

Halo-5 Microdrive

Users Manual

Microdrive used for manually driving tetrodes for electrophysiology recordings

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1 Document Overview

This document describes the specifications and features of the Halo-5 Microdrive. It also explains how to assemble the Microdrive, and use it during normal operation. There is a glossary at the end of the document.

Step-by-step assembly instructions are outlined and additional products are recommended to further facilitate this process.

2 Halo-5 Microdrive Overview

The Halo-5 Microdrive allows up to 4 tetrodes to be inserted into a freely moving animal. One additional insertion shuttle can be used to insert fiber optics or reference electrodes.

Features:

- 5 independent drivable shuttles: 4 tetrode, 1 for fiber or reference
- 6 mm insertion depth
- Customizable exit pattern
- M1 x .250mm half-moon head drive screw.
- 1.8-2 grams

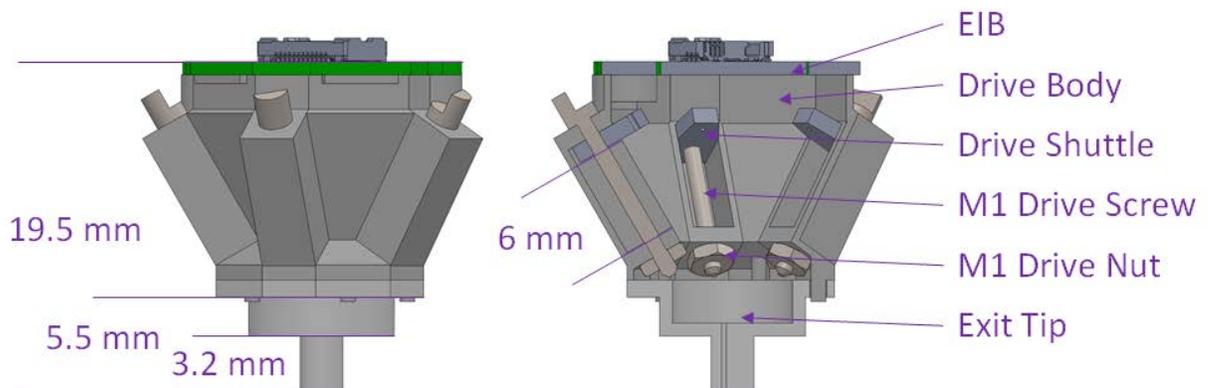


Figure 2.1 Halo-5 Microdrive Diagram

2.1 Halo-5 Microdrive Components

2.1.1 Halo-5 Body

- 5 shuttle paths
- 0.45 grams

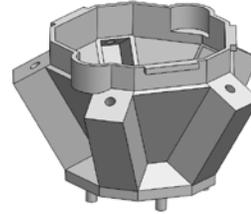


Figure 2.2 Body

2.1.2 EIB

- 3 available options: EIB-16-QC, EIB-18MM, EIB-18

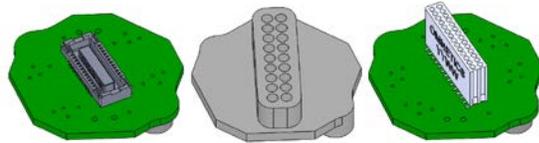


Figure 2.3 Halo-5 EIB's: EIB-16-QC, EIB-18MM, EIB-18

2.1.3 Exit Tip

- Precision machined Ultem
- Select from Neuralynx Exit Tip Configuration Guide
- Customizable Tips:
Contact sales@neuralynx.com to order
- Geometry for enhanced dental cement bonding
- 1 use life
- 0.21 grams

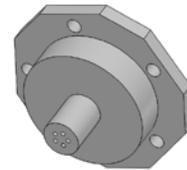


Figure 2.4 Exit Tip

2.1.4 Shuttle

- 0.02 grams
- Sleeves of 10

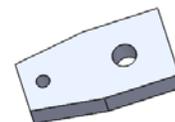


Figure 2.5 Shuttle

2.1.5 Included Hardware

- 6 X M1 Drive screw
- 6 X M1 Nut

2.1.6 Recommended Supplies (not included)

- Tetrodes
- 5 minute epoxy
- Loctite 242
- EIB pins
- Kwik-Cast / Kwik-seal
- Dental Cement
- X-ACTO blade
- Polymicro tubing

2.2 Recommended Additional Products

Neuralynx provides additional products to support the assembly and use of the Halo-5 Microdrive and enhance multichannel electrophysiological research.

