

homedistiller.org's  
Tried And True Recipe Book

HEFEZELLE

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A4 metric units version 0.08

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## Preface

This is a unifying compilation of some recipes posted on [homedistiller.org](https://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, I reserve 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 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 hyper-linked to the [homedistiller.org](https://homedistiller.org) thread discussing the recipe.

Should you perceive this document useful and find yourself wanting to express your gratitude, then I would urge you to join [homedistiller.org](https://homedistiller.org), share your knowledge and experiences, and if it is within your capability, perhaps donate some money to keep the site running. As of writing this, UNCLE JESSIE is [running the site ad-free](#), for all of the internet to read, educate themselves, and enjoy. I decided to release this document for free, for all of the internet to read, educate themselves, and enjoy - as my personal expression of gratitude for the existence of [homedistiller.org](https://homedistiller.org).

Quite a few technical terms from the craft of brewing and distillation will be used within this document without explaining them. You are encouraged to acquaint yourself with the following terms, as they will be used from here on out: [ABV](#), [backset](#), [carboy](#), [charge](#), [cuts](#), [dunder](#), [feints](#), [foreshots](#), [heads](#), [hearts](#), [lees](#), [low wines](#), [mash](#), [pH](#), [racking](#), [spirit run](#), [still](#), [stripping run](#), [sugarhead](#), [siphoning](#), [tails](#), [trub](#), [wash](#), [yeast starter](#).

My thanks go out to the original crafters of the included recipes; to the people who maintained and improved them; to the staff and members of homedistiller.org; to everyone who offered critique or words of encouragement to me while I was writing this, specifically my friends that turned into test readers; and finally to those reading the document - you spending time with this document is what made my writing it worthwhile!

HEFEZELLE,  
Vienna, July 16, 2018

## 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**.

## Tools

Depending on what recipe you choose to follow, some of these tools might be unnecessary, some could be helpful but avoidable, and some will be indispensable. This list should give you an idea of what might come in handy.

- **Writing Materials**

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.

- **Calculator**

Most likely you will have to scale ingredient listings, or you have to do calculations while weighing. It will facilitate operation if you have a calculator within reach when that happens. A conversion table for different units will prove equally convenient.

- **Heat Source**

Next to carbohydrates and the work hours you put in, the biggest running cost is typically fuel consumption. Heating with electricity is very safe, but also expensive and slow to react. Heating with natural gas or propane is very easily controlled, but a huge hazard when dealing with alcohol in high concentrations, and great care must be taken not to burn the mash - a problem that is circumvented by heating the boiler not directly on the flame, but in a pressurized water bath, or by

engineering a steam cooking setup. Solar power is another heat source that you might want to tinker with, eg. by use of parabolic mirrors, or employing solar-heated warm water. Wood might be viable where it is abundant, but it is difficult to control and open flame poses a risk.

- **Pot**

Have a vessel that allows for a large volume of liquid to be boiled.

- **Fermenter**

The vessel(s) that you use for fermenting must be food grade, should tolerate temperatures of 80°C, must tolerate acid, should easily be cleaned, and have a fitting airlock. They should be placed somewhere of fairly constant surrounding temperature, away from light and curious neighbors. If you intend to ferment in large volumes, think the whole procedure through beforehand, as lugging a full fermenter around can become nontrivial. Placing your fermenter in a large bowl can save you a lot of scrubbing the floor in case the mash overflows. Having level marks on the outside of your fermenter is a good idea. Think about ways to control the temperature of your fermenter, such as putting a warm light bulb next to it, covering it in blankets, cooling it with a fan or water bath.

- **Water**

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!

- **Stirrer**

Have a means to thoroughly mix large volumes of viscose liquid. A wooden paddle might work, or a long, clean paint stirrer on an electric drill. It's best if the stirrer allows for stirring air into the mash as well.

- **Airlock**

Any way of covering your fermenter such that air can get out, but not in, will work. Popular methods include **fermentation locks** of different designs (also called airlocks) made of glass or plastic, a punctured balloon, or a hose with one end submerged in a jar of water.

- **Racking Cane**

A tool that facilitates siphoning liquid without disturbing sediment.

- **Funnel**

You will be pouring a lot of liquid, and sometimes you will be filtering it through cloth or cellulose filters. In both cases a funnel will render good service.

- **Measurement Devices**

- **Mass**

- Precise measurements are unnecessary most of the time, so a simple kitchen weighing scale should suffice.

