



by George Farmer

The Dutch aquarium is aquascaped by George Farmer and is described in Practical Fish Keeping - an aquascape with an abundance of plants in rows and groups. Many stem plants with variations in structure and colour give a visual effect - and challenges! George's largest challenge in planning the aquascape was the choice of plants and placement, and making sure they complemented each other. George grouped plants in the foreground, middle ground and background with a colour sub-category, and chose a combination of classical Dutch plants (like *Lobelia* and *Bacopa*) as well as several new plants (like *Staurogyne* and *Pogostemon*). *Ludwigia* is the red plant in focus, and *Cryptocoryne wendtii* 'Brown' adds a play of colours to the green. The aquascape has plants in abundant measures - and many of them are quick-growing. That is very helpful in avoiding algae as the aquarium is quickly balanced, but there is also a more frequent need for maintenance with the scissors.

**Tip!** George started with 7 hours of light per day, and only from 2 T8-tubes the first 4 weeks in order to not accelerate the growth of the plants. After that, 4 T5-tubes and 10 hour lighting periods once the plants had started growing and the aquarium was balanced better.

## Technique

Volume:	160 L
Light:	T5 4 x 24W HO
Substrate:	Plant Growth Substrate
Gravel:	Unipac Maui Sand
Filter:	Fluval G6
CO2:	two bubbles per second
Fertiliser (weekly):	Premium Fertiliser 105 ml
Maintenance (hours per week):	1-2

## Plants used in this layout

A)	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	(053C)	2 pcs.
B)	<i>Pogostemon helferi</i>	(053H)	3 pcs.
C)	<i>Staurogyne repens</i>	(049G)	3 pcs.
D)	<i>Cryptocoryne wendtii</i> 'Tropica'	(109E)	1 pcs.
E)	<i>Ludwigia glandulosa</i>	(035A)	1 pcs.
F)	<i>Pogostemon erectus</i>	(053F)	2 pcs.
G)		( )	1 pcs.
G)		( )	1 pcs.
H)	<i>Vallisneria nana</i>	(056C)	1 pcs.
I)	<i>Hygrophila difformis</i>	(051 BDT)	3 pcs.
J)	<i>Myriophyllum mattogrossense</i>	(037)	1 pcs.
K)	<i>Bacopa caroliniana</i>	(043)	2 pcs.