2.2.1 Halo-5 Assembly Kit

- Assembly Jig
- 2.5mm Hex Driver
- Stereotaxic Mount (see 2.7.2)
- Halo Microdrive Turn Tool (see 2.7.3)

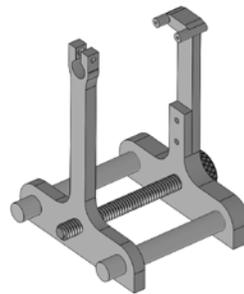


Figure 2.6 Halo-5 Assembly Jig

2.2.2 Halo-5 Stereotaxic Mount

- 0.310" Stereotaxic rod attachment



Figure 2.7 Halo-5 Stereotaxic Mount

2.2.3 Halo Microdrive Turn Tool

- Locks onto M1 Drive screw.
- 16 indexed increments



Figure 2.8 Halo Microdrive Turn tool

2.2.4 Halo-5 Omnetics Protective Cap

- Protects Omnetics connector or QuickClip® and EIB pins during animal storage.
- Magnetically aligns itself to EIB-18 and EIB-16-QC
- Retained in place with Clips

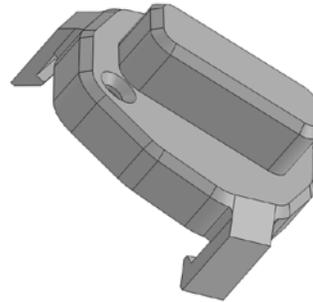


Figure 2.9 Halo-5 Protective Cap

2.2.5 Tetrode Assembly Station

- Simplifies construction of tetrodes



Figure 2.10 Tetrode Assembly Station

3 Assembling the Microdrive

The following instructions will guide the user through the assembly of the microdrive.

3.1 Mounting Shuttles into the Drive Body

To mount the Shuttles into the Drive Body, first insert a shuttle into a drive channel of the Drive Body. Using the Turn Tool, thread an M1 Drive screw through the top pass-through hole on the Drive Body, tap it through the Shuttle, and then thread it through the base pass-through hole on the Drive Body. The Drive screw will form threads as it passes through the shuttle which will require an increased torque. This is represented (image A). Repeat this process for the total number of shuttles necessary.

Next, screw an M1 Nut onto the tip of each of the M1 Drive screws protruding from the bottom of the Body until snug against the Body. Be very particular while mounting the nut: if too loose against the Body, the microdrive will have excessive hysteresis when changing drive directions; if too tight the microdrive will have excessive friction which may result in the nut loosening over time (Image B.)

After all the nuts are mounted, apply a drop of Loctite to junction between each screw and its nut. The Loctite should wick into the threads. Allow Loctite to cure for at least an hour. Using an X-ACTO blade helps deliver the Loctite to the nut without spilling onto the Drive Body. If Loctite spills onto the Body, clean up with a lint free cloth as quickly as possible (Image C.)

After the Loctite has had time to cure, test each shuttle's mechanics by moving the shuttle all the way up and all the way down. Finish by moving all shuttles to the top of their travel.

