

Table Top Model: Photos and Descriptions



Start with a 20 gallon aquarium



Construct the ecosystem by adding four different wood/chip eco zones which will be located in and/or above the water level in the aquarium, as follows.



Ecoreactor1, Photo 1: This shows the construction of the E1 ecoreactor. It will be at the bottom right of the aquarium and will contain sticks that are arranged so that small fish and large invertebrates can move around them and eat whatever is growing on the sticks or is attached to them. It is comprised of two small baskets made from 2 inch by 3 inch coated wire fencing material. The smaller basket on the left is 3 inches tall and the larger basket on the right is 6 inches tall.



Ecoreactor1, Photo 2: Shows how the two baskets shown in E1 1 are nested together to provide a support structure for small sticks.



Ecoreactor1, Photo 3: Shows the location of E1 in the 20 gallon fish tank.



Ecoreactor1, Photo 4: Shows a side view of E1 with small sticks inserted into it.



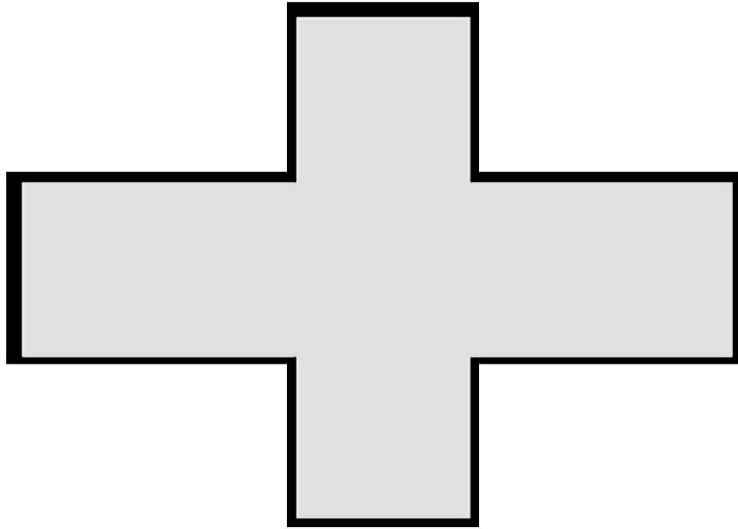
Ecoreactor1, Photo 5: Shows a top view of the E1 zone with small sticks inserted into it.



Ecoreactor 2, Photo 1: This is the E2 ecoreactor sitting just in front of the 20 gallon aquarium. It comprises a basket made from a one centimeter plastic hardware cloth. In the aquarium it will usually be located just above E1 and some sticks protruding out of E1 will touch the bottom of E2.



Ecoreactor 2, Photo 2: Shows a top view of E2. To construct this basket take a sheet of one centimeter plastic hardware cloth and cut out a section as per the following diagram.



If your 20 gallon aquarium is 11 inches wide cut the plastic hardware cloth so that there is a 38 inch horizontal dimension that is 10 inches wide and a 28 inch vertical dimension that is also 10 inches wide. Fold the sides up so that there is a basket with a 10 inch square bottom. Lace the sides with monofilament or plastic string so that the basket is six inches deep. This leaves non stitched sides that can be folded down. The 8 inches left on the long side will fold over the sides of the aquarium and the 3 inches left on the short side can be attached to the E3 or E4 ecoreactors placed above E2. Ecoreactor Photos 3 and 4 show the placement of E2 in the aquarium from a side and top view.



Ecoreactor 2, Photo 3:



Ecoreactor 2, Photo 4:



Ecoreactor 3, Photos 1, 2, 3: This shows three side views of E3, a large ecoreactor that will usually sit above the taquarium and on top of E2.



Ecoreactor 3, Photo 4: Shows a side view of E3.



Ecoreactor 3, Photo 5: Shows a bottom view of E3.



Ecoreactor 4, Photos 1 and 2: Shows a side and bottom view of E4. E4 differs from E3 in that all the sides of the ecoreactor are stitched with plastic string. In E3 most of the sides and bottom were stabilized to a wood frame. Either version works. The two variations were shown here for illustration purposes.



Ecoreactor 4, Photo 3: Shows a top view of E4.

The following four photos, Photos 1, 2, 3, and 4, show how the ecoreactors are placed in the 20 gallon aquarium.



Photo 1: Shows a side view of the relative placement of E1 and E2.



Photo 2: Shows a side view of the relative placement of E1 and E2 with sticks added to E1 that touch E2. This is to facilitate snail movement between the two ecoreactors.



Photo 3: Shows the placement of all four ecoreactors in the 20 gallon aquarium. Here a larger E3 is placed above E2.



Photo 4: Shows an alternative placement of the four ecoreactors in the 20 gallon aquarium where a smaller E4 is placed above E2.