



User's Manual

**THE AQUAPONIC SOURCE, INC.
1860 LEFTHAND CIRCLE, SUITE E
LONGMONT, CO 80501
1-855-285-4252
CUSTOMERSERVICE@THEAQUAPONICSOURCE.COM**

Limited Warranty

The Aquaponic Source warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of the original purchase, when utilized for normal household use, subject to the following conditions, exclusions and exceptions.

Should any defect covered by the terms of the limited warranty be discovered within one (1) year, **The Aquaponic Source** will repair or replace any defective part provided the unit is returned by the original purchaser, freight prepaid, to:

The Aquaponic Source
1860 Lefthand Cir, Suite E
Longmont, CO 80501 USA

The liability of **The Aquaponic Source** under this warranty is limited solely to the cost of the replacement parts or the complete unit at our option. LABOR CHARGES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

This warranty does not cover normal wear of parts and does not apply to any unit that has been tampered with or used for commercial purposes. This warranty does not apply to any defect arising from misuse of the product, negligence, failure to follow **The Aquaponic Source's** instructions, use on current or voltage other than that stamped on the product, alteration or repair not authorized by **The Aquaponic Source**, or damage due to faulty packaging or mishandling in transit (by any common carrier). Repair or disassembly by anyone other than a "**The Aquaponic Source**" authorized service center will void the warranty.

This warranty is extended only to the original purchaser of the unit and excludes all other legal and/or conventional warranties. The responsibility of **The Aquaponic Source**, if any, is limited to the specific obligations expressly assumed by it under the terms of the limited warranty. In no event is **The Aquaponic Source** liable for incidental or consequential damages of any nature whatsoever. Some States/Provinces do not permit the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights which vary from state to state or province to province.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your aquaponic system, please contact Customer Service. Please **do not return any product without contacting The Aquaponic Source for return authorization**. Unauthorized returns, as well as C.O.D. shipments, will be refused.

*Important: After receiving return authorization, carefully pack item to avoid damage in shipping. Be sure to include your name, complete address and phone number with note giving purchase information and what you believe is the problem with item. We recommend you insure the package (as damage in shipping is not covered by your warranty). Mark the outside of your package "ATTENTION CUSTOMER SERVICE".

We are constantly striving to improve our products; therefore the specifications contained herein are subject to change without notice.

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We highly recommend you visit the AquaDesigner Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage at:

AquaDesignerSeries.com

This webpage provides the latest information and valuable optimal performance advice on your AquaDesigner Living Fountain™.

More general information can be found at:

FAQ: AquaDesignerSeries.com

Facebook: facebook.com/TheAquaponicSource

Blog: TheAquaponicSource.com/Blog

Community Site: AquaponicsCommunity.com

For Customer Service, contact:

CustomerService@TheAquaponicSource.com

(855) 285-4252 or (303) 720-6604

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Small Buffer Bag

Aids in naturally stabilizing the pH level in your Tranquility system for up to 6 months

Pure Blend® Bloom, Tea and Grow for Hydroponic Gardening

In addition to running your fountain hydroponically (without fish), you can use this product as a light foliar spray for your heavier feeding plants.

Safer® Insect Killing Soap

A bug spray made for organic gardening. Use sparingly and avoid spraying into your grow bed media or water.

ClorAm-X

Essential if your area's water contains chloramine. (Contact your area's water treatment department.)

Home Grown Ponics Fish Food

High-quality 0.5mm fish food pellets for ornamental fish

Fish Prep preventative fish bath

Therapeutic fish bath designed to help prevent the transfer of disease from newly introduced fish

Fish Therapy curative fish bath

Curative fish bath and de-stressor for individual fish

Please visit The Aquaponic Source's online store at **TheAquaponicStore.com** for more information and to place an order.

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Optimal Performance

Congratulations! You have finished setting up your new Living Fountain. Just remember to feed your fish, top off the water, and prune or harvest your plants as needed. For optimal performance of your Living Fountain, you may wish to perform some periodic maintenance. Recommended products to have on-hand include:

AquaDesigner Peak Performance Pack

A convenient package of products for water pH and alkalinity testing and adjustment, and iron supplementation that will keep your Living Fountain running at its best

D-Klor Water Dechlorinator

Recommended for dechlorinating any new water you add to your Living Fountain

Tidy Tank Sludge Eradicator

Aids in breaking down organic debris and sludge to further improve water quality

Zym-Bac Beneficial Live Bacteria

Recommended to jump-start your Living Fountain ecosystem after it has been emptied and stored for an extended period of time



Removing Fish

Your Living Fountain is an ecosystem designed to stay in balance through the aquaponic cycle relationship between fish, beneficial bacteria, and plants. You do, however, have the option to remove the fish from your fountain. In doing so, your fountain will be converted from an aquaponic (soilless gardening + aquatic cultivation) system to a hydroponic (soilless gardening) system.

