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## organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by derek - 2008/10/07 04:52

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i originally tested organic aqua for a while last year, and although i found it worked very well the fact that i had so many tanks and was instructed to leave lids open discouraged me from using it extensively. but i still continued to use it for injured or recuperating fish as the holistic effect is really good. recently i was contacted by a chap who had set up a new uncycled tank and stocked it with a few dozen adult malawis, needless to say the fish were really suffering and would not last much longer without instant action. i considered taking them home to one of my own tanks but did not feel they could make it alive. then i thought of aqua so i gave him sufficient for his tank and sent him home to try it as a last resort. the next morning he rang me with the good news, all fish had recovered and were looking for food. around the same time i had a goldfish speared by a heron make a miracle recovery re aqua. my nephew (who is a very impatient young man) set up a large malawi tank last week and i was able to add twenty biggish fish as soon as the correct water temperature was reached, again using aqua. again amazingly all fish look great.

i would strongly recommend this product as part of our armoury for quarantine and recuperating fish. it is also invaluable for a quick set up (no cycling) or for novices (overfeeding not so drastic) the tank can easily be allowed to revert to normal set up cycling at a later stage if desired.

it definitely is a great product for reducing and preventing fish suffering and unnecessary deaths esp. in the first few difficult weeks

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by louis - 2008/10/07 15:02

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Have to say I agree. I've been using the organic aqua in my 90L for a year and find it great. I think the water and filters is much clearer and no algae problems. A 25% water change with no dechlorinator once a month and thats it.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/07 20:53

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I agree too. I used it back in Jan when I first got my 90l tank and put the fish straight in and not a problem. I was told not to use it by some ppl. 2 wks ago I was in my lfs and they were highly recommending it so I thought what the heck Ill give it a go. Well the effects are amazing. All of the fish look great with strong colors which my mates (who know nothing about fish) commented on!!!! All are much livlier and not sluggish looking. But the big benefit is only one water change per month!!! WOO HOOO. As i live in a small apt this task is a pain in the a\*\*!!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/08 00:32

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[http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/jay\\_leno.jpg](http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/jay_leno.jpg)

I think the marketing behind organic is good, but it make me laugh because it says "no chemicals all natural ingredients.

HELLO THEN WHAT THE WHITE CHENICALS THAT LOOKE LIKE SALT!:woohoo: :woohoo:

A tropical fish farm I once worked on in 1991 for a short time use this organic in the neat form sodium chlorite its an oxidising agent that cancel out NH3 and NO2 using the chemical path rather than the bio bacteria path, strangely enough I did a google search on "sodium chlorite aquarium" and found no mention of Ekkwill even though it came up in the Ekkwill business plan how blazare.:unsure:

<http://www.allbusiness.com/finance/3474040-1.html>

Get Financing by Learning to Speak the Banker's Language

Host Hattie Bryant of Small Business School interviews Tim Hennessey of Ekkwill Waterlife, a Florida-based distributor of tropical fish set up a tropical fish farm from living in an apartment.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by derek - 2008/10/08 05:16

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hi sean good to have you back. very interesting video on how ekk will set up their fish farm with 5 dollars.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/10 23:39

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I think the marketing behind organic is good, but it make me laugh because it says "no chemicals all natural ingredients.

HELLO THEN WHAT THE WHITE CHENICALS THAT LOOKE LIKE SALT!:woohoo: :woohoo:

Very clever Sean.

woohoo woohoo... everything is made up of chemical constituents so nothing is organic!

What we use to make Organic Aqua up from are plants that have not been produced using any added chemicals to grow or process them and minerals. Looks like salt but its not.

A tropical fish farm I once worked on in 1991 for a short time use this organic in the neat form sodium chlorite its an oxidising agent that cancel out NH3 and NO2 using the chemical path rather than the bio bacteria path, strangely enough I did a google search on "sodium chlorite aquarium" and found no mention of Ekkwill even though it came up in the Ekkwill business plan how blazare.:unsure:

Speaking of salt, Sodium Chloride (NaCl)is widely used to detoxify the potentially deadly effects that Nitrites have on aquarium fish. Remember putting loads of tonic salts in with your goldfish as a kid?

Would be interested in your opinion on Organic Aqua when you get around to trying it Sean.

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/12 03:18

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<http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/ted-14f606c1cec17e66e67508cfeae6a9e6.jpg>

<http://66.102.9.104/search?q=cache:yKmL2DhqwqJ:www.pets-warehouse.com/Fishmed2.htm+sodium+chlorite+tropical+fish&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=uk>

<http://www.miraclemineralsupplement.ca/>

[http://etd.lib.ttu.edu/theses/available/etd-04182006-155006/unrestricted/Liu\\_Fujun\\_Diss.pdf](http://etd.lib.ttu.edu/theses/available/etd-04182006-155006/unrestricted/Liu_Fujun_Diss.pdf)

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/10/19 06:29

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I trialled Ogranic Aqua some time ago, original thread here:

[http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/component/option,com\\_fireboard/Itemid,28/func,view/catid,8/id,19344/](http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,28/func,view/catid,8/id,19344/) I do not use it on a regular basis - too many tanks. But I would not be without it, it is perfect for setting up a tank in a hurry. It also has definite health benefits for sick fish, it seems to relax them and slow whatever the ailment is. I have also used it to set up a tank for my nephew as a birthday present, which meant tank was set up complete with fish all the same day. No need to go through 6 weeks cycling and explaining why he was looking into an empty tank! That was 4 months ago and he has not lost 1 fish, I have not had to do anything to the tank. I just give him pre-measured dose of OA to apply himself and that's it.

I would really love to know how it works, but I don't, but that does not mean it I will not use it.

Sean, I checked your link, 300 webpages later I could not find anything relevant, maybe you could highlight what it is we are supposed to be looking for. You have a supply of OA now, why don't you try it and then report back your finding, that would be more interesting than trying to discredit something just because you don't understand how it works.

Some things I would like to know more about OA are:

- How it would interact with Polyfilter or Easy Life Fluid Filter Medium, two other products I use regularly, though I have never tried them with OA as I suspect they may work against each other.
- How was it discovered, is fishkeeping the only use of the main ingredients?
- As the proportions of the three ingredients remain constant regardless of tank capacity, there must be a better way of delivering the product instead of three separate mediums. A liquid form would be easier to administer without the need for a scales etc.

Daragh

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### Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by JohnH - 2008/10/19 07:54

While I fully respect both your's and Derek's opinions of this product I still feel not enough proof as to its efficacy has been furnished by either the formulators or the sellers of this.

I think the general fishkeeping public deserves far more in the way of evidence that it does fulfill all the claims made for it, after all, it isn't cheap. I think I must share Sean's scepticism here, I find it difficult to believe that any product can be such a complete answer to all tank setting-up headaches...

If it really is so good then surely documented evidence could be produced to support the claims made by the sellers?

The average newcomer starting up their new tank from scratch deserves better evidence, in my humble opinion.

I look forward to being convinced that my scepticism too is unfounded.

John

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### Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Fishowner - 2008/10/19 15:38

I bought some this week and was about to add it to my tank but said Id research it abit more. I must all the reviews were good,but again the long term results are not documented.Also there seems to be a cloak of secrecy around how and why it works.

I didnt add it to my tank,instead I used more conventional methods and admit Im glad I did. However I have one key issue with the product,If I start using this product now to get my fish off to a flying start,does it mean I have to continue to use it every month,and if I discontinue using it will my fish's health go down as a result (it claims it will but I wonder is this the reason the product is out there,to produce regular customers who need the maintaince kit monthly).

In its advantage,I would say that organic aqua is probably a very useful aid to have if you need to quarantine a fish and dont have the quarantine tank up and running (as is my case most of the time :( ).

Gavin

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### Re:organic aqua revisited

JohnH wrote:

I think the general fishkeeping public deserves far more in the way of evidence that it does fulfill all the claims made for it, after all, it isn't cheap. I think I must share Sean's scepticism here, I find it difficult to believe that any product can be such a complete answer to all tank setting-up headaches...

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John

What evidence is presented with most fish medications and treatments on the market, John did you research the last dechlorinated you bought. What were the findings? Did you find exhaustive trials and technical explanations of how the product did what it claimed? I doubt it.

What are the contents and active ingredients of most WaterLife products?

Scepticism is the natural reaction to any new product, but in the absence of the information we would all like to see, testing is the only way to get over that. I would be much happier if the sceptics tried the product and then gave an opinion. There was no one more sceptical than I was and just as interested in how it works, but at least I tried it.

Anyone here that has tried it has had a positive experience, if anyone has not I would be very interested to hear about that to.

I don't want to appear that I am promoting the product, I have no association with it or the sellers and as already stated, I personally do not use it on an ongoing basis. I would just be more interested to hear from people that have used it to good or bad affect rather than follow links to 297 page technical documents that are extremely boring and irrelevant to the topic, as far as I could see or read about peoples scientism. It would be irresponsible not to be sceptical of a new product, but on the basis of various users results here, go and try it before knocking it.

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/10/19 17:05

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Fishowner wrote:

... Also there seems to be a cloak of secrecy around how and why it works.

... However I have one key issue with the product,If I start using this product now to get my fish off to a flying start,does it mean I have to continue to use it every month,and if I discontinue using it will my fish's health go down as a result (it claims it will but I wonder is this the reason the product is out there,to produce regular customers who need the maintaince kit monthly).

In its advantage,I would say that organic aqua is probably a very useful aid to have if you need to quarantine a fish and dont have the quarantine tank up and running (as is my case most of the time :( ).

Gavin

I suspect the "cloak of secrecy" is to protect the source, as the product is made of natural ingredients I imagine that there is no process or chemical to patent, therefore if the ingredients were freely available any manufacuter could be producing their own version.

You can revert a tank back from organic aqua to traditional methods at any time, any tank I have used it in has been reverted back "naturally", by that I mean I did not set up a new cycled tank to transfer the fish to, I simply stopped adding OA, increased water changes again and stopped washing out the filter in tap water, allowing the filter to mature with

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"normal" bacteria again. I have had no problems, however I would suggest you keep an eye on the tank while it is changed over and allow a good 4 to 6 weeks for the tank to be established again before increasing the stock load dramatically.

Will the fish's health suffer when you stop using OA? On the one hand if they do it suggests that OA was doing a good job! However my only experience of fish health suffering post OA is on fish that were not well in the first place. As mentioned in previous posts, sick fish seems to improve in OA, while not actually cured (depending on the illness or course) they show less symptoms and stress in OA.

Using OA to set up a Q tank has two benefits, one tank available instantly and secondly as already mentioned it has a palliative effect.

This video was linked in the original thread 14 months ago:

For anyone that wants to see how the fish are doing in Organic Aqua, see video link below also posted in Fish Videos section. The first tank and the tank of Corydoras schultzei which appears at 55 seconds are two of the three OA tanks I am running. The first was a standard biologically filtered tank that was converted and the schultzei tank was a tap water job.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfoolapcBqU>

I think anyone would agree that the stocking levels were testing the product to the extreme, I can't remember the size of the first tank shown, but the Corydoras schultzei featured at the 55 second mark were in an 18" tank and there were 50 of them!!! I DO NOT RECOMMEND stocking levels like that with or without OA - that was a test and the fish were constantly monitored for about 6 weeks. They thrived, but I split them up into other tanks once I was satisfied with the test.

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/20 19:54

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Daragh\_Owens wrote:

Sodium Thiosulfate:kiss:

[http://www.mcnearyspondsandaquaticplants.com/html/pond\\_dechlorinator.html](http://www.mcnearyspondsandaquaticplants.com/html/pond_dechlorinator.html)

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/20 19:59

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Daragh\_Owens wrote:

Pick just one of waterlife products and we will give you the ingredients of that one.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/20 20:32

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Sean wrote:

<http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/tesd-14f606c1cec17e66e67508cfeae6a9e6.jpg>  
<http://66.102.9.104/search?q=cache:yKmL2DhqwcJ:www.pets->

warehouse.com/Fishmed2.htm+sodium+chlorite+tropical+fish&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=uk

<http://www.miraclemineralsupplement.ca/>

[http://etd.lib.ttu.edu/theses/available/etd-04182006-155006/unrestricted/Liu\\_Fujun\\_Diss.pdf](http://etd.lib.ttu.edu/theses/available/etd-04182006-155006/unrestricted/Liu_Fujun_Diss.pdf)

Sorry these links do not work any more.

There is 3 ways of removing NH3 and NO2 mechanical(aeration) chemical (so called organic:laugh: ) and organic (bacteria in your bio filter.

Sodium Chlorite is an oxidiser(not salt i.e sodoum chlorine ) is used by Ekk Will (this is a top secret they never refer to it as Sodium Chlorite they call it always quote "super shit" its stored in a 4 meter chemical dosing chamber and dosed into all of the freshwater systems (except Malawi's as it does not work at high pH) they have no biological filters quote "we run on totally organic solution":laugh: :laugh: :laugh: :laugh: "

When I went for an interview I mention sodium chloirte they where very surprise I suspected super shite was sodium chlorite and ask me to keep it a secret:silly: , ironically if you google "sodium chlorite aqaurims" you come up with Ekk will business plan...bit odd.

Besides whats this about. Organic used in a new aqaurium and doing less water changes:P

When I set up a new freshwater tank it fully stocked in 48 hours (first 12hours one test fish) after 12 hours I add some medium from an existing trickle filter.

Water change: Marines never never never

Malawi 50% once a year as it takes on a yellow colour without a w/C I am serious considering a tunze ozone injection with O3 immersed sensor to accurately maintain a level which is beneficial opposed to toxic.

A bet chemical Steve some time does water changes when he is not rapping?