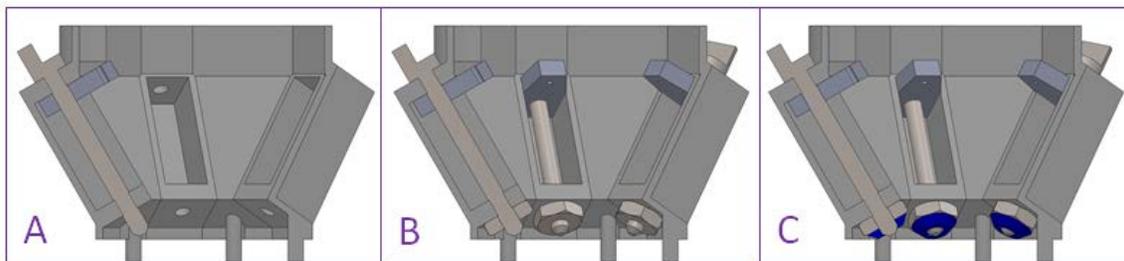


Figure 3.1 Shuttle Mounting

3.2 Mounting the Exit Tip

The Halo-5 Microdrive uses an Ultem Exit Tip to act as the neural interface. The Exit Tip passes Tetrodes through the base of the microdrive in a precision pattern to target specific neural zones. The standard Exit Tip mounted on a Halo-5 Microdrive is shown in Figure 3.2.

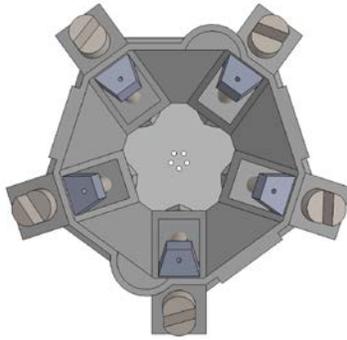


Figure 3.2 Standard Exit Tip mounted on Halo-5 Microdrive

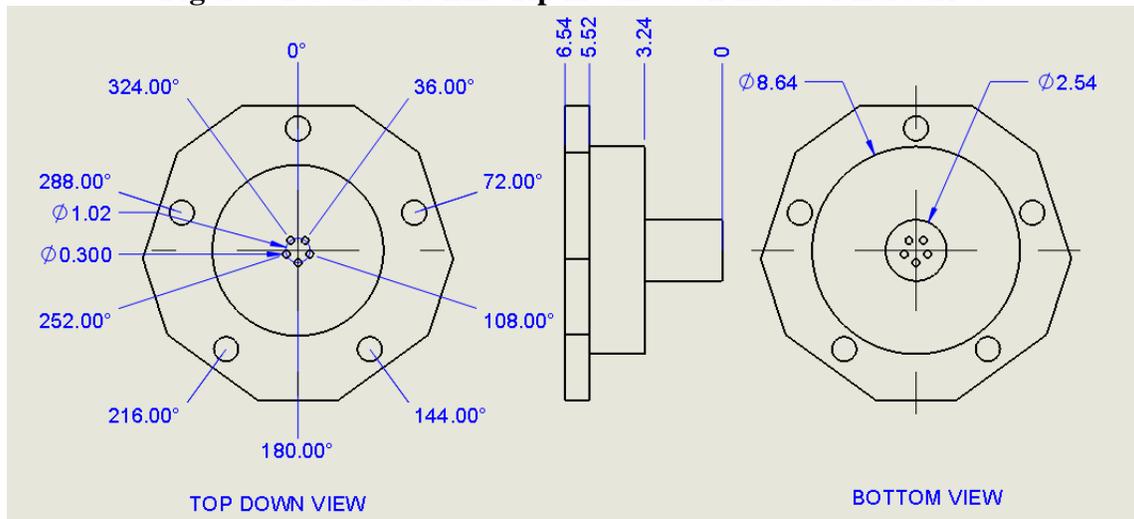


Figure 3.3 Dimensioned (mm) Standard Halo-5 Exit Tip

To mount the Exit Tip to the Microdrive slide the pegs located at the bottom of the Drive Body through the outer through holes of the Exit Tip and press the two parts together. While holding the two parts together, paint cyanoacrylate along the seam between the two parts. An X-ACTO blade is a good tool for this. Hold the two parts together for a few minutes until the glue is cured.

