



September 2020
Volume 30 Issue 1

THE FILTER



Melon Panda Barb
Haludaria fasciata

TBAS . . . Since 1992

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2018



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

“THE FILTER”

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

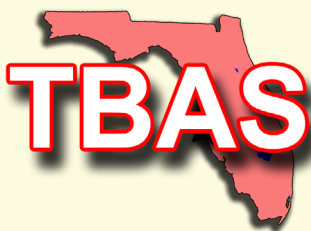
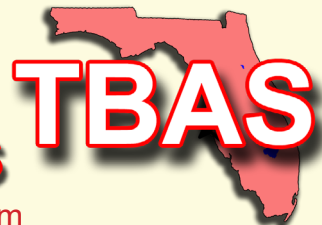


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Well, if not this month, I would predict that maybe we will have an October meeting of TBAS. I would hope to see you guys there if that's the date where it happens!!!

Boy, this COVID-19 is just tearing all club meetings apart. Not only fish club meetings but all club meetings. In a normal week I will go to the St. Petersburg Bridge Club (cards) maybe 3-4 times a week. I haven't done that since ohhh, the middle of May!!!

This pandemic stuff is for the birds!!!!

TBAS elections are going on now! You should have gotten a TBAS email about the nominations. In hearing from the election committee we now have at least enough nominations to replace the outgoing officers. That's the good news!!!

Stay safe folks . . . I don't know when we will beat this thing but I really trust that we will!!!! See you sometime pretty soon!



Mike

Mike Jacobs, Editor TBAS Filter

Neocaridina davidi var. *Blue*
Blue Cherry Shrimp

Photo by Mike Jacobs 2020



Joe Gargas

Joe & Mike TALK!!!



Mike Jacobs

Joe: It has recently come to my attention that the Vortex Innerspace Products will no longer be producing their “Vortex Diatom Filter” after 50 years. Since this occurred, I decided to come with a water polishing system. I have 3 sizes available.

This polishing system works as a depth filter and uses negative suction. The difference is most filters push the water and particulate through the media. In negative suction the water is pulled through the filter media allowing for more even flow and it prevents the media from collapsing on itself. This system is considered a depth filter were the water will have to go through 3 inches or more of filter media before exiting thus the dirtier the filter gets the cleaner the water becomes! The small pumps required for this must be size accordingly with more emphasis on the head pressure than the flow rate. Always look at the head pressure when purchasing a pump. Many pumps from China tote a high flow rate but very low head this means when a filter get clogged the flow rate slows down to a trickle.

This System will remove particulates down to 50 microns, when using “Crystal Clear” (my formulated diatomaceous earth replacement) you will be able to remove particulates down to 1 micron not only polishing your water but removing free floating parasites as well! “Crystal Clear” is a coagulation formulation which causes particles to clump together including parasites, metals and some organics making them larger and filterable. It takes about minute to change out the media. All you add to the aquarium is 1 teaspoon (5 mls) per 10 gallons and you will be able to notice the migration of the color through the depth of the media. The media which is 100% polyester fiber used to stuff pillows starts out as snowy white then increasingly darkens. The used media can be discarded as it is very inexpensive and can be purchase at most stores.

It takes about one - 2 hours (depending on the size) to polish an aquarium. I clean all my aquariums at least twice a month using this method.

Mike: Folks . . . Joe’s new filter system is simply wonderful!!! I have used the old style Vortex Diatom filters for maybe 30 years, and while they ALWAYS

did the job very well, they were a very real pain to change the medium in the filter. You had to take the filter off the tank and which is uncomfortably large and take it apart and rinse the filter part that held the Diatom Powder and then put it all back together and then go back and then put it on another tank.

After 30 years I kinda got use to it but now, I have an excuse to not do it . . . use Joe's filters. They are 11.6" high but maybe the half the overall size of the old Vortex filter and 100% easier to change the medium. Joe's filter system is just wonderful to use and it's easy to clean and it's still as powerful as the old Vortex Diatom filters.

Please don't consider this article an ad for Joe to sell something . . . it's just very, very REAL, NEW information for you folks!!! Joe really didn't want it to sound like an ad!!!

