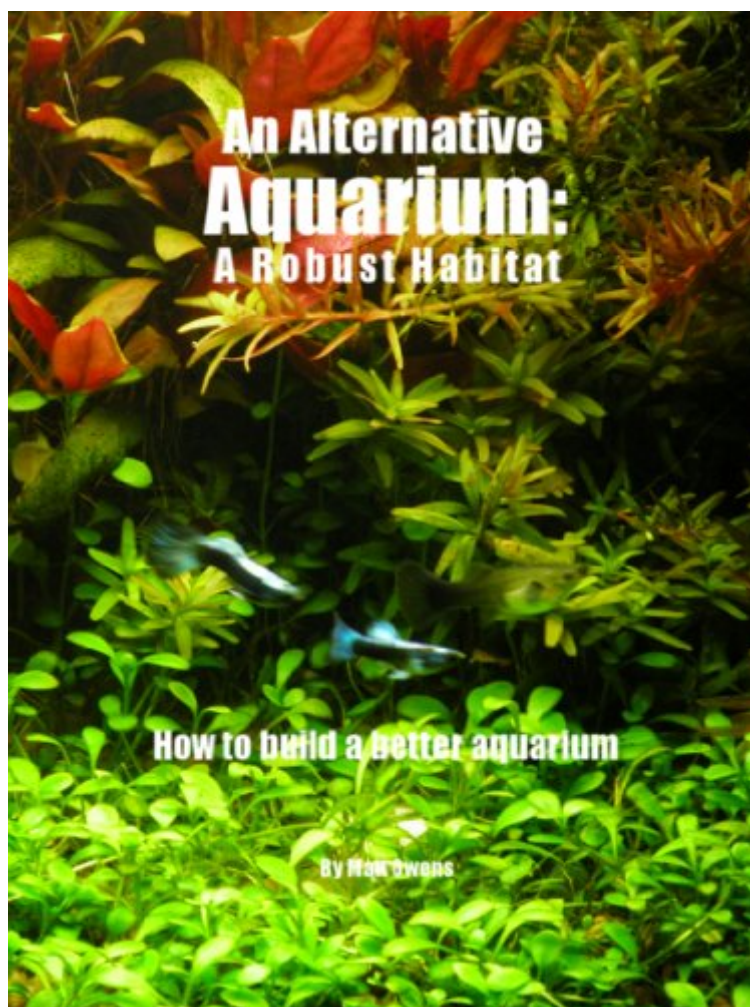


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# An Alternative Aquarium: A Robust Habitat



## Synopsis

Typical aquarium literature advocates rigorous routine cleaning and tedious maintenance, which usually leads to an artificially sterile aquarium habitat that's punctuated by stretches of poor water quality (caused by missed cleanings or unnoticed clogged filters). For people like myself, such an aquarium is doomed to failure because it is so dynamically simple that boredom sets in and other demands from life lead to less than the required vigilance and maintenance. Instead, you can build a dynamic and robust habitat that uses natural elements of streams, ponds, and lakes: an alternative aquarium. Alternative aquariums are ideal for anyone with a basic understanding of and interest in ecology. They use natural processes and elements such as soil, plants, and a food chain of invertebrates to create a more complete, dynamic, and most-of-all, interesting habitat. These aquariums can be customized to a nearly limitless extent, offering you the chance to creatively construct an engaging slice of an aquatic ecosystem. \_\_\_\_\_ Updated November 16, 2014: This, the second edition, is an extensively updated and expanded version of the original 2011 edition, with three new sections: how to incorporate a refugium for invertebrates, variations on the setup process, and how to collect and install driftwood. \_\_\_\_\_ This e-book is equal to a print book approximately 150 pages in length and includes more than 50 color photographs that illustrate the steps and elements.

## Book Information

File Size: 8622 KB

Print Length: 157 pages

Publication Date: April 11, 2011

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004W9C756

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #102,864 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Animal Care & Pets > Fish & Aquariums #18 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Fish & Aquariums #93 inÂ Kindle

## Customer Reviews

I've read quite a few books on aquarium plants, and I thought this was very good, and very easy to understand. It puts information about growing aquarium plants in simple to understand words. It shows that you can raise plants in an aquarium without expensive CO2 systems. I like to keep things as natural as possible, and this spells out how I basically keep my aquariums. Very real and down to earth, usable information. It's a great book. I love to have it in a paperback, easier to use as a reference that way.

Marvellous book, helping me to challenge everything I thought I knew about aquariums, and now I am building my new tank inspired by this information. This book is becoming my aquarium bible. I can't wait for this author's next book.

This book describes a low light, non-CO2, planted aquarium method that is very similar to Diana Walstad's method, but different in some details. The primary difference is the use of natural, grown in the tank food for the fish. These foods are worms and other invertebrates which will establish colonies that the fish can browse when they are hungry. The method is intriguing, but not nearly as simple as you might expect. Like almost all how to do it aquarium books this one also gets the subject of lighting an aquarium wrong. I gave this a 3 star rating instead of a 4 star rating because it needs to be better organized and simplified if it is to be the primary guide for someone not experienced with aquariums.

For a beginner or novice that wants to learn more about planted tanks and more stable aquariums, buy this book. It is a great reference and you will use it often, especially just starting out.

This book is a good source of information how the soil sand invertebrates plants and fish can affect the water pH hardness and control nitrates and ammonia.

Good clear presentation of information. Especially useful for beginners. Would be great to have more in depth instruction but it sounds like the author is working on a follow up that contains just that.

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