

EHEIM

Nano aquarium guide

EHEIM aquastyle – the small design aquarium

The top tips



Shrimps & crabs
Fresh water

List of contents

Nano aquariums – a basic guide

- A little paradise in your home 5
- Small size design aquarium
 - Fashion at home or in the office
 - Nano aquariums are so easy

EHEIM aquastyle

- Description and features 5

Check list

- The most important things in a nutshell 6-7
- How to get started
 - How to create your little paradise
 - How to look after the ecosystem

Sound advice

What you should know

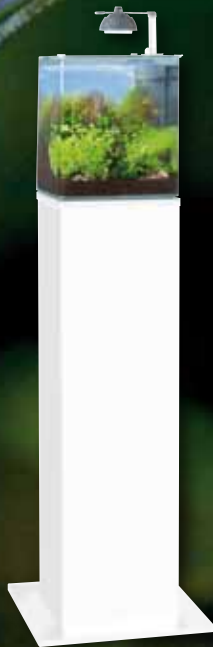
- Positioning 8
- Dressing the aquarium 9
- Plants 9
- Water quality 10
- Equipment (filter, filter media, lighting, heater) 11

Livestock and plants

- What kind of livestock 12
- Feeding 13
- Shrimps (example) 13
- Plants (example) 13

Maintenance and accessories 14

2 Advice and help, Imprint 15





EHEIM
aqua*style*

Dear Readers,

Discovering new concepts and putting them into practice has always been EHEIM's passion. With EHEIM aquastyle we have taken up a new trend, imbued it with our high standards for quality and design and created a top of the range nano aquarium. A beautiful, small glass cube, combined with excellent technical equipment. A pleasure for all.

With this guidebook we want to give you an insight into the mini aquarium – an attractive addition to your furnishings and a small fascinating underwater world. But also a living space for aquatic life and plants.

So that you can set up this living space correctly, so that this little biotope stays in proper working order and so that your EHEIM aquastyle aquarium long remains an attractive highlight, here are some important tips and advice. Clear and concise so you don't have to read long explanations.

We wish you success and much pleasure with your aquarium.

Your EHEIM team

EHEIM aquastyle – a little paradise in your home



Just look around your home. Isn't there something missing? A decorative fixture? Something really eye-catching? Something original? Something living? A nano aquarium may be just the thing? A fascinating little underwater paradise. A mini island in your daily life. An invitation to dream.

EHEIM aquastyle – the small-sized design aquarium

Were you somewhat puzzled when you first heard the description “nano aquarium”? So were many others. But nano derives from the ancient Greek word “nannos” and subsequently the Latin word “nanus” meaning dwarf. And so a nano aquarium is simply a very small aquarium. Not much bigger than a six-pack! Some also call it a “bonsai aquarium”. Unlike larger aquariums, the nano aquarium has more of a decorative life-style character.

Nano aquariums are a recent trend

Nano is in. An original design object suitable for a home or office environment. A trendy glass cube full of life – put it on a shelf, on a sideboard, on a desk or with a matching cabinet as a stand-alone attraction in a room. A small underwater world, in which plants and living creatures (eg. colourful shrimps) attract the eye with its fascination. It's exciting, relaxing and simply wonderful. The typical aquarium is a tropical community tank, because they are more interesting and colourful.

Nano aquariums are easy

By following a few simple basic rules and using some suitable and helpful pieces of equipment it will cost you relatively little time and energy. However, you should always bear in mind that you are creating a small underwater biotope, that will only remain beautiful and in proper working order with the correct ecological balance.



EHEIM aquastyle is something special

Apart from the high quality, which you can always expect from EHEIM, you will find a few unique special features with the EHEIM aquastyle.

- **High quality float glass** with seamless front corners.
- **Viewable all-round – even from the back**
The cables run neatly away in a cable tidy.
- **Stable rubber feet** mean mats and other under lay are not necessary.
- The **cover plate** is easy to fit; it incorporates an air hole without the shrimps being able to escape.
- The **attractively designed** round lamp with an economical power-LED distributes the light evenly in the tank.
- The **EHEIM aquastyle-filter** specially designed for this mini-aquarium is powered precisely to match the small water volume
- An **EHEIM thermostatic heater** (25 or 50 W depending on tank size) ensures correct water temperature (Ask your aquatics retailer for more details).
- The **cabinet** offers not only a stable stand but also the perfect place to store your accessories. (The cabinet to fit the different tanks sizes are available from your aquatics retailer)
- The **EHEIM aquastyle Deco Set** consisting of natural anthracite gravel (6,5 kg), natural stone (3 pieces) and natural decorative roots (2 pieces) is available from your specialist retailer.



