

[homedistiller.org](http://homedistiller.org)'s  
Tried And True Recipe Book

metric units version

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## Preface

This is a unifying compilation of some recipes posted on [homedistiller.org](http://homedistiller.org)'s [forum subpage](#), where recipes for mashes and washes are actively developed. Recipes that stand the test of time, excel in ease-of-use, consistently convince tasters, impress with cost efficiency and similar desirable properties, are awarded the title of a *Tried And True* recipe.

As a natural consequence of being conceived and compiled by a variety of individuals from around the globe, the recipes on aforementioned forum vary wildly not just in the product that they promise, but also in level of detail on instructions, in the units used (metric vs imperial), in the volumes envisioned for the mash, and in the overall presentation of the recipe in question. This very document seeks to give common frame and form to the *Tried And True* recipe collection.

In order to achieve this unifying presentation, the author reserves the freedom to restructure and rephrase large portions of a recipe, to scale it up or down, to convert units, and generally perform edits, always with the intent not to alter the recipe, but to lay it out in a consistent, easily understood and pleasant-to-read manner.

The price to pay for using this condensed format is a loss of discussion and information. Since the original forum threads are well capable, suited and actively being used to answer questions about specific details of a recipe, to portray a pluralism of opinions and experiences with a single recipe, and to develop variations of recipes, the author would strongly recommend taking a look at them! The title of each recipe is hyperlinked to the [homedistiller.org](http://homedistiller.org) thread discussing the recipe.

Quite a few technical terms from the craft of brewing and distillation will be used within this document without explaining them. The author decided against the inclusion of a glossary, and would rather defer you to [the homedistiller.org glossary](#), or better yet [the homedistiller.org wiki](#). You are encouraged to acquaint yourself with the following terms, as they will be used from here on out: ABV, airlock, backset, carboy, cuts, dunder, feints, fermenter, foreshots, heads, hearts, lees, low wines, mash, pH, racking, specific gravity, spirit run, still, stripping run, syphoning, tails, trub, wash.

# 1 Universal Instructions

This is the metric version of this document, meaning that temperatures will be given in degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), mass in kilograms (kg) or grams (g), and volume in liters (L), milliliters (mL) or in household quantities such as teaspoons ( $\approx 5$  mL), tablespoons ( $\approx 15$  mL), or cups ( $\approx 237$  mL). There exists a version of this document using US units.

All mash and wash recipes have been scaled linearly to target a final volume of **100 liters**. If your fermenter volume differs, you need to scale the ingredient lists accordingly: Assuming your volume is  $x$  liters, then that's  $x\%$  of 100 liters, and you then want to use  $x\%$  of all ingredient amounts listed.

Recipes for cordials, infusions, macerations, cocktails and the like have been scaled for the production of **1 liter**.

Water is not listed in ingredient lists, but you will need a lot of it, at a temperature suited for fermentation. Depending on where you are, your water might be chlorinated, exceedingly hard, contaminated by chemical waste, contaminated by organisms, or otherwise unfit as a resource. Think about where you get your water from, and think about it in advance!

Take detailed notes about your ingredients, recipes, processes, dates and results. Label your fermenters. Keep your notes near, all in one spot that's not prone to being flooded with spillage or otherwise endangered of being corrupted. This document intentionally has large margins to the left and right, giving you opportunity to make annotations to the text.

Many recipes recommend distilling the wash by first doing a quick-and-dirty *stripping run* to squeeze most alcohol out, collecting the so-called *low wines* from a large volume of ferment. Once a stiller has enough low wines to fill the still, they perform a slow and careful *spirit run*, cutting the final product from the result. An excellent guide on how to do cuts can be found on [homedistiller.org](http://homedistiller.org), in [KIWISTILLER's Novice Guide For Cuts](#) and in [YUMMYRUM's Better Cuts With Better Dilution](#).

## 2 Birdwatcher Sugar Wash

Using only the most commonly available ingredients, this sugar wash will yield neutral alcohol with unsurpassed cost efficiency.

