **START** and **ESCAPE** compartments. The **START** compartment is white and illuminated by a light fixture; the **ESCAPE** compartment is dark. The two compartments are divided by a partition which embodies an automatically operated sliding door at floor level.

**Principle of Operation**

The controls located on the Controller front panel enable the adjustment of the door delay and the shock current according to experience or data suggested by the literature.

With the rodent in the **START** compartment, the **START** pedal switch activates the timer **DOOR DELAY**, providing the opening of the door after a 0-99 s delay presettable by the operator in 1 s steps.

The opening of the door enables the timer which measures the animal latency, to stop at the animal crossing; latency time is displayed in 0.1s steps. The door shuts one second after the crossing, to prevent the animal being upset or hurt by a too close door operation.

**Data Acquisition**

The 7550 Passive Avoidance Apparatus is provided with a connector for branching it to the **MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER** Cat. **2600**, a microprocessor controlled device designed to acquire data from 6 (or 48, Cat. 2650) independent channels.

The data, stored in the 2600 internal memory and shown on its graphic display, can be printed out in real time and/or routed to the PC, via the 52050-01 DAS Software Package provided with the 2600 package.

The **52050** is a Windows® based Data Acquisition Software Package, which enables the research worker to store the data into individual files, ready to be easily managed by most statistical analysis packages available on the market.

**Ordering Information**

- **7550** PASSIVE AVOIDANCE SET-UP FOR RATS (step-through), standard package, including:
  - 7551 Passive Avoidance Controller
  - 7552 Passive Avoidance Rat Cage, incorporating an Automatic Sliding Door (for rat cage)
  - 7537 Connection Cable
  - 7562 Dust Cover (for 7551)
  - 7513 Dust Cover (for 7552)
  - 7560 Instruction Manual
  - E-WP 008 Mains Cord
    - Set of fuses for either 230V or 115V operation

- **7550-M** PASSIVE AVOIDANCE SET-UP FOR MICE (step-through), standard package, including:
  - 7551 Passive Avoidance Controller
  - 7552 Passive Avoidance Mouse Cage, incorporating an Automatic Sliding Door (for mouse cage)
  - 7514 Dust Cover (for 7553)

**Other parts and accessories as for the Rat Set-up**

**Bibliography**

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