Sizes are: (Width x Depth x Height)

24 x 24 x 28 cm = **16l.**
(assembled and filled ca. 25kg.)

27,5 x 27,5 x 32 cm = **24l.**
(assembled and filled ca. 35kg.)

31 x 31 x 36 cm = **35l.**
(assembled and filled ca. 50kg.)

Cabinets (optionally): 40 x 40 x 100 cm

Color: black and white



It's so easy: The important stuff in a nutshell

This checklist will help you to do the right thing step by step. However, only the basic principles are included, so please read the following pages in order to better understand the factors and subtleties involved.

How to prepare:

1 Correct position

No direct sunlight, not too much daylight, away from radiators, near an electrical socket, upright, stable base.

2 Write your shopping list

EHEIM aquastyle Set (16, 24 or 35l.) with filter and lighting; also if needed, a cabinet; gravel base (fertilizer, gravel bottom fertiliser mixture, fine gravel 0,7-1,2mm – not too light-coloured); plants; decoration; water conditioner; other equipment (heater) and accessories. Important: don't buy any livestock yet!

3 Prepare plants and decoration

Unpack plants – remove elastic bands and pots and rinse thoroughly; for decoration use only materials (stones, xylolith etc.) which do not leach particles into the water (lime, metals etc.) – also wash thoroughly.

4 Tank cleaning

Before installation, clean the aquarium thoroughly: use only warm water and a soft sponge, no chemical cleaners.

How to create your little paradise:

1 Put in gravel base

Three layers: 1. fertiliser, 2. gravel bottom fertiliser mixture (2 cm); 3. gravel layer (3 cm); slope the gravel slightly towards the back (5 – 8 cm total height).

2 Install technical products (Do not switch on!)

Attach filter (filled with media) and lighting; if necessary heater.

3 Decoration (EHEIM Deco Set 6470000)

Use stones and wood to create small hiding places (caves); if desired attach plants (eg. moss) so that they can grow.

4 Pour in some water

Up to 2/3rd height, 3/4 fill with lukewarm tap water (approx. 20 °C); don't let the water disturb the gravel (pour it gently over a saucer or flat stone for instance).

5 Put in plants

Shorten roots if necessary; press into the gravel with flat tweezers; plant up to 3/4 of the surface; larger plants towards the back; (cover over equipment).

EHEIM Deco Set





6 Fill with water

Lukewarm tap water up to approx. 3 cm below aquarium top. Add water conditioner.

7 Switch on your equipment

Let the filter run normally; set heater at 20 °C; switch the lighting on for a constant 8-10 hours (timer).

8 Let aquarium mature (without livestock)

Clip on the cover plate and wait approx. 2-3 weeks; add bacteria starter to water if necessary; keep an eye on the temperature (18-24 °C) and water quality (ammonia, nitrite, pH, CH, GH).

How to ensure quality of life:

1 Choice of livestock

Colourful shrimps (dwarf shrimps) and/or crabs (check compatibility of different types), perhaps also water snails; fish – even small ones – don't belong in a nano aquarium! 1 cm of fish requires 2 l. of water; start with just a few types of fish which can live together; then add a few algae eaters, later other types of fish; make sure they have enough swimming room.

2 Feeding

Only a small amount (special shrimp food, leaf fall or fresh vegetable if required); one or two days a week the fish should fast. (see P.13).

3 Plant care

Remove old and rotting pieces immediately; give a weekly dose of fertiliser; add gravel fertiliser after 6-10 months; make sure you use good quality lighting. (see P. 9).

4 Water care

Remove algae and waste regularly; do a partial water change every week (one third); each time add water conditioner; never clean the filter at the same time, and only briefly every 2 to 3 weeks; check water quality regularly (see P.10).

5 Filtration system

Use only the supplied EHEIM filter and filter media; run it day and night; only clean or change the filter media as instructed, so that the bacteria cultures are not completely destroyed.

6 Cleaning

Chemical (incl. biological) cleaning agents are strictly forbidden; do not use your aquarium utensils like bucket, sponge, hose etc. for other tasks.

