

DIY Breeding Baskets

Frank Schulterbrandt 10/12/2015

Back in the Fred Flintstone days, many years ago a young Steve Kwartler came to my house to pick me up to go to an East Coast Guppy Association show in Long Island. While waiting for me to get ready, Steve noticed two things one was a tank of Gold Red guppies that were in the bottom tank. Steve said "why don't you bring some of those to the show"? I said "what the heck" and picked out 4 males, for a tank entry. I had only planned on showing my Blacks and my Multis. Well as luck would have it, I won best of show with one of the red deltas. It was also the show that Paul Gorski parked his red car (which had "RED GUPPY" on his license plate) and had it turned into a RED-BICOLOR car from dripping paint falling onto his car. The parking lot was being painted. Man was that one mad judge. Paul tried to DQ the painters or the owners of the parking lot.

The second thing that Steve noticed was the plastic breeding baskets that I had. He asked me where did you get those. I went into the closet and got a yellow vinyl loose leaf binder made by a company called "AQUA ENGINEERS". Aqua Engineers sold audio cassette tapes by Lou Wasserman, Midge Hill and a few other hobbyists. They also sold live fish food. Among the other products that was in their catalog was the Luster breeding Baskets. These baskets came in styles of a fine and coarse mesh. The fine mesh had 8 square holes to an inch (8 count) and the coarse mesh had 5 squares holes to an inch (5 Count). I used the (5 Count) baskets to put females in when they were about to deliver their young.

Steve ordered these baskets but used them in a more effective way. Steve used them to house virgin females. The use of these baskets saved the guppy hobbyists from dedicating tanks just to hold virgin females. When I stopped raising and showing guppies in the IFGA back in 2004, I sold all of the equipment that I used for guppies, including these breeding baskets. I was now breeding and raising Wild African Cichlids from Lake Tanganyika. After not having any tropical fish from 2012 to the better part of 2014, I got "sick" again. Yeah, that darn guppy sickness struck again. I would find my way back to the South Jersey Guppy Group. This was more than likely my last go round with tropical fish, so I went "NUTS" and set up 60 tanks in the room, to 87 tanks moving the fish to a larger area, then to 100 tanks and then to(too embarrassed to say).

Getting back to the story: I wanted to get some of the Luster Breeding Baskets and some Luster Box Filters. I was out of luck on both counts. I was able to buy sponge filters but there were no replacements for the Luster Breeding Baskets, as the Luster Manufacturing company was no longer in business. I decided that I needed these, so I made some. First I went online and I found the 5 count plastic mesh sheets which measured 14 X 22 inches. The cost for these the mesh was less than \$2.00 per sheet. You could also purchase these sheets at Jo-Ann's Craft Stores. Next I ordered some Marina Net Breeders, the cost was less than \$3.00 each. Next I the assembled net breeder together. I did not use the net portion of the breeder. I then placed the assembled net breeder onto the plastic mess sheet and used a magic marker to outline the net breeder's different sides. Then I cut the plastic mesh along the marked lines. Finally I attached the cut plastic mesh to the frame of the net breeder. I used the fine fishing line to secure the plastic sheets to the breeder frame, tying different section to the frame. I also made a top flap for the assembled breeder to keep the females from jumping out and to keep unwanted guest from checking in. Note: Three sheets can make 5 breeder baskets if cut correctly. Just make sure that you get 5 count.



Plastic Canvas 5 Count 13 1/4"X22" Clear 33400P

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Availability: **In stock**

Regular Price:

~~\$4.03~~

Special Price: \$1.79

Qty:

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Darice®

Below are the net Breeder and the fine fishing line (any fine fishing line can be used)

Marina Net Breeder

