

MY JOURNEY TO OWNING THE LATEST MARINE AQUARIUM

My name is Karl Sommer and I live on the coast in the small city of East London.

As many novice marine fish tank enthusiasts I have had my dream turned into a reality.

While browsing the internet, looking for help in creating the tank from top to bottom. I had emailed 3 so called reputable dealers. Within a few hours I had received an interesting answer to my request from a KZN based company Called "REEF INMATES". Before I continue I only received one other companies reply a week later, and as you can well guess the third never bothered to reply. My knowledge on reef aquariums was to say the least in this market "weak"!

After numerous emails with one of the owners of Reef Inmates, Leigh van Zyl, who has a vast knowledge in the setting up of marine aquariums and also is the distributor of various makes of high tech equipment.

I am lucky enough to have chosen the best equipment money can buy and only settled for the best of the best. Firstly the IKS Aquastar computer which is the coolest thing for a novice like me. The IKS has a digital read out that is very easy to read and set. The IKS on my system controls and monitors the pH, water level, lighting photoperiods, salinity, pulses the Tunze Stream pumps and controls the heater and chiller.

The majority of my other equipment is Tunze, consisting of a skimmer, Stream and return pumps along with a Tunze power supply in case of power failures. Also a Hailea chiller, Reef Octopus Co2 reactor with Reef Inmates Co2 bottle and solenoid and a Jager 300 watt heater,

My favourite of all is the lighting unit that Leigh makes himself. Its just world class to say the least. Made from laser cut aluminium with 4 x T5 AND 2 X 250W Metal halides. The finished product and the thought that has been added to the internal reflectors is quite remarkable.

After I had decided on the size of the tank I was given a 3d image by Leigh on what the tank would look like complete with full schematic drawings of the sump and all the units with all the pipes and connectors shown. It put my confused mind to ease as I had by this time realised that I was dealing with a "professional in this field"

Finally the day had come for Leigh to install. Included in the service I had Leigh build the tank and sump for me as I had been advised by the director of Tunze SA that Leigh's skill in building tanks was just as good as his light box building perfection.

The only item that I had made myself was the stand which as you can well enough guess Leigh had given me a full schematic drawing of first.

Leigh drove from Durban in his bakkie with all my equipment, tank and sump on the back to come install my tank for me. Leigh and I worked on the Fri. till 1 am that morning, On Saturday from 8am till 12.30 am that morning.

On Sunday the tank was running by 10 am and he than taught me how to work the IKS and what each unit and probe was for.

The installation of the light was quite scary for me, as I feared it dropping on the tank. But Leigh handled climbing in my roof to fit the correct bracing for it with ease.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Elke (Leigh's girl friend) for allowing him to take the time in helping with this very complicated and detailed installation.

Leigh and his partner Horst in Gauteng have really put my faith back into owning a very successful coral reef Aquarium and also that there are still businesses in SA that take care of their clients. Going that extra mile is the least that REEF MATES do.

I am a very happy client and I can advise any novice or keen marine aquarium enthusiast to try Reef Inmates for there pricing / service and total customer satisfaction.

ALL THE BEST TO ALL CONSERVED WITH REEF INMATES AND ITS BRIGHT FUTURE

Kindest Regards

Karl Sommer

083 627 6286.