7 Other care

Remove food remains, dead organisms and so on immediately; occasionally vacuum up undecomposed solid matter; clean glass inside and out.

Helpful accessories

Fish net, thermometer, timer, plant tongs, and other utensils for water testing and plants (see also P. 14).



Other things you ought to know

The single most important things for your nano aquarium are clean, carefully prepared water, healthy plants and the correct conditions for your type of livestock. In the following pages we will give you some information and suggestions, so that you can better understand how the ecological system works and do it right first time.

How to choose the best position

Your EHEIM aquastyle deserves an attractive position. In a place where the design element catches the eye and where you can watch life flourish in this underwater paradise. However, the following rules are important to follow:

- Avoid locations in direct sunlight or too much daylight. Otherwise the formation of algae will be encouraged and the water unnecessarily heated (shrimps like it rather cool – between 18 & 24°C).
- Avoid positioning too near a radiator.
- An electrical socket should be close by for lighting and other equipment.
- You need space above (for, water changes & maintenance etc.).
- Don't forget that the filled aquarium will be quite heavy and can only be re-positioned with difficulty.



The attractively designed light with power-LED, specially developed for the EHEIM aquastyle, gives off just the right amount of light for rich plant growth.

The matching cabinet offers not only stability but also a place to store your accessories. The column cabinet is approx. 110 cm high (eye level when sitting); width and depth are according to the three different tanks sizes (24 x 24, 27,5 x 27,5cm, or 31 x 31 cm), so that the front views are always level with each other.



How best to set up your EHEIM aquastyle

To set up an underwater world is a small act of creation, in which your creativity knows few bounds. If you follow the steps as described on pages 6/7, then actually nothing can go wrong. But don't forget that you are creating a sensitive little world, in which plants and livestock will live in a small area. A beautiful, healthy biotope.

A few extra tips:

- Slope the gravel slightly towards the back. Making it easier to watch life grow – most things happen at the bottom
- Hide the equipment (filter, heater) at the back behind suitably tall growing plants.
- Have patience and keep strictly to the water stabilization period (2-3 weeks). The ecological balance has to settle down first.
- Don't forget future maintenance. This needs your attention so that the wonderful biotope remains healthy and your EHEIM aquastyle is still an attractive eye-catcher after many years. Particularly with relatively small water volumes any laxness will have an unfavourable effect more quickly than with larger aquariums.

How to look after your plants

Plants in your aquarium not only add beauty, they are also extremely important. They make an important contribution to the balance in this small ecosystem. Together with bacteria they detoxify the water and also remove basic food algae thrives on. At the same time they give off oxygen, which the livestock need for breathing.

Please note:

- Plants grow and flourish solely from light (photosynthesis). For this reason the lighting must be switched on for 8 to 10 hours per day (timer!)
- Aquatic plants not only take their nutrition through their roots – unlike terrestrial plants – but also via their leaves. Apart from gravel fertilizer they also need nutrients from the water and therefore regular fertilizer is necessary

- To begin with, choose robust types of plants, which take root well, don't grow too big and are not too demanding.



Additional CO2 supply

Apart from light, plants need carbon dioxide (CO₂) for photosynthesis. As a rule invertebrates don't give off much. With a CO₂ kit you can supply the necessary dose if required. Please ask your aquatics retailer.



How to achieve good water quality

Healthy water is the essential ingredient. Tap water does not meet the conditions for life that, for instance, shrimps and other invertebrates or even fish require. It is polluted with heavy metals (eg. copper, zinc) as well as chlorine and other chemicals. By using water conditioners, bacteria starters and filtration, toxic particles can be neutralised or absorbed.

Therefore what is important:

- When adding or changing water always dose with water conditioner, (there are even special shrimp-friendly water conditioners).
- Occasionally, particularly in the maturation period, add bacteria
- Use only a suitable filtration system

- (see P.11) and leave it running permanently
- Change 1/3 of the water weekly and dose with water conditioner
- Clean the filter and filter media only infrequently and never at the same time as a partial water change – always 2-3 days apart, so as never to completely destroy the bacterial colonies (see box)
- Feed only small amounts
- Keep aquarium clean: quickly remove algae, fish waste, food remains, dead plant remains etc.

Also you should test the water quality periodically (pH value, water hardness level etc.) and if necessary adapt to the various requirements of your livestock. You can get specific advice and a test kit from your aquatics retailer.

