

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [My African fish tank \(African themed environment\)](#)

Muddy Waters - September 22, 2016, 11:55 am

Tanzania to be more specific.

[Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgvHCTd-bnc>]

::UPDATE::

Today I got my electric blue hap fry. I knew mommy had been mouth-brooding them for about 19 days now so I was 99% sure they were free-swimming and ready for their own little "tank".

Going to keep them in that little plastic container for about 4-6 weeks to make sure they grow properly. Most likely doing water changes every day and food will be "milled" fish flakes until they are big enough for brine shrimp and milled pellet.

The Father ([Click to View](#))

<http://image.prntscr.com/image/9eb5f4cbfa2d48fead3627103a59ad2a.png>

The Mother ([Click to View](#))

<http://image.prntscr.com/image/6605e11ae9fe48489087b280fc4f736d.png>

Jolene - September 22, 2016, 3:00 pm

Beautiful! Congratulations for creating it :)

Muddy Waters - September 22, 2016, 3:45 pm

(Sep 22, 2016 03:00 PM)Jolenem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Beautiful! Congratulations for creating it :)
Thank you mate :)

ur girls daddy - September 22, 2016, 3:54 pm

That's real fucking clean looking, I like that.

Rhino - September 22, 2016, 3:57 pm

This is really cool, get some bigger fish in there

Muddy Waters - September 22, 2016, 3:59 pm

Thanks guys :)

These fish are not adults yet so they will grow up to about 13-15 cm each.

XzoRcisT - September 22, 2016, 4:24 pm

That's actually very nice dude, must be a bishh to keep clean and maintain.

Muddy Waters - September 23, 2016, 1:19 am

(Sep 22, 2016 04:24 PM)XzoRcisT Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That's actually very nice dude, must be a bishh to keep clean and maintain.

It's actually easier than you might think. I do about 20% water change every third day. It's maintaining the pH that's tricky. My tap water is 6.2, and my fish wants 8.2 pH and pretty hard water environment, also maintaining tropical temperature when doing water changes, I usually fill up about two 25L buckets with water and let it sit overnight and the next day the water is room-temperature and the chlorine is pretty much gone.

seigweilo - September 24, 2016, 2:07 am

Wow! The fish tank looks great. What fish do you have in there?

Muddy Waters - September 24, 2016, 2:24 am

(Sep 24, 2016 02:07 AM)seigweilo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow! The fish tank looks great. What fish do you have in there?

They are african cichlids from "Lake Malawi" in Tanzania. Their parents are wild caught and these is the "spawn" of all the parents I made the fish guy make a mix of some cool species. So the fish were pretty expensive but I don't regret it.

Species List if you wanna google it's "Scientific Name | Gender | Species Nickname"

Sciaenochromis Fryeri (1 male, 2 females) - Electric Blue Ahli

Labidochromis sp. Hongi (2 males, 1 female) - Hongi Cichlid

Melanochromis Johanni (1 male, 2 females) - Bluegrey Mbuna

Pseudotropheus Demasoni (3 males, 4 females) - Demasoni Mbuna

However I prefer to use the scientific names for them, that way it's 100% accurate, nicknames can vary from store to store.

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 6:12 am

Just checked pH, was around ~8.0 so perfect I'd say.

This project ended up costing me around ~\$450.

Horizon - September 25, 2016, 8:23 am

Nice tank man. It looks pretty cool having the rock face on the back wall of the tank.

SaintAres - September 25, 2016, 8:27 am

Just wow , i love fish and i have a small fish tank myself in my house , very nice !

m4dh4ck3r - September 25, 2016, 8:31 am

Is that a 3d wallpaper in the back?

The environment looks pretty good.

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 8:36 am

(Sep 25, 2016 08:23 AM)Horizon Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice tank man. It looks pretty cool having the rock face on the back wall of the tank.

Thank you :)

(Sep 25, 2016 08:27 AM)SaintAres Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just wow , i love fish and i have a small fish tank myself in my house , very nice !

Cool, what kind of fish do you keep in your tank?

(Sep 25, 2016 08:31 AM)m4dh4ck3r Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is that a 3d wallpaper in the back?

The environment looks pretty good.

It is a 3D background yes, you can buy them to style your fish tank and make it look more like in the nature. The fish loves them and it makes the tank look so much more natural.

<http://backtonature.se/products/> here are some of the 3D backgrounds available.

Prophett - September 25, 2016, 8:37 am

This is amazing. You need to get some huge fucking fish though.