If you choose to remove your fish, you will have to regularly add nutrients to your fountain. Be sure to use *complete, organic-based nutrient* products for *hydroponic gardens*, and avoid products made only for soil-based gardens. We recommend Pure Blend® products by Botanicare® because they are organic-based and have low salt content, allowing you to more easily add fish back to your fountain in the future. You can find these products at your local hydroponic store or at **TheAquaponicStore.com**



*Pure Blend® Bloom, Tea, and Grow
for hydroponic gardens*

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Overview

Congratulations on your purchase of an **AquaDesigner™ Tranquility Series Living Fountain!** Your fountain will breathe new life into any space you choose, indoors or out. First, you will want to carefully read through this manual. Some assembly and setup is required, but we'll have you enjoying your new Living Fountain in no time!

IMPORTANT

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Read all Important Safety Instructions and Instructions for Use carefully. Remove and discard all packaging materials and keep them out of the reach of children and pets.

When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precautions should always be observed, including the following:



WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or injury:

1. This System is authorized for household/residential use only.
2. Do not allow to be used as a toy. Close attention is necessary when used by or near children or pets. Do not leave unattended.
3. Use only as described and for the uses described in this manual. Use only manufacturer's approved and supplied parts and accessories. Use of other

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accessories is not recommended and will void warranty.

4. Do not use if power cord or plug has been damaged, or if any part of unit has been damaged. Do not attempt to disassemble or repair Pump. Contact **The Aquaponic Source** for examination or repair.
5. To unplug, always grasp plug to remove from outlet – do not pull on cord.
6. Do not handle cord with wet hands or without shoes on.
7. Keep cord away from heated surfaces (e.g., cooking surfaces), and sharp edges and corners.
8. Follow all labels and instructions on unit.
9. Never use cleaning solutions, perfumes, oils or other chemical substances other than tap or distilled/demineralized water in the Grow Bed or Fish Tank. Use of chemicals in Fish Tank or Grow Bed may damage System and will void warranty.
10. Use ONLY water and mild soap to clean Fish Tank and Grow Bed.
11. Do not move the unit while in use. Always unplug and empty Fish Tank and drain water from Grow Bed before moving.
12. Do not operate around flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, or in areas where fumes may be present.
13. To reduce likelihood of circuit overload, do not operate another high wattage appliance on the same circuit. Plug in to a standard (120V, 60Hz) electrical outlet.
14. Do not use extension cords or outlets with inadequate voltage capacity.
15. When not in use, store unit indoors in a cool, dry place.

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2. Add a small amount of fish tank water to the transport bag, and allow it to sit for at least 5 minutes. Be careful not to allow the transport bag water to spill into your fish tank.
3. Repeat Step 2 another 1-3 times, depending upon the hardiness of your chosen breed of fish.
4. Use a fish net (or clean hands) to quickly but gently transfer your fish to the fish tank. Do NOT add the transport bag water to your fish tank.
5. Discard the transport bag and water.

You may wish to cover the fish tank or keep the area dark for a few hours to better allow your fish time to adjust to their new environment. Do not leave your fish in their transport bag for too long as there is no aeration in the transport bag, and your fish will eventually use up the oxygen in the bag's water. Your AquaDesigner Tranquility Series Living Fountain aerates its water via its Venturi aeration system and waterfall feature.

Your hobby aquarium store or pet store will be able to recommend the best food and feeding schedule for your new aquatic companions. You may want to adjust your feeding amount to provide more or less nutrients for your plants. Do not be surprised if your fish do not eat much right away. They may be stressed by their transportation and change in environment. In the unfortunate event that your fish do not survive, most reputable aquarium and pet stores have some kind of satisfaction guarantee period.

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Refer to the following chart for a general guideline on the total inches of fish to add to your Living Fountain.

