

~ *step-by-step* ~

Small Hanging Planter 3-pack



A new concept, style and method for growing freshwater aquarium plants, *ripariums* are living displays planted in aquariums filled with water to about 1/3 of total depth. Detachable planter cups, such as the Small Hanging Planter™, and other accessories support live plants in the above-water portion of the riparium composition. Ripariums create perfect habitats for aquarium fish, while also combining relatively low maintenance with many new design possibilities.

Before you leave the store. Suggested Riparium Supply™ products for planting riparium displays of various dimensions:

24-inch wide aquarium (20 high, 25 extra high)
TWO - Small Hanging Planter 3-pack
TWO - Nano Trellis Raft 3-pack
ONE - bag Riparium Planter Gravel

36-inch wide aquarium (38 gallon, 50 gallon, 65 gallon)
TWO- Small Hanging Planter 3-pack
ONE - Large Hanging Planter 2-pack
TWO - Nano Trellis Raft 3-pack
ONE - Trellis Raft 2-pack
TWO - bags Riparium Planter Substrate

48-inch wide aquarium (55 gallon, 75 gallon, 90 gallon)
THREE - Small Hanging Planter 3-pack
ONE - Large Hanging Planter 2-pack
TWO - Nano Trellis Raft 3-pack
TWO - Trellis Raft 2-pack
THREE - bags Riparium Planter Substrate

Planting configurations may vary depending upon plant species combinations and garden composition. Visit our Website, www.RipariumSupply.com, to learn more.

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Small Hanging Planter 3-pack

Step 1. Assemble Materials

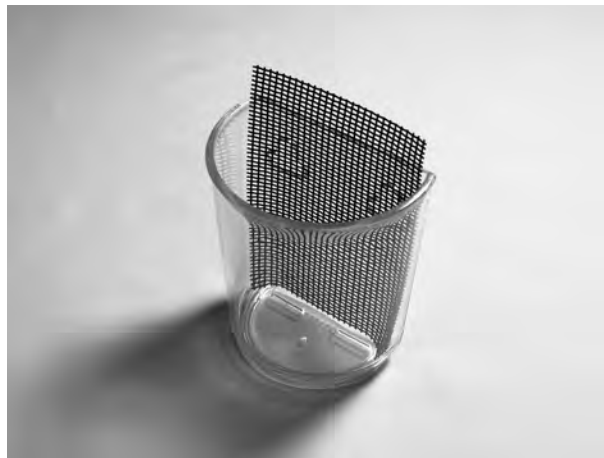
To get ready to plant you will need the following items.

- Small Hanging Planter cup with mushroom-head fasteners
- heavy-duty vinyl suction cups
- planter screen
- clay pebbles substrate
- plant label
- Riparium Planter Gravel*
- liquid and/or tablet aquarium fertilizers*
- live rooted plants*

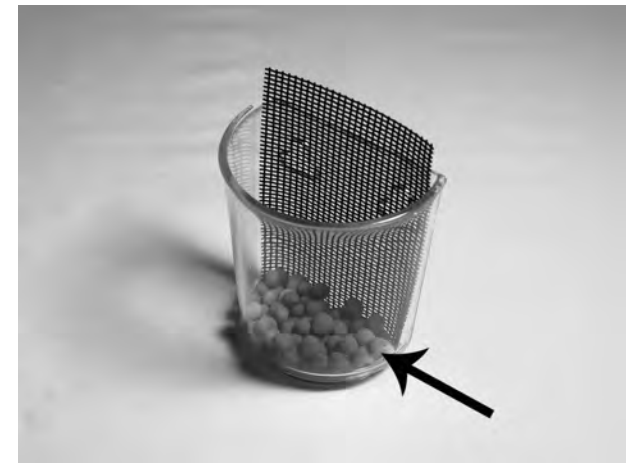
* All of the above items except for the last three are included with the Small Hanging Planter. **Riparium Planter Gravel** is also available separately from Riparium Supply. Aquarium fertilizers are available commercially from other manufacturers. You will also need floating plant supports—**Nano Trellis Raft 3-pack** and/or **Trellis Raft 2-pack**—to plant your riparium display.

Step 2. Get planter ready

The screen included with your planter lines the cup and prevents planter substrate from falling through the suction cup keyholes. Insert the screen until it reaches the bottom of the planter and hold it tight against the flat rear inside surface.