### 2.1 Ingredients

- 23 kg sugar
- 280 grams fresh regular bakers yeast
- 4 cups tomato paste
- 4 lemons

### 2.2 Fermenting

#### 2.2.1 One-time Preparation

Fill your fermenter with water. Place a bottomless styrofoam box over the fermenter. Dangle a lit lightbulb through a small hole in the lid. The bulb must be strong enough to keep the mixture at a steady range of 30°C-35°C during the entire fermentation. Stick a thermometer through a side of the box to track the inside temperature. Play around with bulbs of different strengths until you find one that keeps the filled fermenter in the desired temperature range for multiple days.

During your first actual fermentation, monitor the temperature. Due to the wash heating up by itself, you might need to decrease heating a notch.

#### 2.2.2 Starting A Batch

1. Juice the lemons.
2. Mix the tomato paste, the lemon juice and about 14kg sugar with 75 liters of water at 30°C.
3. Measure the specific gravity. You are aiming for 1.09. Carefully add water and sugar to bring mixture to 100 liters, *with a specific gravity of 1.09*.
4. You now have 100 liters of mixed ingredients. The temperature of the finished mixture should be 30°C-35°C to start.
5. Carefully sprinkle 280 grams of yeast over the surface, stirring it in.

6. Close your fermenter, making sure the fermentation lock lets CO<sub>2</sub> escape. Put your box-bulb-heating system on the fermenter and switch it on.

### **2.2.3 During Fermentation**

Check both specific gravity and temperature daily. Stir daily. On day three, syphon contents evenly into five 20 liter airlocked carboys. Shake the carboys gently daily. After a total of 7-8 days the specific gravity should be 0.995. If not, wait until completion.

### 3 Wineos Plain Ol Sugar Wash

This is for making neutral alcohol, even in a pot still, without carbon filtering.

#### 3.1 Ingredients

- 16 kg sugar
- 1 cup brewers yeast (neutral) or 2 cups of bakers yeast (flavor)
- 5 tablespoons of citric acid
- 5 tablespoons diammonium phosphate (=DAP)
- 5 tablespoons calcium sulphate (=gypsum)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon magnesium sulphate (=epsom salts)

#### 3.2 Fermenting

1. Dissolve the sugar in hot water.
2. Add the citric acid, DAP, gypsum, epsom salts and dissolve them.
3. Add cold water to get to 100 liters.
4. The specific gravity should be at most 1.08, ideally 1.07-1.08.
5. The pH should be 5 to 6.
6. Once the temperature is 35°C or lower, sprinkle the yeast on top.
7. After 15-20 minutes, stir it well, mixing the mash and mixing in air.
8. Cover the fermenter with a cloth or airlock.
9. After 1-2 weeks fermentation should be over. Don't rush it though, and give it another week to settle after halting. Then hit the still.



## 4 Pintoshine's Fast Fermenting Molasses Wash

Noteworthy for using molasses as the single source of carbohydrates, and for the high fermentation speed. This wash will yield a very light, smooth rum.

### 4.1 Ingredients

- 23 liters blackstrap molasses
- 4 cups bakers yeast
- 25 teaspoons diammonium phosphate (=DAP)
- 8 multivitamin tablets (one-a-day style for humans)

### 4.2 Fermenting

1. Fill the fermenter with 50 liters of water.
2. Fill the molasses into the fermenter.
3. Put into a separate pot:
  - (a) some water
  - (b) half of the yeast
  - (c) all of the DAP
  - (d) all of the multivitamin tablets
4. Heat that pot and let it boil for 15 minutes.
5. Pour the pot into the fermenter, and let the liquid cool if necessary.
6. Add the second half of the yeast to the fermenter.
7. Top the fermenter up with water to 100 liters.
8. Aerate the wash generously with a paint stirrer and an electric drill.
9. Put the airlock on.
10. Depending on temperature, the wash will be done after about 36 hours.

## 5 Harry's GGGP Rum

Next to the calssical ingredients molasses and sugar, this recipe uses maize and potatoes in the mash too. To alleveiate stress on the yeast coming from osmotic pressure, molasses and sugar are added in increments.

### 5.1 Ingredients

- 25 liters blackstrap molasses
- 9 kg sugar
- 100 g bakers yeast
- 1.7 kg old potatoes
- " $\frac{1}{3}$  of a milk bucket" of old maize
- Spices such as cloves, pineapple, rasins, vanilla.