Total Inches (Nose to Base of Tail) of Fish to Stock

PLANT TYPES	TRANQUILITY MODEL	
	Ichi / Ni (7-8 gal)	San / Yon (5-6 gal)
Herbs / Flowering Plants	8" – 10"	6" – 8"
House / Shade / Flowering Plant Mix	6" – 8"	4" – 6"

For example, you might stock five 1" goldfish plus one 2" corydora in an Ichi or Ni system with a mix of plants.

You are able to stock your Living Fountain more densely than a typical aquarium of the same size due to the natural biofilter that exists in your Living Fountain's ecosystem. You will also want to stock so there is enough fish waste to provide the correct level of nutrients for your plants.

Fish do not like sudden or rapid changes in their environment. You will want to slowly acclimate your fish to any changes in temperature and water quality. Follow the recommendations of your hobby aquarium shop or pet store. Generally, you will want to do the following:

1. Place your fish in the fountain's fish tank while still in their transport bag, and leave them there for at least 10 minutes.

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16. If System is damaged; all repairs must be handled through **The Aquaponic Source** in order to avoid safety issues to the operator.
17. This System is not intended for use by persons (including children) with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of appliance by a person responsible for their safety.
18. Read and follow all important notices in this guide.

ADDITIONAL HELP

To stay up-to-date on the latest in the world of Aquaponics, please bookmark and refer to the following sites:

FAQ: AquaDesignerSeries.com

Facebook: facebook.com/TheAquaponicSource

Blog: TheAquaponicSource.com/Blog

Community Site: AquaponicsCommunity.com

For Customer Service, contact:

CustomerService@TheAquaponicSource.com

(855) 285-4252 or (303) 720-6604



Tranquility Model Assembly Pictures

Depending on the Tranquility model you purchased, your containers may be different shapes and colors than the ones pictured.

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Getting Started

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Carefully lay out all of the parts and compare them against the picture below before beginning assembly. If you think there are any missing parts please do not hesitate to contact us at CustomerService@TheAquaponicSource.com



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against getting bacteria in open cuts. If you are starting from seed, be sure to place the seeds deep enough into the grow media for them to receive some moisture. With seedlings and plants, you will want to bury them deep enough for their roots to receive moisture. (The **San** model requires deeper planting than the other Tranquility models.) If transplanting soil-based plants, rinse the soil away from the roots first.

ADD FISH

You can add any freshwater aquarium fish appropriate for a smaller sized (5-8 gallon) aquarium to your AquaDesigner Tranquility Series Living Fountain. Your local hobby aquarium shop is a good resource for determining the best fish to add based on the volume of your fish tank and the temperature range in which you plan to keep your fountain. If you don't have a hobby aquarium shop nearby, a pet store is another option. Some common breeds of fish that may work well include tetras, guppies, rasboras, deep-bodied goldfish, and corydoras.



While choosing your fish, we recommend including an algae-eating suckerfish or 1-2 freshwater snails (such as nerite snails). These will help to control algae growth in your fish tank. Ask your hobby aquarium shop or pet store for breed that will not outgrow the fish tank or reproduce in large numbers.

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Plants & Fish

Now that you have your system running smoothly with the grow media and treated fresh water, you are ready to add your plants and fish!

ADD PLANTS



The AquaDesigner Tranquility Series is designed to support most houseplants, flowers, and even herbs such as basil, oregano, mint, rosemary, and sage. We recommend planting a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 plants. You will want to take the location of your Living Fountain into account. Different plants like different amounts of light to grow well. If your preferred location does not provide enough light, you can use an artificial grow light such as a CFL bulb. For maximum effectiveness, be sure to use a bulb that is specifically designed for use with plants, and replace your bulb per manufacturer's recommendations. Many of these bulbs will screw into any standard desk or floor lamp. It is a good idea to place a timer on your lamp so you do not have to manually turn your lamp on and off every day. (16 hours of light per day is a good starting point.) All of these accessories can be easily obtained from **TheAquaponicStore.com**

You can add seeds, seedlings, or plants to your grow bed. The included grow media is designed to be easy to work with, but we recommend always using protective gloves to protect

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In addition to the hardware in the preceding picture, your new system includes an **AquaDesigner Starter Pack** designed to get your Living Fountain up and running smoothly. Included in the Starter Pack are:

- 10L bag of expanded clay grow media
- powdered soluble seaweed
- 4oz Zym-Bac nitrifying bacteria
- 4oz D-Klor natural water conditioner
- Small Buffer Bag (mesh bag of ground seashells)

REQUIRED TOOLS

You will need a **Phillips-head screwdriver** to set up your new Living Fountain. A **bucket or hose** will be handy for filling your system with fresh water.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

- fresh water
- freshwater aquarium fish
- plants

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

For your convenience, we also offer an optional **AquaDesigner Peak Performance Pack** designed to keep your AquaDesigner™ Living Fountain running optimally. Please visit our online store at **TheAquaponicStore.com** for more information and to place an order.