The Old Vortex Diatom Filter



Joe's NEW Polishing Filter

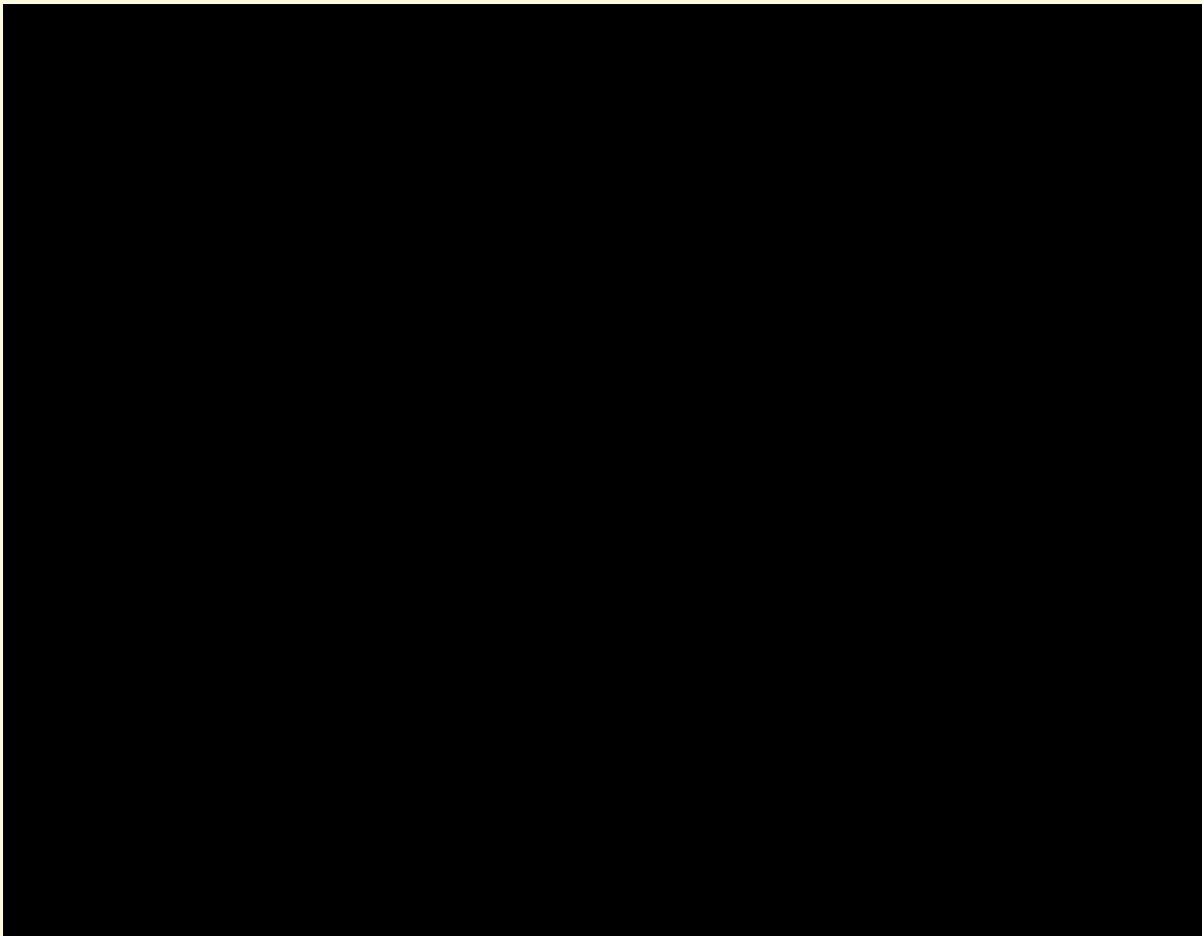


See the
POLISHING-FILTER
in action!!! Video below!

[Click on the](#)



[to See Video](#)