### 5.2 Fermentation

1. Use a wooden fermenter such as a barrel.
2. Dissolve one third of your molasses and half of your sugar in 33 liters of warm water.
3. Stir well for 15 minutes.
4. Add the yeast once the wash temperature is below 35°C.
5. Boil the potatoes and add them in a cloth bag into the fermenter.
6. Boil the maize and add it in a cloth bag into the fermenter.
7. Stir again.
8. After 24 hours, add the second third of molasses and the second half of sugar to the wash, stirring well for 10 minutes.
9. After another 24 hours, add the final third of molasses, top your fermenter up to 100 liters with water, and stir well one last time.
10. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done.

The original recipe then proceeds to tell some questionable instructions on stilling and cutting, which this author can not reproduce in good conscience - and would not recommend to anyone who values their eyesight, liver function or sense of taste. Let it suffice to say that the spirit is supposedly produced in a single distillation using only two collection vessels, with a tails cut according to ABV, and without mention of either foreshots or heads.

The more sensible instructions that follow are to store the spirit in a wooden (wine) barrel with the spices added in, to colorize it with caramelized white sugar, and generally to ferment during summer in warm weather, aging the spirit till winter, when demand for rum is higher.

## 6 Hook Rum

This detailed recipe follows traditional rum production practices. The spirit is recommended to be put on oak for aging, can be varied according to personal taste with spices such as nutmeg, cinnamon, vanilla, dried fruit, maple syrup, etc, and is well suited for fruit macerations.

### 6.1 Ingredients

- 8.3 kg raw sugar
- 11.6 liters blackstrap molasses (increase the molasses-to-sugar ratio for more taste)
- 250 grams bakers yeast
- 3 good teaspoons diammonium phosphate (=DAP) or tomato paste
- Either 33 liters dunder (+calcium carbonate), or 2 teaspoons citric acid
- Optionally: Half the lees from the previous fermentation

### 6.2 Fermenting

1. Throw the sugar, molasses and DAP into your fermenter.
2. Fill it halfway with hot (dunder and) water.
3. Stir well for a few minutes, dissolving everything and sanitizing the vessel.
4. Cover it and let it cool overnight.
5. Top up with plain, clean, well aerated water to 100 liters.
6. Make sure the ferment is well aerated.
7. Pitch the yeast straight onto the surface.
8. Cover the fermenter loosely, need not even use an airlock.
9. Once fermentation is finished, give it 2 days, then siphon the wash into another container.
10. Give it another few days, then siphon the wash into your still and run it.

### 6.3 Stripping Run

1. Collect down to about 20%ABV (which means a temperature of 98°C in the steam path), or even 10%ABV (99°C steam temperature).
2. Use some of the hot dunder to dissolve the ingredients for the next batch. If possible, allow suspended crap to settle first, and only use the liquid. Add calcium carbonate whenever the dunder becomes too acidic. If you're not doing the next batch right away, then either freeze some dunder or dilute it with neutral spirit so it doesn't spoil.
3. Dilute low wines to 40%ABV.
4. Cover low wines allowing them to breathe, and let them sit for one week.

### 6.4 Spirit Run

1. Fill your still with low wines at 40%ABV.
2. Add some fresh wash, about  $\frac{1}{10}$  of the low wines, more/less for more/less flavor. Leave more headspace if you do this.
3. Collect and make cuts. Cut heads/hearts as usual, but cut hearts/tails rather late. Follow one of the guides mentioned in [chapter 1](#).
4. Toss the foreshoots, but keep the heads and tails. You can slowly run them once there's enough of it.
5. Optionally do a third distillation step. It will yield a lighter, more refined rum with less flavor.

## 7 Pugirum

This recipe has a very special spin on the traditional recycling of feints within ongoing rum production. The product is a rich, complex, dark rum.

### 7.1 Yeast Bomb

The yeast bomb should be added to the initial fermentation. During later cycles whenever fermentation becomes slow, add a yeast bomb to the next wash.

To make a yeast bomb for 100 liters, use

- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup bakers yeast
- 1 level teaspoon magnesium sulphate (=epsom salts)
- 13 teaspoons 20-0-0 agricultural fertilizer
- 5 vitamin B tablets
- 10 liters water

and boil all of it for 15 minutes, then strain the liquid, giving you 10 liters of yeast bomb.

