Fire Hose Fish Weave

With permission, adapted from instructions by Shannon Young – Aquarist, Six Flag Discovery Kingdom

A fire hose “fish” stimulates curiosity. It can be used to break up pattern swims when placed and secured in different locations. Food can be placed in the weave to encourage foraging.

Species

Many aquatic species. Bony fish (Queen Triggerfish) is pictured.

Safety Concerns

- Be aware of loop size compared to animal size to prevent entanglement.
- Watch ends for fray and inspect entire weave for damage frequently.
- As always, check with the veterinarians, curators, and superiors to be sure that fastening method and other aspects of this EED are approved and appropriate for the species of animal and individual animals that you intend to have access to it.
- Check that the item's fire hose lengths and location are secured to ensure that it is kept away from water filtration systems.

Items needed

Fire hose and cutter
Fasteners x3 (nuts and bolts, thread, cable ties, etc.)
Tape measurer
Fray prevention (sealant, heat gun, lighter, etc.)
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**NOTES**

Prepare two strips of firehose. The width of the firehose determines the length needed to complete the pattern. The formula below leaves extra firehose beyond what is needed for the weave. This allows for adjustment to the tightness of the weave and allows for creativity with the fish fins at the end. The formula is as follows: Width of firehose x 30 + 20 = Length for each of the 2 strips.

The instructions below use USFS pea hose, which is 1” wide. (1 x 30 + 20 = 50) So the instructions started with 2 strips of firehose, each 50” long. The instructions use a bleached and an unbleached strip of hose to make the photos easier to follow, with black marks on one strip of hose for further clarity. Note the direction that the hose folds in the initial steps. The result will not look right if the hose is twisted in a different direction than shown in the instruction photographs.

**STEP 1** Start near the middle of one strip of firehose. Wrap loosely around your hand twice to create 2 loops in that strip of fire hose creating an M, then remove the hose from your hand. (Scroll down to see the photos in the next steps if this isn’t clear.)

**STEP 2** Take the second strip of firehose and weave it through the first loop and over the second loop. Pull it through until about half of the length is on each side of the loops.
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**STEP 3** Take the right end of the second firehose strip and weave it under the second loop and through the first loop.

**STEP 4** Take the end that you just worked with and weave it over the first loop and through the second loop.

**STEP 5** Take the other end of the same firehose (left side) and weave it under the top of the first loop and through the top of the second loop.
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**STEP 6** Gently tighten the weave. It will fall apart if any steps were missed.

**STEP 7** Adjust so that all ends are approximately the same length and tighten fully.

**STEP 8** Rotate slightly so that the ends are facing you. The ends will be numbered for the next few steps to help you follow along.
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**STEP 9** Fold 4 over 3.

**STEP 10** Fold 1 under 2 and 3.

**STEP 11** Fold 1 over 2 and 4.
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**STEP 12** Fold 2 over 1 and under 3 (on the inside of the curve on 4; see photo).

**STEP 13** Tighten the weave.

**STEP 14** Flip the entire “fish” over.
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**STEP 15** Fold 4 over 3 (The next photo step will zoom in on the circled area).

**STEP 16** Fold 3 over 4 and weave into the space shown (circled on step 15)

**STEP 17** Tighten the weave. All that is left is to weave the “fins” to their final positions. The following steps will show close-ups of the circled areas.
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**STEP 18** Focus on the top “fins”. Fold the farthest right fin over the top and weave into the loop closest to the “tail.”

**STEP 19** Focus on the bottom “fins.” Flip the fish and repeat step 18. Fold the far right fin over the top and weave into the loop closest to the “tail.” Note that the two tail “fins” will be woven into opposite sides of the fish.

**STEP 20** The fish weave is complete! Consider these finishing touches:

- Trim the “fins” and “tail” to look fancy or leave them long.
- Prevent fray by melting the edges or using sealant.
- Fasten the loose ends with bolts (it is possible to hide the hardware by fastening inner sections of the weave, but a bit of a pain), sewing, cable ties.