

Neon Aquarium Setup

Filter & Tank Setup

1. Pump/Powerhead

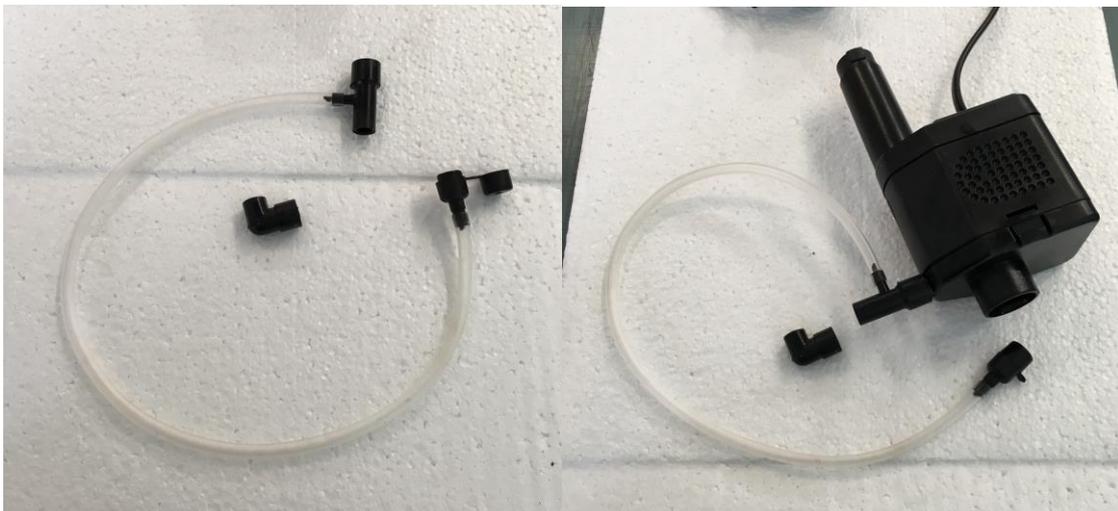
Pictured below is the pump/powerhead. It moves water through the filter system. It **must always be submerged in water when in operation** in order to prevent it from over-heating.



Press in the two clips on the base to release it to access the impeller. The impeller is held in place by magnets; if you remove the impeller, be careful not to lose the black caps from each end of the axel rod.

