



# Instructions for building your own bottle garden

## 1 What you require:

- A wide-necked bottle with cap or cork or a resealable glass jar
- A collection of small stones sized around 5-10 mm
- Clean soil (e.g. 'palm soil', fresh garden soil, or similar)
- Suitable green plants – see the list below:

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| - Acorus gramineus, Calamus                        | - Hedera Adam, Ivy                                 |
| - Begonia rex, Rex Begonia                         | - Hedera Helix, Ivy                                |
| - Chamaedorea elegans, Dwarf Mountain Palm         | - Hedera Luzii, Ivy                                |
| - Cryptanthus bivittatus, Earth Star               | - Microcoelum weddellianum, Miniature Coconut Palm |
| - Dracaena godseffiana, Gold Dust Dracaena         | - Pellionia pulchra, Satin Pellionia               |
| - Dracaena sanderiana, Lucky Bamboo                | - Pilea cadierei Nana, Aluminium Plant             |
| - Ficus pumila, Climbing Fig                       | - Pilea microphylla, Artillery Plant               |
| - Ficus radicans, Silver Leaf                      | - Saxifraga stolonifera, Strawberry Saxifrage      |
| - Fittonia verschaffeltii Argyroneura, Nerve Plant | - Hahnii, Sansevieria Plant                        |

## 2 Preparing the bottle:

- Thoroughly clean the bottle with boiling water.
- Pour clean gravel into the glass bottle, up to 2 cm. The gravel prevents the soil from rotting.
- Now fill the bottle with about 5 cm of fresh garden soil or palm soil. Try to keep the bottle clean. To avoid germs and mould forming you should pour boiling water over the gravel and soil in advance.

## 3 Planting:

- Find plants which are a suitable variety and size.
- Make sure that they are healthy and free of parasites.
- Plant the plants together with the soil from the plant pot.
- You can add a few ornamental stones.

## 4 Regulating the biosphere:

- Add boiled distilled water or water low in limescale (about 2 cm high).
- Spray the leaves with water.
- Now close up the bottle so it's airtight. During the first days check to see whether in the mornings dewdrops have formed on the inner walls of the bottle. The walls of the bottle should dry during the course of the day. If that's not the case, the biotope is too wet. Open the bottle again until the moisture level is correct. If there is no dew or the leaves of the plants are hanging down, carefully add some water. These steps should possibly be repeated until the climate is correctly regulated.
- Afterwards tightly close the bottle.

## 5 Observe and be amazed:

Now you can see how a self contained, small plant world emerges in the bottle. However now and then you should check to see if the plants are healthy.