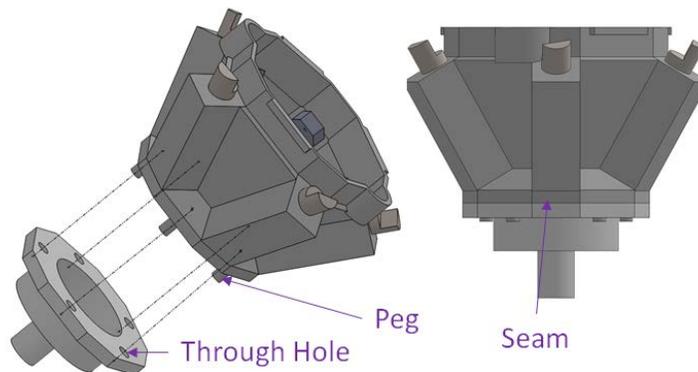


Figure 3.4 Mounting Exit Tip to Drive Body

As shown on Figure 3.2 the Exit Tip pattern is radially symmetric with the Drive Body resulting in no extra consideration for final construction alignment. If a custom Exit Tip is being used, it should be noted that the connector on top of the EIB sits does not sit in line with the Stereotaxic grips. To align the Connector to the line of sight of the animal or

perpendicular to the line of sight of the animal an offset of 60 degrees from the stereotaxic grips for the EIB-18 and EIB-16-QC or 36 degrees for the EIB-18-MM should be accounted for. This is illustrated in Figure 3.4 and Figure 4.1.

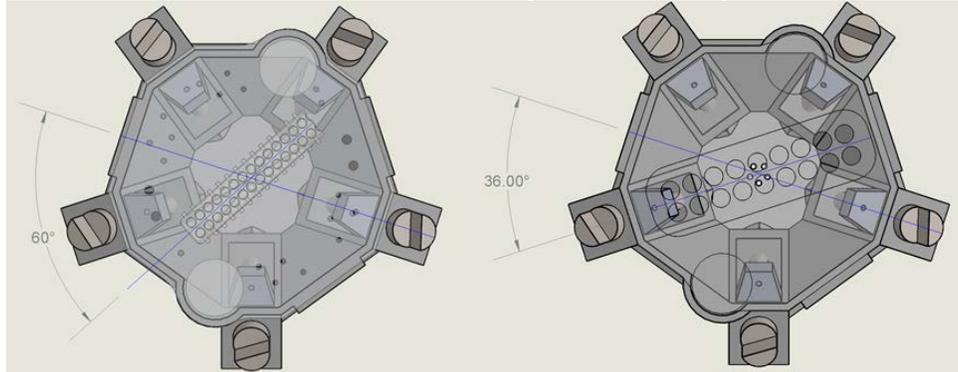


Figure 3.5 EIB connector reference locations

3.3 Inserting Polymicro Tubing

This microdrive utilizes Polymicro tubing to reinforce, guide, and protect tetrodes as they are driven into neural tissue. First, Polymicro tubing is inserted into the Microdrive. Then, tetrodes will be threaded through the Polymicro tubing. The components of the drive are aligned as follows: the Polymicro is fixed to the shuttles using epoxy; the Polymicro then passes through the Exit Tip. Prior to assembling the Microdrive, prep the Polymicro Tubing by cleaving the necessary number of strands to a length of ~1.5”.

First, insert Polymicro tubing into the drive through the base of the Exit Tip. Next, thread the Polymicro tubing through mounting hole of the Shuttle. Repeat this process for all the desired shuttles. After mounting all of the desired Shuttles, adjust the length of the Polymicro until it sits flush with the base of the Exit Tip. Also adjust all of the shuttles down four turns so they are 1 mm off the top of their travel. Next, fix the Polymicro tubing in place by placing epoxy on the Shuttle and Polymicro interface. After the epoxy has cured, trim the Polymicro to the design length above the Shuttle. These steps are illustrated in Figure 3.5.