<http://ie.youtube.com/watch?v=LG7hO-c5CAk>

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Louis - 2008/10/20 21:14

I have been using the organic aqua in my 90L for two years now and could'nt recomend it highly enough. In the two years nothing else has gone into the tank but organic aqua. I hav'nt bought any medications dechlorinators or anything else.one pack costing €13 a month. My water is clear,filter much cleaner, substrate cleaned up after a few months of using it. I hav'nt gravel cleaned in two years.I am not as knowledgeable as many on the site, but for me Organic Aqua works and I think the longer its used the better the tank is.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Fishowner - 2008/10/20 21:24

In fairness no one is doubting its effectiveness however at €13 every month ie. €156 a year,its abit of a catch 22 senario,you need to keep using it to see the benefits. As for whether is natural or not,thats I think isnt in doubt,at least with water we cycle etc, its somewhat natural. But ultimately the appliance of Science is what this product is. A good product that works,but whether its the spectics in us,the old school fishkeepers, or just the general fishkeeper who likes his weekly water changes etc,there will always be people who prefer to use natural methods. (And dont be giving out to me for say adding meds like Anti whitespots,esha etc arent natural!). Everyone has a different prospective on these things,what works for one doesnt work for another. Still in all, I reckon that it is a good product for a quarantine tank that Im going to keep a supply of just in case.

Gavin

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by mickeywallace - 2008/10/20 22:00

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Hi folks,  
while i am reading this with great interest.  
I find myself at a loss.  
Sean while i have great respect for you and your record speaks for it self.

but you have not put forward one post from anywhere that has said that Organic aqua is dangerous or does anything other than that stated.

While i can find many post on the net highlighting problems on almost every product available to us Aquaist. i have to say those about Organic aqua are noticeable by their absence.

i am a simple person who likes clear and simple answers the majority are those are in favour of organic aqua.

but like Gavin says the limiting factor is cost but with water meters :angry: :angry: :angry: :angry: :angry: :angry: :angry: :angry: looming this will fast become the main stay of the hobby!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by derek - 2008/10/20 23:28

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I have followed this thread with interest and enjoyed reading the different viewpoints.  
Organic aqua is like a get out of jail free card. The biggest problem for new tank owners is incorrect feeding leading to bio overload and fish suffering and deaths. Setting up a new tank requires getting all the parameters right, which is not that easy.

In the past i helped many people with new set ups by supplying established tank water and old filter media etc. but it was always a headache and fish died from overfeeding and ammonia and nitrite spikes. More lectures, water changes and polyfilters later the tank (and feeding regime) would settle somewhat and eventually prosper when the new owner developed some knowledge and experience.

Lately i have helped set up several tanks with organic and so far they are an unqualified success story. None of the usual mayhem or late night emergency calls. Fill tank with tap water, bring to correct temperature, add organic then fish 5 mins later, and they immediately settle and look to be fed. (crucially, even overfeeding is coped with to a large extent).

I am probably a traditional type fishkeeper and normally avoid new miracle cure-alls as novelties that are generally useless, but i unreservedly recommend organic for beginners setups. Try it for a month and then let the normal cycle take over if you like.(i have done this seamlessly)

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Darkrin - 2008/10/21 03:29

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I agree here with Derek, as i have done the same myself numerous times also.The health treatment that comes with this product can be used on its own with 'normal' biological filtration and i highly recommend doing so.

I think slagging off a product (that helps new fish keepers enjoy their fish without any hassles), isn't helping anybody.

Dayo.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Acara - 2008/10/21 03:33

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I'm also enjoying this discussion. I haven't seen anybody mention any actual negative experiences with this product, so I will be down to you Thursday eve Dayo to pick some up.

Dave

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by derek - 2008/10/21 22:48

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another area that organic would be a huge asset is show tanks at exhibitions fishshows etc. in the past mature water and established filters would have to be lugged along to fill tanks and even then it was a bit hit and miss. but with organic its just heat the water, add the product and an airstone, and we have a guaranteed instant and healthy tank for the duration of the show.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Valerie - 2008/10/21 23:04

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For some reason, the thread seems to have been split in two (bug in the forum s/w I think).

This post has been posted by Davekie :

I've been using this product for as long as Steve has had it and I feel it's about time I give Steve and Organic aqua some credit.

My tank is approx 1500L (closer to 1750L if you take the sumps into account). I set it up the conventional way but since Steve introduced me to Organic Aqua I have had no biological filtration of any kind. My water is crystal clear, my fish are extremely healthy and vibrant and I get very little algae. The small amount of algae I do get is only in the Summer and is attributable to the fact that the only place in my house big enough for the tank (which is 8x3x2) is in my living room which is South facing and gets the sun for most of the day - when we have sun, of course

I cannot recommend Organic highly enough. There are many people on this forum including some who have posted on this topic who have seen my tank for themselves and who, I'm sure, will back up everything I say about my tank and its inhabitants.

What Derek said about Organic being a 'get of jail free' card reminded me of something that happened a couple of years ago:

In early 2006, my tank suffered a serious plumbing problem which resulted in the filtration being shut down for 3 days (just over 70 hours in total). The only things I had in my tank were the heaters, which I temporarily moved out of the sumps, and two air stones.

Before this problem, I had about 65 fish. 3 days later, I still had 65 fish. I did not suffer one single casualty and the only thing I can attribute this to is Organic.

Why people are still sceptical about Organic is beyond me. How much proof do people need? I have been running a 1500L tank for nearly 4 years on nothing but Organic. If that is does not qualify as proof that this stuff works, then I don't know what will.

Please note, although no boardcode and smiley buttons are shown, they are still useable

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Valerie - 2008/10/21 23:05

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And this one has been posted by Nonie :

davekie I have to agree, I have been using the stuff for the last few months and it is fantastic. I did set up the tank at the beginning of the year and used it once so I could put the fish straight into the tank. After that I went the usual route and did the water change every wk (in a very small apt it is not so easy). Now I only do water changes once a month and it saves so much time.

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Aswell as that the fish have never looked better and are very healthy.

IMO it is money well spent and for those of you that are sceptical about it, give it a go and IMO you wont look back!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by mickeywallace - 2008/10/22 02:48

Thanks Valerie for combining these treads.

but this has highlighted some thing which we don't see to often  
A product that can help both our marine and fresh water systems. I have not seen many post were we can all take part and have the same understanding of the product involved.

i would be very interested in seeing who is using this product in what types of tanks and set ups and maybe giving it marks out of ten.

Mickey

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/10/22 04:09

see my post below

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Valerie - 2008/10/22 04:10

I hope this isn't getting confusing ...

Here is a post by JohnH that got split from the main thread too :

Why people are still sceptical about Organic is beyond me. How much proof do people need? I have been running a 1500L tank for nearly 4 years on nothing but Organic. If that is does not qualify as proof that this stuff works, then I don't know what will.

I'm one of those sceptics you allude to Davekie - your account is exactly what I was hoping to hear - one from someone who has used the product from start-up, through one potential disaster, right up to the present day. Obviously a very satisfied customer, likewise with Nonie...great, I'm delighted for the two of you.

But...would I use it? No, for the amount of tanks I have I wouldn't be able to afford it.

If I could afford it, however, would I use it then? - probably not...

But, if asked, would I recommend people don't use it? - No, although I hear both your's and others' endorsements of the product that would be advice 'too far' for me to give.

Would I, with no practical first hand knowledge of it recommend it (if asked) - of course not!

If it works for yourselves and you're happy with it, all well and good - work away.

In all of this my greatest objection has been the way the wholesaler of the product has hi-jacked as many threads as he could find to advocate the use of it.  
This Forum does not, and never has done, exist to be a platform for anyone wanting free advertising...and I feel inclined to add AV2 into this category too.

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John

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Valerie - 2008/10/22 04:12

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And finally another post by Yasser

I have to put in my 2p's worth regarding the Organic Aqua. I've been using it for about 3 years (or possibly longer) and I've nothing but good to say about it. I run it in my 250 litre freshwater tank and I also run it in a tank I run in my local school.

My own tank get's well looked after and there's never a trace of algae or any problems with my fish (barring a non organic related tank wipe out a year or so ago ).

The tank I run in the school doesn't get the attention that my own tank gets but the Organic's has been a god send. All I need to do is go around once a week, put the few drops in and the teachers can be trusted to do the feeding. Once a month I go around to the school and do a water change and the tank is looking really well and again there's not a problem with fish or algae.

It really is a great product and for new fishkeepers I would highly recommend it. It makes the hobby a lot easier and safer (for the fish).

10 out of 10 in my book B)

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/10/22 04:30

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Great to see so many people taking part in this discussion.

I don't think OA or anything else is a good substitute for good fish husbandry, all fishkeepers need to learn about the environment they maintain their fish in, understand their fishes requirements and how to provide these, they need to understand the nitrogen cycle and how a biological filter works etc etc. I always work on the principal that I don't keep fish I keep water, if you provide the right conditions the fish will look after themselves 99% of the time, the obvious exception being disease, but disease outbreaks are much reduced by maintaining fish in the right conditions to start with.

What OA does for new fishkeepers is allow people read, get involved in forums and learn while their fish do not suffer. How many new tanks are sold to inexperienced fish keepers and then stocked within a short period resulting in fish stress and death? Unfortunately even when a shop 100% accurately explains to a new customer how they need to go about cycling a tank or getting used filter media and starting with small numbers of fish that does not guarantee disasters will not happen either through the impatience of the new owner or the inability to spot early signs of stress, over feeding etc.

There are a few other things about OA that should be mentioned, some already covered above others I have not seen mentioned, it would be good to get some feedback from the distributor on these points.

OA clouds the water?

I have not found this to be a problem generally, although one tank did go cloudy for a few days after I started using OA, the fish showed no sign of stress and it cleared in a couple of days. I would be interested to know what causes the clouding, is it a bacterial bloom. Other tanks I started at the same time in the same way did not cloud at all.

OA tanks need to have their hood left open?

OA tanks need an airstone to assist the dissipation of nitrogen gas for the water, there needs to be room for the gas to escape and not sit on the surface blocking oxygen take up. How much does the lid need to be open by, for how long.

You can't test OA tanks?

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Traditional Nitrate, Nitrite and Ammonia tests will not give useable readings. The reason for this was explained before to me, but I would like to hear that again.

OA and pH?

You can test water for pH when using pH and the effectiveness of OA depends on the pH of the water, it is most effective at higher pH levels with an optimum at 8.0, ideal for African cichlids, below 6.5 it is not effective at all. Those figures need to be confirmed, it would be interesting to understand why too.

You can use OA in a power cut?

Someone asked me before if OA would keep their biological filters alive in a power cut, my understanding of how OA works work suggest this would be a bad idea. OA bacteria would compete with traditional bacteria in the filter. OA requires washing tradition filters in tap water to destroy the traditional bacteria. However in the event of a long power cut where the traditional bacteria filters have died OA could be used to get the tank going again, rather than recycling.

In a power cut what happens an OA tank?

With the airstone turned off, how long until the build up of nitrogen take before it starts to adversely affect the fish? What's the best thing to do in this circumstance?

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As I don't active grow plants I have no experience on the effects of OA on a planted tank. I understand there is a separate OA product for planted tanks. Why does the original not work with plants, if that is the case??

Breeding fish in OA?

My only personal experience of fish breeding in OA is *Corydoras schultzei*, they spawned unexpectedly and I raised some fry, there did not appear to be any difference from fry raised in a traditional environment, I would be interested to hear have other people bred fish in OA and did they find existing breeders more of less likely to do so.

Some people are giving out about the lack of information on how this product works. There are enough people on the forum here that have used it or are using it to build up quite a bit of information.

I am tempted to do another test of two side by side tanks with identical fish in each and run one traditionally for 6 months and use OA in the other and monitor the results, maybe I will put that on the short finger... :S

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Valerie - 2008/10/22 05:26

I have used Organic Aqua (OA) once to start up a quarantine tank which wasn't planned. The water turned milky/greeny in that tank but so did simultaneously my other tank which didn't have OA ... Bacterial bloom due to water was my conclusion - nothing to do with OA.

While I find the concept of OA very interesting, I too would advocate the 'traditional' way of cycling and maintaining a tank. Indeed, it is a great if steep learning curve when you have never been exposed to it. The education value of the fish-keeping aspects is definitely of great value. In my opinion, the challenge and the fun of learning/understanding how the bacteria develop, the impact of ammonia/nitrite/nitrate/pH, the cycle of white spot, biotopes, etc... is what I find the greatest about fish keeping. Granted, in my short fish-keeping experience, I have so far been lucky in that I have had no disasters (this forum has a lot to do with it) but research has taught me so much ... I would never have learnt all this, had I been using OA from the start.

However, OA would probably be an asset in the case of an emergency for a hospital tank or the typical impulse buy with no quarantine tank ready back home! :-)

Valerie

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/22 15:45

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Daragh\_Owens wrote:

Great to see so many people taking part in this discussion.

I don't think OA or anything else is a good substitute for good fish husbandry, all fishkeepers need to learn about the environment they maintain their fish in, understand their fishes requirements and how to provide these, they need to understand the nitrogen cycle and how a biological filter works etc etc. I always work on the principal that I don't keep fish I keep water, if you provide the right conditions the fish will look after themselves 99% of the time, the obvious exception being disease, but disease outbreaks are much reduced by maintaining fish in the right conditions to start with.

What OA does for new fishkeepers is allow people read, get involved in forums and learn while their fish do not suffer. How many new tanks are sold to inexperienced fish keepers and then stocked within a short period resulting in fish stress and death? Unfortunately even when a shop 100% accurately explains to a new customer how they need to go about cycling a tank or getting used filter media and starting with small numbers of fish that does not guarantee disasters will not happen either through the impatience of the new owner or the inability to spot early signs of stress, over feeding etc.

There are a few other things about OA that should be mentioned, some already covered above others I have not seen mentioned, it would be good to get some feedback from the distributor on these points.

OA clouds the water?

I have not found this to be a problem generally, although one tank did go cloudy for a few days after I started using OA, the fish showed no sign of stress and it cleared in a couple of days. I would be interested to know what causes the clouding, is it a bacterial bloom. Other tanks I started at the same time in the same way did not cloud at all.

IN AN OA TANK THERE IS A CERTAIN COMPLIMENT OF HEALTH TREATMENT THAT CAN APPEAR QUITE HEAVY/CLOUDY IN THE WATER.