### 7.2 Ingredients

- 4.8 kg brown cane sugar
- 20 liters feed molasses
- 2.6 cups bakers yeast
- 30 liters dunder (use water on the first cycle)
- 10 liters yeast bomb (only when necessary)

### 7.3 Fermenting

1. Use a large fermenter with plenty of headspace, the wash will foam up.
2. Mix molasses and water in another vessel and heat it to 85°C.
3. On the next day rack the liquid into your fermenter, leaving sludge behind.

4. Add the other ingredients to your fermenter once it's cold enough not to kill the yeast.
5. Put the fermentation lock on.
6. After 36h fermentation should be done. Give it another day to settle.

## 7.4 Stripping Run

1. Drain the fermenter, but leave the bottom 5% in there. Just put the next wash on top of it.
2. Perform a stripping run on the drained liquid, go as fast as possible.
3. Repeat the above until you have enough low wines for a spirit run.

## 7.5 Spirit Run

1. Load your still with low wines. On cycles after the initial one, also add an equal amount of dunder, as well as all your rum oils (see below).
2. Run it easy, not too fast, not too slow.
3. Make your heads/hearts cut as usual, throw the heads into your heads container and don't use them for this rum.
4. Collect hearts until just before you get wet cardboard taste.
5. Collect wet cardboard spirits and throw them into your tails container. Don't use them for this rum.
6. Collect the last fraction down to about 20%ABV, put them in a container labeled *rum oils*. Always add them before a spirit run, and always collect them during a spirit run for this rum.
7. On the next day, rack some dunder out of the still and keep it.
8. Add spices to the collected hearts: pineapple fruit ( $\frac{1}{4}$  slice per liter), cloves ( $\frac{1}{4}$  per liter), raisins (4grams per liter).
9. Shake it every now and then for one month.
10. Cut to drinking strength.
11. Caramelize sugar in a pan, making sure not to burn it, while letting it change color to a dark tone. Add an amount of your liking to the rum.

## 8 Buccaneer Bob's Silver/Gold/Black Rum

This fairly traditional recipe allows for not just a single product, but for three variations of a single rum. A unique feature is the addition of dunder to the final spirit. BUCCANEER BOB himself has crafted [a .pdf with instructions](#), both detailed and beautiful to behold, so go check it out!

### 8.1 Ingredients

- 15-20 liters blackstrap molasses, depending on viscosity. 15 if it has a consistency like putty at room temperature, 20 if it flows like syrup.
- 12.5 kg sugar
- 175 g fresh bakers yeast
- 5 liters yeast trub from the previous batch, or 1 kg yeast
- 10 liters infected dunder
- 10-15 lemons or limes
- 250 cm<sup>3</sup> oak/apple/pecan/etc wood for aging

### 8.2 Fermenting

1. Pour the molasses into a heat-tolerant vessel of 100 liters capacity **other than** your fermenter. Cover the vessel.
2. Put the yeast trub, dunder and some water into a large pot.
3. Bring the pot to a boil. Stir occasionally.
4. Pour the boiling pot onto the molasses. Stir to dissolve the molasses.
5. Add water to bring the volume to about 75 liters.
6. Add the juice from the lemons or limes. Stir again.
7. Let the mixture rest for exactly 2 hours.
8. Rack the liquid into your fermenter, leaving sediment behind.
9. If necessary add water to bring your fermenter to  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
10. Let the mixture cool to below 35°C.



11. Pour about 2 liters of the wash into a jar, add the fresh yeast, and shake till the yeast is dissolved. Then pour that back into your fermenter.
12. Aerate the wash.
13. Place the fermenter in a cool spot, and put the airlock on.
14. Once the foam disappears (after 2-3 days), carefully stir the wash.
15. Slowly add the sugar, stirring well to dissolve it.
16. Add fresh water to bring the fermenter to almost full.
17. Put the airlock on, let it ferment till it's done (10-15 days at 20°C).
18. Rack the liquid into your still. Save the yeast trub for the next run.

### **8.3 Stripping Run**

1. Filter the distillate through medium-weight cotton cloth as it drips out.
2. Collect in 1 liter bottles.
3. Collect till the distillate doesn't smell or taste of alcohol any more.
4. Let the still cool down.
5. Rack 1 liter of dunder into a tall, slender, 2 liter glass bottle. Add 1 liter of hearts from a previous run, and let that bottle sit undisturbed.
6. Save some dunder for infection, use the remainder as fertilizer.
7. Examine each bottle in sunlight for oily film on the surface. Remove oil if there is any. Skim them off with a spoon or wick them off with cloth, cotton wool or a paper towel.
8. Clean your still.