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 8:39 am

(Sep 25, 2016 08:37 AM)Medd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is amazing. You need to get some huge fucking fish though.

Yes I am actually thinking of getting a 200 gallon tank and get some bigger african fish in there. But that will be for a future project.

Forsen - September 25, 2016, 9:07 am

These look awesome lol. I might buy fish sometime. What do you recommend for starters?

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 10:17 am

(Sep 25, 2016 09:07 AM)Forsen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) These look awesome lol. I might buy fish sometime. What do you recommend for starters?

Hmm, well. Depends are you into cold water or tropical fish?

Good starter size aquarium I'd say is around 20 gallon (75L) atleast, maybe bigger if you want.

For tropical fish I'd say go with guppy, molly, platy, gouramis etc. They are good "community fish" and they normally don't fight at all.

Forsen - September 25, 2016, 1:18 pm

(Sep 25, 2016 10:17 AM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hmm, well. Depends are you into cold water or tropical fish?

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For tropical fish I'd say go with guppy, molly, platy, gouramis etc. They are good "community fish" and they normally don't fight at all.

I have no experience. I just like the idea of putting a fish tank on my setup as it would probably look very cool.

What would be the minimum cost to get something decent? Maybe used aquariums or whatever.

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 8:06 pm

(Sep 25, 2016 01:18 PM)Forsen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have no experience. I just like the idea of putting a fish tank on my setup as it would probably look very cool.

What would be the minimum cost to get something decent? Maybe used aquariums or whatever. Well this is basically what you need for a starter setup:

1 Well-cycled tank (should cycle with pump + bacteria for at least 1-2 weeks before you add fish)

Starter Bacteria (available at any aquarium shop/pet store)

1 Circulation pump

1 Air pump + air stone (Optional)

1 type of light (not sunlight) preferably high lumen if you intend to have plants

Substrate (Gravel, Sand etc) Pool Filter sand is super cheap and looks awesome

1 Heater (if you are going with tropical fish)

Fish food (normal fish flakes will do)

Decoration (stones, roots, ornaments, plants) stones and roots you can collect yourself by the riverbanks or something (make sure you boil them first though to kill all bacteria and other living organisms)

Plants (optional)

And obviously fish!

Plants are optional but if you want to have plants they do a lot of free work for your tank. Plants actually filter your water. All the nitrates and ammonia that your fish divides is beneficial for plants and therefore filters your water for free.

If you really cannot afford or you want to go on a budget you should check out this video (there are part 1, 2, 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEoGhsTvzNk>

Forsen - September 25, 2016, 10:42 pm

(Sep 25, 2016 08:06 PM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well this is basically what you need for a starter setup:

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Thanks for writing this! How much do you think it'll cost if I'd get all that?

Muddy Waters - September 25, 2016, 11:31 pm

(Sep 25, 2016 10:42 PM)Forsen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for writing this! How much do you think it'll cost if I'd get all that?

In aquarium/pet stores they sell starter packages with all you need to setup a fish tank excluding fish and plants. For around \$80-\$100 I think. Often 54-75L tanks, the package comes with tank, heater, pump, water preparation bacteria, lightning.

Forsen - September 26, 2016, 8:06 am

(Sep 25, 2016 11:31 PM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) In aquarium/pet stores they sell starter packages with all you need to setup a fish tank excluding fish and plants. For around \$80-\$100 I think. Often 54-75L tanks, the package comes with tank, heater, pump, water preparation bacteria, lightning.

Oh shit, that's not expensive lol. I've looked on Craigslist (Dutch version of it) and I can get a decent tank for like \$20, 75L. I've also got a nice fish shop near, for food and shit. Is fish food expensive or what? What fish do you recommend getting? I think I'm going for tropical, since my friend does too. Thanks for helping again.

Gary - September 26, 2016, 8:08 am

yo tank look hella fresh with that lighting mang

Muddy Waters - September 26, 2016, 8:45 am

(Sep 26, 2016 08:06 AM)Forsen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh shit, that's not expensive lol. I've looked on Craigslist (Dutch version of it) and I can get a decent tank for like \$20, 75L. I've also got a nice fish shop near, for food and shit. Is fish food expensive or what? What fish do you recommend getting? I think I'm going for tropical, since my friend does too. Thanks for helping again.

Nah fish food is pretty cheap. The most fitting starter fish I'd say is Guppies, Platys, Mollys and maybe a pair of gourami fish.

