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Fluval FX4 (A214)

Fluval FX4 High Performance Canister Aquarium Filter User Manual

Model: FX4 (A214)

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1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Fluval FX4 High Performance Canister Aquarium Filter. The Fluval FX4 is designed to provide multi-stage filtration for aquariums, ensuring a clean and healthy aquatic environment. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure proper function and longevity of your filter.

2. Product Overview

The Fluval FX4 is a high-capacity canister filter featuring advanced Smart Pump Technology for optimal performance and energy efficiency. Its multi-stage filtration system, combined with a unique basket-in-basket media tray design, ensures comprehensive mechanical, chemical, and biological filtration. The unit also includes a built-in powered water change system for simplified maintenance.

Figure 2.1: Fluval FX4 High Performance Canister Filter. This image shows the top-down view of the filter unit, highlighting the 'IN' and 'OUT' ports, red Aquastop valves, and the overall compact design.

3. Setup and Installation

3.1 Unpacking and Component Identification

Carefully unpack all components. Refer to the 'What's Included' diagram to ensure all parts are present.

Figure 3.1: Included Components. This diagram illustrates all parts supplied with the Fluval FX4, including the main unit, media baskets, biofoam, carbon foam, pouches, biomax, flow clamps, metal clamps, output nozzle, intake, and hoses.

3.2 Media Loading

The FX4 features a 4-stage filtration system with removable media baskets. These baskets are designed to prevent water bypass, maximizing filtration efficiency. Each basket is lined with a foam insert for mechanical pre-filtering. Arrange your chosen mechanical, chemical, and biological media within the baskets. The basket-in-basket design allows for flexible media combinations.

Figure 3.2: Multi-Stage Filtration. This image details the internal structure of the filter, showing the stackable media baskets and the recommended placement for different types of filter media (e.g., foam, biological media).

3.3 Placement and Hose Connection

The FX4 filter is compact, standing 16.5 inches (42 cm) tall, allowing it to fit under most standard aquarium cabinets. Position the filter on a stable, level surface below the aquarium. Connect the intake and output hoses using the Aquastop Click-Fit Valves, ensuring a leak-free and secure connection. The versatile intake features a telescopic stem and anti-clog strainer, while twin output nozzles allow for customized water currents.

Figure 3.3: Filter Installation. This image demonstrates the Fluval FX4 filter positioned within an aquarium cabinet, with hoses connected to the aquarium above, illustrating its compact fit.

Figure 3.4: Versatile Design Features. This image highlights key features such as self-priming, cabinet compatibility, vibration-reducing rubber feet, Aquastop valves, versatile intake, and twin output nozzles.

4. Operation

4.1 Initial Start-up and Self-Priming

After assembly and hose connection, simply add water to your aquarium and plug in the filter. The patented Smart Pump Technology will automatically initiate the self-priming process. This advanced microchip technology continuously monitors and optimizes pump performance, ensuring powerful output and energy efficiency. It also manages the filter's self-starting feature and evacuates any trapped air.

4.2 Smart Pump Technology

The Smart Pump Technology employs an electronic circuit board that constantly monitors the pump. Impeller speed and force are measured to maintain optimal performance and energy efficiency. On a 12-hour cycle, the pump will pause briefly to allow trapped air to escape, ensuring consistent and efficient filtration. This contributes to quiet operation and reduced noise.