- **Volume**

- Measuring cups are practical. Mark different volumes on the outside of your fermenter to easily measure large quantities.

- **Temperature**

- Especially when working with enzymes, dependable temperature measurements are important. Be aware that thermometers come in different qualities and might be calibrated to be fairly exact at room temperature while deviating significantly at higher temperatures. If an ice bath is shown to be at 0°C and water at a good boil shown to be at 100°C, then your thermometer is very likely fine. Thermometers in the steam path will give you information on the steam alcohol content, but still operation based on their information is controversial.

- **Time**

- For some recipes you will be required to cook or stir or rest the mash for a specified time period, but mostly a clock with the option to set an alarm will come in handy when you decide to "*just go outside for a moment*" while your fermenter fills, only to come back half an hour later after forgetting about it, to find your cellar turned into a yeast aquarium. Setting an alarm will prove invaluable.

- **pH**

- Multicolored **testing strips** are affordable and sufficient. They should be compared to the included color chart only in good light, and they should cover the pH range 2-8 at least. Get someone with good color perception to read them for you if you have a deficiency (8% of males do, look up an **ISHIHARA test!**). A single strip can be reused many times if gently rinsed off with water after a measurement, then soaked in a big glass of water until it shows 7 (or whatever your water has) and left to dry.

– **Density**

A **hydrometer** can be employed to measure buoyancy, and therefore the density of the surrounding liquid. The correct use and interpretation of measurements from a hydrometer are more advanced than one would think, since factors such as temperature, mixtures of more than two components, air bubbles, or cohesion to a glass wall will skew the readings. The ratio  $\frac{\text{density of liquid}}{\text{density of water}}$  is called *specific gravity*.

– **Refractive Index**

Can be determined with a **refractometer**. It will give you an idea about the sugar content of a wash.

– **Taste**

Especially when doing cuts, this should be your measuring device of choice. For a good sense of taste/smell do not smoke, don't eat too spicy on days where you intend to employ it, brush your teeth without toothpaste prior to sampling, drink water in between tastings, and don't have a cold.

• **Still**

A device that concentrates ethanol from a mixture of ethanol and water by evaporation and condensation.

• **Storage Of Distillate**

Stainless steel, glass and wooden barrels are considered safe for storing concentrated alcohol, plastic definitely is not. Make sure to check what material the seals or the lining on caps is made of. Wooden barrels offer some significant benefits, but they require know-how and maintenance.

## Fermentation

**Yeast** is a group of fungi that metabolize some sugars (sucrose, glucose, fructose, galactose, maltose and others). In the presence of oxygen, the sugar will be used for cell growth and reproduction - a circumstance exploited when preparing a yeast starter. In the absence of oxygen or an overabundance of sugar, yeast will metabolize sugars to ethanol, our preferred drinking alcohol. Most fermentations will happen under the exclusion of oxygen via an airlock, which permits the outward passage of CO<sub>2</sub> (a byproduct of the yeast's sugar consumption) without allowing fresh air into the fermenter.

The general intention of preparing a mash is to take some form of carbohydrate, convert it to sugar if it is not already, then let yeast in a water solution convert it to ethanol. This will yield a sugar wash (from sugar), a

beer (from grain), or a wine (from fruit), which sometimes could be consumed as is, but for our intents and purposes functions as still charge.

The conversion of long-chain carbohydrates such as starch into its building blocks, the sugar molecules, is a chemical process that can be achieved via enzymes. Those are biological catalysts, meaning they accelerate or enable reactions which then happen without consuming the catalyst. If you chew on bread for long enough, the enzymes in your saliva will convert the starch to sugar, resulting in a sweet taste. The same process takes place when adding store-bought amylase enzymes to a mash containing starch, or when adding **malt**, which also contains starch-splitting enzymes. The activity of enzymes is heavily dependent on both temperature and pH, so great care should be taken to get those variables right when attempting a mash with starch conversion!

Malt can be made from almost any grain, but typically barley is used, because it has particularly high enzymatic power. The grain is brought to a specific point in germination in a controlled environment, and subsequently dried. The malt can then be bought in brewing supply shops, although it can also be made at home with some diligence and skill. BUCCANEER BOB has fabricated an excellent guide on how to malt at home, which can be found in [this thread on homedistiller.org](#), where you will also find pictures.

