

# - HydroPod - (Air Pump Models) Setup and Use Instructions

It is important to rinse the grow rocks before use. This will remove the dust and silt that is present before it gets into your reservoir. An easy way to do this, is to empty the rocks into the grow pot and rinse them with a hose. You can also rinse them in a sink. Once cleaned, you can proceed to set up your system.

1. Cut the clear 3/16" tubing provided into equal lengths. Connect each of the two pieces of tubing to each air pump outlet and connect the other ends to the small elbows on top of, and on the side of your HydroPod. Plug the air pump into a power supply. If available, turn the flow rate of your air pump all the way up. Ensure that the air stone is bubbling under water, and that the drip ring is gurgling water. \*Please note that water will not steadily flow out of the drip ring. We do not want water hitting the plant stem. Instead we want to wet the periphery of the net pot and encourage the roots to grow outward and downward. Run the air pump continuously to keep the reservoir oxygenated.

## That's it! You're Done!

Just pop in the plant of your choice & add some nutrient water!  
This system can easily run unattended to for 1 to 2 weeks at time.

## Mixing Your Nutrient Solution

### Mix Your Nutrients First.

Mix the grow nutrient for vegetative/beginning growth, and switch to Bloom when your plants begin to flower. \*If using nutrients supplied with your HydroPod Kit, mix between 1/2 and 1 Teaspoon of nutrient powder per gallon of water. \*If using other nutrients, follow the manufacturers dosage instructions. The HydroPod holds approximately 3 gallons of water when full. It is a good rule of thumb to start out with the minimum amount, and add more if your plants show signs of needing more. (yellowing leaves/stunted growth) Ideally you should top off your system with plain water when needed, and completely replace your nutrient water once every 7 - 14 days.

### Check pH levels Second.

Using the supplied ph tester, test the ph level of your nutrient solution. Fill vial half full of your nutrient water, and add 3 drops of tester solution cap and shake. Check the color of the pH indicator solution. pH of 5.5 - 6 is ideal

**\*We want a slightly acid solution.... at about 6. (Yellow)**

### Adjust pH if necessary.

If the pH level is too high (7 or above) or too low (5 or below), then we have to adjust it. Use a small amount of the adjuster for the direction you need to go. Example: If your pH is above 7 then we need to bring it down. Thoroughly mix in a small amount of the "pH Down" into your nutrient solution and re-test. Repeat slowly until the pH reading is close to 6.

## All Done!

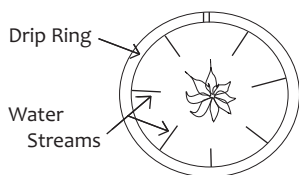
Add this mix to your HydroPod until the level is near the bottom of the net pot lid.

(Approximately one & a half inches down from the top of the water level tube. A perfect level is not crucial to optimal performance)

## Planting

Try to remove all organic matter from your seedling or plant before planting in your HydroPod. It is best to start seeds in an inert medium such as rockwool. This will allow easy transplanting into most any hydroponic system. If you are using an established plant that was started in soil, gently rinse as much of the soil as you can off of the roots. Fill the grow pot most of the way up. While supporting your plant gently plant your patient while carefully adding grow rocks over the roots.

Normally you would plant just one plant in the center of your HydroPod, but you can also plant more around the edge of the drip ring. If doing this be sure to place your plants in between the drip streams so as to not risk them being over watered.



Single Plant



Multiple Plants

## Reusing your HydroPod

After harvest and before reusing your HydroPod, be sure to clean the whole unit thoroughly. This is best done by dismantling the system and cleaning all the parts with hot water.

## Troubleshooting

If white salt or calcium deposits begin to form:

- Try using a lighter concentration of nutrient solution.
- Top off with plain water between feedings.
- Occasionally flush system overnight with plain water.

Then add your nutrient solution back the next day.

If drip holes clog:

- Use a small toothpick or nail to free obstruction.

If all drip holes stop:

- Ensure the hose is connected to pump and pump is turned on.
- If using a solar pump, be sure solar panel is in full sun. If it is, the pump may be damaged. Replace pump.
- Ensure adequate levels of water to allow pump to function properly.