

Thanks everybody. My wife smiles at it and says its big. You guys make my day. Now to answer questions:

Backhoeman-Only have one dirt model, the 140H grader I got as a tribute to Randy Kreig (forum contributor and wizard on that machine). Maybe someday I will get in to dirt. Thanks for the support.

Haight-email me if your serious about it-I have been thinking about it cause your not the first to ask. You can email me from my cranes web page. The link is at the end of the text.

Steve-My wife and I have had as many as 28 tanks in the house. I am past president of the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association (gccca.net). My wife and I spent our honeymoon camping in the Amazon rain forest, collecting fish which reside in our bedroom tank. We do all fresh water. She likes the Central and South American cichlids and I favor the ones from the Rift Lakes in Africa. My best friend in the world manages the largest cichlid farm in America, with 110 ponds, 1800 vats and 2100 50 gallon tanks. My wife and I give talks on our four (4) adventures in the Amazon to fish societies, schools, PTA meetings and any group that want to hear the stories of catching an Anaconda, a camion, piranha, being stalked by a jaguar and meeting friendly natives. As you are a multiple tank person-want do you keep?

Pendant lines:

I made the pendant lines from parts used in radio controlled airplanes. I bought them at a local area hobby shop that specializes in radio control planes. The have lots of parts we can use in this hobby. The parts I bought are: 4-40 threaded couplers (Du-Bro Cat No. 336), 4-40 gold clevises (Sullivan Products No. 528), 20 inch flex cable (Du-Bro No. 165) and 36" flex cable (Du-Bro No. 343). I lay out the required number of pendants and measure. I then thread the coupler into the clevis about half way. I do both ends that way I have about 1.5" of adjustment in the cable after rigging. Cut the cable to length, including the clevis/coupler. I made mine the exact lengths required. I used 2 sets of the 20" and 2 sets of 36". By cutting one of the lengths needed out of the 36" I was able to get an additional smaller set. After cutting to length I heat up the solder iron and solder the cable into the coupler. I make a small bridge using two pieces of plywood so that I can get my solder iron under the connection to be joined. I place a weight on the cable and the clevis to hold them in place. I put flux on the cable, place the solder iron under the connection and let it heat up for a minute. I then touch my solder to the top of the connection and, when properly heated, the solder melts and runs around the joint and into the coupler. After cooling I play a quick game of tug of war with the wife to ensure the strength of the joint. A quick trip to the paint booth for a coat of flat black and your done. I have put some pictures below.

And for those who requested it a few close ups!!

Bob