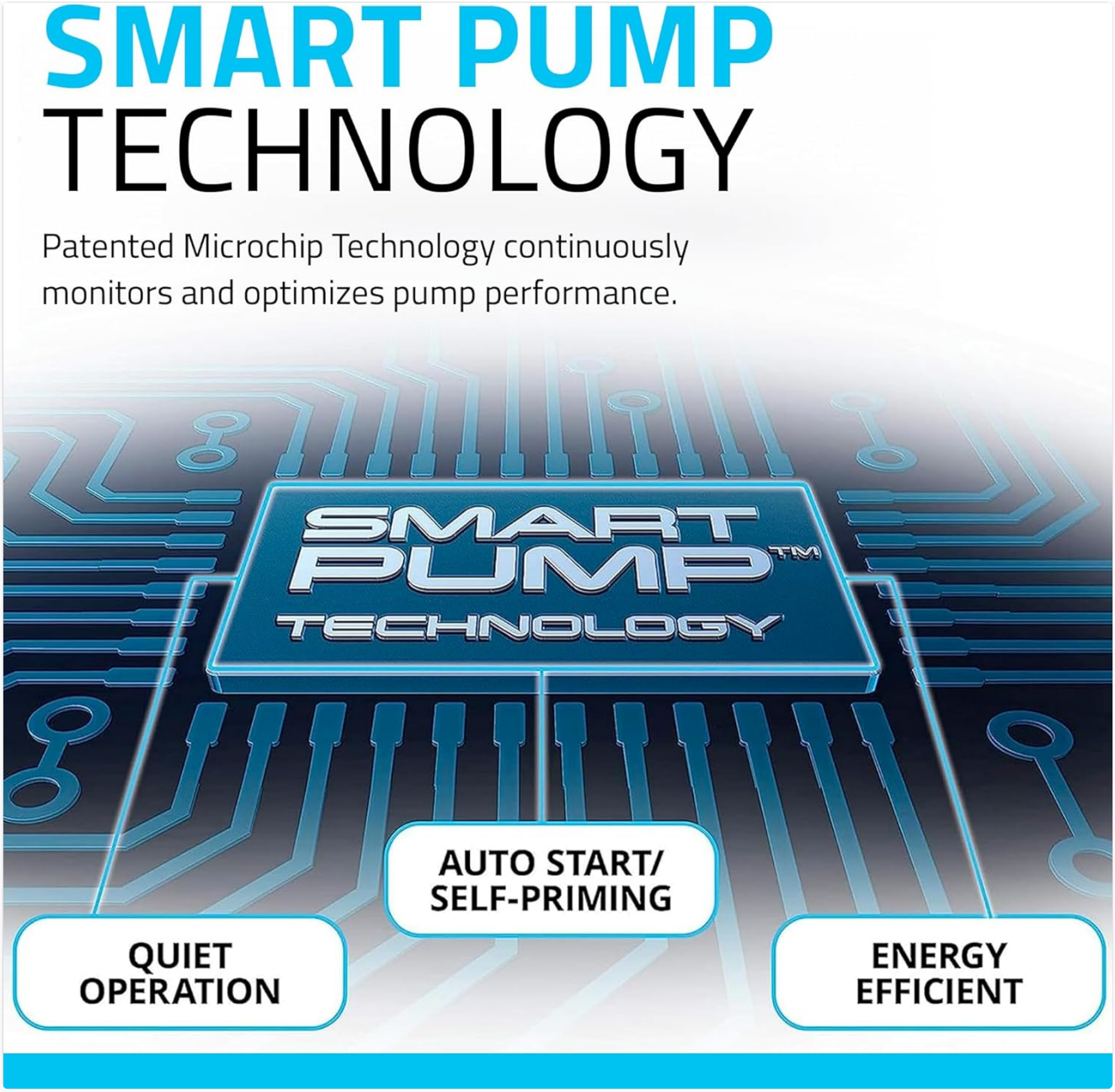

Figure 4.1: Smart Pump Technology. This diagram visually represents the microchip technology that monitors and optimizes pump performance, enabling auto-start, self-priming, quiet operation, and energy efficiency.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Routine Cleaning of Filter Media

Regular cleaning of filter media is essential for maintaining optimal water quality. The instant-release T-handles allow for quick and easy removal of media baskets. Clean the foam inserts and other reusable media in old aquarium water to preserve beneficial bacteria. Replace chemical media as recommended by the manufacturer.

