

1. INCUBATOR COMPONENTS

Incubator: The incubator is the set of elements that allow the eggs to develop into small fry. As such, the aquarium, the filter, and the cooling unit make up what we refer to as the “incubator” in this document.

Aquarium: The aquarium must contain at least 30 gallons of water (114 liters) for the fry to properly develop, and for their environment to be provided with sufficient oxygen.

Filter: Filters keep the water fresh and clean for the fry. There are two different models to choose from in the program.

The original filter unit that was used, called **Aquaclear**, would be installed on the brim of the aquarium, and relied solely on the old Freon coolers to operate. This type of cooling system uses coils placed inside the aquarium, directly at the bottom of the tank.

The **Fluval** filter features its own reservoir and is designed for external filtration (positioned below the aquarium). The filter unit is connected to the cooler with hoses providing water inlet and outlet through the system.



Cooler: The cooler allows to maintain optimal water temperature for the survival of the eggs and fry. In the past in the program, the incubator's cooler came as a coil that was placed directly at the bottom of the aquarium tank. The newer model features its own reservoir, which is connected to the filter and the aquarium.

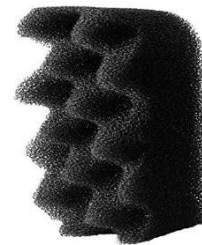


→ Water inlet and outlet nozzles

→ Rubber collar

→ Metal collar (can be used to seal joints between pipes and water inlets/outlets)

Carbon filter/bag: This is the only component in the incubator that needs to be changed every year. Carbon filters improve water clarity by effectively eliminating odors, discoloration, and impurities. Accordingly, these filters have a certain lifespan, which is why they should be replaced every year. They usually cost around \$16, so this is a small annual investment to help increase the fry's chances of survival.



Gravel: You could buy some gravel at the store or you could use rocks taken from the river. The gravel helps reassure the fry because they can hide in it. It also mimics their natural river environment; however, it is not essential to their survival in the incubator.