WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electroblotting cassette comprising a lower electrode plate, an upper electrode plate, a base to support said lower and upper electrode plates, manually releasable securing means for securing said upper electrode plate to said base over said lower electrode plate, and spacing means for allowing a user to select among a plurality of heights of said lower electrode plate within said base by placing said lower electrode plate in different rotational orientations relative to said base.

2. The electroblotting cassette of claim 1 wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate positioned such that said finger lugs are capable of being grasped by a thumb and forefinger, respectively, of a single hand of a user.

3. The electroblotting cassette of claim 1 wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall, and said manually releasable securing means comprise (i) a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said non-conducting support plate and extending from said support plate in opposite directions, and (ii) a pair of slots in said peripheral wall of said base aligned with said tabs when said upper electrode plate is placed within said peripheral wall.

4. The electroblotting cassette of claim 1 wherein:

(a) said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of resilient strips joined to said support plate at opposing parallel sides of said support plate, each strip having a tab extending outward from said support plate and a finger lug for bending said strip and thereby displacing said tab, and

(b) said base has a raised peripheral wall and slots in said peripheral wall aligned with said tabs when said upper electrode plate is placed within said peripheral wall.

5. The electroblotting cassette of claim 1 wherein:

(a) said base has a floor and said lower electrode plate has an undersurface, and

(b) said spacing means comprise an array of flat-surfaced base-mounted projections extending upward from said floor of said base and a corresponding array of flat-surfaced plate-mounted projections extending downward from said undersurface of said lower electrode plate, said base-mounted projections and said plate-mounted projections arranged such that said base-mounted projections abut said plate-mounted projections when said lower electrode plate is positioned over said base in a first rotational orientation relative to said base and said base-mounted projections are offset from said plate-mounted projections when said lower electrode plate is positioned over said base in a second rotational orientation relative to said base.

6. The electroblotting cassette of claim **5** wherein said base and said lower electrode plate are rectangular, said spacing means comprise four said base-mounted projections and four said plate-mounted projections, and said first rotational orientation and said second rotation orientation being 180 degrees apart.

7. The electroblotting cassette of claim **5** wherein said base and said lower electrode plate are rectangular, and said base further comprises guides projecting from said floor to center said lower electrode plate over said base and to restrict said lower electrode plate to either two or four rotational orientations relative to said base.

8. The electroblotting cassette of claim 7 wherein said guides restrict said lower electrode plate to two rotational orientations 180 degrees apart.

9. A method for transferring electrophoretically separated species from a gel to a membrane, said method comprising:

(a) placing a lower electrode plate at a selected height above a base by selecting a rotational orientation of said lower electrode plate relative to said base that corresponds to said selected height, said lower electrode plate and said base together having spacing means that vary said height according to said rotational orientation,

(b) placing said gel and said membrane over said lower electrode plate,

(c) placing an upper electrode plate over said gel and said membrane while securing said upper electrode plate at a fixed height above said base by manually releasable securing means securing said upper electrode plate to said base, and

(d) imposing a voltage between said lower electrode plate and said upper electrode plate to cause electroblotting of said species from said gel to said membrane.

10. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate, and step (c) comprises grasping said finger lugs by a thumb and forefinger, respectively, of a single hand of a user, and releasing said finger lugs once said upper electrode plate is in position.

11. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall with slots therein on opposing sides of said base, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said non-conducting support plate and extending from said support plate in opposite directions to engage said slots, and step (c) comprises retracting said tabs to insert said upper electrode plate within said peripheral wall, and releasing said tabs to cause said tabs to engage said slots once said upper electrode plate is so inserted.

12. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall with slots therein, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate and a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said support plate and extending from said support plate to engage said slots, and step (c) comprises retracting said tabs by compressing said finger lugs to insert said upper electrode plate within said peripheral wall, and releasing said finger lugs to cause said tabs to engage said slots once said upper electrode plate is so inserted.