Mike's Moments Article from 1996



by
Mike
Jacobs

Can we talk?! . . . No I mean it. We need to get real serious here and discuss something that quite a few aquarists never thought about, and I am going to give you a solution to the problem...who said there was a problem? BABY BRINE SHRIMP (*Artemia salina*). Oh I know, it's not worth the time right?!?! They only last for about two days and the hatch is not very good and collecting them is a real pain and the bubbles create a mess your mother wouldn't clean up . . . RIGHT? Let me suggest a few solutions. I have been hatching baby brine on a regular (every day) basis for about 3 years now and all I use for equipment is one 2 gallon glass bowl and a shrimp net (bought at a local store) . . . Oh also a 2 gallon plastic lemonade pitcher . . . I'll explain in a moment. With that I have hatched enough baby brine for 25+ tanks of baby angelfish every day for about 3 years. OK, here goes . . . this is my experience. First of all I use the bay (Tampa) water. I live about 6-8 blocks from Tampa bay and make a weekly excursion to the shore and get 5 gallon bucket of saltwater . . . no cost! I have found that this water is perfect . . . salt wise, if you dilute it to about 1.015 on the hydrometer, but I broke my hydrometer several years ago so, the point is just water down the saltwater a little for the hatching. Generally I will run some sort of power filter on the water for several hours . . . but sometimes it is almost crystal clear . . . really! I'll fill the 2 gallon bowl with about 3/4 full with water and insert the air hose . . . did you notice I said "air hose" and not air stone? Not so much spray guys. It takes a piece or two of lead to keep each of the two airlines on the bottom but the fact of no air stones has cut the spray to virtually NO spray. I push the capacity of the 2 gallon bowl in terms of capacity of shrimp but if you do a good job of harvesting it will be fine. I generally put in 2+ tablespoons...not teaspoons . . . of brine eggs and NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING extra to help the eggs hatch . . . no Epsom salts, no nothing, they will do just fine. Which brings up the next point with brine eggs. I am really sorry fish shops, but those little vials of brine eggs wouldn't hatch if you hit them with a sledge hammer. A couple of years ago I found myself out of eggs and my source wouldn't have any for 5-6 days . . . I panicked and actually had to pay 5 gazillion dollars for a vial of eggs...well it would be okay if the hatch would be decent . . . I think maybe 7 shrimp hatched . . . maybe it was 8.

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Another trip to another fish store and another 5 gazillion dollars and feeling that well, maybe the other store had an old batch and this one will be okay . . . maybe 10 shrimp hatched. Point to be made . . . if you don't want to buy, or don't have a need for a "tin" of brine eggs . . . retail - eh \$21.00+ then get several people and go in on a tin and all of you will have enough eggs to feed for quite some time. Yes you can . . . in fact freezing the EGGS in the freezer will make them last "indefinitely" (at this moment I have 5 tins of eggs in my freezer). Once you are using them just put the remaining portion in the refrigerator . . . they will last (be active) up to 6-8 months after breaking the seal, if kept in the 'frige. HEY, HEY . . . it's now been 14+ hours since you put in the eggs. A great number, enough to feed will be hatched if the temperature of the room is anywhere near 800. It will take a little longer if the temp is a little lower . . . I know what the directions say . . . this time frame works for me. To collect, simply pull out the air hoses and turn on a little light that is aimed at the bottom of the bowl and go feed your bigger fish . . . come back in 5-10 min. and it will be a "sea" of orange brine shrimp collected at the bottom of the bowl with the eggs floating at the top. I then siphon the brine out with a stiff piece of air hose connected to regular air hose to the shrimp net that is resting in the mouth of the lemonade pitcher. When I get what I need to feed I simply put the air back in the bowl and let the water all go through the net. When the water is completely through the net simply dump the water back into the hatchery and feed what you need. **BUY GOOD QUALITY EGGS**...ask the breeders you know for a brand name.

Now . . . listen. Very often you will have too many shrimp . . . or plan as I do, to have too many, what do you do with them . . . don't just dump them into a tank . . . FREEZE THEM!! IT IS SO EASY...and you can make enough of your own frozen food in 4-5 days to last for a month. Locally there are companies that manufacture plastic "zip" bags . . . they make all sizes but 2" X 3" is perfect. It cost me \$12.00 for 1000 bags . . . split it with some people. When you have a net full that is drained of saltwater, go to the kitchen with it and get a coffee cup(wide mouth) and put about enough tap water in the cup to fill 1/3-1/2 of the plastic bag . . . put the shrimp in the cup of tap water and dump the mix in the zip bag . . . even my wife can now manage that . . . squeeze the air out of the bag and zip it closed and put it in the freezer . . . BINGO, INSTANT FROZEN BRINE FOR PENNIES . . . have you bought frozen baby brine lately \$\$\$\$\$? Now you can use the brine as you please. Your fish will love you. If I dedicate the entire hatch to being frozen I can get 4-5 bags of frozen shrimp form 2-3 tablespoons of eggs.