The normal fish flakes cost around \$5 and last like 2-3 months at least.

(Sep 26, 2016 08:08 AM)Gary. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yo tank look hella fresh with that lighting mang
Thank you, Gary.

DiedTG - September 30, 2016, 5:31 am

That's the coolest thing I've ever seen tontheme a fish tanks

Muddy Waters - September 30, 2016, 11:20 am

(Sep 30, 2016 05:31 AM)DiedTG Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That's the coolest thing I've ever seen tontheme a fish tanks

Thank you buddy.

axlar - September 30, 2016, 3:21 pm

(Sep 25, 2016 08:06 PM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well this is basically what you need for a starter setup:

1 Well-cycled tank (should cycle with pump + bacteria for at least 1-2 weeks before you add fish)

Starter Bacteria (available at any aquarium shop/pet store)

1 Circulation pump

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1 Heater (if you are going with tropical fish)

Fish food (normal fish flakes will do)

Decoration (stones, roots, ornaments, plants) stones and roots you can collect yourself by the riverbanks or something (make sure you boil them first though to kill all bacteria and other living organisms)

Plants (optional)

And obviously fish!

Plants are optional but if you want to have plants they do a lot of free work for your tank. Plants actually filter your water. All the nitrates and ammonia that your fish divides is beneficial for plants and therefore filters your water for free.

If you really cannot afford or you want to go on a budget you should check out this video (there are part 1, 2, 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEoGhsTvzNk>

Thanks for taking your time for this explanation. Valuable for a noob like I am.

Gramza - October 1, 2016, 2:03 am

Dude that is one sick tank man.

Muddy Waters - October 1, 2016, 2:23 am

(Oct 1, 2016 02:03 AM)Gramza Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Dude that is one sick tank man.

Thank you.

ATMcopper - October 1, 2016, 7:22 am

This is super cool mate. What type of fish do you have?

Muddy Waters - October 1, 2016, 8:07 am

(Oct 1, 2016 07:22 AM)ATMcopper Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is super cool mate. What type of fish do you have?

They are African Cichlids, from Lake Malawi in Tanzania.

In the video description I have listed the name of all species that I have.

w?????illiam???? - October 1, 2016, 8:38 am

Beautiful tank, good luck with them!

DopplerAF - October 1, 2016, 8:42 am

Wow the fish tank look sick.

Muddy Waters - October 1, 2016, 9:29 am

(Oct 1, 2016 08:38 AM)w?illiam Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Beautiful tank, good luck with them!

Thank you mate!

(Oct 1, 2016 08:42 AM)shazsyed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow the fish tank look sick.
Thanks!

Gramza - October 1, 2016, 1:19 pm

(Oct 1, 2016 02:23 AM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you.What motivated you to think of something like this? Book, Movies, or you just hey im going to decorate my tank really good lol?

Muddy Waters - October 1, 2016, 1:35 pm

(Oct 1, 2016 01:19 PM)Gramza Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What motivated you to think of something like this? Book, Movies, or you just hey im going to decorate my tank really good lol?

Well, basically I was just interested in getting some more "HQ" fish and decided to go with african species because they are a bit more rare and cost a lot more than usual fish. Then I just watched some images of Lake Malawi. Then I decided to go with a red/brown-ish rock wall and then use Lava Rocks because they are cheap and then I bought some more expensive heavier rock for decoration purposes.

Gramza - October 1, 2016, 1:40 pm

(Oct 1, 2016 01:35 PM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, basically I was just interested in getting some more "HQ" fish and decided to go with african species because they are a bit more rare and cost a lot more than usual fish. Then I just watched some images of Lake Malawi. Then I decided to go with a red/brown-ish rock wall and then use Lava Rocks because they are cheap and then I bought some more expensive heavier rock for decoration purposes.yea good choice of rocks. i love how there is like 2-3 yellow/orange fish in there it really makes it pop more. And have youve thought about maybe changing the color of the lights? I think you can mis it up with a hint of dark red to make the rock look more aged.

Muddy Waters - October 2, 2016, 9:18 am

(Oct 1, 2016 01:40 PM)Gramza Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yea good choice of rocks. i love how there is like 2-3 yellow/orange fish in there it really makes it pop more. And have youve thought about maybe changing the color of the lights? I think you can mis it up with a hint of dark red to make the rock look more aged.

Yeah, only thing is I need the light to not be attacking enough to grow algae, and I am not in need of bright light since I dont have any aquatic plants in my tank. But I am 100% going to change the light at some point, just don't know which type of light yet.