### **8.4 Spirit Run**

1. Charge the still with low wines and tails from previous runs.
2. Dilute the charge to a suitable level with water.
3. Filter the distillate through cloth again.

4. Start off running slow and go faster once you're out of the heads.
5. Collect till the distillate doesn't taste of alcohol any more.
6. Let the still cool down, then clean it.
7. Examine distillate for oils and remove them, as before.
8. Set some hearts aside for future dunder essence, then make cuts.

## 8.5 Oaking And Blending

1. Put your hearts cut onto oak (or other wood). Use natural or only slightly toasted wood for the *Silver Rum*, and toast/char according to taste for *Gold* and *Black Rum*.
2. Monitor the oaking process. Take the wood out after a few days once it has rounded the edges of the fresh rum when making a *Silver Rum*. Remove it from *Gold* or *Black Rum* whenever it has imparted enough flavor and color.
3. Now that your dunder essence has had time to settle, carefully rack off the clear liquid. Add the remainder to your next still charge.
4. Dilute the spirit to drinking strength.
5. Add about 3% dunder essence to a *Gold Rum*, and about 6% to a *Black Rum*. This might make the rum cloudy, so give it time to settle, then rack it off before bottling. Add remainders to the next still charge.

## 9 Uncle Remus Rice Vodka

This will yield a delicate, extremely neutral spirit. It requires fancy ingredients, a relatively long fermentation and precise temperature control on the fermenter. A variation of this recipe uses malt instead of enzymes to introduce a malt whiskey flavor.

### 9.1 Ingredients

- 12 kg white long grain rice
- 7 kg sugar
- 3 packages EC 1118 yeast
- 6 tablespoons alpha amylase
- 6 tablespoons gluco amylase

### 9.2 Fermenting

1. Hydrate the yeast and make a starter out of it, to be used hours later.
2. Boil the rice in 60 liters of water for 10 minutes.
3. Let the rice rest for one hour.
4. Add 15 liters of cold water and let the mixture cool to 66°C.
5. At 66°C, add the alpha amylase and close the vessel.
6. After 90 minutes, add the sugar and allow further cooling.
7. At 30-35°C, add the yeast starter and the gluco amylase.
8. Aerate the mixture thoroughly.
9. Put on the airlock.
10. Temperature control the fermenter to 20-22°C.
11. Don't open or stir, leave it till its done. It should take about one week.

## 10 Rad's All Bran & Rad's Gerber

This ridiculously easy, fast, and dependable recipe was conceived to eliminate the use of turbo yeasts. It can be used to make a whiskey-like spirit if run through a pot still, or neutral alcohol if run through a reflux column.

### 10.1 Ingredients

- 18 kg sugar
- 5 kg *All Bran* cereal or 5 kg *Gerber* barley baby cereal. Those are cereals with added minerals and vitamins, which act as yeast nutrients. Substitute a similar enriched product if they're unavailable.
- 370 mL fresh bakers yeast

### 10.2 Fermentation

1. Simmer the sugar in an equal amount of water for 30 minutes.
2. Pour the sugar solution into your fermenter.
3. Top up with fresh water to almost 100 liters.
4. Add the crushed cereal.
5. Once the mixture cools to 35°C, pitch the yeast.
6. Aerate for one hour.
7. Put on the airlock and let it ferment. It should be done after 7 days.

## 11 Deathwish Wheat Germ

In this sugar wash for neutral alcohol, wheat germ is used mainly for yeast nutrients, but also to add a bit of scotch-like flavor to the spirit. It is recommended to age the product on wood.

### 11.1 Ingredients

- 20 kg sugar
- an unspecified amount of yeast
- 2 kg wheat germ
- 5 tablespoons of citric acid

### 11.2 Fermenting

1. Put the sugar, wheat germ and citric acid into a pot.
2. Fill the pot to about 80 liters with water.
3. Heat the mixture up until it cooks.
4. Let it cook for 90 minutes.
5. Fill it up to 100 liters with water.
6. Let it cool.
7. Add the yeast.
8. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's finished.