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Build Your System

PREPARE LOCATION

Select a level location to assemble your new Living Fountain. You will want to assemble the fountain in the area you plan to place it. Make sure the location you choose is capable of supporting your fountain after it is filled and stocked with fish and plants.



Protect the area around your fountain in case any water splashes or spills.

ASSEMBLE PUMP

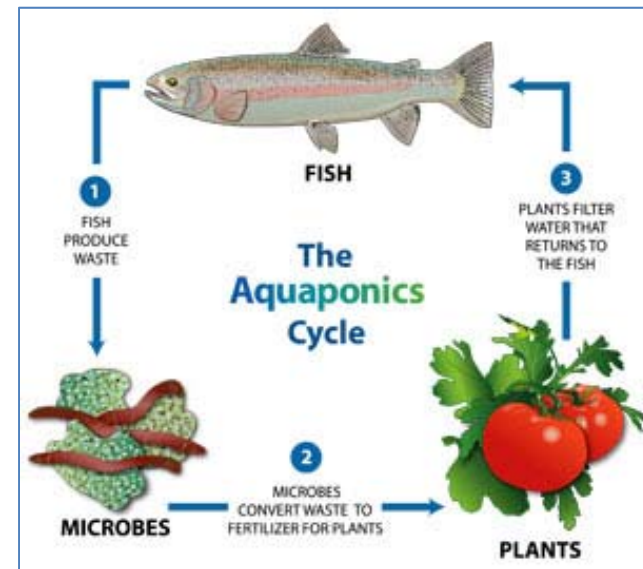
Open the box containing your submersible pump. Inside, you should find all of the parts shown in the following picture.



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We recommend you let your newly treated Living Fountain run for at least a couple of days without plants and fish. This will give some time for the water to begin to clear and for its ecosystem to begin to establish itself.



Living Fountain Ecosystem

FUTURE WATER TREATMENT

Ideally, you will want to dechlorinate any water you add to the system. If you do not have any D-Klor handy, you may alternatively outgas/offgas the chlorine in your water by letting it sit in an open container for 1-2 days before adding it to your fountain. Glass or food-safe containers work best.

You do not need to add additional Zym-Bac to your water unless you empty and store your fountain for an extended period of time.

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TREAT WATER

Included with your AquaDesigner Starter Kit are D-Klor water dechlorinator, Zym-Bac beneficial live bacteria, and powdered soluble seaweed. We will use each of these products to jump-start your new Living Fountain ecosystem so it is ready for your fish and plants.



First, read all of the instructions and warnings on the bottle of D-Klor water dechlorinator. Shake the bottle then add approximately 1 teaspoon of D-Klor to your fish tank water and let it circulate through your system. Store the rest as directed for future water additions.

Next, read all of the instructions and warnings on the bottle of Zym-Bac beneficial live bacteria. Shake the bottle then add the entire contents to your fish tank water. This will jump-start the growth of beneficial bacteria throughout your fountain. These bacteria are essential for breaking down fish waste into nutrients for your plants.



Lastly, take a small glass of water from your fish tank, and add ¼ teas. of the included seaweed packet into it. Stir the water to allow the seaweed powder to dissolve. Then, add the seaweed water back to your fish tank. Save the rest for later use. NOTE: Your water will turn a dark coffee color. This is perfectly normal and safe for your plants and fish. The water should clear up within a few days to a week or so.



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Note: You will not use the adapter shown on the far right side of the preceding picture. Instead, you will use the Venturi aeration adapter to provide your water supplemental aeration.

Step 1: Remove Filter

Open up the submersible pump. Firmly but gently pull the gray half of the pump from the black half with your hands.



Inside the gray half of the pump you will find a small piece of spongy filter material. Remove this. The ecosystem in your Living Fountain will function better without it.