Yeast competes with bacteria and other fungi for the consumption of sugars. This is why it is recommended to have a clean working habit, perhaps even sanitizing equipment that comes into contact with the mash. It is also why mashing is often done in acidic environment (=low pH). Most bacteria are hindered in such solutions, whereas yeast, while preferring neutral or just slightly acidic environments, stays active even to a pH of 3.

The success of any distillate largely depends on the mash, and therefore on the performance of the yeast. Challenges include the selection of a suited yeast strain, averting bacterial infection, and reducing **yeast stress** by providing stable, optimized environment variables (temperature, pH, osmotic pressure, final alcohol content, **nutrients**, initial cell count, initial oxygen, low light).

The considerations above allow for the following two skeletons of typical recipes, variations of which will make up most of this document:

### **Blueprint Of A Sugar Wash**

#### **Ingredients**

- Water
- Sugar
- Yeast
- Yeast nutrients

#### **Fermenting**

1. Dissolve the sugar and yeast nutrients in the water.
2. At the right temperature, add the yeast.
3. Let it ferment under exclusion of oxygen.

### **Blueprint Of A Grain Mash**

#### **Ingredients**

- Water
- Grain
- Enzyme source (malt or liquid enzymes)
- Yeast

#### **Fermenting**

1. Dissolve the starch from the grain in the water.
2. At the right temperature and pH, add the enzyme source.
3. Let the enzymes convert the starch to sugar.
4. At the right temperature, add the yeast.
5. Let it ferment under exclusion of oxygen.

## Distillation

In a liquid mixture of two substances with different volatilities, the gas that evaporizes from it will be more saturated with the component of higher volatility. This principle is used in distillation, where one evaporates liquid (for example: a mixture of water and ethanol) in a boiler and condenses the gas back to its liquid form by cooling it, yielding a mixture enriched in one component (in our example: ethanol).

A device that operates as above is considered a *pot still*, since the oldest still designs using a pot as boiler would evaporate and condense the liquid only once during each run, a circumstance described as a single *theoretical plate*. If on the other hand the steam is allowed to recondense and reevaporate multiple times on its way to the condenser, as is the case in a *reflux still*, then the setup is said to have multiple theoretical plates. A reflux still will give a similar result from a single distillation as would be achieved from a pot still by iterated distillation.

The typical work flow after fermentation is to rack the mash with as little sediment as possible into the boiler, and to first perform a *stripping run*. During this first fast-and-dirty distillation, the main goal is to concentrate the alcohol to a suitable level for the next distillation, although some people like to perform cuts even during the stripping run. This can be a good idea, as **the volatility of some unwanted compounds changes with ethanol concentration**, making them easy to separate during a stripping run in a pot still, but difficult to do so later on.

The result of the stripping run, the so-called *low wines*, are collected until a sufficient amount of them accumulates to perform a *spirit run* on them. This distillation step is performed much more slowly and diligently, either in a pot still (for spirits that should keep a strong flavor profile) or in a reflux still (for neutral alcohol or very subtle flavor). Before a spirit run, the low wines should be diluted to about 40%ABV, and might benefit from being allowed to breathe while they await their run.

The distillate from a spirit run is collected in an array of small containers such as glass jars, which are used to *cut* the product from them. The process to sample them and to determine which glasses to include is sophisticated and nuanced, an excellent guide 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**.

## Storing, Oaking & Aging

Most distillates tend to mellow and improve, if allowed to air out for a few days before (if at all) being transferred to an air-tight container. Plastic is unfit for spirit storage, since it will leach chemicals into the drink, imparting vile flavor and putting the consumer's health at risk. Glass and wooden barrels are the recommended choice for storage.

The distillate will mature, age and become more relishable even when aging in a glass bottle. Yet many recipes advise or even require to "*age on wood*". The inclusion of wood in the aging process helps to smooth the aroma profile, it imparts characteristic flavor and serves to color the drink. This operation typically called *oaking* (for the traditional use of oak as wood) depends on many variables: Whether to use a wooden barrel or to just add wood into a glass container, the choice of tree, how seasoned the wood is, to what degree the wood is toasted, to what degree the wood is charred, how much wood is used for how long, and at what alcohol concentration. There is an entire [subforum on homedistiller.org](#) that discusses and develops the art of oaking, including ways to accelerate aging through the use of pronounced temperature fluctuations ("*distress aging*") or microwaves ("*nuclear spirits*").