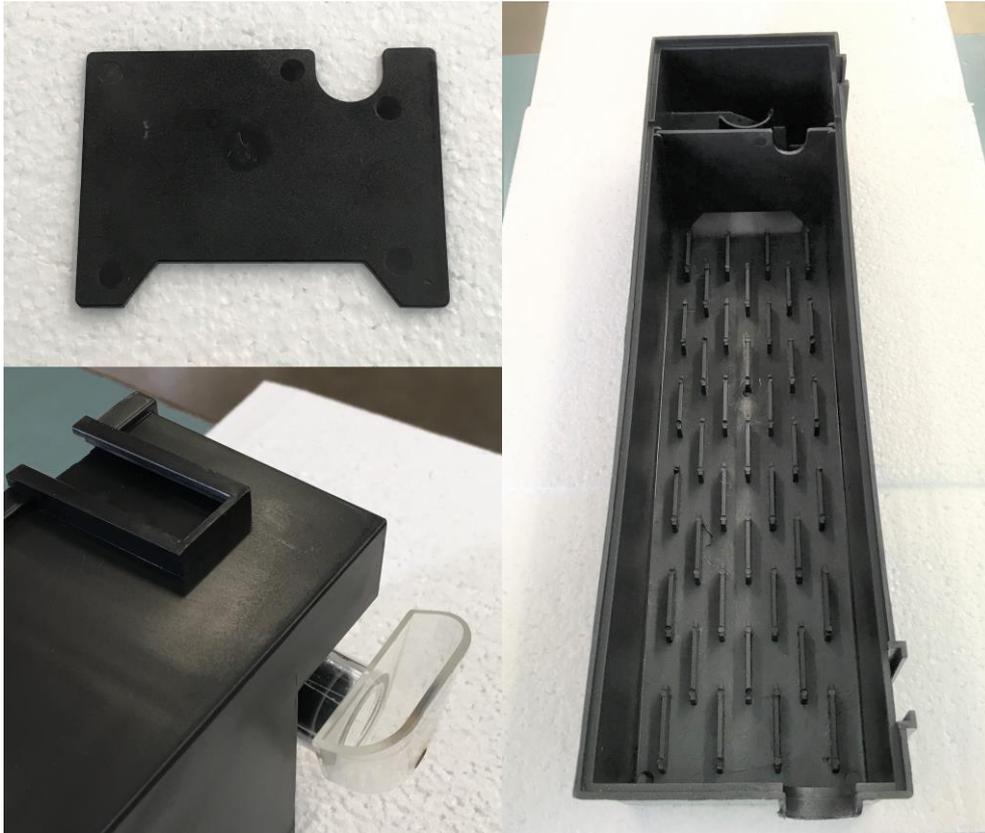
2. Venturi Air Intake

The clear airline tube connects to a nozzle on one end and a cap on the other end. The nozzle then connects to the spout on the pump. The **cap end must be outside of the water** in order to draw in air, which will then be blown out of the spout, creating a bubble effect. The small elbow piece fits over the nozzle to direct the flow.



3. Filter Box

There is a divider that slots in at the end of the filter box section to support the spray bar, and there is also a clear spout that connects to the outlet at the end of the underside of the box. On **Neon 215** there will be three dividers.