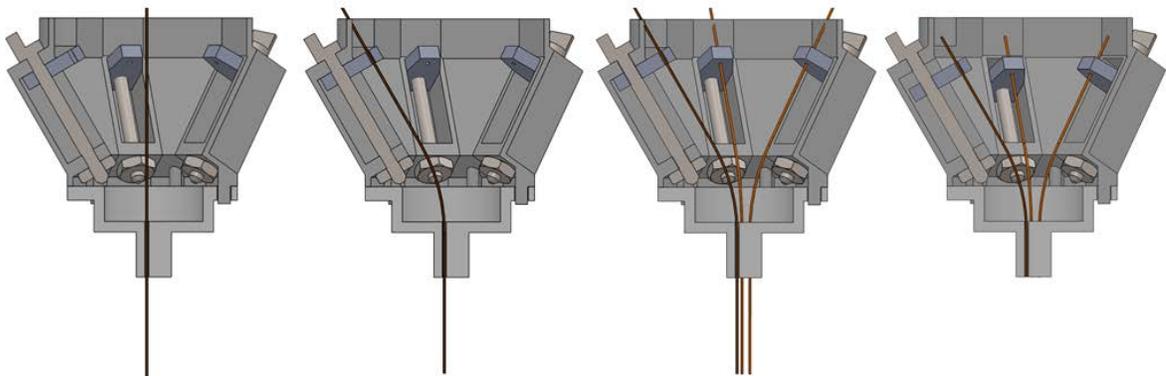


Figure 3.6 Mounting Polymicro into the Halo-5

3.4 Loading and Prepping Tetrodes

There are many different techniques for making tetrodes. Neuralynx's Assembly Station Manual will guide you through some of those processes.

Prior to loading the drive, the tetrodes need to be prepped. Start by separating the four wires (**Figure 3.7**). First, cut the loop at the top. Pull the two sets of wires down gently until you feel a little resistance, and then give a sharp tug to both sides to keep them separated. Do the same with each set of two wires. If the ends aren't accessible at first, hold the wires a little below the end and twirl the ends between your fingers sharply until the ends separate enough for you to grab them. Separate and tug to hold as below, using the tetrode tweezers if necessary. If the four wires are of different lengths, or the ends are curly, cut them down until they are all about the same length from the intersection point (where the polyimide coating has stuck them all together from the heat gun).

It's not critical that the tetrodes be any particular length, only that they are all close in length to each other. No single wire should be too long or short when fed into the Polymicro. Successful prepping will result with enough straight tetrodes at each end to push through the Polymicro and out the Exit Tip, and enough play to span the four separate holes for each wire of the tetrode in the Headstage as well as the gap between the EIB and microdrive on to the Assembly Jig.

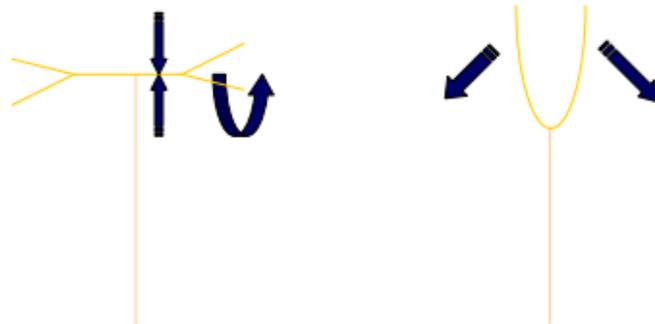


Figure 3.7 Tetrode Tip Separating

To insert the tetrodes into the microdrive, first return the shuttles to the top of their travel. Next, mount the assembled microdrive onto the Assembly Jig. Then select the proper EIB mounting fixture on the other side of the Assembly Jig. The EIB-18 and EIB-16-QC use magnets to hold the EIB in place for tetrode pinning while the EIB-18MM uses a mechanical grip. Thread the prepped tetrodes through the Polymicro tubing until they are flush with the base of the Exit Tip: ~1mm of tetrode extends past the end of the Polymicro. Fasten the tetrode in place using the same process as the Polymicro. Next, thread the individual electrode wires through the appropriate location on the EIB. On the side opposite of the microdrive, fold a piece of tape over itself with the wire in the center to prevent the wire from pulling back through and to add some gravitational force to keep the wire taut. Repeat this process for all desired tetrodes.

