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User Manual – AntLove Modular Formicaria

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General Description of the AntLove Modular System

AntLove modular formicaria are designed for ant keeping – from young colonies to larger, growing populations. Their biggest advantage is expandability: the system allows you to connect nests, arenas, waterers, and other modules as your colony develops.

Assembly and Connecting Modules

1. Plan your setup

- Decide which side of the arena should connect to the nest.
- Remove the necessary **plugs** from the sides of the arena and nest by sliding them **downward**. Don't remove all plugs—only those needed for the chosen configuration.

2. Connecting the nest and arena

- Take a **connector** and slide it **from bottom to top** into the connection slots on both modules.
- Ensure the connection is snug and secure.

3. Connecting the test tube with the ant colony

- Remove the plug from the module where you want to attach the test tube.
- Use the **test tube adapter** and connect it securely (also from bottom to top).
- Make sure the test tube is stable and fits tightly.

4. Connecting an external waterer (if included)

- Remove the plug from the module you want to use.
 - Fill the test tube waterer with clean water and place it in the waterer base.
 - Slide the entire unit into the module – from bottom to top. You're done!
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Preparing the Arena

- Spread a **thin layer of sand** on the arena floor (about 1–2 mm thick).

Too much sand may cause ants to dig excessively and create mold-prone zones.


- Decorate with natural elements such as stones, bark, or dried leaves.

- Avoid decorations with sharp edges or strong odors.
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Feeding Your Ants

For *Messor barbarus* and other seed-eating species:

- **Seed mix:** grass seeds, flaxseed, poppy seeds, and similar.
- **Protein food:**
 - mealworms
 - roaches
 - banana crickets
 - other small insects (always cut in half)

 Never introduce live prey directly – this may cause injury or stress to the ants.

- Place food **on the arena**. Workers will carry it into the nest.
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Hydration and Moisture Control

- The AntLove nest includes a built-in hydration system. Keep the **water reservoir** filled—but do not overfill.

Water should not spill out or block ventilation.

- If your model has a sponge or mineral wool, check it regularly and rehydrate as needed.
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Cleaning and Maintenance

- Regularly remove uneaten food and waste from the arena to prevent mold.
 - Before adding new modules, clean the connectors and opening slots.
 - Use the **nest cover** whenever you're not observing the ants—it reduces stress and helps maintain stable conditions.
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Environmental Conditions

- **Optimal temperature:** 22–26°C (71–79°F)
 - Avoid drafts, direct sunlight, or placing the formicarium next to TVs, speakers, or other sources of noise or vibration.
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Expanding Your Setup

The AntLove system is fully modular. You can:

- Add extra nests or arenas.
 - Attach more waterers, feeding tubes, or queen isolation chambers.
 - Reconfigure your setup to match your colony's growth and behavior.
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Additional Resources

- **Blog:** antcenter.com.pl/blog
 - **Manuals & Guides:** antcenter.com.pl/instrukcje
 - **YouTube Channel:** [AntCenter YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/AntCenterYouTube)
 - **Expert Help:** Call +48 728 215 422 (Mon–Fri, 2–4 PM CET)
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Reminder

Ant keeping is a responsibility. Provide proper care, peace, and a healthy environment—and your ants will reward you with a fascinating and thriving colony.

Happy ant keeping!

– The AntCenter Team