A FEW CASES I HAVE SEEN WHERE PEOPLE HAVE NEGLECTED TO USE A FINE ENOUGH PREFILTER THIS HAS BECOME AN AESTHETIC PROBLEM WHICH IS ALWAYS QUICKLY REMEDIED WITH THE ADDITION OF SUCH FINE MEDIA (FILTER FLOSS IS GENERALLY CHEAPEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE).

IN RARE CASES I HAVE SEEN INEXPLICABLE CLOUDINESS, AS I HAVE IN NON-OA TANKS, AND CAN ONLY ATTRIBUTE IT TO THE USUAL THINGS LIKE- SUBSTRATE NOT WASHED WELL ENOUGH, FILTER NOT RUNNING CORRECTLY ETC.

I WOULD URGE ANYONE OUT THERE WHO EXPERIENCES THIS OR ANY OTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH OA TO POST UP HERE AND I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT A SENSIBLE CONCLUSION CAN BE DRAWN.

IN ANY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASES THOUGH AS DARRAGH HAS NOTED, THE FISH THEMSELVES WERE AT NO TIME STRESSED LOOKING.

OA tanks need to have their hood left open?

OA tanks need an airstone to assist the dissipation of nitrogen gas for the water, there needs to be room for the gas to escape and not sit on the surface blocking oxygen take up. How much does the lid need to be open by, for how long.

I HAVE FOR THE LAST NUMBER OF YEARS BEEN RECOMMENDING PEOPLE TO LEAVE THEIR LIDS OPEN AT NIGHT WHEN THEY TURN OUT THE TANK LIGHTS AND CLOSE IT AGAIN IN THE MORNING.

ALTHOUGH A FULL STUDY OF HOW LONG, FOR WHAT TANK SIZE AND WITH HOW MUCH BIOLOAD ETC HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT, I FEEL THAT THERE IS AT THIS POINT NO REAL NEED AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS WITH ANYONE WHO ADHERES TO THIS SIMPLE ROUTINE.

I AM AWARE THAT IN AN IDEAL WORLD (AND THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW 'ISSUES' I HAVE WITH OA) ONE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP THE LID OPEN AT ALL. THIS SAID I FEEL IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A PERFECT TANK ALL THE TIME WITH NO HASSLE.

I AM LOOKING INTO DIFFERENT METHODS OF SUCCESSFUL GAS DISSIPATION THOUGH AND WILL KEEP YOU ALL INFORMED.

You can't test OA tanks?

Traditional Nitrate, Nitrite and Ammonia tests will not give useable readings. The reason for this was explained before to me, but I would like to hear that again.

GENERALLY SPEAKING THE TESTS FOR AMMONIA AND NITRITE ARE QUITE ACCURATE AND THE TEST FOR NITRATE (DEPENDING ON WHICH KIT YOU USE) CAN BE MISLEADING. I HAVE SEEN PERFECT LOOKING TANKS WHERE THE NITRITES SEEM TO BE OFF THE SCALE THOUGH AND NOT ONE FISH IS LOOKING DISTRESSED OR ANY SIGN OF CLOUDY WATER. I ALSO MORE REGULARLY SEE SEEMINGLY HIGH LEVELS OF NITRATE AND CAN SEE NO EVIDENCE OF IT- IE NO ALGAE, FISH ALL ACTING HEALTHY AND HAPPY. MY USUAL LINE TO PEOPLE ON THIS IS - WATCH YOUR FISH AND WATCH YOUR TANK!!! IF YOUR FISH ARE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE YOU WILL 99% OF THE TIME SEE IT IN THEM AND THEN TEST THE WATER. ADMITIDLY IT DOES LEAVE ONE IN A PREDICAMENT AS TO WHAT TO DO IF THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A PROBLEM IN THE TANK AND YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE ACTUAL LEVELS. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH NEVER REALLY HAPPENS IN AN OA SYSTEM AND I WOULD, AND ALWAYS HAVE MAINTAINED TO CLIENTS, LIKE YOU TO PRESENT ME WITH THE PROBLEM EITHER HERE OR BY PM OR MOBILE OR EMAIL IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANYTHING IN YOUR OA SYSTEM. THE ONLY THING I ASK YOU TO KEEP A REGULAR CHECK ON IS pH.

OA and pH?

You can test water for pH when using pH and the effectiveness of OA depends on the pH of the water, it is most effective at higher pH levels with an optimum at 8.0, ideal for African cichlids, below 6.5 it is not effective at all. Those figures need to be confirmed, it would be interesting to understand why too.

OA DOES SEEM TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT A HIGHER pH AND THE MAIN PROOF OF THIS IS ITS SUCCESS AT RUNNING COMPLEX SALTWATER SYSTEMS WITH VERY BASIC EQUIPMENT. ALSO IN AFRICAN CICHLID TANKS PEOPLE HAVE HAD RESOUNDING SUCCESS USING OA. WITH REGARD TO LOWER pH RANGES I HAVE FOUND THAT RUNNING A SYSTEM BELOW 6.0 CAN BE DANGEROUS AS THE BACTERIA DON'T SEEM TO DO VERY WELL IN SUCH ACID CONDITIONS. THE GUIDELINES ON THE PRODUCTS THEMSELVES ARE NOT SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR USING THE PRODUCT BUT RATHER RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS (WITH PARTICULAR REF TO PONDS) FOR MINIMAL ALGAL GROWTH.

You can use OA in a power cut?

Someone asked me before if OA would keep their biological filters alive in a power cut, my understanding of how OA works work suggest this would be a bad idea. OA bacteria would compete with traditional bacteria in the filter. OA requires washing tradition filters in tap water to destroy the traditional bacteria. However in the event of a long power cut where the traditional bacteria filters have died OA could be used to get the tank going again, rather than recycling.

SEE BELOW

In a power cut what happens an OA tank?

With the airstone turned off, how long until the build up of nitrogen take before it starts to adversely affect the fish? What's the best thing to do in this circumstance?

WHETHER USING OA OR NOT IN AN EXISTING SET UP, THE CASE OF A POWER CUT MEANS THE USE OF A BATTERY OPERATED AIR PUMP IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. IF YOU ARE ALREADY USING OA THEN SIMPLY CHANGE YOUR AIRLINE FROM THE MAINS POWERED AIRPUMP TO THE BATTERY OPERATED ONE AND PLACE A BATH TOWEL OVER THE TANK (IF TROPICAL) AND DONT WORRY ABOUT GAS DISPERSION. IF NOT ALREADY ON OA THEN ADD IMMEDIATELY AND ADHERE TO STEPS ABOVE. IN MOST CASES HERE THE POWER COMES BACK VERY QUICKLY BUT FOR PEOPLE WITH VERY EXPENSIVE SYSTEMS OR WHERE YOU FEEL THE POWER MAY BE OUT FOR MORE THAT A FEW HOURS THEN ADHERE TO STEPS ABOVE.

OA and plants?

As I don't active grow plants I have no experience on the effects of OA on a planted tank. I understand there is a separate OA product for planted tanks. Why does the original not work with plants, if that is the case??

SIMPLY PUT, PLANTS DON'T GENERALLY LIKE TOO MUCH OXYGEN IN THE WATER AND WHEN USING OA THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU GET! AS SUCH THE PLANT TREATMENT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO COUNTERACT THIS BY PROVIDING NON NITRATE OR PHOSPHATE BASED FERTILIZERS AND ADDING VARIOUS PLANT BASED EXTRACTS THAT HELP THE PLANTS TO ABSORB ANY AVAILABLE CO2 TO GREAT EFFECT.

Breeding fish in OA?

My only personal experience of fish breeding in OA is *Corydoras schultzei*, they spawned unexpectedly and I raised some fry, there did not appear to be any difference from fry raised in a traditional environment, I would be interested to hear have other people bred fish in OA and did they find existing breeders more of less likely to do so.

I HAVE HEARD MANY REPORTS OVER THE YEARS FROM PEOPLE (GENERALLY JOE BLOGGS TYPES WHO WERNT EVEN TRYING TO DO SO) WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BRED EVERYTHING FROM CICHLIDS TO SEAHORSES USING OA.  
MORE DETAILED DOCUMENTATION OF THIS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF ANYONE OUT THERE HAS FURTHER EXPERIENCES IN THIS REGARD.

Some people are giving out about the lack of information on how this product works. There are enough people on the forum here that have used it or are using it to build up quite a bit of information.

I am tempted to do another test of two side by side tanks with identical fish in each and run one traditionally for 6 months and use OA in the other and monitor the results, maybe I will put that on the short finger... :S

ONE FINAL NOTE I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE HERE IS IN REFERENCE TO THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THE HEALTH TREATMENT IS SOME KIND OF SALT THAT IS USED TO CONTROL THE WATER PARAMETERS. IN A NUT SHELL- THE BBAC AND GENERAL TREATMENT USED ALONE MAINTAIN THE HEALTHY WATER AND AS SUCH THIS MISCONCEPTION MUST BE IMMEDIATLY DISCREDITED.

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/22 15:48

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ABOVE POST THE CAPPED TEXT INDICATES RESPONSE FROM ME.  
NOT REALLY USED TO ALL THIS FORUM QUOTING BUSINESS... ;D

CHEERS STEVE

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/22 18:23

<http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/pg.jpg>

Acara wrote:

I'm also enjoying this discussion.I havnt seen anybody mention any actual negative experiences with this product,so I will be down to you Thursday eve Dayo to pick some up.

Dave

Yes, I am not saying not to use it, I think its a great idea when cycling a new tank,its a interesting idea that you are adding a "different" stain of bacteria to conventional bacteria: If this is true then these "different" bacteria may need a additional source of food from apart from ammonia and nitrite, this would expanding the chemicals (white stuff), I am a bit sceptical as I recall what the trade is capable of getting up to e.g in minireef who when bough out by International Sea Board(Philippine marine importers in the states I used to work for in the early 90's) They marketed a food source for de nitrating bacteria and sold it in a nice plastic bottle with a nice sticker (more professional designs than Organic;) Any way it ways just tap water with a kind of sugar dissolved in.

Now Organic has a suspicious has a trade addressee with P.O.Box number short of having a hot mail email address it looks doggy, but if you are will to pay the money for it I have no problem with it.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/22 19:26

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For those of you that live in Cork (or surrounding areas), the guy from OA is in Petstop tomorrow!!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by Fishowner - 2008/10/22 20:13

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He might be afraid to go there if all the doubting Thomas's turn up! Just kidding! He actually has a wealth of fishkeeping experience too, so could be interesting. I doubt all the conversation would be around OA, or at least I hope it wouldn't be solely on it, fishkeeping is far more expansive than a packet of readymix!

Gavin

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/22 21:03

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I agree fishowner but I think that there is a lot of critics out there when it comes to OA (even though some may have never used it!). This is a great opportunity for ppl to get to talk to Steve and see what he has to say!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by derek - 2008/10/22 23:22

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although i have enjoyed reading and respect the different viewpoints of all contributors to this topic, i remain convinced that everyone who uses this product will be amazed and pleased at its effectiveness. It can be a painfree road for all beginner tank owners and their new pets. Setting up a new tank can be a daunting task with the vicious circle of new tank syndrome (overfeeding, ammonia, nitrite etc..) leading to stressed fish contracting diseases and parasites and the inevitable medicines and so on.

Any product that eliminates this hassle and unnecessary suffering and mortality has to be welcomed and I imagine if the fish could talk they would opt to avoid the experience of toxic ammonia and whitespot.

There may be negative aspects to long term use that i am not yet aware of and there may be equally good or even better products out there waiting to be discovered, but until such time as they become known I will actively encourage fishkeepers to try it and make up their own mind.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by arabesque - 2008/10/23 00:04

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hi, very interesting thread,

and darragh good idea.. i think im also going to trial OA.  
I currently have lots of fry on the grow  
so what im thinking of doing is diving the  
fry into two seperate tanks.

Same amount of fry,  
same amount of water,  
same amount of feed

and try to keep one tank running the good old fashioned way, and one using OA.  
and ill post the results in a new thread.

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I used to use OA a couple of years ago when i was running this tank  
<http://www.micksmedia.com/images/fun/vision260.jpg>  
I never really had a complaint, the fish seemed to be happier, grow fast, and seemed to eat less frantically whatever this means.

this was early days in OA terms however and i wasn't aware that i had to get rid of my nitrifying bacteria by not cleaning out the filter. The only complaint i had about it was that test kits didn't seem to work at all. nitrate readings going through the roof but again this could have been false and it freaked me out so i stopped.

However i did go away for 3 weeks before and had a randomer staying in the house.. was great to be able to just get her to feed (which she overfed of course) and the amount of drops to add weekly. came back, food all over the tank but all the fish were fine.

Anyway now i think with a fishroom almost set up i think ill give this another go from scratch. ill document my experience and include photos where possible.

ive got the following fry that i could trial this with

calvus (very young)  
occelatus (fairly old)  
nigripinnis (fairly old)  
leptosoma  
leleupi (fairly old)

i could even mix a few to see if one tank has more aggression than the other ..what would be the most beneficial test do you think? test begins next week all vote now!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 16:48

I'm sorry to announce that in fact I will not be in Cork today.

I had planned on being there today or tomorrow but unfortunately cannot make it til next week as I'm too busy with all the new shops taking product on.

Dayo from PetStop Blanch will be there today and tomorrow and will be happy to field any questions anyone may have.

I can also be contacted by mobile - 087-9115073

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Rodo - 2008/10/23 18:05

Having read this thread with interest I thought I'd add my tuppence worth to the debate. I'm new to fishkeeping having only set-up a tropical tank in July....(I never did get around to introducing myself so hi everybody!) This I did using OA and I have to say that for this purpose I couldn't fault it in any way. I simply filled my tank, heated the water and dropped my first fish in that very day. Brilliant! I ran OA for the next four months with great success and no fatalities but have since reverted to traditional methods. The reasons for this were twofold....