N - October 3, 2016, 8:07 pm

Nice tank bro! I have a 125G tank with some Cichlids and other species mixed, one of the best hobbies to get into too!

Muddy Waters - October 4, 2016, 12:03 am

(Oct 3, 2016 08:07 PM)Nixhxlax Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice tank bro! I have a 125G tank with some Cichlids and other species mixed, one of the best hobbies to get into too!

Cool man! Cichlids are love, cichlids are life.

I'm thinking about getting a 190G I found on the Swedish version of craigslist.

However I know its gonna weigh around a ton so I have to figure out how and where to support the floor from underneath first.

Do you maybe have a pic of your tank so we can all see? :)

70s - October 4, 2016, 6:24 am

Damn OP, That fishtank is looking amazing ive always wanted to try and get a small fishtank going, But im a cat guy so it could become an issue plus i know how much work goes into cleaing and keeping the tank clean and well ran.

#YOLO - October 4, 2016, 6:28 am

I thought Africa didn't have water

Muddy Waters - October 4, 2016, 6:50 am

(Oct 4, 2016 06:24 AM)70s. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Damn OP, That fishtank is looking amazing ive always wanted to try and get a small fishtank going, But im a cat guy so it could become an issue plus i know how much work goes into cleaing and keeping the tank clean and well ran.

Thank you :) I have cats aswell but they just ignore the fish luckily.

(Oct 4, 2016 06:28 AM)#YOLO Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I thought Africa didn't have water
Africa have several huge freshwater lakes, in fact Lake Tanganyika in Africa is the 6th largest lake in the world, and Lake Malawi (where my fish are from) is the 9th largest lake in the world.

N - October 4, 2016, 8:53 pm

(Oct 4, 2016 12:03 AM)Muddy Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cool man! Cichlids are love, cichlids are life.

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However I know its gonna weigh around a ton so I have to figure out how and where to support the floor from underneath first.

Do you maybe have a pic of your tank so we can all see? :)

I will take some pics sometime this week when I get some free time and post it. If you upgrade to 190G - try to get a tank that has more length and longer as oppose to higher or more width. My next tank will be closer to 300G, I'm in the works of buying the parts an accessories in pieces.

I like the longer tanks because it makes the fishes feel like its more natural as oppose to a tank that has more width and height, it's too much of a repetitive swimming area for the fishes. If you get a longer tank (190G) with some wave makers and Cichlids, with some semi-predators, it would be an amazing tank in my opinion! I'll keep you posted once I take some pics of my 125G.?

Muddy Waters - October 5, 2016, 1:38 am

(Oct 4, 2016 08:53 PM)Nixhxlax Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I will take some pics sometime this week when I get some free time and post it. If you upgrade to 190G - try to get a tank that has more length and longer as oppose to higher or more width. My next tank will be closer to 300G, I'm in the works of buying the parts an accessories in pieces.

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Cool man! 300G is huuuge :)

If I get a 190G I'm gonna keep not just mbunas but also peacocks and haps. I've always wanted Venustus and I've seen lots of them in 65G tanks but I didnt wanna get one because I know how damn big they get and I know 65G isnt gonna do it for a fish that size, but maybe 130G will!

Looking forward to seeing some pics :)

TomHagen - October 5, 2016, 3:40 pm

Too cool man. Fish tank vids are ridiculously relaxing to watch.

#Realtalk. - October 5, 2016, 3:55 pm

I got 4 oscar cichlids i feed them alive fish. i love predator fish.

Muddy Waters - October 6, 2016, 6:15 am

Thanks guys, yeah oscars are cool.

Muddy Waters - October 7, 2016, 10:14 am

I'm kinda thinking of buying a 210 gallon tank (corner tank) But I'm not sure yet. Only \$250 though which is a steal tbh. If I bought only the glass and built it myself would still be ~\$400 at least.

I saw some sick Back to Nature backgrounds and aquascaping. Would be sick to have something like this

Muddy Waters - October 14, 2016, 3:40 am

Update on the fry coming soon. They are 9 days old today.

Desiree13 - October 14, 2016, 3:50 am

Wow, that's very beautiful, I had aquariums too

Muddy Waters - October 15, 2016, 7:52 am

(Oct 14, 2016 03:50 AM)Desiree13 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow, that's very beautiful, I had aquariums too
Cool mate, what type of fish did you have?