Snap the black and gray halves of the pump housing back together.

Step 2: Assemble Venturi Aeration Parts

Place the gasket into the Venturi aeration adapter.



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Screw the Venturi aeration adapter (with the gasket) onto the submersible pump.



Securely attach the Venturi aeration tube to the small nipple on the side of the Venturi aeration adapter.

Securely attach the 1/2" vinyl tubing included with your fountain onto the open end of the Venturi aeration adapter. Push the tubing all the way onto the barbed fitting.



Step 3: Assemble Fish Tank

You may want to clean the two containers using fresh water and a small amount of mild soap. Your fish tank is the larger of the two included containers, and will form the base of your Living Fountain. The fish tank comes pre-drilled for easy installation of the mounting plate and pump.

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Never allow your submersible pump to run dry or it could be damaged. Your fish tank water surface level should always remain above your pump while it is running.

ADD GROW MEDIA



We recommend you thoroughly rinse your grow media (clay pebbles) with fresh water before use. As with the rest of your system, do not use any chemicals or harsh soaps. Thoroughly rinsing the grow media will help keep your system and water clear of loose clay sediment.

Turn your pump off and allow the grow bed to drain. Fill the upper container (your grow bed) nearly all the way to the top with grow media. (We have supplied you with more than enough grow media to completely fill the grow bed.)

Turn your pump back on and monitor the water surface level of your fish tank. Add more water to the fish tank as needed, leaving a couple of inches at the top.



Be careful not to fill your fish tank too high when the pump is running. If you fill it too high, your fish may jump out or your fish tank may overflow if the pump stops for any reason.

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Water and Grow Media

ADD WATER



Fill the lower container (your fish tank) half-way with fresh lukewarm water. Regular tap water is best. Avoid using reverse osmosis (RO) or distilled water if possible.



Make sure your hands are completely dry before handling any electric plugs or parts.

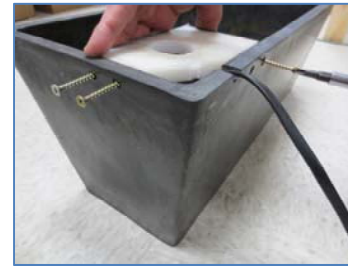
Now that your fish tank is half-way filled with water, plug in your submersible pump. The grow bed should begin filling with water through the debris screen. As soon as the water surface level has passed the debris screen you should see tiny air bubbles coming up. You may adjust the white valve tip of the Venturi aeration tube to maximize the amount of oxygen added to your Living Fountain. As the surface level of the water rises, the bubbles will become smaller and smaller until you may no longer be able to see them.



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Place your assembled pump into the bottom of your fish tank next to where the pre-drilled screw holes are located. There is also a pre-drilled notch for the pump's electric cord.



Hold the mounting plate in place as shown, aligning each of the four pre-drilled screw holes. Screw the mounting plate securely to the fish tank.

Pull the white valve tip of the Venturi aeration tube up against the mounting plate as shown. Loop the ziptie around the tube and through the small slit in the mounting plate to hold the white valve tip in place above what will eventually be your fish tank water surface level. Be careful not to over-tighten the ziptie or it may restrict airflow through the tube.



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Step 4: Attach Grow Bed



Place the smaller grow bed container on top of the larger fish tank container. Align the hole on the bottom of the grow bed container with the hole in the mounting plate. Make sure the waterfall spillway faces into the fish tank.

(from left to right)
bulkhead nut
gasket
bulkhead
debris screen



Screw the debris screen onto the wide end of the bulkhead. Slide the gasket all the way onto the bulkhead from the other barbed fitting end as shown.

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Inside your grow bed, place the barbed fitting end of the bulkhead through the grow bed and mounting plate holes you aligned earlier. The gasket should touch the bottom of the grow bed.



Screw and tighten the bulkhead nut onto the bottom of the bulkhead (underneath your grow bed). This will secure your grow bed to your fish tank and seal the gasket against the grow bed.

Securely attach the free end of the ½" vinyl tubing (from your submersible pump) onto the bulkhead barbed fitting that you just installed underneath your grow bed.



Set the entire Small Buffer Bag inside the back of your fish tank. The bag contains ground seashells and helps to naturally stabilize the pH level of your water. We recommend replacing the Small Buffer Bag every 6 months.

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