5.2 Water Changes

The FX4 features a multi-functional utility valve at its base, enabling seamless water changes. This valve allows you to drain water from the canister and refill directly, simplifying the process and reducing effort. Convenient lid-mounted hosing clips provide clean storage for hoses when not in use.

Figure 5.1: Easy Water Change System. This image illustrates the utility valve on the side of the FX4 filter, which facilitates quick and mess-free water changes, saving time and effort.

5.3 Impeller and O-Ring Maintenance

Periodically inspect and clean the impeller to ensure consistent flow. If the impeller wears out, it can be easily replaced. Regularly lubricate the O-rings to maintain a proper seal and prevent leaks. Replace O-rings if they show signs of wear or damage.

6. Troubleshooting

- **Reduced Flow:** Check if filter media is clogged. Clean or replace media as necessary. Ensure hoses are not kinked or obstructed. Verify the impeller is clean and functioning correctly.
- **Excessive Noise:** Ensure the filter is placed on a level surface. Check for trapped air; the Smart Pump Technology will auto-evacuate air every 12 hours, but manual intervention might be needed if noise persists. Inspect the impeller for damage or debris. Rubber feet are designed to reduce vibration.
- **Leaks:** Ensure all hose connections are secure and Aquastop valves are properly seated. Check the main O-ring seal on the filter head and lubricate or replace if necessary.

- **Filter Not Starting:** Verify the power connection. Ensure the unit is properly primed (Smart Pump should handle this automatically). Check for any blockages in the impeller chamber.

7. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Fluval
Model Name	Fluval FX4 High Performance Canister Filter
Item Model Number	A214
Aquarium Capacity	Up to 250 US Gal (1000 L)
Pump Output	700 US GPH (2650 LPH)
Filter Circulation	450 GPH (1700 LPH)
Filtration Stages	4-Stage (Mechanical, Chemical, Biological)
Media Basket Capacity	1 US Gal (3.9 L)
Dimensions (LxWxH)	15.6 x 15.6 x 17.7 inches (40 x 40 x 42 cm)
Item Weight	14.1 ounces (0.4 Kilograms)
Power Consumption	30W (120 V / 60 Hz)
Country of Origin	Italy
UPC	015561102148

	FX2	FX4	FX6
UPC	15561102131	15561102148	15561102193
Aquarium Capacity	175 US Gal 750 L	250 US Gal 1000 L	400 US Gal 1500 L
Pump Output	475 US GPH 1800 LPH	700 US GPH 2650 LPH	925 US GPH 3500 LPH
Mechanical Area (Foam)	178 in² 1150 cm²	217 in² 1400 cm²	325.5 in² 2100 cm²
Biological Volume	1 US Gal 3.9 L	1 US Gal 3.9 L	1.5 US Gal 5.9 L
Canister Volume	2.8 US Gal 10.6 L	3.7 US Gal 14 L	5.28 US Gal 20 L
Filter Circulation	343 US GPH 1300 LPH	450 US GPH 1700 LPH	563 US GPH 2130 LPH
Head Height (Max.)	6.9 ft 2.1 m	6.9 ft 2.1 m	10.8 ft 3.3 m
Wattage (120 V / 60 Hz)	27W	30W	43W
Wattage (230-240 V / 50 Hz)	27W	30W	43W
Filtration Volume	2.5 US Gal 9.5 L	3.7 US Gal 14 L	5.28 US Gal 20 L
Dimensions	13.4 L x 13." W x 16,5" H 34 x 34 x 42 cm	15.75 L x 15.75 W x 16.5" H 40 x 40 x 42 cm	15.75 L x 15.75 W x 20.8" H 40 x 40 x 53 cm

Figure 7.1: FX Series Comparison. This table provides a detailed comparison of specifications for the Fluval FX2, FX4, and FX6 models, including aquarium capacity, pump output, mechanical area, biological volume, canister volume, filter circulation, head height, wattage, and dimensions.