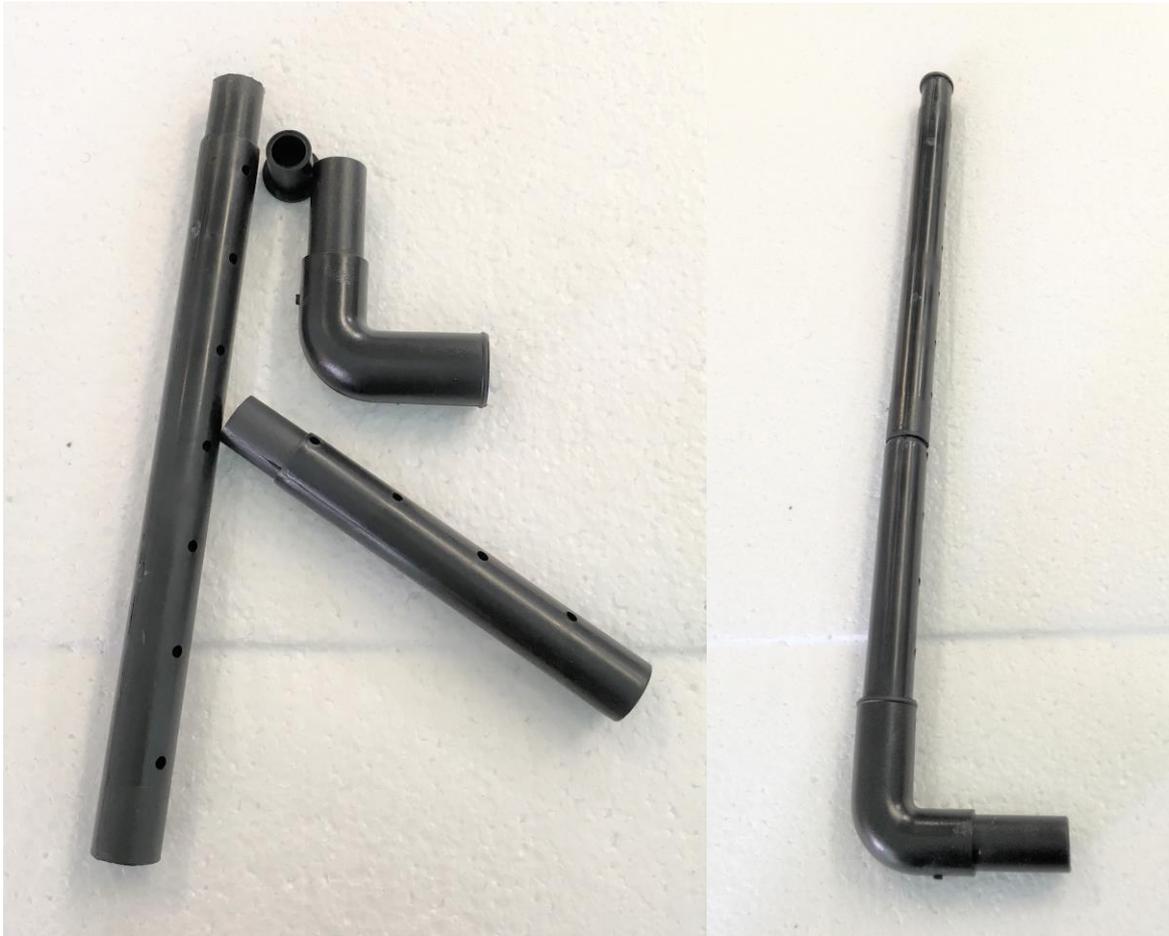
4. Intake/Down Pipe

The thick tubes make up the intake/down pipe. The sieve connects to the bottom and the small receptacle piece connects the intake pipe to the pump. **Neon 80/215** has an additional receptacle that sets the length of the pipe.



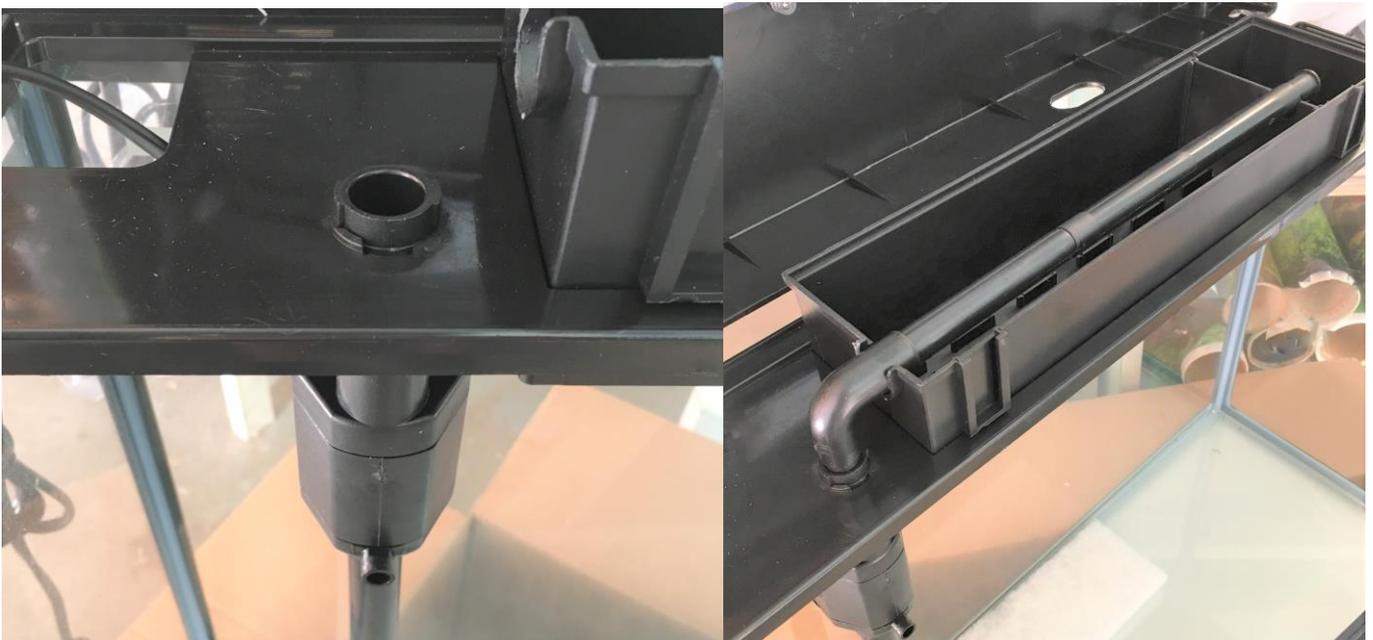
5. Spraybar

The thin tubes with holes in them connect to make the spraybar. There is an end cap that fits on the smaller width opening of the spray bar; the large opening of the elbow connects to the large end of the spraybar. On **Neon 80/215** the elbow is rubber and both openings are the same width.



