

**Please read all instructions before you start assembly.**

Updates will be posted at: [www.alienaquariums.com/instructions.htm](http://www.alienaquariums.com/instructions.htm)

Unpack carefully and gently.

DO NOT use a KNIFE or RAZOR while unpacking; it will scratch the aquarium.

Use ONLY plastic cleaner or polish on the acrylic/plastic items!

Use only 100% cotton towels or cloths to clean acrylic.

Use glass cleaner on the glass top, not on the acrylic parts.

(More information is found in maintenance section at end)

### Assembly Steps

1. Unpack all items and remove any protective coverings.
2. Place the base on floor in desired location for aquarium. This must be a level and stable floor. There is an opening in the base for access to the lights and power cord (extension cord). Place the base with the opening towards the direction you will run the power cord. The base can be flipped to have either side down.
3. Place the clear tank section on the center of the base. Make sure the notch at the top of the tank is on the same side as the opening in the base. The filter power cord will come out through the notch and down into the base opening. Be sure that the tabs on the bottom of the tank fit either inside or outside of the base. These tabs keep the tank from sliding off of the base.
4. Test the light in a nearby power outlet. New lights may take over a minute to start. If the bulb does not light with the switch in either position, remove the cover and check the bulb. Sometimes the bulb will loosen during shipment or is shipped with the bulb not in place. Once the light is on, do not turn off the switch. Unplug the light from the outlet.
5. Place the light (or lights) under the tank through the opening in the base. The side with the power cord should be closest to the opening in the base. The light bulb should face up toward the tank. If your aquarium has more than one light fixture place them to get even lighting.
6. If the filter has charcoal you must rinse it before using it. If the filter supplied is a Dive Clean 125, it will be too tall if assembled by the instructions supplied by the filter manufacturer. Instead of two floss cartridges (type B in the Dive Clean instructions), use only one. This will make it into a Dive Clean 85 II (as shown in the filter instructions). Keep the second floss as a spare. Do not connect the airline tube. This tube will cause a lot of air bubbles to be injected into the water that will quickly dirty the bottom of the glass top. Making these changes will not hurt the fish.
7. Place the filter inside the tank near the notch at the top of the clear acrylic tank. The filter should be touching the bottom of tank.

8. Plug the filter and light (or lights) into an extension cord. Do not plug the extension cord into the power supply (such as wall outlet) yet. The extension cord will be plugged in after the water is added.
9. Neatly bundle the cord from the filter and light and place under the tank through the hole in the base. Since there is no gravel in the tank yet, you can see through the tank to help position the cord bundles next to the light. The end of the extension cord that has the filter and light plugged into it is now placed under the tank. This will result in two cords coming out of the hole in the base: the extension cord and the filter cord.
10. Now the tank is ready for the glass gravel. Because this is glass gravel, some pieces may be broken during shipping. You can remove these pieces if you wish. Use care when removing these pieces (and handling the gravel in general) to avoid cutting your fingers. We recommend that you rinse the gravel before putting it in the tank. This can be done in a sink, tub, or plastic bucket. This is a rinse so do not use soap.
11. Make sure the tank is still correctly positioned on the center of the base.
12. Place the gravel (it can still be wet) gently into the tank. Quickly pouring the gravel in may cause scratches to the tank and break glass gravel.
13. We are about to add water, so you may want to have some towels on the floor and a few other towels nearby to dry your hands. Be sure that the extension cord is not plugged into the power supply (wall outlet). **NEVER WORK INSIDE A WET AQUARIUM WITH POWER CONNECTED!** Some locations cannot use the local water for aquariums. Check with your local pet store if you can use tap water and if any chemicals should be added.
14. Add water to the tank. Water should be added to make the water level to about 3 inches below the openings at the top of the tank. Additional water will be added after the aquarium is decorated.
15. Level off the gravel and add plastic plants. Bury the base of the plants below the gravel to make them look good (except for plants that are meant to float).
16. Add water to bring the water level to about 1 inch below the openings at the top of the tank.
17. Plug the extension cord into the power supply (wall outlet). The light and filter should come on. After a few minutes of the filter running you can fix any plants that may have been moved out of position from the moving water (unplug the extension cord when working inside tank). You can move the gravel around to make the underneath lighting even.
18. Add or close the cover (door) on the base.
19. Dry off the outside of the tank to prevent water spot marks. Never use paper towels on the plastic (acrylic) tank. Use only 100% cotton towels or rags. Paper towels, dirty or oily towels will scratch or damage the tank.

