

THE GOLDEN SPIRAL

The nautilus (which means “sailor” in Greek) is an ancient, deep-water ocean mollusk whose spiral-shaped, many-chambered shells are a natural representation of the golden mean, a mathematical principle studied by the ancient Greeks and considered since the Renaissance to be the most perfectly proportioned form in nature.

1 CUT GLASS VASE (8 INCHES TALL)

1 ‘MANDA’S HYBRID’ HAWORTHIA
(*Haworthia* ‘Manda’s Hybrid’) (2- TO 4-INCH POT)

6–8 CUPS HEMATITE SAND

1 CENTER-CUT NAUTILUS SHELL

1/2 CUP SMALL BLACK RIVER ROCKS

3 HERKIMER DIAMONDS

1. Clean terrarium glass inside and out.
2. Add 4 to 5 cups of hematite sand to the base of the container.
3. Tap haworthia out of pot and scrape away only the topmost surface of soil.
4. Position plant toward center of the vase and, holding your hand over the plant to protect foliage, pour in most of the remaining hematite sand until all soil at base of plant is completely covered. The level of the sand should be slightly higher toward the back of the terrarium.
5. Gently shake vase to settle sand and cover any soil that appears with more sand.
6. Place nautilus shell and scatter small black river rocks around base of plant and around two-thirds of the edges of glass, moving them around until you like how they are sitting.
7. Drop the Herkimer diamonds within the arc of the nautilus shell.

Care

‘Manda’s Hybrid’ haworthia enjoys conditions ranging from half or partial sun to bright, diffuse light; just pull terrarium away from window on hot summer days. In winter, keep plant on the dry side, watering every couple of weeks. In summer, water every 1 to 2 weeks (depending on warmth and light levels) by pouring 1/2 cup of water slowly over root ball. Fertilize monthly in spring and summer with quarter-strength balanced fertilizer.

Tip

If the nautilus shell is too long to fit gracefully in the terrarium, just snap it (it breaks easily) and set the piece alongside the rest of the shell in an arc (as in the picture).