

Making food balls

Materials needed (per ball)

- small plastic cup
- fish netting
- scissors
- black marble
- fish food
- clear fishing line

Obtain an empty plastic cup and cut a square piece of netting big enough to cover the mouth of the cup. Place a marble in the center of the netting. Twist the netting **tightly** around the marble to form the netting around the marble. Place the netting and marble in the bottom of the cup.

Pour a small amount of fish food over the marble into the netting - roughly enough to just cover the marble. Bring the corners of the netting together and pinch right above the marble. Twist the netting continuously to form around them marble. Cut a piece of fishing line (about 20 cm) and double knot the fishing line **tightly** (so that it won't fall into the tank) around the pinched area (above the marble). Ensure that there's NO food caught in the knot (or else it will become untied later). If you have a nice, round-ish **tight** food ball at this point, cut any excess fishing line down to about 12-14 cm. Also cut most of the excess netting above the knot.

If the food ball isn't round and resembles more of a sack shape, you might need to undo the knot and add more food, or redo the knot to make it tighter. If the knot is loose or there is food caught in the net under the knot, then re-tie it and/or remove the caught food. If there is empty space at the top of the finished ball when holding it by the string, do not put it with the made food balls because the food will fall out over time, redo it.

Hanging the food balls on the feeders

****MAKE SURE TANKS ARE FILLED WITH WATER (TO THE LINE) BEFORE REPLACING BOBBINS OR THE FOOD BALLS WILL BE SUBMERGED WHEN WATER IS ADDED LATER****

Materials needed

- food ball
- scissors
- tape
- container for used food balls

Be sure to fill up the water in the tank to the **black** line on the outer side of every tank (lines are long black lines under an orange line on the peripheral shorter side of the tanks; there are no lines on the inner sides). Remove an old food ball by firmly holding the feeder with one hand and popping off the “drum” with the other hand- take the whole food ball off, then glue the new food ball in its place, using the black line of the fishing line of the food ball and lining it up with the C of MATIC on the drum. Also make sure to line it up with the empty ball. Be sure to notify Kelly if any food balls were submerged in the tank before changed.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT PLACE CONTAINER FOR USED BALLS OR ANYTHING ELSE ON RACKS BECAUSE IT COULD MESS WITH WIRES UNDER THE TARP AND UNPLUG TRIALS.

Rotate the plastic mill so that the marble is lined up right above/on the **orange** line on the side of the tank, approximately a finger width above the water (not too low or it will remain in the water when the plastic mill turns back and not too high or it won't go into the water when the mill turns). Finally, get a new food ball and piece of tape and tape it to the plastic mill so that it hangs down exactly opposite of the marble.

Be sure to press down on the tape on both sides of the fishing line to ensure it won't fall into the tank later, it happens a lot. Also make sure the marble and food ball are hanging evenly, if they are not, slightly adjust the mill so that they are (making sure they are still approximately on the orange line).