# 1 Birdwatcher Sugar Wash

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

## 1.1 Ingredients

- 23 kg sugar
- 280 g fresh regular bakers yeast
- 1 liter tomato paste
- 4 lemons

## 1.2 Fermenting

### 1.2.1 One-time Preparation

Fill your fermenter with water. Place a bottomless styrofoam box over the fermenter. Dangle a lit light bulb 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.

### 1.2.2 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.

### **1.2.3 During Fermentation**

Check both specific gravity and temperature daily. Stir daily. On day three, siphon 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.

## 2 Wineo's Plain Ol Sugar Wash

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

### 2.1 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)

### 2.2 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.

## **3 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.

### **3.1 Ingredients**

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

### **3.2 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.

## 4 Saltbush Bill's All Molasses Rum

Another recipe for molasses-only rum. It is said to come off the still quite harsh even with a narrow hearts cut, and is hence recommended to be aged on oak for at least half a year.

### 4.1 Ingredients

- 30 liters molasses (high quality stock feed or black strap)
- 20 liters hot dunder (use water for the first generation instead)
- The lees from the previous fermentation (skip this at initial generation)
- 3 vitamin B complex capsules or tablets
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon magnesium sulphate (=epsom salts)
- 200 mL dried active bakers yeast

### 4.2 Fermenting

1. Pour the molasses into your fermenter.
2. Beginning with cycle two, add the lees.
3. Add the hot dunder (or boiling water for the initial fermentation).
4. Stir well to fully dissolve the molasses.
5. Add cold water to get to 100 liters.
6. Crush the vitamin tablets or retrieve the powder from the capsules.
7. Add the vitamin powder and the epsom salts to the fermenter.
8. Add the yeast.
9. Stir well.
10. Put the fermentation lock on.
11. Let it ferment until the bubbling stops and the sweetness is gone.

## 5 Harry's GGGP Rum

Next to the classical ingredients molasses and sugar, this recipe uses maize and potatoes in the mash too. To alleviate 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
- "1/3 of a milk bucket" of old maize
- Spices such as cloves, pineapple, raisins, 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 g 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 .
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 implements some of the instructions that RAFAEL ARROYO, the godfather of rum himself, gave some 70 years ago. The product is a rich, complex, dark rum.

### 7.1 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)

### 7.2 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.

### 7.3 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 run.
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 run.
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 run.
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 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.

### 9.1 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

### 9.2 Fermenting

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.

## 10 **Odin's Cornflakes Whiskey**

Want to make a bourbon whiskey but got no access to good maize? With this recipe, to quote HEARTCUT, " *You could almost have whiskey for breakfast*".

### 10.1 **Ingredients**

- 2.5 kg maize cornflakes with B vitamins
- 17.5 kg sugar
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- 25 liters backset (or water when starting the cycle)

### 10.2 **Fermenting**

1. Crush the cornflakes.
2. Boil the cornflakes in backset (or water) for 30 minutes.
3. Pour them into your fermenter with fresh water.
4. Once the temperature is below 35°C, add the yeast.
5. Put on the airlock and let it ferment till it's done (about 5 days).

## 11 Odin's Rye Bread Whiskey

This will yield a rye whiskey with a lot of flavor, beginning from generation one. The fermentation should be allowed to finish, which will take some time.

### 11.1 Ingredients

- 7 kg dense rye bread (like **pumpernickel**) without preservatives
- 14 kg sugar
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- An unspecified amount of yeast nutrients (this can be left out, especially on later iterations when using backset)
- Optionally: 18 liters backset from the previous run

### 11.2 Fermenting

1. Crumble the bread and boil it in water for 5 minutes.
2. Add the sugar and stir well to dissolve it.
3. Pour the mixture into your fermenter.
4. Add backset if you have any.
5. Top the fermenter up to 100 liters with fresh water.
6. Add the yeast nutrients.
7. Aerate the mixture.
8. Add the yeast once the mixture has cooled below 35°C.
9. Put the airlock on and give it time to ferment out fully, which should take anywhere between one and two weeks.

## 12 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.

### 12.1 Ingredients

- 20 kg sugar
- 22 g *Redstar Premier Blanc* champagne yeast
- 2 kg wheat germ
- 5 tablespoons of citric acid

### 12.2 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. Top 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.

## 13 Kentucky Shinner's Sweetfeed Whiskey

A continuous mashing process for whiskey made from animal feed and sugar.