MOORISH IDOL . . . Several years ago I went into my favorite shop and the "boss" showed me an "idol" that just refused to eat . . . I know, what else iis new . . . and he asked if I had any salt tanks up and going and was one empty . . .

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yea, yea, yea . . . would I take him home and try to see whatever. Well . . . I've not had very good luck with "idols" in the past but this challenge was too much . . . enough said. I took him home and plopped him in a 40 gal. tank with a couple of odd gobies and some odd bottom creatures . . . he wouldn't eat anything the next day. Drastic measures . . . when I was down getting a bucket of saltwater for brine shrimp I noticed some rocks with hair algae about 6-8" long on them . . . the rocks were small, about the size of your fist or so, and I grabbed several thinking that there might be some small critters that might be in the "crust" of the rock that the "idol" might be interested in . . . after being in the tank for about . . . oh, maybe - ah . . . 17 seconds this fish dove into the hair algae and didn't stop until his belly was totally distended . . . I mean bursting. Several hours later there he was again eating the algae and that was that until it was all gone . . . BINGO - disappeared. I tried some live shrimp the next day but noooooo . . . more rocks . . . stuffed! After several weeks he began eating "normal" stuff but there you have it. Any comments out there guys? Try it - you might like it!

GARGAS ANSWERS!!!



We all have a **WOUNDEFUL** opportunity!!! Joe Gargas has volunteered to take and answer all of your "WATER" and "DISCUS" questions! You folks all know my opinion of Joe's "WATER" & "DISCUS" knowledge . . . so take advantage of this opportunity and have at it!!

Here's Joe's email address:

joegar@tampabay.rr.com - Ask him anything you want and let him answer. We will then publish the questions in the monthly TBAS bulletin, "THE FILTER" . . . **DON'T BE SHY!!**

Aqua Research Center

Water Analysis & Interpretation
www.aquaresearchcenter.com

by Joe Gargas

Ph: (813)645-1717

MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!!



Membership Dues for TBAS are due on the anniversary of your sign-up date every year. Please make sure you check the “sign-in” list on the table at every meeting to check your “Dues-Date” . . . Thanks!!!

USE PAYPAL ON THE TBAS WEBSITE . . . TBAS1.COM . . . !!!!!

A COUPLE OF PHOTOS ... ENJOY!!



Top Hat Blenny - *Omobranchus fasciolatoceps*



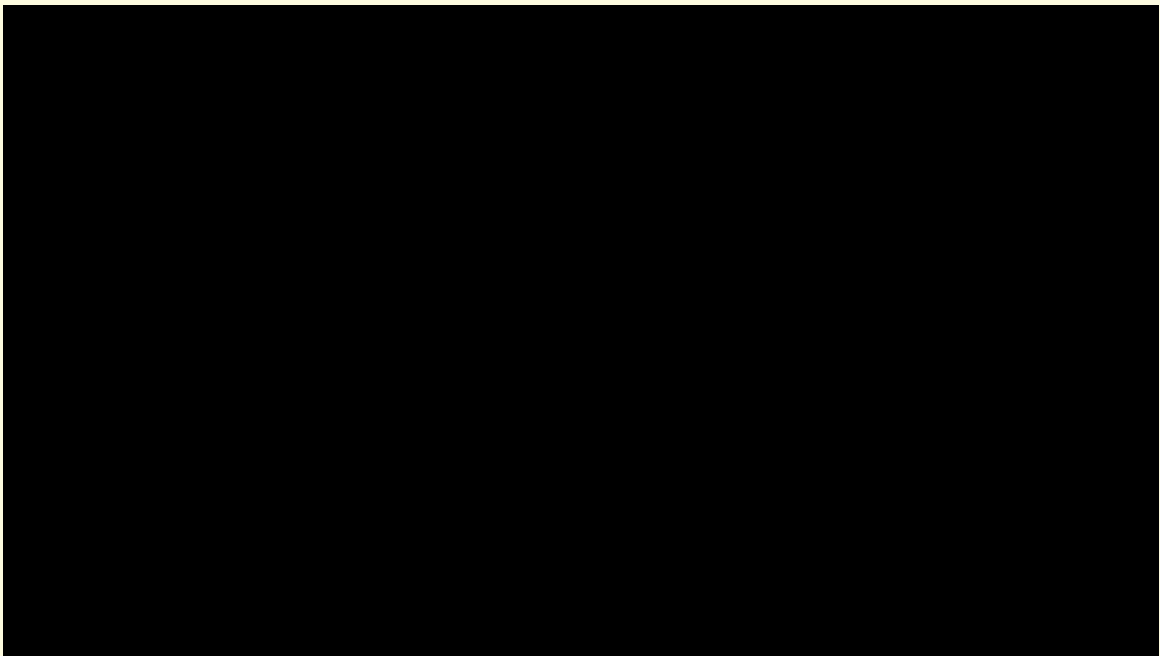
Dwarf Chain Loach - *Ambastia sidthimunki*



