

Creative Document



1 Here we set up the substrate in 90cm tank. First, spread Bacter 100, POWER SAND SPECIAL M. Then Aqua Soil-Amazonia on top of it. Make slope and spread Aqua Soil-Amazonia Powder thinly. After that, flatten evenly whole layer.



5 Next, pour water till top of front substrate. At this time, spread water, like sprinkler. It is good to turn on the water a bit and move the end of hose. Planting should start from around driftwood.



2 Here Old Black Wood is used. If it is open aquarium, you can use a driftwood coming out from the aquarium tank, but if not, choose fit size in a tank. Even with a small size driftwood, you can make an illusion looking like a big driftwood by combining several pieces of driftwood.



6 Plant Cryptocoryne around driftwood at mid-ground. For plants like Cryptocoryne, Pro Pinsette Grip Type is best one for planting easily.



3 Place two more pieces and make basic frame of layout. Make sure there is enough planting space left even after placement of driftwood.



7 Plant Lilaepsis novaezealandiae in the foreground. Remove from pot and cut into proper size. As Lilaepsis sp. grows slowly, it needs to be planted with high density.



4 Make the substrate wet by atomizer. Powder type on the surface of substrate tends to float, therefore it is necessary to let them absorb water in advance.



8 Add water till background substrate soaking for planting easily. For background, we plant several species of the stemmed plants. For planting stemmed plants with right balance, we put bamboo sticks into the substrate for marking the location.

Creative Document driftwood

Driftwood is the layout material most often used after stone in Nature Aquarium. Basically a few pieces of driftwood is combined and used as a backbone of the layout. Sometimes only one piece of driftwood is used in a tank, but even if it looks like a single piece of driftwood is used, there are many cases several pieces of driftwood are combined in reality. It is normal there is good part and not so nice part in a single piece of driftwood. By

combining some pieces of driftwood, it can cover weak point of the driftwood. The most important point for combining driftwood is to choose same color and feeling of driftwood. It makes uncomfortable feeling if it is used different color and feeling of driftwood, even driftwood is collected from same area or same sort of driftwood is used. Keep in mind above point when selecting the driftwood.



9 For the background plants, basically planting should start from front to the back. First, plant relatively small *Micranthemum micranthemoides* carefully by Pinsettes.



13 Plant *Eleocharis vivipara* in aftermost of the background. This plant, in a combination with other aquatic plants, has an effect to soften the whole impression of the layout like a veil.



10 Then, Plant *Micranthemum unbrosum* behind *Micranthemum micranthemoides*. If planting a couple of roots together, you can plant them with high density.



14 Plant *Microsorium sp.* "Narrow" at the joint part of the combined driftwood. It creates a sense of unity to the driftwood when *Microsorium sp.* takes roots.



11 Plant some species of red stemmed plant in the center of background. By planting the stemmed plants with high density, those stemmed will form a beautiful bush.



15 Finally, fix *Bolbitis heudelotii* with Wood Tight, to some points, where driftwood is twisting, considering the total balance of the layout.



12 Plant *Rotala sp.* "Green" at right side in background. Now, both sides in background are planted with green stemmed plants and red stem plants at center.



16 After completion of the planting, fill the aquarium tank with water. In this process, water may get cloudy, due to the soil particles. In such a case, replace the water completely before starting the filter. It is advisable to start the filter after the water gets clear enough.



17 After one week

After one week of planting, water plants starts growing well. Stem plants start to burgeon and *Cryptocoryne* starts spreading small submerge leaves. In this period, we advise to supply liquid fertilizer for suppliment micro element and potassium so that the plants forms healthy burgeon and submerge leaf.



18 After two weeks

In this period, old leaves of *Lilaeopsis* sp., having turned its color into yellow, or wilted *Cryptocoryne* emerge leaf tends to appear. Old *lilaeopsis* leaf should be cut off from its root, and wilted *Cryptocoryne* leaf siphoned out with a thin hose. We released *Otocinclus* sp. and *Caridina japonica* as brown diatom algae appeared.



19 After three weeks (before trimming)

Eleocharis vivipara and fast growing stem plants reach to water surface after three weeks of planting. The family of *Micranthemum* sp. doesn't grow well if total hardness (TH) is too low. Therefore we changed 1/3 water almost everyday in this 3 weeks and keep TH in the tank. Nevertheless, it seems *Micranthemum micranthemoides* grows slowly.



20 After three weeks (after trimming)

In the first pruning of the stem plant, you should cut the stem from its low position, and following pruning must be made with a bit higher position, in order to make up a beautiful thicket of the stem plants. At the same time, slow growing plants should be pruned at the same height, so that all the stem plants grow at same speed. Also, remove new stump of *Eleocharis vivipara*.