1) The price of OA is still a bit on the high side for me.

2) I felt the need to clean the tank every week anyway (for aesthetic reasons only) so wasn't seeing the benefit of monthly waterchanges.

As an aside, I also had some plants that did not seem to grow well while using OA and were outcompeted and covered by hair algae. This I put down to my water at the time as it is everything you don't want for plants (high PH, high hardness, low CO2 etc).

Now this may be all coincidental due to the tank maturing but since I stopped using the product my plants have taken off and are looking healthier. This may be for a couple of reasons and is probably unrelated to the OA but it may also be because I was running an airstone as required with OA and this was removing what little CO2 was in my my water. There is however an OA plant additive that you can get for this reason but it requires that you keep your PH at ~6.8 if I remember correctly, mine is about 8 so no chance of that at the moment.

So, for me OA was a godsend when setting up my tank and for the first few months as it bedded in. It gave me the leeway I needed to overfeed etc and basically to learn without killing my fish. I moved away from it for my own reasons but would not hesitate to recommend it to anybody for either long or short term use.

Ronan

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 18:23

Thank you for the post Rodo.

From what I can gather you may not have been leaving your lid open for long enough or possibly not washing your filter media out correctly (tap water for OA systems, tank water for traditional systems) and as such suffered the wrath of hair algae and the need for weekly cleaning.

When used correctly, OA will leave your tank SPOTLESSLY clean all the time.

Plant treatment can be used in any pH but for best results with minimum algal growth it is recommended to maintain a pH of between 6.8-7.0.

Thank you for using OA though and I feel this underlines the fact that one may revert back to a traditional system at almost any time when using OA. (The exception of course being straight after a water change where tap water was used to clean biological media!)

Wishing you the best of luck in your fish keeping future!

cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 18:37

Sean wrote:

Yes, I am not saying not to use it, I think its a great idea when cycling a new tank, its a interesting idea that you are adding a "different" stain of bacteria to conventional bacteria: If this is true then these "different" bacteria may need a additional source of food from apart from ammonia and nitrite, this would expanding the chemicals (white stuff), I am a bit secpctical as I recall what the trade is capable of getting up to e.g in minireef who when bough out by International Sea Board (Philippine marine importers in the states I used to work for in the early 90's) They marketed a food source for de nitrating bacteria and sold it in a nice plastic bottle with a nice sticker (more professional designs than Organic;) Any way it ways just tap water with a kind of sugar dissolved in.

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Now Organic has a suspicious has a trade addressee with P.O.Box number short of having a hot mail email address it looks doggy, but if you are will to pay the money for it I have no problem with it.

I feel it only fair to point out sean that OA comprises of three products-

- 1) General Treatment (G.T.)
- 2) BBAC
- 3) Health Treatment (H.T.)

G.T. and BBAC are used in conjunction with one another to control the toxic gasses in a given body of water.

H.T. is what you have described as looking a bit like salt or some sort of chemical and as the name would suggest is in fact a Health Treatment for your fish.

As pointed out by many on this forum, H.T. can be used as a stand alone product in traditional aquaria and is not something that has any effect on the water quality at all.

Similarly the G.T. and BBAC can be used as stand alone products too. When combined though they perform this unlikely scenario whereby the toxic gasses are freed from the water in gas form and leave your fish in a relatively safe and happy environment.

Thank you for your endorsement of the product as a means of safely starting a new tank though, much appreciated!

cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Rodo - 2008/10/23 18:45

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You may be correct in your diagnosis Steve....I used to leave the lid open for about 12-16hrs per day (which I was told was enough) but never washed ALL of my filter media under the tap at the same time (I was afraid to take the chance). As I said before, other than that I couldn't fault the product so if that was my problem then I'd be tempted to give it another go, either way I still keep a stock on-hand in case of problems, holidays or the need for a quarantine tank. Thanks for clearing it up for me.

Ro

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 18:55

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Delighted to have been of help in your situation Rodo, please keep me posted on how you're getting on.

All the best,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2008/10/23 19:01

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oops i hav'nt been washing the filters in tap water, best do now. How often should this be done,

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 19:04

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Daragh\_Owens wrote:

What evidence is presented with most fish medications and treatments on the market, John did you research the last dechlorinated you bought. What were the findings? Did you find exhaustive trials and technical explanations of how the product did what it claimed? I doubt it.

An interesting point you make Daragh.

A popular dechlorinator which is widely used and marketed as 'natures liquid bandage' seems to have a not so 'natural' ingredient-

<http://aquariumpharm.com/Products/Product.aspx?ProductID=43>

Click on 'Product MSDS - English'.

Quite frightening I'd say...

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by tm2204 - 2008/10/23 19:22

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Wow, and Stress Coat is used in all fish shops when bagging fish.

I use API's Tap Water Conditioner to treat all my tap water before adding to my aquarium. Do you recommend this Steve or know anything about it?

I met you some years ago when you ran Fish FX in DunLaoghaire and you were very friendly & helpful to me. Best of luck with the new OA venture.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by arabesque - 2008/10/23 19:23

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wow.. scary link steve.

just a side note, i dont know if you've been following but there is another person doing a trial and a discussion happening on 'the other forum' and also one on cichlid forum (links removed)

might be of interest.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 19:27

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louis wrote:

oops i hav'nt been washing the filters in tap water, best do now. How often should this be done,

Typically one should do this every water change (every 4weeks) for maximum benefit although there have been reports from people who don't do this at all.

Mostly though they seem to suffer more algal growth than should occur.

How is the algal growth in your tank?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 19:39

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tm2204 wrote:

Wow, and Stress Coat is used in all fish shops when bagging fish.

I use API's Tap Water Conditioner to treat all my tap water before adding to my aquarium. Do you recommend this Steve or know anything about it?

I met you some years ago when you ran Fish FX in DunLaoghaire and you were very friendly & helpful to me. Best of luck with the new OA venture.

Hi tm2204,

I don't want people to think that using Stress Coat in the small doses that are required by your typical fish keeper is dangerous as it is my understanding that only when used in large doses or transported in large volumes (hence the disappearance of the old 5L buckets of it) is there any sort of danger.

Do you use OA in your system?

If so then you do not need to use any water conditioner as the products do in fact break down chlorine etc in tap water anyway.

If you are not using OA then I would strongly recommend the use of some sort of dechlorinator/water conditioner.

Good to hear from you,

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2008/10/23 19:40

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Only in the last few weeks have I been getting a little hair algae. I periodically wash the filters in tank water. another confession... I very rarely use the airstone and the lid would not be open for extended periods. I always thought that you didn't need an airstone with OA. thanks for all the advise folks

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/23 19:44

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Steve, am I right in thinking that doing the 25% water change once a month there is no need for dechlorinator with the use of OA.

I started using it a month ago. Thanks to Damien and Adrian in Petstop. I had a bad case of fin rot in the tanks and since I used OA the fish are looking great.

I do use a filter with sponges so do I need to clean them in tap water? I usually clean them in tank water once a month! A bit confused on this aswell!!

Thanks,

Leonie

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

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Posted by organicsteve - 2008/10/23 19:59

Hi Leonie,

You are correct in assuming that there is no need to use any other dechlorinator when using OA.

With regard to washing your sponges, tap water is the preferred method when using OA.

Best of luck with the tank,

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by tm2204 - 2008/10/23 20:29

Tks for the reply Steve.

No, I don't use OA as I only read about it after i'd setup and cycled my tank.

I've only the one 4 foot tank for my Oscars and I actually quite enjoy the weekly/bi-weekly water changes and keeping the gravel clean with a gravel-vac. It keeps me focused on the tank & fish and helps me spot any problems in advance. For me, in the past, good aquarium maintenance & water changes was the cornerstone of the 'keep the green at bay' challenge. A larger than required biological filter either internal or external combined with weekly/bi-weekly water changes kept my readings at Ammonia 0ppm, Nitrite 0ppm, Nitrate ~10ppm which is optimal. Can definitely see huge benefits to anyone keeping multiple tanks or a commercial fish shop setup where the maintenance is a real chore & hence often skimmed on or indeed overlooked.

Many people have spoken of the health benefits of OA and from your previous post I derive that this comes from the 'Health Treatment (H.T.)' portion of the product. Is this available to buy separately and can I use this with the same benefits in my standard setup biological filter tank? I have in the past used Tetra Blackwater Extract and API's Melafix.

Thanks Steve.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/23 20:41

Tm2204 I have bought the HT in a tub in my lfs and used it with out the B-Bac or the GH treatments and it has worked a treat. I know Petstop in Blanch sell all 3 parts of the OA maintenance kits separately and in various sizes.

<http://www.organicaquariums.co.za/>

Here is the link to the OA site which gives more detail.

@Steve - I should be getting freebies for this :laugh: :cheer: - Only kidding!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited

Posted by tm2204 - 2008/10/23 22:27

Thanks Nonie; might give it a spin.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/24 05:49

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HomeProductsShopReferencesAbout UsFAQContact home home home Contact Organic AquaContact Details

Below are the contact details of the Organic Aqua Agents, Alternatively, simply fill in the contact form below, and we will get back to you as soon as possible

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U.S Mob number to follow;)  
arther@organicaqua.com

Name:  
E-mail address:  
Your message:  
Form Validation: Enter validation code

write targeted content for SE  
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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/10/24 15:47

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Sean

First decent dicussion in ages and you seem determined to make it into a farce. What is the youtube link for, apart for being totally unsuitable it is 100% irrelevant.

If you want to critise OA please do so in a constructive manner, you have not even tried the stuff!!

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/24 18:07

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Daragh\_Owens wrote:

Sean

First decent dicussion in ages and you seem determined to make it into a farce. What is the youtube link for, apart for being totally unsuitable it is 100% irrelevant.

If you want to critise OA please do so in a constructive manner, you have not even tried the stuff!!

Daragh

Sorry its was posted at 2AM;) , there was 2 utube links the one that's left is funny the other one enough said:( , I glad its removed:cheer: they do not call me Father Jack for now reason.:laugh:

The text copied from the website is relevant to the thread, basically the have no North American office, may be the U.S rules don't yet allow the sale of it', the marketing behind the Organic is amature, If my business had a website this amature I would be embarrassed, not to mention a guy with a mob number in the U.K.

Basically I think the product is a good idea:ohmy: , it just how its marketing is not good enough,:( PG tips also sells tea leaves but the diffrence is how they market/marketing is done.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2008/10/24 19:19

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Sean I think Steve is from the UK hence the UK mobile no.

For those of you that have not seen the site here is the link <http://www.organicaquariums.co.za/>

to me it seems fine but everyone is entitled to their opinion no matter how silly!!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Sean - 2008/10/27 02:12

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<http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/images/fbfiles/images/fokes.gif>

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Its probally silly, hey in any case the owners look fairely honest looking, perhaps they live on the farm, and as you know most farms do not have addresses:) , I guess when they reg their website on "whois" they just made this up. :) Or perhaps this adrese is real and they with hold it from there site, for sure some silly reason.B)

Owner Contact:  
Luke Davidson  
Organic Aquariums  
30 Heath RD  
Cape Town, 7750, ZA

Punycodename: organicaqua.com  
Unicode Name: organicaqua.com

Admin Contact  
Luke Davidson  
Organic Aquariums

30 Heath RD  
Cape Town, 7750, ZA  
phone: +27.825863224

Website Record expires on: 2009-04-26 07:11:51

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2008/11/10 06:45

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It is a shame to see this thread brought to such a low level, who cares what the proprietor of the business looks like, it has absolutely no relevance to the effectiveness of the product or not.

The thread was started with someones actual experience with the product, any posts with positive or negative comments based on use would be welcome. If someone chooses not to use the product for whatever reasons, that's fair enough too, there is no need to go to childish lengths to discredit it without trying it.

So anyone else out there with any comments on Organic Aqua?

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/14 18:48

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Hi all,

I've had a 450L Malawi tank for just over 12 months with +/- 36 Cichlids in it. This is my first time keeping fish and it's been a great experience/learning curve.

A few weeks ago things started to deteriorate and I lost 3 fish in one day. Long story short is my LFS introduced me to Organic Aqua and suggested the addition of an Internal Jad SP-2300III submersible filter to take some of the pressure off my TetraTec 1200 external + it would add some much needed flow to the tank and they suggested I leave my TetraTec APS400 air pump on 24/7.

I did a huge water change, cleaned the ex1200 filter (used tank water NOT tap water) and introduced the OA starter kit.

I can't believe the results in such a short time. It's now 3 days on and the tank is absolutely flying. The fish are really active and happy, the water is crystal clear and all is well.

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I know its a product which requires monthly commitment (€'s) but if it saves me doing 3 x 150L water changes a month, improves the health of the fish and improves the look of the tank then it's well worth it.

Even though the instructions clearly stated that the media in the ex 1200 should be washed in tap water I simply couldn't bring myself to do it so washed them as usual in tap water "to be on the safe side" but having read all of this thread it seems that was a mistake. I was always warned to NEVER wash out filters in tap water so it seems un natural to do so but I think I understand why with OA you have to.

Could someone advise me what to do? Should I leave well alone until it's time for the maintenance kit in 3.5 weeks time and then wash all out in tap water or should I do it now?

Regards,

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2009/04/14 19:09

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Hi Ben, I've been using OA for 3 years and only recently have learned about cleaning the filters in tap water. Up to six months ago I was cleaning them in tank water without any mishaps. I am now cleaning in tap water but half in tap and half in tank water

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by platty252 - 2009/04/14 19:11

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I know it's hard to bring yourself to washing the media in tap water but the idea is to kill of the bacteria that would normally take care of fish waste and let the OA do it's thing.

So i would say clean the filters in tap water.

It is important to keep the water aerated 24/7 and to vent the air from the tank. By that i mean keeping the lid open slightly. Even if it's just opening the top of the aquarium at night. This way the nitrogen gas (from fish waste) gets expelled and not reintroduced in to the water.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2009/04/14 19:17

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Thanks platy. I've to do a monthly water change on Saturday, hopefully I'll have the bottle to use the tap. Are you saying that you can have too much bacteria.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/14 19:31

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Thanks Louis and Platty.