6. Connect Filter

The pump twists and locks into the shelf that supports the filter box (or directly into the filter box on **Neon 80/215**); the small end of the spraybar then inserts into the top of the pump. On **Neon 80/215** there is a 14cm tube that connects to the spraybar elbow and inserts into the top of the pump (not pictured).



7. Finish Setup

You may have some additional parts leftover from the filter setup, such as an extra spraybar or downpipe piece, etc.

Ceramic rings: If you have ceramic rings, wash the dust off and then empty them from the mesh bag into the filter box; place the sponge pad on top. It can take up to two months for ceramic rings (and other biological filter media) to establish a sufficient population of bacteria; **do not ever wash ceramic rings under tap water** as the chlorine will kill the bacteria and reset your filter. You will need to clean/change the sponge pad from time-to-time.

If you have an aquarium **heater**, attach it to the glass inside the tank via its suction cups (wetting the cups helps them stick). It can be positioned horizontally or vertically; near the filter intake is fine. Twist the knob/dial on top to set the temperature (if applicable). It is recommended that you allow the heater to sit in ambient temperature tank water for about 20 minutes before turning it on, to prevent the glass on the heater cracking from temperature shock. Once plugged in, the heater will only operate if the heating element is submerged and the water temperature is below that set for the heater.

Wash your gravel/sand in a bucket using a hose to remove any dust from it. Then carefully scoop it out and lay it along the bottom of the tank. You can place any ornaments inside the tank too.

It is easiest to fill the tank using a hose, rather than buckets, as you can control the flow of water and prevent messing up the substrate (sand/gravel). **Fill the tank** with water so that the **pump is submerged**, then **plug in the pump** to get it running.

Add **dechlorinator** according to the dosage on the bottle to the amount of water being added to the tank; this must be done any time tap water is added to the tank, otherwise you risk killing your fish. Generally, one capful holds 5mL, and 1mL up to the first thread – about 15 drops is 1mL too.

Wait about 20 minutes or so, as noted above, and then **plug in your heater** (if applicable).

Add salt to your aquarium, if you intend on using it. Generally, 5g/10L for goldfish and 5g/15-30L for tropical fish is fine. A tablespoon (tbsp) is about 5g. Salt has different applications and dosages that you may want to read about online.

When you are satisfied, you can top up the tank with water so it fills to the rim, leaving no visible gap, which you may find more aesthetically pleasing.

Once you have done this, you can **add fish** straight away; there is no need to wait a day, or two days, or two weeks, or two months – or whatever anyone else typically recommends. Dechlorinator works instantly, making tap water safe, and salts dissolve instantly too. It'll take about two months for the bacteria in your tank and filter to properly establish itself, so you should **start with only a few fish** to get the cycle going without overwhelming the filter (e.g. 6 neon tetras, or one small goldfish).

Feeding your new fish should be done very minimally; **overfeeding is extremely common** and causes many tank maintenance and fish health issues, whilst underfeeding is practically **never** an issue – your fish will never starve to death.

Disassemble the filter system from time-to-time to clean it. On Neon 28/65/92 remove the spray bar from the filter via the elbow; on Neon 80/215, disconnect the straight tube from the pump, and unplug the four rubber standoffs. The tubes can be run through hot water to flush them clean of build-up.

An aquarium is a living system, not a piece of furniture. **It is up to you to learn how to maintain your tank and care for your fish**, which will require some initiative and interest on your part. There is plenty of information online regarding all aspects of aquarium care. Learn about the “nitrogen cycle”, which fish are compatible, plus the adult sizes of the fish you are interested in, and you'll be off to a good start. Keeping to the 1 inch (2.5cm) of fish per gallon (4L) rule, of an established aquarium, will help prevent overstocking.