

## ANOTHER BRINE SHRIMP HATCHERY

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Tropical fish breeders have long used inverted glass jugs for hatching brine shrimp eggs. The method allows better stirring of eggs and easier separation of larvae and egg cases than does the traditional flask and glass tube. It also makes use of those nice glass jugs that come with inexpensive California wines.

The diagram is largely self-explanatory. With air entering at the neck of the jug and exiting through the plastic or glass tube, eggs are always kept in suspension. To remove larvae, shut off the air supply, allow egg cases to rise and larvae to settle for a few minutes, then drain the jug through the disconnected air supply line into a piece of handkerchief spread into an aquarium net. Stop the flow just as the egg cases reach the exit tube. The larvae may be resuspended in fresh water and used as food. Now, provided the brine has been captured in a gallon pitcher, the jug may be set upright, fresh eggs added and the brine returned, taking care to bring the volume up to a premarked level with tap water.

I generally obtain three hatches from one batch of brine, made with about 125 g (1/2 cup volume) of crude rock salt and sufficient lukewarm tap water to reach the shoulder of the upright jug. The brine shrimp eggs (up to 1-1/2 tsp.) may be added directly to the unmixed brine; when the jug is stoppered and inverted and the air turned on, the salt will quickly dissolve. When desired, a small quantity of tetracycline (250 mg) may be added to the brine where it will be taken up by the larvae to be passed up the food chain. It also suppresses bacteria growth.

Since brine shrimp hatch best at warm temperatures, I constructed the rack shown and mounted it near the ceiling; certainly an incubator would work as well. Note that the 2-hole stopper should rest on the bottom board with the two tubes fitting into the 1/2" slot.