[Click on the](#)



[to See Video](#)





Can't We All Just Get Along?

One of the biggest problems that new and old fish keepers have is getting their fish to get along, even when they are only keeping one species. To complicate matters what works for one person may not work for someone else. Tank Size, the habitat, food and water quality are all factors in fish compatibility. But, sometimes you will run into a fish that does not fit its profile. This can be caused by inbreeding, poor nutrition during egg development or a number of other factors. These fish can be either big bruisers or real wimps, but these are exceptions to the rule.

There are many books that try to give compatibility guides but they often all short. Here are some simple rules that you can follow that will help you select the right kind of fish so your tank will be a more "peaceful" place.

The first thing you need to know is how big the fish will get. Hopefully your fish store will have books you can look at (if they don't have any reference material, I would worry about buying any fish at that store). Once you know how big the fish will become, then you will know if you have the right-sized tank for it and any tank mates of similar size you might want to

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put with it. **NO! FISH DO NOT GROW TO THE SIZE OF THE TANK!** This is the biggest fallacy in the hobby and if someone tells you that, they don't know what they are talking about! A fish's mouth size will tell you a lot too . . . big mouth predators should not be kept with small fish. Large fish with small mouths can be kept with smaller fish.

The next thing you need to know are the water requirements. Do you need hard or soft water, warm or cold? Maybe this fish needs a higher pH or lower pH. You can't mix fish that have very different water requirements because it is inevitable that someone will be unhappy.

Does the fish need to be in schools, pairs, harems or alone? What if you purchase barbs? They like schools and are very unhappy in pairs and will nip and pick at each other and other fish unless kept in groups of six or more. Perhaps your male won't get along with a single female but needs a harem. These are things you must consider.

Food is not something that many people think of when considering compatibility, but take, for example, the seahorse. Seahorse and related pipefish eat only live food and eat it very slowly. Most fish you keep with them will eat all the food before they get a chance, even though they won't harm the seahorses. Don't mix vegetable-eaters with live plant tanks. Many fish have special food requirements so keep this in mind when mixing different kinds of fish.

Activity level and habitat go together. Active fish need swimming room and many sedate fish need hiding places. Often the very active fish will make slower fish nervous, but sometimes they are used with more aggressive fish to distract them from fighting with each other. And what do YOU want? Do you like fish darting and flashing about or more sedate, slow movers? Some predators are sedate until food goes by. Don't let that fool you. Be sure they fit the other rules too.

This article is meant to provide some guidelines and just because the fish you pick match all rules doesn't mean they will all get along. Sometimes you have to change the tank around or add more fish for distraction or add more habitats. There will always be exceptions to the rule and remember each fish has its own personality. Until next month, keep those fish happy.