I'm lucky in so far as my tank was custom made with two 'panels' slotting onto the top of the tank over 8 inches over the condensation trays and each panel has two holes about 4cm in diameter to slot your fingers into to lift off so by pushing the condensation trays together to leave 6 inch gaps at each end the 4 holes in the two panels will (I hope) provide enough for the gasses to escape.

Can I clarify a few things?

1. OA and the traditional biological filter methods are mutually exclusive, it's one or the other. Correct? This is why we

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have to wash the traditional media in tap water to kill off the normally 'good' bacteria?

2. If all the 'good' bacteria in the external filter are killed off and for whatever reason I don't want to continue with OA or the people supplying it go bust (pure speculation) will the tank gently return to the traditional method or will there be a period of massive disruption where the OA runs out but there isn't enough bacteria in the external filter to revert to the traditional system?
3. From my description of my own system above can/should I remove the condensation trays all together? What exactly are they designed to do and in an OA set up are they still needed?

Regards,

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by platty252 - 2009/04/14 19:38

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The bacteria is different. Normally you would have Nitrosomas that convert Ammonia in to Nitrite and Nitrobacters that convert Nitrite in to Nitrate which is removed during water changes. With Organic aqua i dont know what the bacteria is or even if it works solely by chemicals. But i do know OA recommend killing of the normal bacteria by washing the media in tap water.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/15 05:26

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Hi Platty,

Thanks for clarifying that.

Can you (or anyone else) shed any light on the other questions I asked about reverting back to a biological system from OA and my condensation trays?

Regards,

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by scubadim - 2009/04/15 20:59

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Hi Ben,

condensation trays have no other purpose but preventing evaporation and eventually saving fish from suicidal jumps(since your tank is custom made the hood itself should avoid this). You can remove those trays which would be beneficial to OA but your tank would experience some loss of water due to evaporation(topping up with fresh tap water would then be necessary).

I have set-up and maintained many OA tanks with or without external filters.both have proved to be working perfectly and this with or without biological filtration in external or internal filters. In the eventuality that you decide to go back to more frequent water change,weaning off OA is possible and not so complicated as long as you stop washing your filter media in tap water and start water changing more frequently(if that's what you decide to do that is ;-)

hope this helps.

Dimitri

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/15 23:34

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BenEadir wrote:

1. OA and the traditional biological filter methods are mutually exclusive, it's one or the other. Correct? This is why we have to wash the traditional media in tap water to kill off the normally 'good' bacteria?

Yes they are mutually exclusive, they negate each others effects.

They are both "Correct" methods of filtration.

All media must be kept clean, by clean I mean tap water. any buildup of Nitrifying bacteria will negate OA, You cannot have both and have a stable system. It's one or the other.

BenEadir wrote:

2. If all the 'good' bacteria in the external filter are killed off and for whatever reason I don't want to continue with OA or the people supplying it go bust (pure speculation) will the tank gently return to the traditional method or will there be a period of massive disruption where the OA runs out but there isn't enough bacteria in the external filter to revert to the traditional system?

One of the huge benefits of Organic Aqua is its application in cycling a tank. you simply stop cleaning the filter and carry out the last of your OA water treatments without water change at the end and there will be a nice hand over of OA to the newly established traditional bacteria.

By the way OA has been around for nearly 40 years, they aint going bust anytime soon! ;)

BenEadir wrote:

3. From my description of my own system above can/should I remove the condensation trays all together? What exactly are they designed to do and in an OA set up are they still needed?

As another user mentioned above, condensation trays are not part of the filter system. They should be either removed or have holes drilled in them in order to let the Nitrates escape.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/15 23:45

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It's about time I spoke up about my experience with Organic aqua as I may have performed one of the largest tests in Ireland and probably anywhere outside of Africa. 5500 Litre system, 12 months. 100,000s fish, 10,000 at any one time with a turnover of 3000 a week. Losses from previous traditional system were between 15 and 30 percent a week of newly delivered fish, 150 to 300. Losses after switching to OA were down to 1 - 3 percent. That's between 10 to 30 fish a week, out of adding 3000 fish just arrived from foreign suppliers!!! test performed on large retail outlet by myself and Steve. And yes Marines too. I will go further into my experiences when I have more time. Ie a review of where it works best.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/16 02:29

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One incredible experience I have had using organic is as follows: I person came into me one day with a large, about 10 inch shubunkin goldfish, longfinned variety. He said that he had attempted to put the fish into a cichlid tank (African) after being told by the person in the garden center in which he bought it a few days before, that it would be fine with cichlids... He wanted me to take it because the fish was in a terrible state.

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The Caudal Peduncle, the fleshy part before the caudal/tail fin was completely eaten away on one side, to the point that the spine was visible, the wound was large and badly infected covered in fungus and the fish itself had cloudy eyes and was barely alive. It was also missing a lot of scales and had large nips taken out of its other fins. I said that I would take it off his hands and put it out of its misery as it was suffering, if he wanted me to. He said please, as he wouldn't be able to bring himself to do it. Steve and I had just converted the coldwater tanks to Organic aqua a day or two before. After the customer left I happened to be talking to Steve and he suggested I put the badly wounded fish in the Organic water, saying he would be fine. I was very skeptical but agreed to give this fish a chance.

3 Weeks later I gave the fish to a friend with a pond, fully healed (Although still showing scars) and healthy as any goldfish I have seen. I could not believe the turn around.

I found organic worked best in Coldwater, showing absolutely stunning results. It also worked incredibly well with tropical community fish, tetra, barbs, livebearers etc showing a massive decrease in weekly losses from delivery. I did have some initial problems with Discus until I upped the air pressure to the airstone, realising that the higher temperature in the discus tank required more oxygenation as warm water loses air fast.

African Cichlids thrived, showing full colour and no incidence of disease or death, except by the occasional fish being killed or wounded by another fish which is just part of the nature of Cichlid keeping, as some individuals just show very aggressive streaks. I was delighted with the marines using Organic aqua, It cut the work load in half when it came to water care. All fish thrived. Organic Aqua works great and allows you to keep an enormous amount of fish in a relatively small body of water. which is great for retail trying to meet the demands of the growing fish hobby.

I remember someone ordered 10 large Koi, and was to collect them on delivery. Unfortunately he never showed, even though he had paid half the cash. We were unable to reach him by the number he gave us and were landed with 10x 10-12 inch koi. So we put them in the only coldwater tank we had available at the time, A four foot 210 litre tank. They lived there for 4 months until the guy finally showed. Without incident and feeding/looking great, water was still crystal clear.

The Only filtration was an airstone with organic aqua. I could ramble on and on about the virtues of this product having first hand experience with it. Lets just say that one day in the future it is gonna catch on (in the States probably first), and then it will eventually become a normal method for keeping fish and fishkeeping books will have sections devoted to its usage just as they now have devoted to using stress coat and zyme etc. That's my opinion, and once you have used it for any length of time you will see where that opinion comes from, the solid fact that Organic Aqua is an excellent, and in many ways superior way to keep healthy, happy fish.

I do not understand the skepticism of people who say its hocus pocus without trying it first. It works, end of story just ask anyone who uses it. How many people here can tell me exactly how traditional systems work? Im talking the science here, not in laymans terms but in chemical terms? Not many I am sure, and yet these same people will say they would not use or try it because they dont understand how it works when they barely understand the basic science of the traditional method. Fact is the science has been done, tried tested and tweaked. the product works and is a huge jump forward in bio tech compared to the traditional methods which have barely changed in decades.

For those who take issue with Steve posting about Organic aqua. Well one day you will realise that Steve is doing a huge service to fishkeepers worldwide by letting people know about this way of fishkeeping. Just because it doesnt have a Tetra, API or Nutrifin stamp and comes from an obscure family run company in the middle of S.Africa does not mean that it doesnt have merit.

The reason why you will never see an article about it in a magazine such as practical fishkeeping or a sponsored website is because these publications are sponsored by the aquatics industry Giants such as Tetra, API etc. and they are not gonna let some little Product from Africa put them out of business! (I have actually met the owners of this company and they were extremely nice people who were very interested in my experiences with OA)

I have been banned from Practical fishkeeping forum for writing a product review of Organic Aqua and my posts on it deleted. It was in the same forum section that contained reviews about stress coat, Blackwater extract and such. and Mine was deleted!

For those of you who are not afraid to try new things and think in a new way about the science of water chemistry I highly recommend trying Organic Aqua.

PS: I am not affiliated to Organic aqua in any way, nor do I still work in the same aquatics retailer. I Have never made a cent from the Organic aqua. I'm just a fishkeeper who had the pleasure of trying this out for myself on a massive scale and am still awed by the results. Anyone needs any OA advice I can help, as I have a lot of experience and training (By Steve!) on its usage.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by platty252 - 2009/04/16 06:04

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I am surprised your post was removed from the PFK site. After all if i remember correctly there first pod cast (or what ever you want to call it) was about organic aqua. I agree it is very good and would recommend it to anyone starting a tank. Even if it was only to get them past the cycle stage.

Trimax have you tried it on very soft very acidic water? I mean a really low ph. If so what did you think?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by paulbohs - 2009/04/16 16:10

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Good discussion. Any marine tank keepers using OA? I only have spoken to 1 guy using OA for marines on a new fish shipment and he lost alot of fish. pretty sure you cant blame OA but i'm not jumping into this blind with liverock in the tank worth 1000 euro alone never mind the fish stocks.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/16 16:47

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Hi all,

Thanks to everyone for the great advice and in particular I want to give a big shout out to Dimitri from Fintastic Aquatics in Dun Laoghaire. When I went to him last week I had just lost three fish and could see that at least one more was on it's last legs. He listened patiently and was spot on with his advice. He introduced me to OA, suggested I install an Internal Jad SP-2300III submersible filter and re-install the TetraTec APS400 air pump I had taken out some months ago and the effect has been instant and amazing. The tank looks better than ever and the fish are really active and healthy looking.

Cheers to all, don't know what I'd do without ITFS and Fintastic Aquatics in Dun Laoghaire.

BTW here's a link to some photo's of my tank taken 6 months ago. It now looks much much better!!

[http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/component/option,com\\_fireboard/Itemid,28/func,view/id,40291/catid,43/limit,10/limits tart,10](http://www.irishfishkeepers.com/cms/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,28/func,view/id,40291/catid,43/limit,10/limits tart,10)

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/16 17:31

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One more thing. After installing OA and the air pump and removing the condensation trays I've noticed that the temperature in the tank has increased to 28c from what was a very stable 26.5c. I had expected the temperature to actually drop when the condensation trays were removed not the other way around. Is this a common side effect of altering the setup to OA? Is the rise in temerature due to the air pump introducing air which is a higher temperature than the water?

I guess I could have accidentally changed the setting on the heater when I was doing the water change the day I introduced the OA.

Any ideas?

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by scubadim - 2009/04/16 19:07

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Hi Ben,

Thank you for all of this.

the rise in temperature is probably related to the location of the air pump as you suggested. If the pump is inside the hood for example, the accumulation of heat from the tank itself and the light unit might be the explanation.

let us know anyway.

all the best.

Dimitri.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/16 19:12

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Dimitri,

The pump is actually located beneath the tank in one of the cupboards so there is no way heat from that is permeating back up into the tank. the cupboard is well aired and doesn't feel hot at all.

What temperature should I be aiming for in the tank? 26c?

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by scubadim - 2009/04/16 19:24

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Hi Ben,

Thanks for all of this:)

The temperature rise is probably due the location of the air ump as you suggested.

If the pump is on top of the tank and inside the hood, the accumulation of heat from the tank itself plus the lights could be the explanation.

You could try different locations for the air pump.

Let us know how you get on anyway.

all the best,

Dimitri

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by scubadim - 2009/04/16 19:53

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sorry about repetition...

yes 26C should be good, 28C is a bit high for these guys (not lethal or anything..)

your pump is beneath....i suggest you check your heater's settings and maybe try confirm temperature with different thermometer?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/16 20:31

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platty252 wrote:

I am surprised your post was removed from the PFK site. After all if i remember correctly there first pod cast (or what ever you want to call it) was about organic aqua.

I agree it is very good and would recommend it to anyone starting a tank. Even if it was only to get them past the cycle stage.

Trimax have you tried it on very soft very acidic water? I mean a really low ph. If so what did you think?

Yeah funny enough it was the same dude who banned me as who did the podcast! I have tried organic on tanks from a PH of 6.5 up to 8.5. I havent noticed any difference between Organics effectiveness on Soft or Hard water, Both work equally well. I found temperature to have a greater effect on Organic aqua, But as long as you remember to increase airflow to warmer tanks then its fine.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by JohnH - 2009/04/16 20:56

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It's interesting that this topic has raised its head again, especially so close to next month's Show...

That people find this works is beyond dispute - enough people have posted to that effect, Ben Eadir was so impressed he repeated his endorsement! And at least two of those (whose Fishkeeping ability and knowledge is beyond dispute - ie not 'Search Engine Experts') have endorsed it in their own ways. My own doubt about it comes when we are told that it works, but not how it works! It certainly defies all the established scientifically-proved knowledge regarding Cycling of water, and yes, that is a well known and long established fact. Everyone can read about the whole concept, start to finish. All we are told about this wonder stuff is that it defies science???

If this was anything like as good as it is claimed to be the manufacturers of it would be millionaires by now, with agencies selling it in all parts of the world (at least the parts where fish are kept). Or else some huge concern would have bought out the company (if it was considered a threat) and be marketing it under their banner - that's the American Way, buy off the opposition - Opposition, I don't think so!

John

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/16 21:06

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paulbohs wrote:

Good discussion. Any marine tank keepers using OA? I only have spoken to 1 guy using OA for marines on a new fish shipment and he lost alot of fish. pretty sure you cant blame OA but i'm not jumping into this blind with liverock in the tank worth 1000 euro alone never mind the fish stocks.

