

A simple rack for race tubes

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Abstract

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TECHNICAL NOTES

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Race tubes (lengths of glass tubing bent upwards at each end at about a 45° angle) efficiently carry a trough of agar medium for growth of *Neurospora* cultures (Ryan et al. 1943 *Am J. Bot.* 30: 784). However, handling large numbers of race tubes without specially machined holders is awkward at best and can easily lead to dropped and

broken tubes. Convenient race tube racks can be made from common rectangular cake-cooling racks. For example, a 10 by 14 in (25.4 by 35.6 cm) cake rack will hold 12 tubes of 16 mm diameter and 25.5 cm trough length. Two downward bends of about 25° are made in the rack at a distance of 9 cm from each end. When the rack is turned upright, the "elbows" of the race tubes then interlace between the oblique wires of the rack, holding the tubes upright. The center bar keeps the tubes from falling through the frame and the end bars keep them aligned. The racks are sturdy, light and inexpensive; they may be stacked in a parallel or perpendicular fashion and may be autoclaved.