Water temperature

If your EHEIM aquastyle stands in a room where the temperature is permanently over 18°C, then you don't necessarily need to heat the water. It depends on the individual requirements of your livestock (compare P.12/13). Otherwise you should get yourself an EHEIM heater see next page.

Filter maintenance

Clean the filter only infrequently – for instance, only when the water output drops significantly – in luke warm water. Simply rinse the filter cartridge (sponge) and squeeze out gently, so that the bacterial colonies are not completely destroyed. When you replace the EHEIM SUBSTRATpro, retain about 1/3 of the used, bacteria colonised substrate in the filter box.



Technical equipment



Life in your EHEIM aquastyle mainly depends on using the correct technology. It must be precisely adapted to the mini biotope and must never be too demanding of the system. So please never overdo it and only use the appropriate equipment and media.

Filter

The filter is the heartbeat of your nano aquarium. It maintains the balance in the ecosystem, cleans the water, extracts floating dirt particles, converts toxic waste using colonised bacteria, ensures constant water flow, prevents formation of different layers of temperature and distributes oxygen and nutrients.

The EHEIM aquastyle-filter has been specially developed for the mini aquarium. As a corner filter, it takes up little space; the intake is precisely regulated, so that small livestock, such as young shrimps, don't get sucked into the filter. And it fits so close to the glass, that livestock cannot get trapped in the gaps.

Filter media

EHEIM SUBSTRAT*pro* (Art. No. 2510021), phenol-free filter pad (Art. No. 2610000)

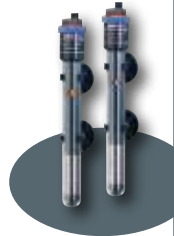


Lighting

The EHEIM aquastyle lighting with power LED (only 7 W) is intentionally designed round rather than a tube. In this way the light shines more evenly on the square tank. The lamp is easily adjusted, so that the light can be directed at specific planted areas.

Heater

For your nano aquarium you can use a 25 W (20-25l.) or 50 W (25-50l.) EHEIM thermostatic heater. The temperature dial is calibrated from 18 to 34 °C (adjustment accuracy +/- 0,5°C). The temperature set is permanently constant. The heater is fully immersible and is fixed in the aquarium by rubber suckers.



The construction is ideal. The filter media canister can be easily unclipped. Behind the grill, a filter pad is used as a pre-filter and behind that is the media box filled, for instance, with EHEIM SUBSTRAT*pro* (also suitable for KARBON, bioMECH etc.). The filter stays in the tank during cleaning (or filling). You simply remove the components and replace them afterwards. As easy as that.


What livestock is suitable for your EHEIM aquastyle aquarium?





In principle you should only keep invertebrates in your nano aquarium – that is shrimps and/or crabs. Additionally, perhaps a couple of snails as “cleaning agents”. Fish, on the other hand – even small types – need room to swim around and don’t really belong in this mini tank. Furthermore, fish have different requirements and their higher metabolism can quickly lead to a surfeit of waste in a small amount of water.*


Dwarf shrimps are the ideal inhabitants.


They are fascinating creatures. There are several types with attractive colouring. They are fascinating to watch, while foraging for food, fertilising the larvae, hatching the young, shedding their skins...

 Dwarf shrimps are undemanding, resistant and low maintenance. They only need a small amount of food and, depending on the type, can even tolerate a water temperature below 18°C, although they then become somewhat lethargic.

 Like all invertebrates they have an exoskeleton – their armour. They constantly have to adapt to grow. That is: when the armour becomes too small, it bursts the shrimp forces its way out and searches for protection (some hiding places in the decoration) until the new exoskeleton hardens after a few hours.

 Shrimps are gregarious and live in larger groups. Start by putting several of the same type together (approx. 5-6 per 10l.). They will soon reproduce.

 If you would like to keep crabs (as well or exclusively), then seek more information. Some species neither tolerate each other nor the peaceful dwarf shrimps. Some are also predators.

 Snails, on the other hand, are usually very useful co-inhabitants. They keep the small biotope clean, devour rotting food and plant remains as well as carrion and feed on algae... This even keeps the glass cleaner for longer. However, snails also eat things which the shrimps like to eat, so keep their number within reason!

Attention

Dwarf shrimps can jump. So always put the cover over your EHEIM aquastyle.

