



TMC's MicroHabitat 30 is here

Affordable, accessible reefkeeping has become a reality for even more hobbyists with the release of the user-friendly 30-litre MicroHabitat 30 tank. We review and set up our model!

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AQUARIUM ESSENTIALS
MicroHabitat 30

Everybody loves a reef tank, but some cumbersome sizes, esoteric equipment and astronomic running costs have deterred many. Yet with the prevalence of nano reefs, there's every reason to go for it!

The MicroHabitat 30 has everything the budding marine keeper needs — just add sand, décor, water and choice of inverts.

Using LED technology developed for larger tanks and the most demanding corals, the lighting is not only pleasing but sustains photosynthetic life. The only worry you will have is trimming back overgrowing corals!

Filtration is a combination of optional, impregnated foam PowerPads, available separately, and mechanical blocks to remove particulate debris, as well as the biological nature of any live rock used.

The protein skimmer is driven by an air pump, which means it is very quiet, making it suitable for installation in any room in the house, even the bedroom! This skimmer sits in a rear chamber, alongside the heater, flow pump and filtration sponges.

Everything fits together harmoniously and even the most tentative fishkeeper can use this kit knowing everything simply slots into place, plugs in and is ready to go. A balance can soon be achieved with minimal adjustment and a stunning and colourful tank can soon be yours!

Families with youngsters and pets needn't worry either. The tank's acrylic construction means there are no potentially dangerous shards of glass in the event of an accident.

There's a place for a TMC MicroHabitat 30 in every home — whether you're modern in taste or more traditional.

HOW TO SET UP YOUR TMC MICROHABITAT 30



1 Although small the tank will certainly be eye-catching. Keep it away from sources of noise, or where there could be temperature fluctuations, such as near a window, door or radiator.



2 Add pump to rear chamber, if not already installed, with the nozzle fitting into a pre-drilled hole. The return pipe slots in the back. Flow direction and rate can be adjusted, flow controlled via a slide on the pump.



3 Next place the skimmer in the dedicated chamber, taking care to ensure that it points the right way. Connect the air pump, using the non-return valve in the air line.



4 Add the heater to the rear chamber alongside the pump. It is out of sight yet in optimal flow. Don't turn the heater on until the tank contains water. Use the thermometer provided to reach 25°C/77°F.

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5 These PowerPads can be used, available separately, or simply set up with the black foams supplied. Mechanical filters will need regular cleaning and replaceable pads periodic changing.



6 Rinse and add substrate. Don't scrape any sand around the edges as this will scratch the tank. Shape the sand layer as required, 2cm/0.8" all over being ample. Any deeper and it may become a cleaning nightmare.



7 Make a saltwater mix and measure with the kit's hydrometer. You want a 1.024 reading for corals. Leave for 24 hours for the salt to dissolve. Once mixed, add water to halfway, avoiding unduly disturbing the sand.



8 Add live rock and leave platforms for your corals. Then ensure your design cannot topple over. Avoid scratching the tank at this stage and use gloves in case the live rock harbours anything that might bite or sting.



9 Fill with the rest of the water and turn everything on. Once at temperature and everything is settled, add the inverts. Hardy soft corals would be sensible, but we have gone for more difficult species.



10 Add the light mounted on the bracket. Ensure it is secured before turning on and re-evaluate coral position to make sure each is getting enough light. Ensure low light species aren't directly under surface glare.



11 Once happy everything has enough light add the condensation lid. This will help prevent evaporation, as well as stopping creatures escaping. Keep the lid clean to ensure enough light for the corals at all times.



12 Be ready to clean protein skimmer cup every few days. If evaporation occurs, top up with fresh water. Test frequently, especially for ammonia and nitrite, and do a water change if adverse readings occur.