- 20 kg sweet feed, only on the first run
- 20 kg white sugar, on each run
- 500 mL dry yeast, only on the first run
- 50 liters backset, on each run

### 13.1 First Fermentation

1. Throw the sweet feed into your fermenter.
2. Bring 20 liters water to a hard boil, then add them.
3. Add the sugar.
4. Stir well for 15 minutes.
5. Let the mixture rest for 90 minutes.
6. Add fresh, cool water to bring the volume to 100 liters.
7. Once the temperature is below 35°C, add the yeast.
8. Stir the mixture gently.
9. Put on the airlock and let it ferment till it's done (about 6 days).
10. Rack the mash into your still, keeping the lees in the fermenter.

### 13.2 Subsequent Fermentations

1. Right after stilling the previous batch, dissolve 20 kg sugar in 50 liters hot backset.
2. Let the backset slowly cool to below 35°C.
3. Pour the backset into your fermenter, which still contains the lees.
4. Add fresh water to bring the volume to 100 liters.
5. Put on the airlock and let it ferment till it's done (about 6 days).

6. Rack the mash into your still, keeping the lees in the fermenter.
7. Iterate the process.

## 14 Uncle Jesse's Simple Sour Mash Method

One of the most popular recipes, the often endearingly abbreviated *UJSM* is a continuous mashing process with simple ingredients, yielding a whiskey.

### 14.1 Ingredients

- 16.8 kg cracked (6-8 pieces per kernel) maize without preservatives on the first run and small amounts later
- 16.8 kg sugar on each run
- 5 tablespoons yeast, if possible distillers yeast, only on the first run
- 25-50 liters backset from the previous run, on each run

### 14.2 First Fermentation

1. Into your fermenter with fresh water, throw the maize, sugar and yeast.
2. Dissolve the sugar.
3. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (3-4 days).
4. Rack the liquid into your still and run it later that day. Be careful not to disturb the lees, leaving them in your fermenter.
5. Add some fresh water to your fermenter to make the yeast happy.
6. Replace maize that's floating on the surface.
7. Run your still now, keep some backset, then proceed as instructed for subsequent fermentations.

### 14.3 Subsequent Fermentations

1. You have a fermenter with old yeast, old and fresh maize and some water in it. You also have (ideally hot) backset from the previous run.
2. Dissolve 16.8 kg sugar in the backset.
3. Let the backset cool to below 35°C.
4. Add the backset to your fermenter.

5. If necessary top your fermenter up to 100 liters with fresh water.
6. Make sure the liquids have mixed in your fermenter.
7. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (3-4 days).
8. Rack the liquid into your still and run it later that day. Be careful not to disturb the lees, leaving them in your fermenter.
9. Add some fresh water to your fermenter to make the yeast happy.
10. Replace maize that's floating on the surface.
11. Run your still now, keep some backset, and iterate the process.

## 15 Simple Golden Pond Mash

This old-timey moonshiner's recipe uses wild yeast to ferment. The product can be consumed as moonshine after the stripping run, or it can be distilled a second time and put on oak to yield a whiskey.

### 15.1 Ingredients

- 45 kg air-dried cracked maize on the first run and small amounts later
- 25 kg sugar on each run
- All of the backset from the previous run

### 15.2 First Fermentation

1. Use a wooden barrel as your fermenter.
2. Mix the maize, sugar and warm water in your fermenter.
3. Cover the fermenter with a wire screen or a piece of cloth.
4. Let it ferment for 5-7 days. When large single bubbles come about 20-30 seconds apart, it is ready for the still. It is better to run it a day early than a day late.

### 15.3 Stripping Run

1. Rack the mash into your still, leaving the lees undisturbed.
2. On later runs, add the tails from the previous run to the charge.
3. Collect spirits down to 40% ABV, then collect tails down to 22% ABV.
4. Strain the spirits through a heavy white felt hat, possibly with two handful of hickory charcoal in it.

### 15.4 Subsequent Fermentations

1. Let the backset cool to about 35°C.
2. Replace about 10% of the maize in the backset with fresh one.
3. Dissolve 25 kg sugar in the warm backset.

4. Pour the backset onto the lees in your fermenter.
5. Add fresh water to bring the fermenter to 100 liters.
6. Stir up the lees.
7. Cover the fermenter with a wire screen or a piece of cloth.
8. Let it ferment for 5-7 days. When large single bubbles come about 20-30 seconds apart, it is ready for the still. It is better to run it a day early than a day late.
9. This mashing process can be iterated about four times.