Note

* In Germany and Austria, the keeping of fish in tanks of less than 54l. is prohibited. Exceptions exist only for breeding purposes and for very small species.

How to feed correctly

Dwarf shrimps need only a small amount to eat as they have a low metabolism and weigh almost nothing. Furthermore, they live, among other things, on micro-organisms, which colonise inside decomposing material. As long as they can find decaying plant debris and some algae, you hardly need to feed them.

Foto © Brams

How about these dwarf shrimps for your EHEIM aquastyle?

Crystal Red Shrimp (*Cardina cf. cantonensis*)

Attractively coloured variety from South China. One of the popular types of dwarf shrimp.

		
19 to 30 mm	18 to 26 °C	6 to 15 °d

White Pearl Shrimp (*Neocardina cf. zhangjiajiensis*)

Very demanding variety from East China.

		
20 to 25 mm	15 to 26 °C	6 to 15 °d

Bumble Bee Shrimp (*Cardina cf. breviata*)

Multivariant type from South China

		
20 to 24 mm	16 to 26 °C	6 to 15 °d

Tiger Shrimp (*Cardina cf. cantonensis*)

Interesting patterned type from South China

		
25 to 35 mm	16 to 25 °C	6 to 15 °d

Red Fire Shrimp (Red Cherry) (*Neocardina heteropoda*)

Probably the most widely kept dwarf shrimp in Europe

		
20 to 25 mm	15 to 26 °C	6 to 15 °d

	Size of shrimp
	Temperature
	Water hardness

Examples of ideal plants for your EHEIM aquastyle:

Java Moss (*Taxiphyllum barbieri*)

Typical representative of many similar mosses, robust and undemanding

			
low	5 to 15 cm	18 to 30 °C	2 to 12 °d

Water Clover (*Marsilea*)

Ideal foreground plant, grows slowly, very modest, eg. *Marsilea hirsuta*

			
low	5 to 5 cm	18 to 30 °C	2 to 15 °d

Therefore:

- Don't feed too much – (homeopathic dosage)
- Remove any food not eaten after 24 hours
- Include 1-2 fasting days per week
- You will find special foods for crustaceans at your aquatics retailer

As a change you can sometimes serve leaf fall (beech, oak, hazelnut leaves) or fresh vegetable (cucumber, courgette, spinach, bell pepper, nettle). You must firstly blanch them in boiling water.

Water Trumpet (*Cryptocoryne*)

Large group of well suited species, slow growing – eg. *Wendt's Water Trumpet*

			
low	10cm	20 to 30 °C	2 to 18 °d

Primrose Willow Mullerti

(*Ludwigia mullertii*)


Grows quite high, plant in towards back to hide the equipment, undemanding

			
moderate	50cm	18 to 28 °C	2 to 15 °d

Anubias (*Anubias*)

Good starter plant; well suited are smaller types, eg. *Anubias barteri* var. *nana*

			
low	60cm	18 to 28 °C	2 to 15 °d

	Light requirements
	Height of growth
	Temperature
	Water hardness



How to keep the little world in order

If you have set up your EHEIM aquastyle correctly and observed the basic rules, then there is not much more to do.

It's important to

- regularly
 - remove food remains, old plant debris and dead organisms etc.
 - test the water quality values (kit for this from your aquatics retailer)
- weekly
 - change 1/3 of tank water and add water conditioner
 - add liquid fertilizer for the plants
- occasionally
 - remove the detritus or clean tank gravel
 - clean the tank glass

Only rarely clean the filter or change the media – as described on page 10

Useful EHEIM accessories



Deco Set



Plant tongs



Fish net
Thermometer

Heater
25 and 50 watt



Do you need help and advice?

If you have questions, go and see your specialist aquatics retailer. Fishkeepers' clubs are also useful. Also, of course the EHEIM team.

You can find a specialist **aquatic retailer** near you by visiting our website at

www.eheim.de

and following the links

You will also find there a lot more information about aquariums, technology, fish, plants etc.

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Like the very popular "Aquarium Guide" from EHEIM this Nano Aquarium Guide is compiled so that the essential information is easy to find and to grasp. It is also more of an instruction manual than an information booklet. However, the ecological contexts of the mini biotope are clearly explained, without going too deeply into detail. Just the right balance to interest the fishkeeper, who is most interested in design



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