Usually when someone losses fish in a system newly converted to OA its because they did not do a 90 - 100% water change first, and they probably neglected to clean all filter media, remove the plastic tubes from the wet dry filter(If any) and other such shortcuts.

I understand the reluctance to try a new thing on an expensive system. This is natural. If its any comfort I have helped many a customer with no fishkeeping experience whatsoever , set up a marine organic system. I Used to do it in 3 stages. The customer would buy and set up the tank,equipment and salt first. Day 2 they would buy and add the Rock and sand, day 3 would be fish and OA. Coral I usually suggested be added a week or so later so they could get a proper introduction to keeping it that they would remember. It is possible to do this quicker but When it comes to beginners I didnt want to give them too much info in one day as they would be likely to make a mistake. So over 3 visits to me they would get bitsize chunks of information so as to minimize the chances of error.and I have never had a complaint with marine OA customers. The only complaints I ever had was with freshwater systems,People not leaving a the top open at night, turning off the airpump at night and once when someone set up a tank and put the airpump IN the tank!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/16 21:37

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Hi John,

The only reason this thread has started up again is because after Dimitri suggested OA to me last week I came home and started searching for validation from actual users here on ITFS. Dimitri struck me as a decent guy and I always trust my instinct but I also have a healthy amount of scepticism (the paranoid survive and all that) so I wanted some 3rd party confirmation that this stuff does what it says on the tin as it is in contrast with the traditional biological process I first learned about when I started the tank. I have no other agenda here whatsoever, no connection to OA or the re-sellers or even to Fantastic Aquatics other than as a happy customer. The fact that the thread re-started close to the upcoming show is co-incidence but I'm guessing your own (healthy) scepticism will continue to doubt that!!

When it comes to 'proving' how it works I agree it would be great if we could all understand that but I can understand why the owners can't divulge that information. By definition the product is organic so doesn't contain anything they can patent and therefore protect from being copied. They have found a mixture of naturally occurring ingredients and a particular blend of these ingredients which works. If they were to divulge the mix or much more information about it than they already have the product would be reverse engineered by one of the big companies who could then wipe the floor with OA due to the fact they have bigger marketing budgets, better established branding, better established global distribution channels etc. OA would be remembered as the people who discovered it but that's all.

I'm not at all scientifically qualified but I do have some knowledge of Intellectual Property and I'm involved day to day in the sale of going concern businesses. If OA had been able to patent their product then I have no doubt one of the big international brands would have bought them out or tried to. The fact that they don't have any intellectual property (other than the OA brand name) makes a sale extremely difficult because in order to consummate a deal the formula would have to be revealed to the potential buyer and independently tested to prove it works BEFORE the sale was completed as that is primarily what the buyer would be paying for. OA would (rightly) be very nervous about this as there are many examples of one competitor making what appears to be a genuine offer to buy another and for the deal to be agreed in principle subject to due diligence but after due diligence (the process of validating the financial, legal and intellectual property of the company being acquired) the business which made the original offer pulls out at which point they have a complete and intimate knowledge of the target companies customers, payroll, pricing, intellectual property etc. Of course this process is 'protected' by confidentiality agreements but in reality there is little OA could do to prevent the unscrupulous 'buyer' from launching a similar product down the road and claiming to have independently researched and developed it, particularly as what they OA would be trying to protect isn't actually 'protected' intellectual property.

On the flip side the danger for one of the big boys if they were to buy OA is that they pay €xm for it but because they aren't getting a protected patented product they run the risk of BenEadir Inc launching an identical product the day after the sale is completed called SuperAqua and then how valuable is their investment in OA? Heads would roll.

Think of Coca Cola. Is their formula or the mix of ingredients fully disclosed? or even KFC? All we know is we like the products and that the ingredients are safe to consume so we're happy to drink Coke and eat Chicken to our hearts content. The value of those businesses is in their brand, economies of scale, management capability and wide market penetration. OA appears to be just a small business with limited funding and (based on the picture I saw and the tone of their website) owners who are passionate about the product, not necessarily out to become a market dominant brand.

That's my 2C worth anyway.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/16 21:49

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I will attempt to explain how it works here! Basically in an Organic system there are 3 separate treatments that when added to water work together to filtrate the water, and maintain good fish health.

In a normal traditional system there are many species of bacteria which occur in a healthy filter, put simply each of these species works on Nitrifying Ammonia. Some species work on Ammonia directly, others on Nitrite, the Nitrified Ammonium. All the bacterial species in question need oxygen to work and a media to live on, this is usually a sponge or ceramic object. This media needs to have water constantly passed through it in order to function. The end result either

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way is Nitrate, which leaves the tank several ways, The main way in modern fishkeeping is through dilution of the water with fresh water. Plants also use Nitrates as fertiliser. Nitrates will also evaporate slowly through gas exchange on the surface of the water provided the water tension is broken by a current.

The last method is the key to Organic aquas functionality.

I'm sure marine keepers are famulere with the idea behind a Protein Skimmer and how it works. It is comparable to how OA works.

In an Organic system there exists a different group of bacteria, which lives in the water itself. It is free floating and feeds off the waste directly, converting it to Nitrate. One of the additives in Organic aqua slightly alters the consistency of the water, causing the water to interact with oxygen particles differently. In a marine protein skimmer salts in the water also changes the consistency and do something similar. Nitrates bond to the oxygen particles in a marine protein skimmer, and are forced up and out of the water, into the foam which over flows into a collection box along with other waste particles. In an organic system, fresh or salt, Nitrates produced by this free bacteria are also forced up and out by Oxygen particles in greater amounts then in a normal system thanks to the OA general treatment which alters the consistency as I said above. So via gas exchange at the surface of the water, Nitrates are lost at a much higher rate. this is why an airstone and ventilation are important in organic tanks.

The filter, be it internal or not merely acts to catch larger waste particles , ie it acts as a mechanical filter. It must be cleaned regularly because If Bacteria starts to build up in a traditional sense on the filter media then it will take food away from the OA and the OA Bacteria will die.

It is true that the bottles of bacteria people buy, ie stress zyme, do not actually contain any nitrifying bacteria, but rather a relative of the required groups which acts as a base for the correct species to evolve. As it is impossible to transport nitrifying bacteria without a constan flow of O2 and Ammoniums to keep it alive. OA is not that different in the science of things to traditional methods, it is merely more focused on the easiest aspect of nitrate removal, evaporation through gaseous exchange, And it contains natural chemicals which free the bacteria from their spongy prison.

Science has still not completely identified all the Nitrifying species which occur naturally as in truth there are thousands.

Unfortunately the species names of the OA bacteria is not yet discovered either as far as I know. Which in truth is not much different to What science has ID'd in traditional filters either.

The Chinese did not know the species names of the bacteria which filtered there tanks 100's of years ago, nor did they have mechanic pumps, but they did know that it works. If OA's owners were to coin a name for their bacteria, would it make you feel better? Is the fact that there is bacteria at work in an OA system not enough.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by JohnH - 2009/04/16 22:25

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All I can say to those posts is WOW, and - although Ben and yourself have nothing to do with the product - great timing lads.

This Forum does not exist for sellers to be able to use it as a free advertisement medium, however!

That neither of you have anything to do with the product I must accept but it has been quite surreptitiously promoted in the past so you'll understand my scepticism.

John

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/16 22:35

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No worries John. Sceptisim is a good thing!!

I don't know if you've ever hear of the business networking group called BNI but it is based on giving referrals to businesses you have had a good experience with yourself and/or you know and trust. I'm a big fan of referrals hance my enthusiasm for OA and Fintastc Aquatics.

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I also refer ITFS to people BTW.

Regards,

Ben

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by paulbohs - 2009/04/16 23:15

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Thanks for that Trimax. There definately was not a 90% water change or even a 10% water change. I will pick up a packet to trial on my quaranteen tank and read the instructions first as i probably would have just dumped it in :unsure:

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/16 23:24

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JohnH wrote:

All I can say to those posts is WOW, and - although Ben and yourself have nothing to do with the product - great timing lads.

This Forum does not exist for sellers to be able to use it as a free advertisement medium, however!

That neither of you have anything to do with the product I must accept but it has been quite surreptitiously promoted in the past so you'll understand my scepticism.

John

Timing has nothing to do with it, I have recently returned to the forum and seen this thread revived the other day and because I have an awful lot of experience using oa I thought I would share my knowledge for the benefit of fellow hobbists. That you have taken a skeptical approach is healthy but please don't attempt to tarnish my honest contribution to an open discussion with irrational ideas of conspiracy, I suppose all my other non related posts of pics of my tank and attempts to help other fishkeepers were all just part of my sinister plan too . My names Jim Kelly, I'm 24 I play guitar for a living and thats my main passion, I am not a planted co-conspirator sent to braiwash you by the evil OA company sorry to burst your grandiose bubble. I will say no more on the subject seems it's degraded to paranoid conspiracy, I have better things to do then prove my integrity to people.

Just one more thing, I personally do not currently use OA as my tank is 400l and I can't afford the treatments. Just wanted to share my experience .

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by JohnH - 2009/04/17 00:15

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"grandiose bubble"

Great, you have me summed up in two words...most erudite of you to make this observation.

And, even though you're nothing to do with Organic Aqua, it has certainly given them an awful lot of publicity.

Still, I suppose we're all doing this - I can imagine everyone concerned are rubbing their hands together with glee.

'nuff said (from me too). You can rest assured, your integrity's unscathed.

John

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/17 00:38

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Sorry if I offended, I may have written that post with a more defensive tone than was warranted. Someone pointed out to me that OA was pushed all over before on this forum so I can understand better your perspective. I however was not around or involved in any previous discussion and do not want to bring up any old disputes that are none of my business. I know I said I would say no more but felt it appropriate to reply. I certainly do not wish to aggravate people I have not met such as yourself, Sorry for my choice of words.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by JohnH - 2009/04/17 00:56

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Let us remember - Forums - especially this one - exist for everyone to contribute opinions, and long may it remain that way!

You shouldn't, therefore, apologise for your choice of words, they were what you felt and we're all adults here (I think we are, might be wrong?) so can all accept criticism.

I have my opinions of Organic Aqua, you have yours, let's agree to differ.

This will run and run, I expect, but hopefully not for too long.

:0)

John

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by BenEadir - 2009/04/17 02:32

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Trimax, thanks for your insightful observations and analysis on the performance of OA as you have experienced it. Thank you also for showing maturity beyond most 24 year olds in offering an apology to JohnH. I have often been in your situation and not always had the good sense to bury the hatchet.

JohnH, thanks for offering your own perspective on OA. Life would be very boring if we all banged the same drum and without contrarian opinions it would be all too easy for snakeoil salesmen to thrive.

I too don't agree with blatant hijacking of discussion threads by people with a commercial interest in promoting a product but I do feel it is part of this and any other hobby/specialist type forum to examine the performance of new products and discuss the experience of members trying those products. If those using the product see great results then why not share that information with as many fishkeepers as possible so others can benefit even if that does mean we are 'promoting' the product. Do we not want more people like the owners of OA to invest in R&D to produce products which will improve the health of fish or make fish keeping easier and more appealing to more people etc?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2009/04/17 02:50

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I am delighted that this thread was resurrected, the more information that can be gathered on this product the better, God knows the manufacturers and distributors are tight lipped enough, so we can only go with users experience. I have tried to get this thread going before after it was essentially closed down by childish comments and games by another member, that is five months one week ago and it has only come back to life in the last week or so.

I don't currently use the product and haven't for maybe a year or so, but I have used it with great success in the past and fairly recently I used just the health treatment as a stand alone, but I can not point to any particular benefit, the fish may have recovered anyway.

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Johnh I understand that you are setting up a tank with OA on the weekend, I am sure you will report your findings here in the future.

On an English forum I am a member of I raised OA twice, exactly one year apart and neither post got one reply, the product seems pretty much unlnown in the UK for whatever reason.

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/17 02:54

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Thanks Ben, it is easy to type biting comments when in a heated debate and not so easy to apologise later! I have been accused of being an adult allot recently so I suppose I had better act like one :) Seriously though I understand this forum is a real asset to the hobby in Ireland and want to keep up with the spirit of community in this forum. I have my opinions as others do and sometimes I can be abrult with statements but I am interested in the pursuit of improving the hobby in Ireland and in learning from the more experienced fish keepers here. I think it's a great forum and am here to learn, share info and help out where I can. Well i've said my piece so at the risk of hijacking the thread i'll leave it be. Look forward to reading of other peoples experiences of organic aqua.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Sean - 2009/04/27 01:30

Trimax wrote:

. Nitrates will also evaporate slowly through gas exchange on the surface of the water provided the water tension is broken by a current.

Nitrates bond to the oxygen particles in a marine protein skimmer, and are forced up and out of the water.

I am sorry to see PFK banned the organic poster, that's not right if there is any thing I can do to get Organic on the face of the earth good or bad news including north America and the U.K and not just inside ROI I will help, I do not think its right for a poster to say a poster is childish because some one is backing up with proven links that the people behind organic could be ify and even hiding their address(es) on their website even though do on www.whois.com registry. It is hurtful when a poster says that a poster 5 months ago was being childish when they accept/grab bags of FREE rare fish from via Grosvenor Tropicals from the person he says is being childish what happen to business etiquette?

On a completely different note which perhaps I should of made in a second/different post, Trimax thanks for your explaimation on the technical process of Organic, before I can swallow :ohmy: what you say, you need to satisfy me about two of the non organic conventional bio aquatic chemistry statements you have made.:woohoo:

I thing both are incorrect please can you support them with some links to back up what you are stating.

NH3 and NH4 can come out of solution be degassing but not NO3. also organics such as protein phenols can be forced out of a protein skimmer but not inert chemical such as NO3, naturally its also pushes up water so if a cup full of protein scum will removed water also just scouping directly a cup of water out of the tank..

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Daragh\_Owens - 2009/04/27 02:26

Sean wrote:

It is hurtful when a poster says that a poster 5 months ago was being childish when they accept/grab bags of FREE rare

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fish from via Grosvenor Tropicals from the person he says is being childish what happen to business etiquette?

