



Removing your *Denphrophyllax lindenii* from flask.

If the flask was shipped to you there's a good chance that they will be jumbled with the growing medium. We've learned from experience that it's best to get them out as soon as possible to prevent any contamination from occurring.

Remove the seal, and take the top off the flask.



Gently remove the plants. Rinse off the medium with reverse osmosis water.



We do lots of this and have a screen than works nicely.



Gently work the extra medium off with your fingers. We try not to break the plants into too many small parts.



Some will just naturally fall apart though.

There will be a few that you may consider too small to keep. It's up to you...as the smaller ones are trickier to keep alive.



We've found the best success to let them "harden off" before mounting them. We do this by taking a pot with good drainage and a small layer of coconut husk fiber at the bottom.



Gently place the ghosts on top and water well.



We spray them with weakly fertilized reverse osmosis water - very regularly.

Our first tries were like this, then with the pot put in an old aquarium. We kept the top only partially covered so they were able to dry out, but there was minimal air movement. We now have a "dew point cabinet" that we put all the orchids that have been removed from flask in.



It has plastic walls, bottom heat (a heat mat), fluorescent lights and a small fan.

They need to get dry; but not too dry and not for too long. They need to get wet but will rot if you let them stay too wet for too long. It's that fine in-between part—where they get wet, then dry, then wet, then dry—that you're trying to achieve.

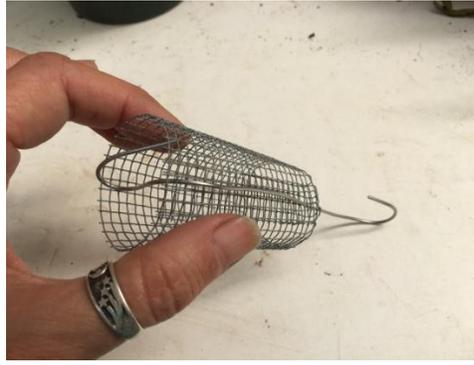
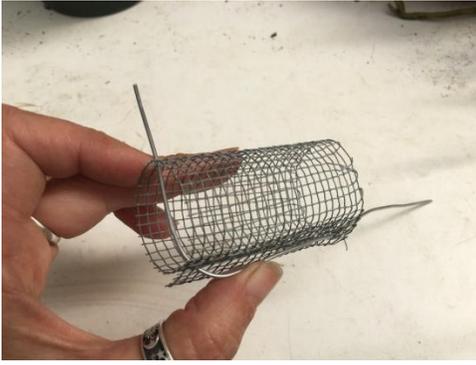
We keep them here for 2-3 weeks.



We've tried lots of different ways to grow them from this point to blooming size and what's working best for us now (after a great deal of experimenting) is little wire "cages" with a bit of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*).

In general we do not like this "look". We like to mount our orchids in a manner that looks pleasing and that gives them what we consider to be an honorable place to grow — a place we'd like to live if we were an orchid.

We like noticing the plant first - NOT the materials used to mount it.



These are the exception to the rule.

Bend the hardware cloth into a tube and run the wire through both layers to hold it together. At one end, bend the wire and put it through the opposite side of the tube, then loop it back. This keeps the moss and orchid from falling out.



Make a bend at the top to hang the tube.

Put a TINY bit of Spanish moss in the bottom. We found that having too much moss keeps things from drying and the orchid rots.



Then place a *Dendrophylax lindenii* on top. Look at how it's growing and do your best to place it right side up.



We're growing them on the east side of our greenhouse where it gets down into the mid 50s at night. Contrary to what a lot of people say about them wanting to be moist all the time, we find that if they don't dry out between watering they rot and it happens very fast! We keep the "legs" in Spanish moss, but the center growing point must get light and air movement! They get fertilized the same as everything else which is with half strength fertilizer every time we water.



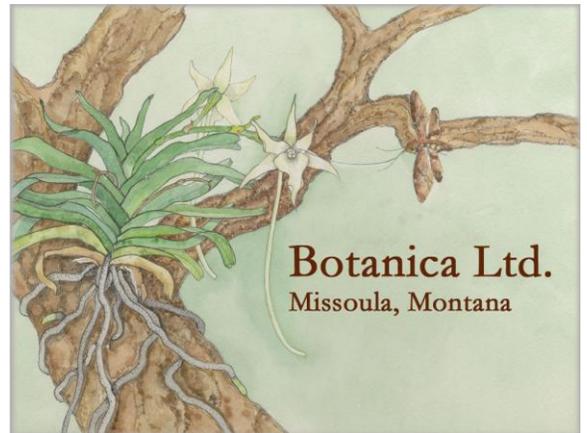
Keep watching...soon you should see new little growing tips and "legs" growing outside the tube.

We've bloomed our *Denphx. lindenii* five times (different plants). Three times we had two flowers open at once; they were beautiful. Our biggest mistake was taking a beautiful blooming plant to an orchid show. Despite our regular care and keeping it in a plastic container, it perished soon after the show.



This is our “preferred” look for growing them; mounted on cork. We still do this occasionally, but are having greater success rates as demonstrated.

Good luck growing and BLOOMING this spectacular angraecoid orchid!



BotanicaLtd.com

billn@bresnan.net