20. Place the glass top on top of the tank. One person may be able to do this, but we recommend two people do this. The top may be cleaned with window cleaner, but be sure not to get this on or in the acrylic tank.
21. Let the tank run for at least 72 hours before adding fish or any livestock (such as plants, snails, etc.). This time will allow the water to equal room temperature and the filter time to clean the water of debris or clouding.

You should be ready to go!

### **Maintenance and Frequently Asked Questions**

Updates will be posted at [www.alienaquariums.com](http://www.alienaquariums.com) in the FAQ section

What's special about this tank and equipment? You can treat this aquarium as any other traditional aquarium; it's only shaped different. Regular aquarium rules still apply. The filter, lights, and other hardware are usually standard pet store or hardware store items.

Can I add a heater? If the water is warmer than the air in the room, the glass top will fog up. Because of this we recommend no heater. Most freshwater tropical fish and goldfish will be fine in room temperature. Check with the local store you are buying your fish from. Let them know you will not be using a heater when selecting your fish.

The filter floss or foam cartridge should be changed or cleaned when dirty. Some people rinse and/or boil them a few times before they replace them. However you don't always want to clean them too good because of helpful bacteria they contain. Check with your local pet store if you are unsure. You can purchase new foam or floss from many local pet stores, or contact us (contact information after this section).

Do not overfeed fish. The uneaten food will cause water to cloud and gravel to get dirty.

Use a high quality food; cheap flake food has a lot of filler that the fish won't eat. This filler goes in the filter or the gravel.

When gravel looks dirty, you will need to clean tank. You may use a gravel cleaner (available from pet stores) but that may not completely clean the gravel.

Add water to make up for evaporation. Usually once a month, but higher temperature and lower humidity can make it every two weeks. Water should be aged (let sitting in a bucket or gallon jug) for 24 hours before adding to aquarium. Some areas of the country cannot use tap water (check with your local pet shop on your area's water).

Water changes are recommended, but how often is variable. Depending on the type of fish, how many fish, and who you listen to will change how often. Check with the store you bought your fish from. At the very least, once every 2 months remove 5 gallons of water and add 5 gallons of aged water. Some people do this once a week.

At least once a year drain all the water and completely clean the tank. Use ONLY Acrylic cleaner/polish and 100% cotton towels or cloths. Acrylic cleaner and polish is often found in the bathroom section of home supply stores or hardware stores. It is also available from the aquarium manufacturer.

Clean the glass top when dirty. Not only will the top get dirty (from cups, glasses, and handprints, but the bottom will get splashes from the filter, fish, and bubbles. The best way to clean the glass is to clean the top surface, then flip the glass over. Then clean the new top surface. Any glass cleaner is fine.

What's aged water? This is tap water that has been allowed to air out for at least 24 hours. This can be in a pail, bucket, or gallon jug. However, some areas of the country (and the world) have tap water that cannot be used for live fish. Drinking water needs to be used instead of tap water. If you don't know what to do your best source of information is a local pet shop.

### **Warranty**

Material and workmanship of the aquarium for one year from purchase date. This does not cover scratches or breakage from improper care or handling. Other items (such as filters, pumps, lights, extension cord, artificial plants, decorations, etc.) have their respected manufacture's warranty. Light bulbs (if included) are not covered and are included only as a courtesy on some of our products.

### **How to contact us**

If you want to buy another aquarium, or parts for this unit, please contact the company or reseller from which you bought it. If you have technical questions, shipping damage, warranty issues, or cannot reach whom you originally purchased from, contact us at:

Aquamazing Designs, Inc., 266 Park Av., Lake Villa, IL 60046  
www.alienaquariums.com ~ cs@alienaquariums.com  
(800) 564-5044 or see our web page for contact information.

*Aquamazing sells Alien Aquariums and other products through dealers and other resellers. Always try to contact them first for reorders. If you cannot contact the original person or reseller that you bought this product from contact us. We will be happy to give you the information of a dealer in your area that sells our products. We will make sure you can purchase any of our products, replacement parts, and other supplies.*

See our web page [www.alienaquariums.com](http://www.alienaquariums.com) for more information.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please e-mail us: [cs@alienaquariums.com](mailto:cs@alienaquariums.com).