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MODEL: CASCADE 500 (CCF1UL)

For Aquariums Up to 30 Gallons (115 GPH)

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

About Your Cascade 500 Canister Filter

The Penn-Plax Cascade 500 Canister Filter is designed to provide crystal clear water for aquariums up to 30 gallons. It operates at 115 Gallons per Hour and is suitable for both freshwater and saltwater fish tanks, as well as turtle habitats.

Key Features

- Push button primer for simple and quick priming.
- Two independent valve taps that rotate 360° for easy maneuvering.
- Two stackable, large capacity media baskets with built-in handles for customizable filtration.
- Included spray bar for aeration and even water distribution.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Your Cascade 500 Canister Filter package contains the following items:

- 2 Independent Valve Taps
- Push Button Primer
- Flow Rate Control Cut-Off Valves
- Swimming-Pool Style Hose Clamps
- 4 Easy Lift Alignment Clamps
- Sturdy Tip-Proof Base

- 2 Large Capacity Media Baskets
- 2 Poly Fiber Floss Pads
- 1 Coarse Bio-Sponge
- 1 Bag of Activated Carbon



This image displays all components included with the Cascade 500 filter: the canister filter unit, media baskets, hoses, input and output assemblies with suction cups, an intake strainer, and an output nozzle with a spray bar. Filter media such as carbon mesh bag, fine sponge, and coarse sponge are also shown.

SETUP

Step 1: Prepare Filter Media

The canister filter comes with pre-installed filter media for multi-stage filtration.

- **Carbon:** Removes odors and discoloration.
- **Fine Sponge:** Removes small particles and supports beneficial bacteria.
- **Coarse Sponge:** Traps large debris and waste.



This diagram illustrates the multi-stage filtration within the canister. Water flows from bottom to top, passing first through the coarse sponge to trap large debris, then the fine sponge for smaller particles and biological filtration, and finally through activated carbon to remove odors and discoloration.

Step 2: Assemble Hoses and Connections

Connect the provided hoses to the intake and output assemblies. Ensure all connections are secure.

This video demonstrates the step-by-step process of setting up the Cascade filter, including placing media and connecting hoses. It provides a visual guide for proper assembly.

This video demonstrates the installation process for a generic canister filter, which can be helpful for understanding the setup of your Penn-Plax Cascade 500.

This video provides a user guide for a generic canister filter, illustrating setup and usage steps applicable to the Penn-Plax Cascade 500.

This video demonstrates how to set up and use a generic canister filter, offering useful visual instructions for your Penn-Plax Cascade 500.

Step 3: Position the Filter

Place the canister filter below the aquarium. Ensure the hoses are not twisted to maintain proper siphon effect.



A view of the assembled Penn-Plax Cascade 500 Canister Filter, showing its compact design and hose connections. The filter is designed to sit below the aquarium.

OPERATION

Priming the Filter

Use the push button primer to initiate water flow into the filter.

Adjusting Water Flow

The independent valve taps rotate 360 degrees and feature flow control. Adjust intake and output flow levels as needed.



This image highlights the 360-degree rotating valves on the filter head, which allow for easy hose positioning and precise flow control for both intake and output.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning Filter Media

For optimal cleaning, it is recommended to replace the poly fiber floss pads and coarse bio-sponge once a month. Activated carbon should also be replaced regularly to remove harmful chemicals and odors.

Impeller and UV Light Maintenance

Periodically inspect and clean the impeller in the motor unit to ensure efficient operation. If your model includes a UV light, check and replace the UV bulb as needed.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Filter Not Starting

- Ensure the filter is properly primed and filled with water.
- Check all hose connections for leaks or kinks.
- Verify the power supply is connected and functioning.

Reduced Flow Rate

- Clean or replace clogged filter media.
- Inspect the impeller for debris or damage.
- Check for kinks or blockages in the hoses.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model	Cascade 500 (CCF1UL)
Dimensions	11.5"L x 9"W x 13.5"H
Flow Rate	115 Gallons per Hour (GPH)
Aquarium Size	Up to 30 Gallons
Power	110 Volts / 60 Hz / 10.5 W
Material	Plastic
Installation Type	Freestanding



This image provides a visual representation of the filter's dimensions, indicating a width of 11.5 inches, a depth of 9 inches, and a height of 13.5 inches.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This product is covered by Amazon Policy. For specific warranty details or support, please refer to the Amazon product page or contact Penn-Plax customer service.