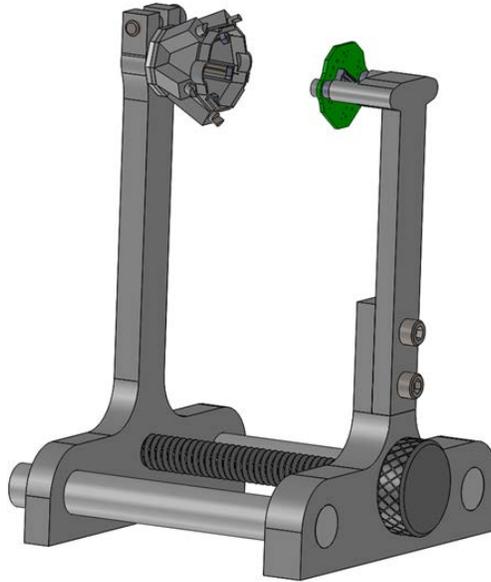


Figure 3.8 Microdrive and EIB mounted in Assembly Jig

3.5 Pinning Tetrodes

Lower all shuttles to the lowest possible position. Move the Assembly Jig so the EIB is sitting flush to the top of the assembled microdrive. Paint on Cyanoacrylate onto the seam between the EIB and Drive Body same as for Exit Tip to Drive Body. Pull each tetrode to remove slack and then pin them in place. Return the shuttles to the top of their travel.

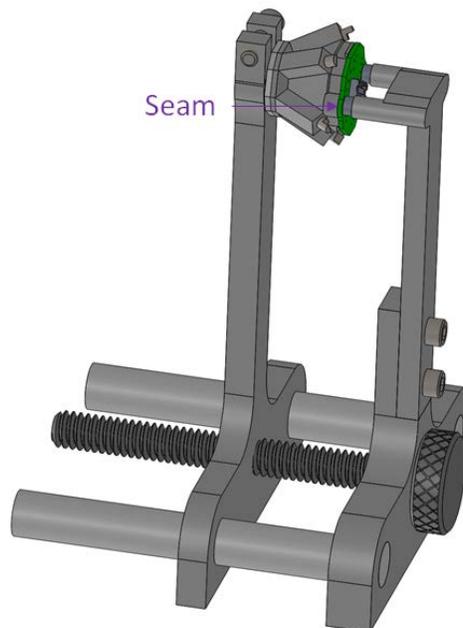


Figure 3.9 Pinned and Fully Assembled Microdrive

4 Implanting the Microdrive

4.1 Stereotaxic Mount

A Stereotaxic Mount (purchased from Neuralynx) is used to hold the microdrive during surgery. The Stereotaxic Mount holds the microdrive at the top by way of mounting shelves. The rotation of the clamp can be fixed to the 0.310" stereotaxic rod using a knurled thumb screw. The microdrive is held firmly in place using the clamp adjust knurled thumb screw. The clamp closes as the screw is progressed forward. After the microdrive has been implanted, the clamp is loosened and removed from the microdrive.

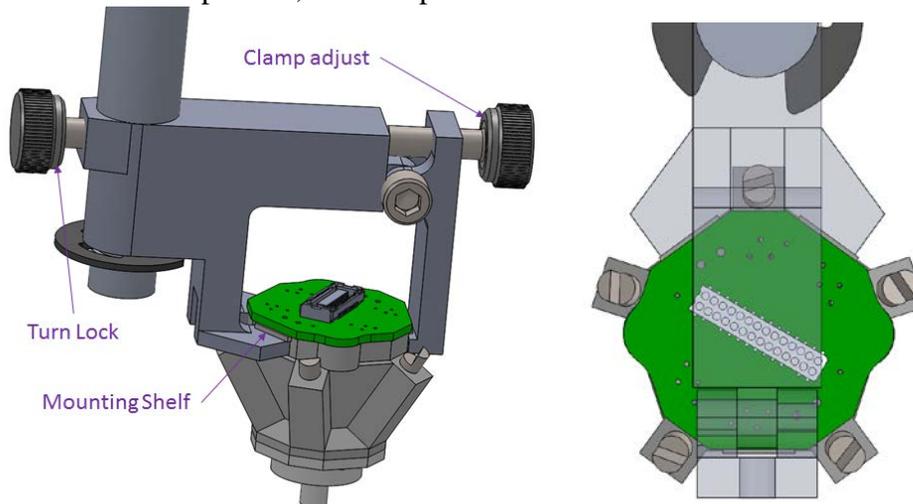


Figure 4.1 Stereotaxic Mount

4.2 Craniotomy

The Exit Tip is designed to be as biocompatible as possible by minimizing craniotomy size. Kwik-seal is intended to seal the exposed area of the craniotomy and the Exit Tip which will then be affixed using Dental Cement. It is recommended to affix bone screws for grounding in a location which will be covered by dental cement to protect the grounding wires from breaking.