Sean I take EXTREME exception to your lie that I accepted or grabbed Bags of free fish from Grosvenor which you supplied.

EDIT: I have deleted the rest of this post as I will take the issue up personally with Sean, no need to muddy this thread futher.

Daragh

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by cardinal - 2009/04/27 05:22

Lads.....

Dont be getting upset....I'm not getting involved here ..But .....In reality.....Life is too short.....)

Lar

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/27 06:19

Unfortunately Sean I don't have links to support my explanation of how OA works and used the protein Skimmer as an analogy to explain my experience with how OA works in lay terms as I am not a scientist. I have used and tested the hell out of OA using The best indicator of it's performance, fish wellbeing and survival rate over long period of time compared to the performance of the previous traditional system. I get my info from books, people and experience not wikipedia so I don't feel the need to go trawling through the web looking for pages to support my opinions. I'm not into copying and pasting and calling it first hand knowledge so I won't be getting into a weblinks war with ya here sorry to disappoint. I'm not trying to sell organic so I don't care if your satisfied or not.

Also I think your post is difficult to read and quite rude and unnecessary especially regarding Daragh, I don't think you posted that with any good intentions. I think the internet term is Troll.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/27 15:15

Oooookaaay.....

So I am about to trial OA on a hospital tank for a Severum that took a real beating from some tankmates over the weekend. I will document the progress here and on the LFKS. Let it be known that I am not getting free product, not previously a user of full OA.

I did, however, spend 50 quid on a large tub of 'health treatment' which seemed to do nothing of note, although I fully accept that it could have been my own poor tank maintenance resulting in high (30ish) nitrates. A question on this stuff, what is all the brown flaky stuff that floats around the tank? Is it OK for fish to be seemingly eating this stuff?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/04/27 17:10

Hi didi,

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Yeah it is fine for the fish, not too sure what it is but all the OA products are harmless to the fish. Mine seem to love the flakey stuff!! Sorry I cant give you a definitive ans. BTW are you using an air pump in that tank?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/27 19:49

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No Leonie, no air pump, just a small internal breaking the surface.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/04/27 20:17

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Apparently you are supposed to have an air pump in the tank. When I am using it I connect the pump in and when I'm not using it the spray bar is in. One of the reasons I have stopped using it - cos the pump can be a bit noisy!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/27 21:00

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Isn't the idea not to simply break the surface tension so the nitrate gas can escape?  
I assumed that an airstone/venturi spray/any other method of doing so would suffice?

Opinions people?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/04/27 21:06

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Yeah you could be right. I remember when i first got it in the lfs I was told to use an air pump and it says it on thier site. Just checked before I posted this and from <http://www.organicaqua.com/freshwateraquariums>

"ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR USING ORGANIC AQUA

Air Pump: This is now the sole component responsible for maintaining water quality in your tank and must always remain on, running an airstone positioned in the opposite end of the tank to the filter.  
Filter: A mechanical filter is the best way to maintain adequate circulation in your system and also helps keep the water free of debris. The addition of adsorbing media like carbon can also be administered to the water but is not essential  
Heater: Only for use if you are keeping tropical species."

I hope this helps

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by alkiely - 2009/04/27 22:19

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For someone to come on here and post comments like sean did through out this thread is a liitle childish and also disrespectfull, there is no need to say darragh did anything, thats if its true or not.

There is no need at all to post such comments, we all have our own points on such matters. For Sean to come on here and post a personal attack against someone is way out of order and has no place on this site at all.

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Alan

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/27 22:27

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Didihno wrote:

Isn't the idea not to simply break the surface tension so the nitrate gas can escape?  
I assumed that an airstone/venturi spray/any other method of doing so would suffice?

Opinions people?

You must have a strong air current coming from the bottom via airstone to achieve deep saturation, venturi doesn't cut it above 10 L .

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/28 04:10

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Trimax wrote:

Didihno wrote:

Isn't the idea not to simply break the surface tension so the nitrate gas can escape?  
I assumed that an airstone/venturi spray/any other method of doing so would suffice?

Opinions people?

You must have a strong air current coming from the bottom via airstone to achieve deep saturation, venturi doesn't cut it above 10 L .

Gottit. Set up my only air pump tonight, added the OA and the Severum is calm and collected. Still got stress bars and still not eating though. Maybe tomorrow.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/04/28 18:43

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The health stuff that comes in the OA packs is fantastic for the fish. Not sure what it is or the ingredients of it but it works a treat!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/29 04:00

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Slightly less stressed this evening, but still not eating.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/30 00:08

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Same body colouration, which is between totally stressed and half stressed.

Not eating, and now she looks unstable in the water, wobbling a bit, swimming near the top with the crest of her forehead breaking the surface. Now I am starting to worry.

Added some more health treatment from the big tub I have, which cost €35, and not €50 as I wrote above, my apologies for that.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sheag35 - 2009/04/30 02:00

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have you tried sea chems garlic additive, i use it for finiky eaters and some who refuse to eat, works a treat anytime i've done it... if you cant get it crush some garlic and put it in your food box shake to mix then feed, hope it works for you

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/30 03:02

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Feeding NLS Cichlid formula, which is loaded with garlic.  
Never had a fish refuse it.

She hasn't eaten since she came home with me on friday last, come to think of it she didn't eat the prime pellet offered in the store either, we (Drew and I) were more concerned with the incredible male. I wonder if she has some intestinal problem. I'll ring Drew tomorrow in AV and see what he can do.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/04/30 09:18

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Is the big tub of organic health treatment not marine treatment?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/04/30 13:07

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I doubt a teaspoon of the marine health treatment had much of an adverse effect if any. Perhaps Organic Steve can comment?

Fish was dead this morning and I'll be bringing it out to AV to have a scrape & microscope done on it.

Extremely dissappointed this panned out like this. I've had fish take much, much worse fin damage and survive.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/04/30 17:14

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Sorry to hear that Didi, was the fish showing symptoms since you broght it home? Is this why you used the OA?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Darkrin - 2009/05/01 06:09

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Didihno wrote:

I doubt a teaspoon of the marine health treatment had much of an adverse effect if any. Perhaps Organic Steve can comment?

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Organic health treatment is for both MARINE and FRESHWATER.  
Its a very good product, but not a miracle curer

Dayo.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/05/01 15:24

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Hi didi,  
Sorry to hear about your loss. Could you please outline for me your filtration set up on your hospital tank?  
You mentioned adding a small spoon of the Health Treatment but never quoted the size of the tank or whether you used any of the other products in conjunction with the HT. Did u test the water for anything? Was the fish open mouthed when u found it?  
Apologies for delay in response- had difficulties logging on yesterday.  
I obviously watch this thread with keen interest but avoid posting unless specifically asked something so if anyone has any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me here, by PM or email (steve@organicaqua.com).  
I look forward to fielding questions on this still clearly misunderstood new method of fishkeeping.

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/05/01 15:58

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Hi all,  
Sorry if anything I posted was unclear. I'll lay out the chain of events here.  
Friday: Picked up massive adult male and 42 adult female severum from AV2. Female had not eaten in the store the day I asked to see them fed, but the male had. The male had previously been brought in the same bucket as the female and had beaten the sh1t out of her so she was separated and had regron 95% finnage and looked good. I gave them a really good acclimatisation period.  
Saturday: Overnight the male (and possibly other tankmates: clown loaches/green severum) had beaten her again, with 50% fin damage but no body damage. Separated into large breeding net. No food taken. Fish displayed full stress bars.  
Sunday: Set up 20L hospital tank with small internal filter. No food taken. Fish still displays full stress bars.  
Monday: Purchased OA start up kit for 10-20l tanks. Performed 75% water change and added OA as per instructions. Washed filter in tap water. Fish now displays half stress bars. No food taken.  
Tuesday: Added pump/airstone after consulting forums. Filter was providing great aeration and surface disruption so I didn't think it was necessary. Fish still displays half stress bars. No food taken.  
Wednesday: Fish observed to be wobbling slightly and hovering at the surface with its forehead breaking the surface. No food taken. Added a teaspoon of health treatment.  
Thursday morning: Fish was dead. Brought carcass to AV and Drew checked for whateevr he checks for but came up clean. Drew will replace the fish whenever he gets a suitable replacement.

My conclusions: Well, I don't fault anyone really. IMO I did everything by the book with the exception of not added an airstone straight away. The OA did help to slightly visibly calm the creature which was the intention, it is not a miracle cure Steve, I know that, I only wanted to give the fish a calm quiet place to recover. The fish itself never ate in my custody, who knows why. The actual harm to the fish did not seem severe as I have brought back fish with much, much worse damage. Stress is pretty visible though. The creature was obviously not happy at all as it never lost its stress bars and overall dark complexion. I'm not sure if it was a fair test of OA in the end, as the fish might have had catastrophic suffering, mentally rather than physically. That sounds stupid I know but I'll try it again sometime, if any other fish gets a hammering.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/05/01 17:02

I agree that this can hardly be a conclusive test.

I can see that the HT calmed the fish for a couple of days and then the fish displayed symptoms of oxygen deprivation (hovering at the surface).

This could have been due to ammonia or nitrite as due to the late arrival or the airpump I would highly suspect that the OA didnt work to its full potential.

I know it seems bizzare but I cannot stress enough the importance of an airpump when using OA.

We all know how quickly things can go wrong if you mess with the biological filtration in a traditional tank.

When you add the products the airpump provides enough oxygen in the water for the bacteria to 'colonize' the water in the tank very quickly.

If the air supply is not present the colonies will diminish very rapidly.

The fish in question is a reasonably large (4"?) fish which is not only refusing food (any uneaten food, particularly high protein cichlid pellets - ammonia source) but is also stressed (higher breathing or osmoregulatory functions produce more ammonia being excreted through the gills).

This in only 20L of water can become a lethal problem very quickly.

Also did you have a lid on the tank?

Was it left open?

And again can you remember if the fishes mouth was open when you found her?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/05/01 17:24

The fish was about 5" including tail.

Uneaten food was removed completely.

This fish was not gasping for air though, breathing normally IMO.

Don't forget that there was a 75% water change as instructed as well as the OA added. Ammonia/nitrite should not only not be a factor, but also shouldn't the function of the OA prevent same from being a factor?

On aeration, is the oxygen transfer from a stream of bubbles secondary to the oxygen transfer from the surface tension disturbance from the jet of an internal filter? This is my understanding and the reason why the airstone wasn't added for a day. Quite simply, the airstone was doing about 1/4 of the surface disruption of the filter jet, if that. Does the bubbles rising in the water perform some other role other than surface disruption?

Finally, its mouth was closed and bizarrely all fins were fully extended. I actually had to look twice to notice the fish was dead.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by nonie - 2009/05/01 18:19

IMO the fish was a gonner from start to finish! It was showing signs from day one. Didi you did your best but sometimes there is no cure!

Why not set up a small tanks with a new OA test. I can give you guppies if you want. Then that will be the test to see how effective it is. AS i have said I have used it for many months and find it fantastic!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/05/01 18:58

Uneaten food was removed completely.

Even if you remove the food after a few mins there can be some breakdown of the organic proteins in the food that could add to a possible ammonia problem. When used as directed OA deals with this very effectively.

Don't forget that there was a 75% water change as instructed as well as the OA added. Ammonia/nitrite should not only not be a factor, but also shouldn't the function of the OA prevent same from being a factor?

---

The instructions state to do a 25% w/c or a 75% if your water quality isn't great.  
due to the late arrival or the airpump I would highly suspect that the OA didnt work to its full potential.

On aeration, is the oxygen transfer from a stream of bubbles secondary to the oxygen transfer from the surface tension disturbance from the jet of an internal filter? This is my understanding and the reason why the airstone wasn't added for a day. Quite simply, the airstone was doing about 1/4 of the surface disruption of the filter jet, if that. Does the bubbles rising in the water perform some other role other than surface disruption?

When you add the products the airpump provides enough oxygen in the water for the bacteria to 'colonize' the water in the tank very quickly.  
If the air supply is not present the colonies will diminish very rapidly.

I know it makes very little sense because your filter seems to create so much more aeration. The bubbles from an airstone are in the water for longer and therefore have more time to become 'absorbed' by it.  
These are conclusions I have reached after extensive 'trial and error' research using many different methods.

Finally, its mouth was closed and bizarrely all fins were fully extended. I actually had to look twice to notice the fish was dead.

The closed mouth would suggest that ammonia and nitrite were not the cause of death here.  
This would also suggest that OA did in fact function as intended but, not being a miracle cure, the fish died.  
Who knows, maybe it was very old and after two (documented) vicious beatings was going to die anyway.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Didihno - 2009/05/01 20:03

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Sorry Steve but have to pull you on this:

'...The instructions state to do a 25% w/c or a 75% if your water quality isn't great...'

I'm sure I'm misconstruing that statement as a weak attempt to deflect some perceived criticism of OA's role here i.e. my water quality wasn't great. The water quality was first rate as it was 100% clean water to start with, the filter was a mature seeded filter (well the floss was), with a 75% water change and OA added. The filter was then 'killed' with tap water.

From the OA website: 'When converting an existing system to Organic Aqua, firstly perform a ONE OFF 75% water change (a great opportunity to do a really good clean out!) and add the Organic Aqua Start Up Kit to the new water being replaced'

On the airstone issue, I have always believed that the opposite was the case. Here is a wiki entry, not quotable science but I'm sure with more effort one could get the info. If you read the part where the rate of dissolution/absorption of the bubbled oxygen being far too slow for an air bubble from an airstone to be of much use. However the action of breaking the surface tension and general surface turbulence allowing for much greater exchange of gasses:

[http://theaquariumwiki.com/Air\\_stone](http://theaquariumwiki.com/Air_stone)

I have read this on many different occasions, and to be frank, it kind of disagrees totally with your reasoning for adding an airstone compared the work a filter jet does. Bubbled air simply does not remain in the water long enough to do what you say it does.