What is claimed is:

1. An electroblotting cassette comprising a lower electrode plate, an upper electrode plate, a base to support said lower and upper electrode plates, manually releasable securing means for securing said upper electrode plate to said base over said lower electrode plate, and spacing means for allowing a user to select among a plurality of heights of said lower electrode plate within said base by placing said lower electrode plate in different rotational orientations relative to said base.

2. The electroblotting cassette of claim **1** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate positioned such that said finger lugs are capable of being grasped by a thumb and forefinger, respectively, of a single hand of a user.

3. The electroblotting cassette of claim **1** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall, and said manually releasable securing means comprise (i) a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said non-conducting support plate and extending from said support plate in opposite directions, and (ii) a pair of slots in said peripheral wall of said base aligned with said tabs when said upper electrode plate is placed within said peripheral wall.

4. The electroblotting cassette of claim **1** wherein:

(a) said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of resilient strips joined to said support plate at opposing parallel sides of said support plate, each strip having a tab extending outward from said support plate and a finger lug for bending said strip and thereby displacing said tab, and

(b) said base has a raised peripheral wall and slots in said peripheral wall aligned with said tabs when said upper electrode plate is placed within said peripheral wall.

5. The electroblotting cassette of claim **1** wherein:

(a) said base has a floor and said lower electrode plate has an undersurface, and

(b) said spacing means comprise an array of flat-surfaced base-mounted projections extending upward from said floor of said base and a corresponding array of flat-surfaced plate-mounted projections extending downward from said undersurface of said lower electrode plate, said base-mounted projections and said plate-mounted projections arranged such that said base-mounted projections abut said plate-mounted projections when said lower electrode plate is positioned over said base in a first rotational orientation relative to said base and said base-mounted projections are offset from said plate-mounted projections when said lower electrode plate is positioned over said base in a second rotational orientation relative to said base.

6. The electroblotting cassette of claim **5** wherein said base and said lower electrode plate are rectangular, said spacing means comprise four said base-mounted projections and four said plate-mounted projections, and said first rotational orientation and said second rotation orientation being 180 degrees apart.

7. The electroblotting cassette of claim **5** wherein said base and said lower electrode plate are rectangular, and said base further comprises guides projecting from said floor to center said lower electrode plate over said base and to restrict said lower electrode plate to either two or four rotational orientations relative to said base.

8. The electroblotting cassette of claim **7** wherein said guides restrict said lower electrode plate to two rotational orientations 180 degrees apart.

9. A method for transferring electrophoretically separated species from a gel to a membrane, said method comprising:

(a) placing a lower electrode plate at a selected height above a base by selecting a rotational orientation of said lower electrode plate relative to said base that corresponds to said selected height, said lower electrode plate and said base together having spacing means that vary said height according to said rotational orientation,

(b) placing said gel and said membrane over said lower electrode plate,

(c) placing an upper electrode plate over said gel and said membrane while securing said upper electrode plate at a fixed height above said base by manually releasable securing means securing said upper electrode plate to said base, and

(d) imposing a voltage between said lower electrode plate and said upper electrode plate to cause electroblotting of said species from said gel to said membrane.

10. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate, and step (c) comprises grasping said finger lugs

by a thumb and forefinger, respectively, of a single hand of a user, and releasing said finger lugs once said upper electrode plate is in position.

11. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall with slots therein on opposing sides of said base, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said non-conducting support plate and extending from said support plate in opposite directions to engage said slots, and step (c) comprises retracting said tabs to insert said upper electrode plate within said peripheral wall, and releasing said tabs to cause said tabs to engage said slots once said upper electrode plate is so inserted.

12. The method of claim **9** wherein said upper electrode plate is comprised of a plate electrode mounted to an electrically non-conducting support plate, said base has a raised peripheral wall with slots therein, and said manually releasable securing means comprise a pair of finger lugs on said support plate and a pair of tabs resiliently mounted to said support plate and extending from said support plate to engage said slots, and step (c) comprises retracting said tabs by compressing said finger lugs to insert said upper electrode plate within said peripheral wall, and releasing said finger lugs to cause said tabs to engage said slots once said upper electrode plate is so inserted.