

GLASS MAGIC

By Chase Klinesteker GVAC Tank Notes, July-Sept 2013



Repaired glass section in use for several years

WHY GLASS?

I prefer to use glass for aquarium covers. It has many advantages over using plastic or acrylic. Glass is more rigid, fits more accurately, transmits light well, doesn't discolor or warp, and is easier to cut and clean. It affords an excellent seal from evaporation and heat loss for our aquariums. Glass has 2 main disadvantages in that it costs more and can break if dropped. Costs can be reduced if one obtains used glass. One source for used glass is old picture frames that are often thrown away, as well as old door and window glass. Cutting glass is not difficult. On a flat surface, a glass cutter will score the piece along a straight line by using a ruler or yardstick. Then the score is tapped from the other side along the line and broken along it. It is important to use a medium sandpaper along all edges and corners of the cut glass to smooth and finish it. Smooth edges will greatly reduce the chances of future breakage of the piece as well as prevent cut hands.

THE FIX

The second disadvantage of glass tops is that they can break if dropped. Often they break in 2 pieces rather than shatter. It is very disappointing to have an accurately cut piece of glass fit a specific tank, and then see it in 2 pieces! Oh, If I could magically make it one piece again! I then managed to dig deep into my ancestry for a frugal solution. This turned out to be clear packaging tape. Fit the 2 pieces of glass accurately together on a flat surface and press a 2 inch wide strip of tape along the crack. Then turn it over and tape the other side. I Use Scott's Heavy Duty Shipping tape as it is much stronger. The result is a surprisingly strong, even slightly flexible piece that fits perfectly. It will not work submerged, but should be fine as a tank cover. Volia', glass magic!