



Discus Aquariums for First-Time Aquarium Owners

A very easy and straightforward way of keeping discus fish is to keep a group of 10 or more small (6.5 to 10 cm / 2,5 to 4 ") discus fish in a standard aquarium, 1 metre / 39,5" in length. This aquarium size is ideal for rearing juvenile fish. The simplest method for successfully maintaining a discus aquarium is to refrain from keeping companion fish and live plants (risk of contaminations). Ideally, the fish should be moved to a larger aquarium after some time, when they have reached a certain size.

(LINK 2.1 Aquarium Size – Stocking Density)

Aquarium equipment should include:

1. lighting
2. 2 filters (e.g. foam block filters, or a so-called "Hamburg Mat Filter")
3. 1 immersion heater (heating rod)
4. 1 nightlight
5. 1 diaphragm pump (for oxygen supply)
6. timer clock to regulate lighting
7. thermometer
8. liquid drop test kit/ indicator kit (nitrite, pH)

Many specialist pet shops also offer affordable all-inclusive aquarium sets.

(See also LINK: Aquarium Equipment, Filters and Decorating Tips)

(See also location, Aquarium Preparation, Running in Filters)

Feel free to also add some substrate (sand) and/ or artificial plant life. Be sure to soak, rinse and wash out all decorative fixtures and accessories thoroughly, before placing them in your aquarium. Make sure not to use any sharp objects. Roots should be abraded prior to use and any sharp edges must be removed, so as to prevent injuries to your discus fish.

To decorate your aquarium, you can purchase high-quality artificial plants in many retail stores nowadays, which you can hardly tell from real plants. (Should you decide to use real, live plants, it would be best to also use CO₂ equipment.)

9. For information on how to prepare a suitable water chemistry and on putting your aquarium into operation, please see: [LINK: Running in Filters](#)
These preparations usually take approx. 2 – 4 weeks.
10. Helpful information regarding water changes [LINK: Water changes.](#)
11. Feed and feeding information for discus fish [LINK: Feed Dosage Instructions](#)
12. Much more you can find under: [LINK: Basic Information,](#)



Finally, we recommend that you use a piece of filter foam (coarse) to clean your aquarium glass panes, especially if your aquarium has curved walls. This avoids unsightly scratches on the front glass pane, which can result from using a razor blade scraper. Buckets and aquarium equipment should be entirely free of traces of soap or other cleaners and should ideally only be used for your aquarium.

Also be sure to thoroughly clean your hands of any traces of soap, moisturiser or lotion before reaching into the aquarium's water! Before handling fish, please also remember to moisten your hands with water!