

Standing Fish Tank/Aquarium

Text and photography by Carolyn Eiche

Most miniaturists have at least one of these plastic boxes as many dealers use them to display and sell their items. Here's an idea to use extra display boxes that you may have around the house. If you use other size showcase boxes, just adjust the size of the acetate insert.

You can do this project with either one or two plastic boxes. If you only have one box you can display your fish tank on a table. If you have two you can make a standing column fish tank.

What You'll Need:

- 1 or 2 AMAC Plastics showcase boxes #801, approximately 1 1/8" square
- Testors Glossy Black spray paint OR Ceramcoat Primer and a glossy Black acrylic paint
- Sand, small seashells, small pieces of plastic greenery
- DAP Almond colored tub caulk OR white caulking mixed with a Brown paint to get an Almond/Beige color
- Small fish stickers
- Gold paint marker (optional)
- Piece of thin plastic or acetate: 1 1/16" x 1 9/16"
- Tacky Glue, scissors

1. If using two boxes for your tank, take the black bottom off one and discard. The clear top of this box will be used for the bottom of the tank column. Spray with Testors glossy black spray paint for plastics. It's better to use two or three light coats than one heavy one. If you don't have the Testors paint, use a primer for plastics and paint with a glossy black water based acrylic.

2. Use the black bottom portion of the second box. Squirt a small amount of DAP almond caulking and spread onto the inside section black bottom portion of the second box. Do not get it in the grooves!

3. Make the DAP a little lumpy and built up, not flat looking. Sprinkle sand over the DAP and gently pat onto DAP. Wait a minute or two and shake off the excess sand.

4. Place a few small pieces of greenery and shells into sand/DAP and let it set up for a few minutes.

5. While this is drying, carefully cut the plastic or acetate. Test fit into the clear top of the plastic box. It should just fit in snugly. It should not bend or wiggle around. Adjust if necessary.

6. Once it fits, put some fish stickers onto it. Decide where it's

going in the box and stick into sand. Make sure it's straight up and down. The DAP usually takes several hours to dry completely, so there is plenty of time to cut out the acetate and decorate it before the DAP dries. If necessary, use a little Tacky Glue along the edge of the acetate to help adhere it to sand.

7. When DAP is set, place the clear top on the fish tank and the black painted section onto the bottom. Paint some gold highlights at the seams where the box pieces meet (optional). ■



As the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts' board liaison, Carolyn Eiche procures or writes how-to projects for the NAME The Gazette. If you have questions on this project, please contact Carolyn through Miniature Collector magazine.