

Homemade Barrel Filter

by Beau Roye

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Using an old 55-gallon plastic drum with the top cut out, you can make your own gravity flow filter system. Home Depot carries hot water heater overflow pans that work great as a lid for this system (or simply use a trash can from Home Depot - not quite as many gallons though).

Cut a 4" diameter hole in the top of the lid. Cut serrated slots at the bottom of a piece of 4" S + D PVC pipe - this will allow water to flow out the bottom of the pipe - and place the 4" S + D pipe into the barrel.

Cut two additional holes in the barrel:

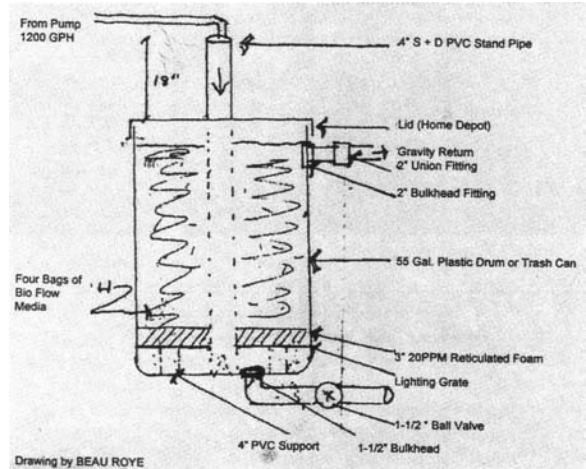
a 1 1/2" hole in the bottom for cleaning and draining, using the correct bulkhead and ball valve; and

a 2" gravity feed return line with a 2" bulkhead fitting and a 2" union fitting, so it can be disconnected for cleaning/draining.

Cut a piece of lighting grate (again, from Home Depot) as a support system/frame for your 20 PPM reticulated foam or filter mat (purchase from a water garden store). This material acts as the first-stage mechanical/bio-filter media. Again, use your 4" S + D PVC for support legs for the grate (approximately 3" long).

Water enters via the top of the 4" PVC, flows down the pipe through the foam and Bio Flow, then is gravity fed back to the pond.

Concrete cinder blocks work well to support the barrel filter off the ground. Paint the entire outside of the barrel black in order to



enhance bio-activity, which takes place in the dark to cultivate.

Materials List:

- 55-gallon plastic barrel
- 1- 10' long 4" S + D PVC
- 1 hot water heater overflow pan, to be used as lid
- 1- 2' x 4' lighting grid material, to be used as support
- 1 foam or pad
- 1/2" bulkhead
- 1- 1 1/2" bulkhead
- 1- 2" union fitting PVC
- 1- 2" male adapter, PVC
- 1- 1 1/2" male adapter, PVC
- 1- 1 1/2" 90-degree PVC
- 1- 1 1/2" ball valve, PVC
- 4 boxes Bio Flow filter media

For more information about the Koi and Water Garden Club of North Texas, contact Theresa Burdette at 972-758-0024 or Jeanne Willingham at jeawill@aol.com.