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## Fluval A20020

# Fluval Self Primer Assembly Instruction Manual

Models: 104-404, 105-405

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Fluval Self Primer Assembly instruction manual. This guide provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Fluval Self Primer Assembly for canister filter models 104-404 and 105-405. Fluval is dedicated to providing quality aquatic products that ensure healthy aquatic environments for both beginner and advanced aquatic enthusiasts.



*Image: Fluval brand banner showcasing a vibrant aquatic environment.*

## 2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Fluval Self Primer Assembly is a critical component designed to facilitate the initial priming process of compatible Fluval canister filters. This assembly ensures a quick and efficient start-up of your filter system by creating the necessary suction to draw water into the filter unit, eliminating the need for manual siphoning.



*Image: The Fluval Self Primer Assembly, consisting of a primer shaft and a sealing disc.*

## 2.1. Package Contents

- 1 x Fluval Self Primer Assembly (consisting of primer shaft with cap and sealing disc)

## 3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

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This assembly is typically a replacement part for existing Fluval canister filters (models 104-404, 105-405). Ensure your filter is disconnected from power and drained before proceeding.

1. **Preparation:** Disconnect the filter from the power outlet. Close the AquaStop valve and disconnect the hosing from the filter unit.
2. **Access Filter Head:** Carefully unclip and remove the motor head from the filter canister.
3. **Locate Old Primer Assembly:** Identify the existing self-primer assembly within the motor head. It is usually located near the intake/output connections.
4. **Remove Old Assembly:** Gently pull or unscrew the old primer assembly. Note how it is seated to ensure correct installation of the new part. Be mindful of any small O-rings or seals that may come loose.
5. **Install New Assembly:** Insert the new Fluval Self Primer Assembly into the designated slot in the motor head. Ensure it is seated firmly and correctly. The sealing disc should be properly aligned to create a watertight seal.
6. **Reassemble Filter:** Carefully place the motor head back onto the filter canister, ensuring all clips are securely fastened. Reconnect the hosing and open the AquaStop valve.
7. **Fill Filter:** Before connecting to power, ensure the filter canister is filled with water. This can often be done by opening the AquaStop valve and allowing water to siphon from the aquarium into the filter.

**Note:** Refer to your specific Fluval canister filter's main instruction manual for detailed diagrams and safety precautions related to disassembling and reassembling the filter head.

## 4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (PRIMING THE FILTER)

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Once the Fluval Self Primer Assembly is installed and the filter is reassembled and filled with water, follow these steps to prime your filter:

1. **Ensure Connections:** Verify that all hoses are securely connected to the filter and the aquarium, and the AquaStop valve is fully open.
2. **Initiate Priming:** Repeatedly press the self-primer button/shaft located on the top of the filter motor head. You should hear and feel water being drawn into the filter.
3. **Continue Priming:** Continue pressing the primer until water begins to flow steadily from the filter's output hose back into the aquarium. This indicates that the filter is full of water and air has been expelled.
4. **Connect Power:** Once a steady flow is established, connect the filter's power cord to an electrical outlet. The filter pump should start operating, and water should circulate normally.

5. **Check for Leaks:** Monitor the filter and all connections for any signs of leaks for the first few minutes after startup.

**Important:** Never operate the filter pump dry. Always ensure the filter is fully primed and filled with water before connecting it to power.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance of the self-primer assembly ensures its longevity and reliable performance. While the assembly itself requires minimal maintenance, it's good practice to inspect it during routine filter cleaning.

- **Inspection:** During filter maintenance (e.g., media cleaning), visually inspect the primer shaft and the sealing disc for any signs of wear, cracks, or deformation.
- **Cleaning:** If the primer assembly appears dirty or has mineral buildup, gently clean it with a soft brush and warm water. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically, a small amount of silicone grease (aquarium-safe) can be applied to the O-rings or rubber seals associated with the primer assembly to maintain flexibility and ensure a good seal.
- **Replacement:** If the primer assembly becomes stiff, difficult to press, or fails to prime the filter effectively, it may be time for replacement.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with the self-primer assembly, consider the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Primer button is stiff or stuck.	Mineral buildup, debris, or worn internal components.	Clean the assembly. If still stiff, replacement may be necessary.
Filter does not prime after repeated pressing.	Air leak in the system, faulty primer assembly, clogged intake/hoses, or insufficient water in canister.	Check all hose connections for tightness. Ensure canister is full of water. Inspect primer assembly for damage. Clean intake strainer and hoses.
Water leaks from primer area.	Damaged O-ring or seal, cracked primer housing, or improper installation.	Inspect and replace any damaged O-rings/seals. Ensure assembly is correctly seated. If housing is cracked, the motor head may need replacement.
Weak or no water flow after priming.	Not fully primed, air trapped, clogged filter media, or pump issue (not primer).	Continue priming until all air is expelled. Check filter media for clogging. If problem persists, consult the main filter manual for pump troubleshooting.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

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Key specifications for the Fluval Self Primer Assembly (Model A20020):

- **Product Dimensions:** 1 x 4 x 6.5 inches
- **Item Weight:** 0.32 ounces
- **Manufacturer:** Rolf C. Hagen (USA) Corp.
- **ASIN:** B0002Z7UG0
- **Item Model Number:** A20020
- **Compatibility:** Fluval Canister Filter Models 104-404, 105-405

- **Country Of Origin:** Italy

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For specific warranty information regarding your Fluval Self Primer Assembly, please refer to the documentation included with your original Fluval canister filter or visit the official Fluval website. As a replacement part, its warranty may be covered under the original filter's warranty period or a separate limited warranty.

For technical support, replacement parts, or further assistance, please contact Fluval Customer Service:

- **Website:** [www.fluvalaquatics.com](http://www.fluvalaquatics.com) (or refer to your region's specific Fluval website)
- **Contact Information:** Refer to the "Contact Us" section on the official Fluval website for phone numbers or email support.

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