Next, pour the clay pebbles (arrow, opposite panel) into the planter cup in a quantity sufficient to cover the bottom. The clay pebbles will prevent the Riparium Planter Gravel from spilling through the holes in the bottom of the planter, while also encouraging water circulation around plant roots.



Add enough Riparium Planter Gravel (sold separately) to fill the planter to about 1/2 full. If you intend to use a tablet fertilizer (available commercially from other manufacturers), include it now.

Any of several commercially available aquarium plant substrates will function well in the Small Hanging Planter. However, many of the products offered by other manufacturers are packaged wet, so it is more difficult to pour them into the planter cup. A kitchen spoon can make it easier to fill the planter.

Step 3. Live plants

It is best to start with rooted plants: it might be difficult for an unrooted cutting to establish in the planter substrate. The picture below shows a swordplant (*Echinodorus*) plantlet. Notice that the hobbyist trimmed the roots to about one inch in length. By trimming back long roots, you can encourage new roots to branch and explore the Riparium Planter Gravel.



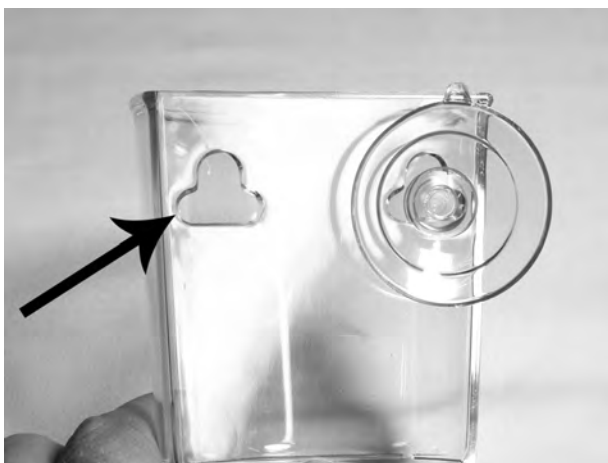
4. Plant your plant



Hold the plant in the planter cup and fill around it with more substrate. It is important to position the plant in the cup at the proper level. If planted too deep the plant crown may begin to rot, whereas if it is too shallow the plant will likely fall out of the planter cup. The swordplant's crown is approximately even with the planter cup rim. The surface of the gravel should be just below the planter cup rim.

5. Suction cups

The planter was designed for a suction cup that is slightly smaller than the heavy-duty vinyl cup. Pull the heads of the suction cups to either side so that they are seated in the outside notch (arrow) of the two keyholes. With this arrangement the planter cup will accommodate both suction cups. The vinyl suction cups adhere very well provided that surfaces are kept clean. Use a plastic scraper to clean the glass before mounting. Clean algae film from the suction cup with your fingertips.



6. Position planter in riparium

Riparium Planter Gravel is a dry, absorbent material, so place the planter in water right away to prevent root desiccation. Position the planter cup so that the planter gravel surface is slightly above the water level.



7. Plant label



There are hundreds of kinds of plants that can grow well in a riparium. Keep track of your plant species and varieties with the plastic plant label. The very top of the printed side of the label is black in color, so it will blend in against the aquarium background if facing toward the front of the tank. Write plant data (variety, species, source, date) on the white back surface with a pencil or permanent magic marker. The label fits into the space between the rear of the planter cup and the planter screen. Use a dull kitchen knife to open this area if it becomes obstructed with plant roots or substrate, then insert the label.

8. Grow your plants

Your plants will need nutrients to recover from transplant shock and begin growth. Use an eyedropper to drip plant food directly onto the surface of the planter gravel. Planted aquarium fertilizers (available commercially from other manufacturers) function well. Be sure to use a combination of fertilizers that will provide plant macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous & potassium) and micronutrients (especially iron). Add a few drops of each kind of fertilizer to each of your planters, taking care to avoid adding more than the manufacturer-recommended amount for the full volume of water.

Prevent plant pests! While ripariums demand somewhat less maintenance and expense than most other kinds of planted aquaria, they do require some extra care to prevent plant pests such as spider mites, aphids and mealy bugs. Most such pests can be removed by immersing any new plants that you acquire in water for 12 hours prior to planting. You can also dunk plants in hanging planters, either within the aquarium or in a separate container, to kill pests that might find their way into the riparium.

Find more plant care tips on the Riparium Supply Website.

www.RipariumSupply.com



Riparium Supply™ Planted Aquarium Systems & Accessories

~ developed & manufactured by ~

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