Now, if OA was pitched as requiring strong surface water movement to facilitate gaseous exchange, that would make more sense.

Oh, and just to confirm, I do not blame OA, AV or myself for the death of this animal. It just happened despite best efforts. Interesting debate though.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/05/01 21:38

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Must update the website as I was quoting from the instruction pamphlet that comes with the start up and maintenance kits.

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Your wiki thing is about gas exchange whereas I'm talking about the oxygen IN the OA water (which has been treated with General Treatment, allowing the water to absorb more oxygen than NON-OA water) which acts as a bio-media for the UNIQUE STRAIN of bacteria in the BBAC to live in the water.  
Yes it is a difficult one to grasp but there you are.

I have read this on many different occasions, and to be frank, it kind of disagrees totally with your reasoning for adding an airstone compared the work a filter jet does. Bubbled air simply does not remain in the water long enough to do what you say it does.

If you would rather put your faith in 'how it should be' then please try using the product without an airstone and see how things go.  
Believe it or not I have a vested interest in this product doing well and have no desire to promote any potentially lethal methods.

Remember that the laws of physics are still trying to work out how a bumble bee can fly as it is according to these laws it is 'impossible' for it to do so.

Thank you for your interest in OA.  
It is an interesting debate.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Trimax - 2009/05/02 05:28

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I agree with Steve, I have experimented with OA using a venturi valve instead of a filter. The OA failed to kick in full strength and was non existent the next day with high ammonia readings, this was done with danio's in a 20l . I have found Only an airstone at the bottom works 100%. As Steve says the organic aqua general treatment changes how water interacts with air as I have already explained in my previous post on how OA works in layterms (being the only terms I can state with certainty, as I am not a scientist!)

I personally think the fish was a goner from the start. Maybe the lfs and your home water parameters were too different for the already suffering fish to acclimatise to, ie stressed beaten and suffering from ph shock that just pushed it over the edge.  
Sorry to hear it died i'm sure AV will look after you.

I know it's difficult especially when it goes against all previous fish keeping knowledge but when trying OA for the first time it is essential to stick to the exact guidelines as specified in the pamphlet in the packaging or it will simply not work correctly.

Steve I like the bee analogy! it's funny how as a species we will read horoscopes, will accept psychologys theories of sub conscious even though it's non empericle, will go try acupuncture or reiki for ailments and all sorts of unprovable stuff and when we are presented with something simple and completely empericle like organic aqua we just can't accept that it functions because it seems too good to be true.

I think people would be better to perceive OA as what it is; a water control system that increases fish stocking capacity, minimises health problems and reduces maintenance. Rather than what some die hard conservative fish keepers have insinuated, that it is some hokey holistic muck in a tub thats just sold to beginners to line your pockets. It's a completely empericle product with a growing number of glowing testimonials to back it up, it's only a question of time before it catches on and if your pockets happen to get lined with cash in the end well you deserve it! many people don't know or appreciate the extraordinary lengths you have gone to to improve fish keeping knowledge and therefore fish welfare in this country.

How many people here would spend months up to their armpits in water overhauling petshops to improve fish welfare and give advice and education to new fish keepers all day long both OA and non OA alike..... for free? Not many I think!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/05/27 03:33

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Hi,  
I'm a relative novice in terms of fishkeeping although I have a tank for several years. I followed this debate closely and have come down on the side of those who say give it a chance. I believe in water changes although my tank at one stage had reached equilibrium where the fish were happy, no losses except through old age, no disease, tank was heavily planted and plants growing strongly and even anubia flowering and java ferns propagating and I only changed every two months or if I noticed the fish not happy - I do love my fish!!  
I have decided to give organic aqua a try so will keep you up to date. Tank is 2 foot by 12 by 15. Coldwater (22 degree) set up with Fluval 2+ filter and heater. Have added 12in airstone powered by old airpump I had. also contains anubias and java fern, java and christmas moss, some star moss and other unknown plants.  
Occupants are one Ginormous apple snail ?, 8 white clouds, 5 bronze corys, one butterfly loach and an amano shrimp  
Did the necessary tonight with a gravel clean, water change and added normal tap water with the organic aqua bits.  
Cleaning the filter in tap water was a struggle though  
fish did not seem bothered and while clouds looked happier then ever chasing each other around.  
will post pics and a weekly update if nobody minds

Feargal

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by mickeywallace - 2009/05/27 05:35

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Cheers Feargal,  
will be looking forward to your posts  
Mickey

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/05/29 15:26

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Hi Feargal,

Delighted to hear you are going Organic!

One piece of advice I would offer for your particular set up would be the use of OA Plant Treatment.

This is due to the elevated levels of oxygen in an OA set up which plants don't always thrive in.

OA Plant Treatment is a non phosphate or nitrate based fertilizer with various ingredients added to help the plants extract any available CO2 from the water.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining this from your local supplier please contact me directly and I will advise further.

Looking forward to your pics and updates!

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/05/31 03:36

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Steve  
Took your advice and have got the plant treatment and gave it its first does on friday so heres hoping it all goes well  
.Fish still happy and thriving and hope to post pics tomorrow

Feargal

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by platty252 - 2009/05/31 07:18

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Steve are there any plants you would not recommend using OA plant treatment on? Keeping in mind you have to keep the ph between 6.8 -7.

Can you explain the equation; number of plants = lenght(cm./in.) x depth(cm.in.) over 50(metric)/8(us). ?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/05/31 17:40

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Hi,  
some pics. Apologise for quality as they are definitely not up to the standard of most of the pics on this forum. Will try again but one thing I can say is I've never seen the water so clear  
PS wire on right is used for attaching food for my snail to keep him off plants

Feargal

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by zig - 2009/06/01 04:07

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Could you use the OA Plant Treatment in a planted tank with no fish in it?

Have you used this product yourself Steve?

Also interested (like platy252) if this product is suitable for use with all aquatic plants?

Where can I find instructions for the OA Plant Treatment, other than buying the product itself, does anyone have these that they can share?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by mickeywallace - 2009/06/01 05:19

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Hi Master Zig,  
this any help?

<http://www.organicaqua.com/plant>

mickey

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by platty252 - 2009/06/01 19:08

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Apart from what it says on there site and the plant stocking equation (that i dont get at all), all it says is 1 ml treats 2.5 litres. Apply weekly.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/06/15 20:23

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Hi guys,

Sorry was away and only getting back online now!

Have asked the guys in SA for a bit of clarity on the mysterious plant equation and will keep you posted in that regard.

In so far as which plants can / cannot be kept using OA Plant Treatment, there is no reason why any plants cannot be kept as the pH guideline is there to indicate the parameters within which an algal problem is least likely.

I have used the stuff myself with resounding success, in fact I use it on all the house plants and even in the back garden!

Use a double dose of it if you are trying to encourage a plant back to full health if it has been attacked by a plant nipper such as a Silver Dollar or similar.

The product can be used as a stand alone product without the use of the other OA products and I cannot see why it would not be just as effective in a tank without fish.

If anyone else has any experiences (good or bad!) using Plant Treatment or any other OA products please post here as the more feed back we get the better we can serve!

I will do my best to answer any queries you may have.

Cheers,

Steve

P.S. Feargal- Glad to hear your water is so clear! Dying to see pics!! S

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sheag35 - 2009/06/16 01:50

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ok i have been following this thread for a while now and still havent really formed any opinion on wether i should try it or not being an old fashioned fishkeeper ie regular maintenance, was going to try it when i saw it in petmania until i worked out the costs involved... thats a heck of a yearly cost considering the amount of tanks i run, whereas a 5 litre of my old faithful easylife costs €60 and treats all my tanks for nearly a year... is there really such need for these prices???, also is it true i heard that if you do not use the oa maintenance kit the water quality crashes??  
just a query

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/06/17 01:34

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Some pics. Quality dire so apologies. Fish very happy

<http://s709.photobucket.com/albums/ww98/sincgar/OAWeek2/>

Note from Admin, fixed it to be a link, it was not a link to a photo directly just a page of photos, if you want to show the photos here, do exactly as you did but use the link for each photo you want to display.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/06/17 01:38

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Help. Did what it said in the photo section and can see the /img bits but URL is not appearing

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/06/17 17:06

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Hi sheag35,

Just to dispel any disinformation - if you stop using the OA products at the end of a monthly cycle there should be no crash in water quality as the traditional bacteria have had a month to colonize the media (even if it is only mechanical). However, it would be prudent to keep a close eye on levels and get straight back into regular water changes as soon as you can if you discontinue using OA.

As far as costings go, in a situation such as yours where you are running many tanks, the Pond Range of OA products can be used.

Health Treatment (H.T.) comes in a 1kg size which treats 2,500 litres,

BBAC treats the same,

General Treatment (G.T.) 1litre will do 20,000 litres in a pond or 10,000 litres in a tank (different stocking densities = different bioload)for one week (ie- 1,000l for 10wks).

H.T. EURO 35

BBAC EURO 24

G.T. EURO 35

Total Kit EURO 94 (RRP, prices may vary)

For example 1x 300l, 2x 200l, 3x 100l tanks treated as follows-

H.T. & BBAC

Start Up - 1000l

Monthly - 250l (ie 25% w/c)

So 1x H.T. and 1x BBAC will last this group of tanks for Start Up and 6 months of maintenance at 25% p/m. Then 1x H.T. and 1x BBAC will last for 10 months maintenance.

G.T.

1x G.T. dosed weekly will last 10 weeks

2x H.T. EURO 70

2x BBAC EURO 48

6x G.T. EURO 210

EURO 328 = 16 months

EURO 20.5= 1 month (average)

Remember though that not only are you saving time and water but you are also not using any chemicals.

Hope this helps...

Cheers,

Steve

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2009/06/18 02:51

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Steve,  
Your maths are appealing for the bulk buy and given the reduction in the workload and water. I'm delighted with my setup. The tank looks spotless, the fish, snail and shrimp look very happy. the amano shrimp has even shred his skin and reappeared in his new coat. the plants are looking healthy and I get more time to spend looking rather than having to fill, heeat water etc and I have only one tank. I'm tempted to do the bulk purchase ven for my limited set up.  
If I can find the right 'quiet' air pump my other small tank will also follow the same OA route

Feargal

PS: Would really like to talk to you re a marine OA tank as the sponsors have a very good offer at the moment but put off by having to do weekly water changes etc and getting the water parameters right each time. A monthly change would lessen the stree on ME and the fish

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2009/06/22 15:28

Nice one Feargal,

Glad to hear that all is still well.

In so far as setting up a salt water system, I would advise you to go for it!

As you know there is some discussion about this in the marine forum (converting a rio 180 to marine) at the moment but if you do choose to go down this road please contact me directly when doing so and I can give you step by step advise on getting started.

Cheers,

Steve

P.S. Use a valve to 'tune' your airflow. This will offer some back pressure to the airpump and quieten it down considerably. S

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2010/04/13 18:09

So this thread has now had over 6,500 hits!  
And no one has any further organic experiances?  
Get posting!!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2010/04/13 18:23

Im using OA for over 3 years and delighted with it. I was'nt aware I could bulk buy, Ive been buying 2 packs a month. Where can I get the jumbo packs. Cheers

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2010/04/13 20:19

Bulk packs are available anywhere that stocks the products.  
Just ask for a pond pack- u may have to order it.

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PM me if you have any difficulties.  
Nice one- keep it organic!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by louis - 2010/04/13 20:25

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Great,thanks for that, Steve.

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by Tetra\_Tetra - 2010/04/13 23:18

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Im using it on a small marine tank at the moment and just have a few questions.  
Does it remove phosphates if not can I use a phosphate remover?  
Is PH the only thing I can test for?  
Can I use a refugium ?  
When doing the weekly dosing could I do a water change to replace trace elements and just dose the new water?  
Will it have any effect on Corals?  
Can I use a skimmer instead of a airpump?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2010/04/13 23:57

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hi Tetra-tetra,

to answer your questions:

Does it remove phosphates if not can I use a phosphate remover?

OA doesn't remove phosphates. I would recommend RowaPhos. Incredible stuff!

Is PH the only thing I can test for?

pH is the only thing I recommend regularly testing for in a standard tank as any nitrogen compounds being tested for seem to give odd readings. In a reef set up tho u should keep an eye on calcium/magnesium etc.

Can I use a refugium ?

Yes you can use a refugium to provide extra nutrition for your livestock, just don't leave any media get too active as can turn into a nitrate factory quite quickly!

When doing the weekly dosing could I do a water change to replace trace elements and just dose the new water?

You can change the water as often as you like as long as you treat the water with OA. There shouldn't be any need to do this weekly as long as you provide extra trace elements appropriatly.

Hope this helps!

Cheers,

steve

Will it have any effect on Corals?

Can I use a skimmer instead of a airpump?

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2010/04/14 13:39

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Running an edge on this with no casualties (endlers and shrimp, some fern and moss ans everything hunky dory. Only problem is soooo much fry !!!!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2010/04/19 16:40

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To finish up- OA has a very positive effect on corals provided they are receiving the correct lighting and additives.

The use of a protein skimmer DOES NOT substitute the use of an air pump in any OA set up.

Sorry missed these in last reply!

@feargal- nice one, hadn't tried it in the edge tanks yet, wasn't sure the surface area was enough. Fair play!

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by sincgar - 2010/04/19 18:29

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thanks Steve.

On the marine setup would it be sufficient to run the air stone in a sump or HOB filter or does it need to be in the main tank

as most people here and elsewhere post about microbubbles from the skimmer and how to prevent them in the main tank etc how would the air stone work. would it not cause bubbles under LR/corals etc and the same issues as a skimmer outflow

Tks

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## Re:organic aqua revisited - Part I

Posted by organicsteve - 2010/04/20 12:29

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When using an airstone in a marine tank u should use a normal freshwater style one and u really shouldn't have any microbubble issues. These issues usually derive from the incorrect use of a wooden block airstone. These type of airstone are strictly for use in skimmers!

I would usually recommend placing it in the main tank.

Cheers

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