GERMAN BLUE RAMS

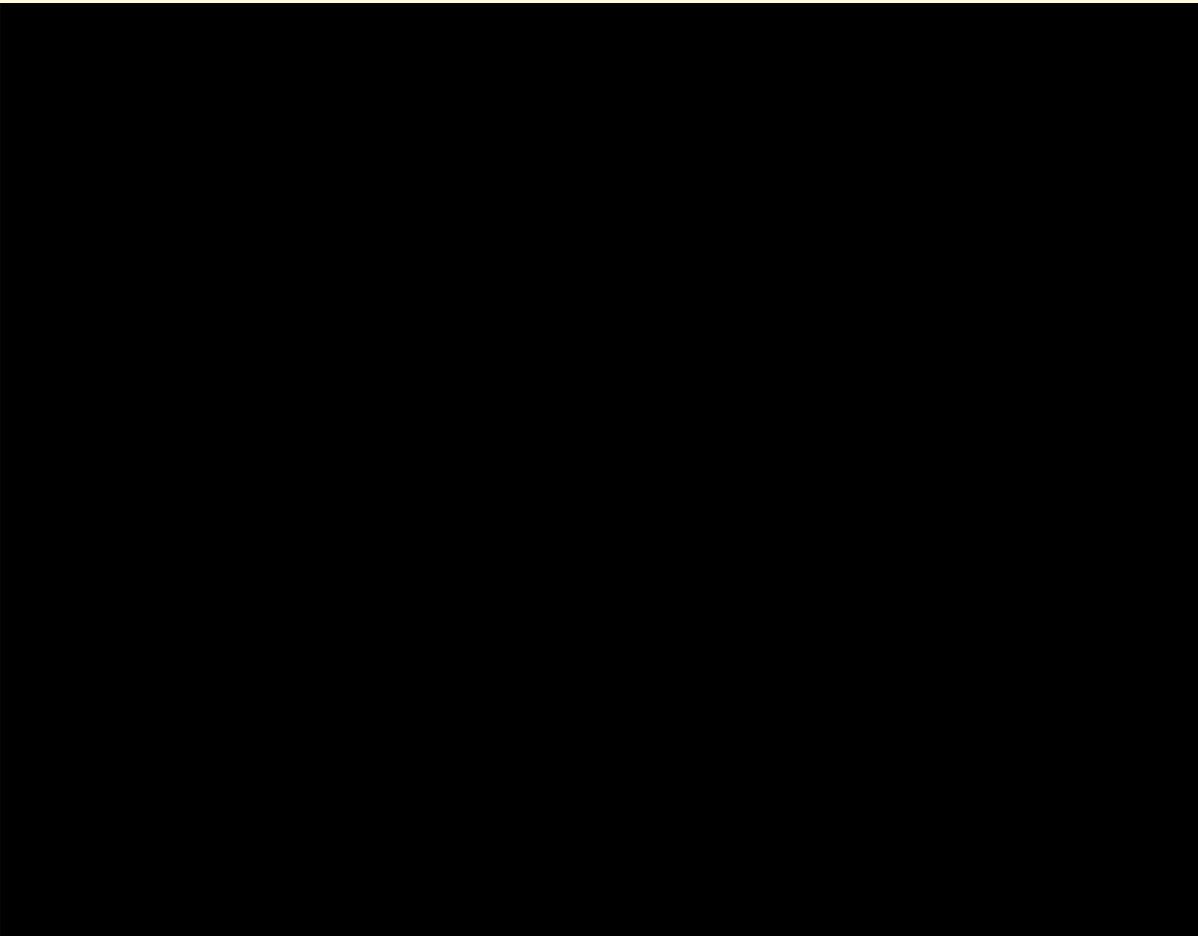
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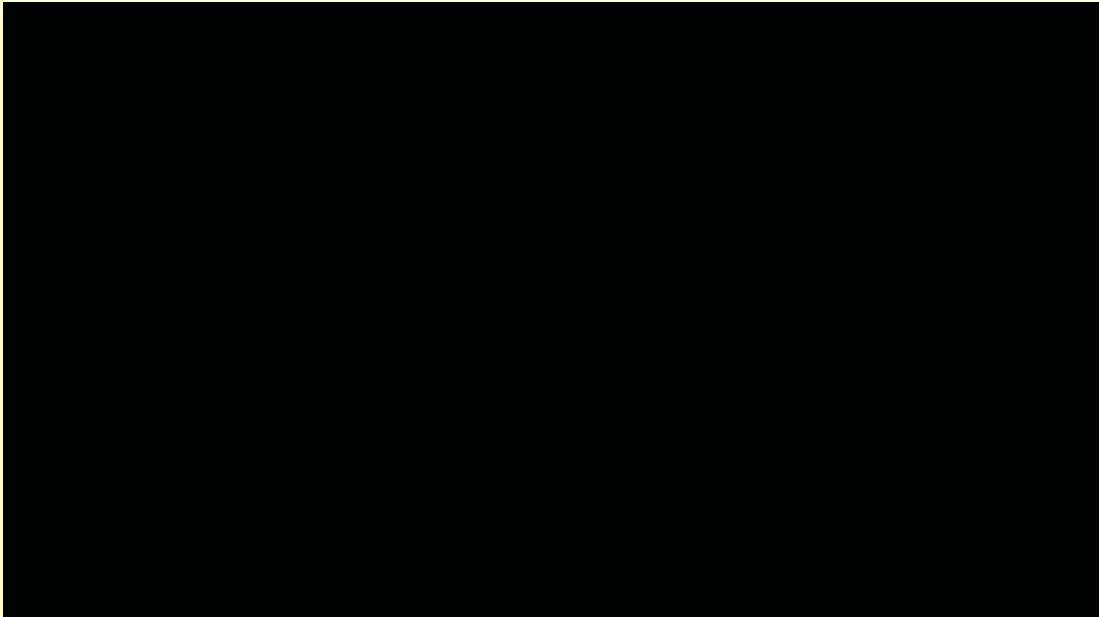
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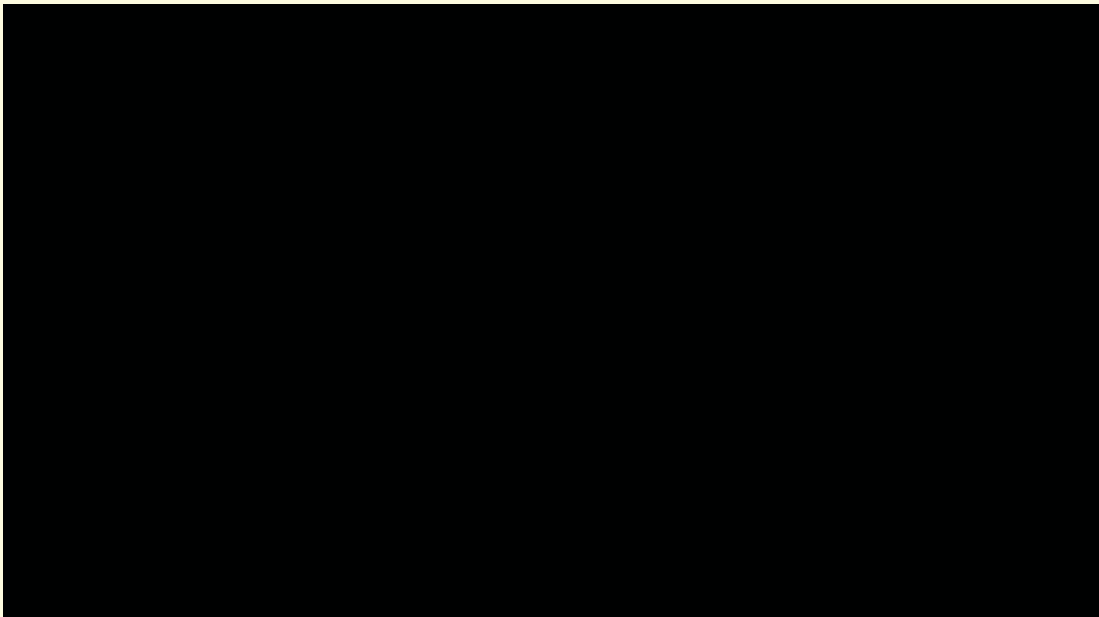
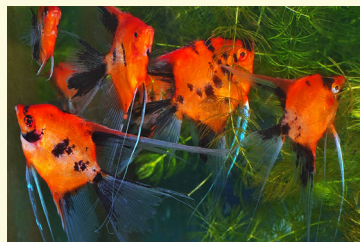




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Barilius canarensis - Canarensis Hill Trout

photo: Mike Jacobs 2018

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www.pythonproducts.com

 The word 'FLUVAL' is written in large, bold, cyan letters at the top. Below it is a box for the Fluval 206 canister filter. The box is black and blue, showing the filter unit and the text 'FLUVAL 206'.

www.FluvalAquatics.com

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 The logo for JBJ U.S.A. features the letters 'JBJ' in a large, white, bold font inside a blue oval with a white border. Below the oval, it says 'U.S.A.' and 'Website: www.jbjlighting.com'.

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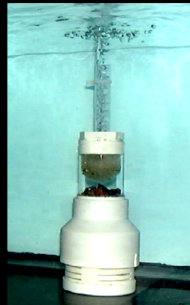
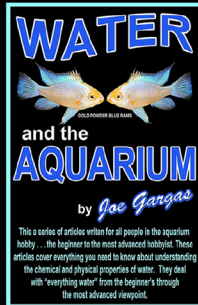
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