8. Warranty Information

The Fluval FX4 High Performance Canister Filter is covered by a **3-Year Limited Warranty** against defects in material and workmanship under normal aquarium usage and service from the date of purchase. Non-replaceable and non-serviceable parts will be repaired or replaced at Rolf C. Hagen Inc.'s discretion, free of charge, when the complete filter is returned with all components, a valid proof of purchase, and postage paid.

This warranty does not cover filters subjected to misuse, negligence, tampering, incorrect assembly, unsuitable maintenance, or failure to follow installation and maintenance instructions. Wear and tear parts such as the impeller, impeller cover, or motor seal are not covered. No liability is assumed for loss or damage to livestock or personal property. Before returning the filter under warranty terms, ensure all setup and maintenance instructions have been followed. This warranty does not affect your statutory rights.

9. Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or warranty claims, please contact your local aquatic specialist retailer. You may also visit the official Fluval website for additional resources and contact information.

For more information about Fluval products, visit the **Fluval Store on Amazon**.

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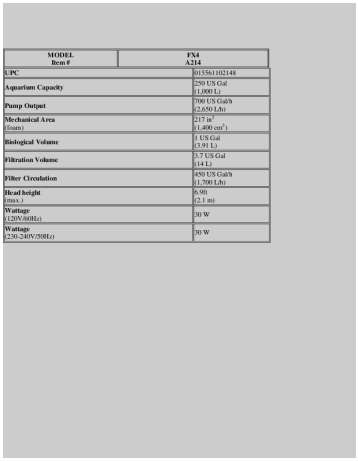
Related Documents - FX4 (A214)

	Fluval FX Series Aquarium Filter User Manual Comprehensive user manual for Fluval FX2, FX4, and FX6 aquarium canister filters, covering installation, operation, maintenance, safety guidelines, and technical specifications.
	Fluval Vicenza & Venezia Aquarium Kits: Instruction Manual Comprehensive instruction manual for Fluval Vicenza and Venezia aquarium kits, covering setup, installation of filters and heaters, decoration, lighting, and maintenance. Includes safety guidelines and technical specifications.
	Fluval AquaClear Power Filter Quick Start Guide - AC Series A comprehensive quick start guide for the Fluval AquaClear Power Filter (AC Series), covering setup, safety instructions, included parts, and warranty information for models AC20, AC30, AC50, and AC70.
	Fluval U Series Underwater Filter Instruction Manual Comprehensive instruction manual for the Fluval U Series underwater filters, covering setup, maintenance, and safety guidelines. Includes information on filter preparation, installation, media replacement, and warranty.
	Fluval Sea Mini Protein Skimmer PS2: Setup, Operation, and Maintenance Guide Comprehensive user manual for the Fluval Sea Mini Protein Skimmer (PS2), designed for marine and reef aquariums (20-80L / 5-20 Gal). Covers safety, installation options, operating procedures, maintenance tips, troubleshooting, warranty, and replacement parts.
	Fluval A Series Air Pump: Installation, Operation, and Safety Guide A comprehensive manual for the Fluval A Series Air Pump, detailing safety precautions, installation methods, air flow adjustment, maintenance, troubleshooting, specifications, warranty, and recycling information.



MODEL Item #	FX4 A214
UPC	015561102148
Aquarium Capacity	250 US Gal (1,000 L)
Pump Output	700 US Gal/h (2,650 L/h)
Mechanical Area (foam)	217 in^2 (1,400 cm^2)
Biological Volume	1 US Gal (3.91 L)
Filtration Volume	3.7 US Gal (14 L)
Filter Circulation	450 US Gal/h (1,700 L/h)
Head height (max.)	6.9ft (2.1 m)
Wattage (120V/60Hz)	30 W
Wattage (230-240V/50Hz)	30 W

Fluval FX4 High Performance Aquarium Filter - Technical Specifications

Technical specifications for the Fluval FX4 high-performance canister filter, designed for aquariums up to 250 gallons. Includes details on capacity, flow rate, dimensions, and power consumption.

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