21 After two months (before trimming)

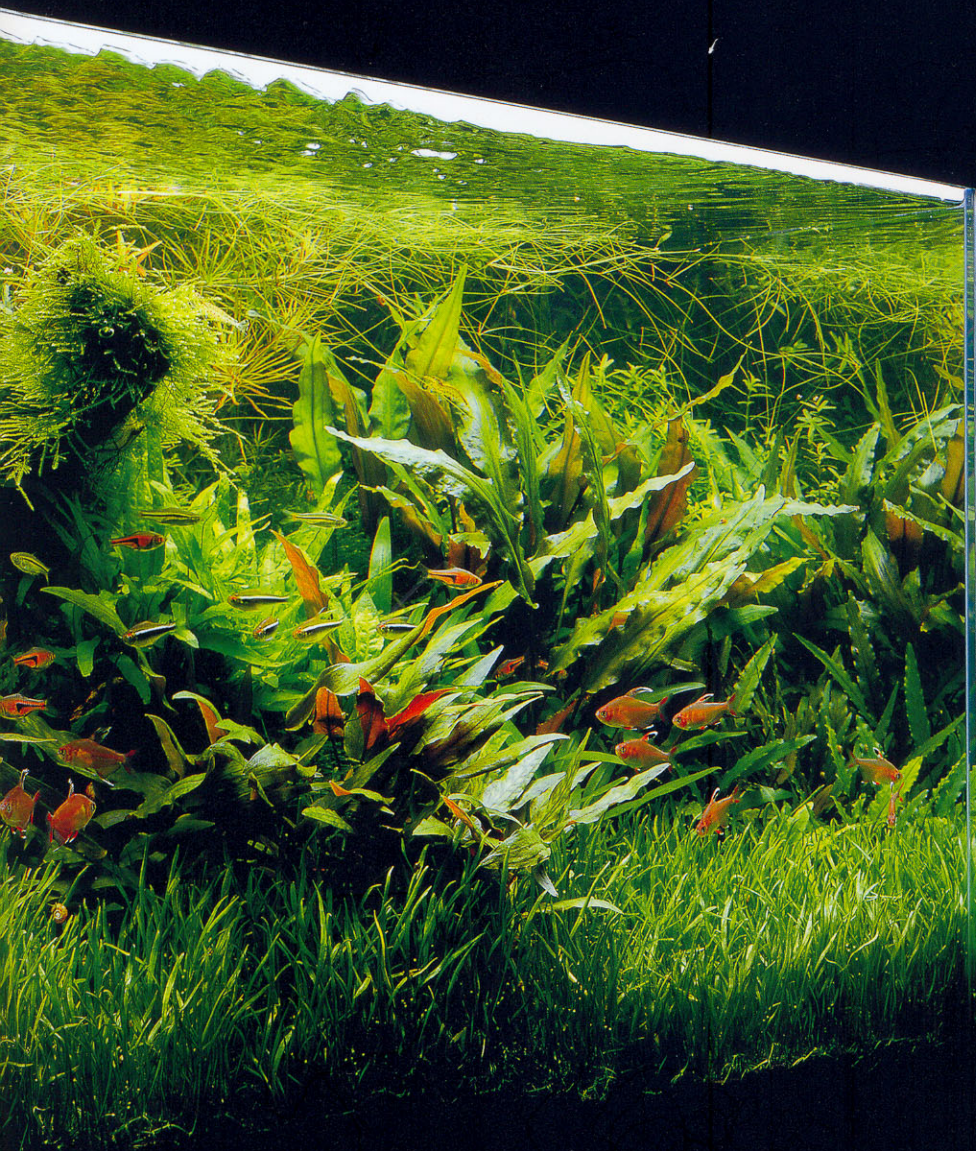
Submerge leaf of *Cryptocoryne* grows well and the scenery becomes impressive after two months. Fishes are already released in the tank. By releasing the fish in the aquarium, water plants can grow well. From this reason we advise to release the fish around one month after planting. Around this time, density of stem plants' leaves get high and the total impression gets closer to the finished form.



22 After two months (after trimming)

For the aquarium layout with the stem plants in the background, it is necessary to make a pruning with a regular interval, in order to maintain the layout for a long time. When making a pruning, it is advisable to use the upper driftwood lines as a guideline, in order to make a pruning with a right balance. Of course, this guideline is based on the premise that driftwood combination and middle ground planting is completed perfectly.





Nature Aquarium Gallery 07

The stem plants show their most beautiful form when their terminal bud reaches to top of the water. However, like this layout, which has voluminous middle ground thicket, the layout still looks fine even after pruning the background stem plants. By maintaining the background stemmed plants properly, you can keep the layout for a long period of time.

Aquarium/ Cube Garden W90xD45xH45(cm) **Lighting**/ Grand Solar I (NAG-150W Green), 10 hours per day **Filtration**/ Super Jet Filter ES-600 (Bio Rio, NA Carbon) **Substrate**/ Aqua Soil Amazonia, Power Sand Special M, Bacter 100, Clear Super, Tourmaline BC, Penac W for Aquarium, Penac P **CO₂**/ Pollen Glas Beetle 30, CO₂ Beetle Counter, 3 bubbles per second (Tower/ 20) **Aeration**/ Lily Pipe P-4, 14 hours during the night **Fertilizer**/ Bright K, Green Bright STEP 2 **Water Change**/ Once a week 1/3 **Water Condition**/ Water temperature 25 degrees Celsius, pH6.8, TH: 10mg/ℓ, NO₂<0.02mg/ℓ, NO₃<1mg/ℓ, COD: 2mg/ℓ