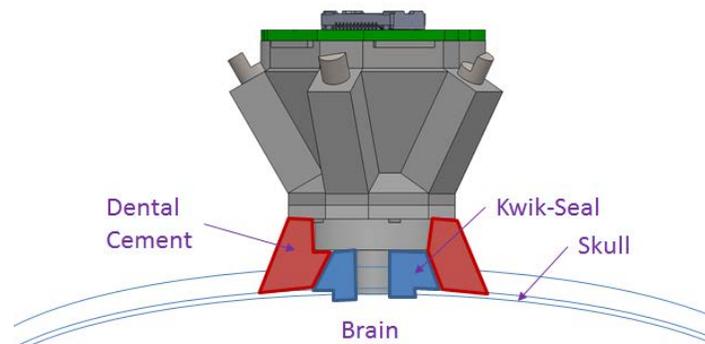


Figure 4.2 Craniotomy

5 Protective Cap

A Protective Cap designed for the Omnetics connector can be purchased from Neuralynx and used to protect the sockets of the connector while not being used for recording. The Cap utilizes the QuickClip aligning magnetics to align the Protective Cap and then clips add additional retention. To apply the Protective cap, allow the magnets to self-align to the proper polarity on the EIB. Next, press down on the cap until the clips slide below the mounting shelf on the Drive Body. To remove the Protective Cap, place perpendicular pressure on the clips to clear the mounting shelf while pulling up on the cap.

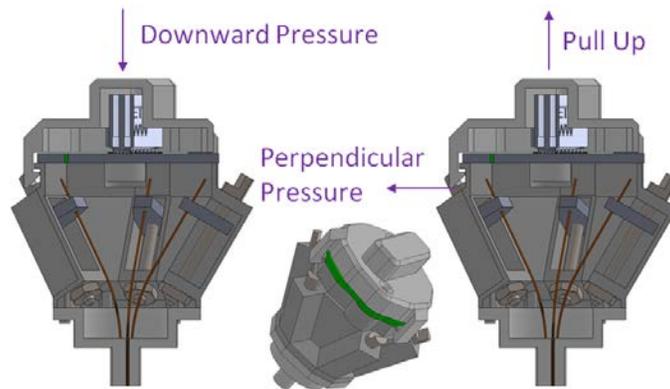


Figure 5.1 Halo-5 Microdrive Protective Cap

6 Custom Exit Tip

The Halo-5 Microdrive can be modified at the Exit Tip to accommodate a wide range of large scale electrophysiology studies. Contact Neuralynx Sales for more information.

7 Optogenetics

The Halo-5 Microdrive is compatible with the Fiber Mounted LED (FLED) Optogenetic system. For more information read the FLED User Manual or contact Neuralynx Sales and Support.

8 Glossary

EIB – Electrode Interface Board.

O.D. – Outer Diameter

I.D. – Inner Diameter

Polymicro tubing – Silica Capillary

Polyimide tubing – Polymer based tubing

Ultem – A biocompatible plastic

Cyanoacrylate – Super Glue

Tetrode – Four microwires twisted together for improved resolution in electrophysiological recordings

Pitch – The distance along the axis that is covered by one complete rotation

9 Vendor List

- McMaster-Carr
 - Loctite 242
 - epoxy
 - X-ACTO blades

- THORLABS
 - fiber

- Molex Electronic Solutions
 - Polymicro tubing - TSP100170

- World Precision Instruments
 - Kwik-cast

10 Neuralynx Contact

To purchase Microdrive, Microdrive accessories, Microdrive replacement parts, or to learn more about the Halo-5 Microdrive contact Sales@Neuralynx.com. For assistance in construction or implementation of Halo-5 Microdrive contact support@neuralynx.com.