## 16 Booner's Casual All Corn

This recipe removes much of the challenge that comes with mashing pure maize by employing store-bought enzymes.

### 16.1 Ingredients

- 21.5 kg cracked maize
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- pH testing strips (or similar equipment)
- 17 mL *SEBStar* alpha amylase
- 17 mL *SEBAmyl* gluco amylase
- Optionally: Backset from the previous run

### 16.2 Fermenting

1. Heat a suitable amount of water to 90°C.
2. Add the maize while stirring.
3. Let the mixture cool to 82°C.
4. Measure pH and adjust to the 5.6 - 6.5 range if necessary.
5. Add the alpha amylase.
6. Let the mixture cool to 64°C, stirring occasionally.
7. Measure pH and adjust to the 2.8 - 5.5 range. This can be done by adding backset.
8. Stir the mixture well, then cover it and let it rest overnight.
9. Once the temperature is below 35°C, pitch the yeast.
10. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (about 4 days).

## 17 **Pintoshine's Double Fermented Sour Corn Mash**

This traditional maize-and-malt recipe for whiskey ferments with bacteria to get a sour mash before adding in yeast.

### 17.1 **Ingredients**

- 38 kg ground whole maize
- 5 kg rolled malted barley
- An unspecified amount of yeast

### 17.2 **Fermenting**

1. Pour water on top of the ground maize such that it is completely covered, plus half that height of water sitting above the maize.
2. Let it ferment to lactic acid until it doesn't rise anymore. If you happen to have a sour dough starter, you can add some of that. Punch down the germ that floats on top each day. This should take about four days. The mash might smell like vomit in the beginning, that's alright - in the end it should smell like sour milk.
3. Add water to not burn the paste when heating it, but only that much.
4. Carefully heat the paste to 80°C for 30 minutes. Stir constantly.
5. Let it cool to 70°C.
6. Stir in the malted barley and keep it close to 70°C for 90 minutes.
7. Let the mash cool to about 35°C. It should have gone from gel to liquid.
8. Filter the mash through a large, loose weave piece of cloth.
9. If your specify gravity now is at roughly 1.09, you can pitch the yeast. If you added more water earlier, then you could first put it on the stove once more to reduce the volume and increase gravity, but you'll have to stir like a madman and wait for the mash to cool to below 35°C again.
10. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done.

## 18 NChooch's Carolina Bourbon

A classic recipe for a classic whiskey, the all-American bourbon. Age on oak!

### 18.1 Ingredients

- 16 kg cracked maize
- 7 kg malted 6-row barley
- 50 g dried yeast

### 18.2 Fermenting

1. Bring about 70 liters of fresh water to a boil.
2. Stir in the maize, and let it simmer for 90 minutes, making sure not to burn it.
3. Optionally you can add 1 kg malt while it simmers for liquification.
4. Let the mixture cool to 65°C.
5. Add the malt and stir it in well. Temperature should be at 62°C now.
6. Cover the vessel and wrap it in towels or blankets. Stir it from time to time, then let it rest overnight while slowly cooling.
7. Transfer the whole mixture to your fermenter (don't strain it!) and bring it to 100 L with water or backset.
8. Once the mixture is below 27°C, aerate well and stir in the yeast.
9. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (about 3 days).
10. When fermentation is over, hit the still soon afterwards. There is no need to let the mash clear, just strain the grains.

## 19 Jimbo's Wheated Bourbon & Gumball-head

By exploiting synergies between all-grain-mashing and a successive sugarhead fermentation, this recipe is fit to satisfy *cheap bastards with expensive tastes*.

### 19.1 Ingredients

- 17 kg cracked maize or 12.5 kg maize meal
- 3.9 kg milled wheat malt
- 2.3 kg milled barley malt or an additional 2.3 kg milled wheat malt
- 12.5 kg sugar
- 25 g good ale yeast
- 13 liter backset (or water with lactic acid)
- 7 teaspoons calcium sulphate (=gypsum)

### 19.2 Fermenting Wheated Bourbon

1. If using cracked maize, wash it with warm water and drain it.
2. Bring 60 liters water, the backset and the gypsum to a boil.
3. Turn the heat off and stir in the maize.
4. Cover the pot and wrap it in blankets. Let it rest overnight.
5. The next day, remove the blankets and stir the mixture. Let it cool to 63°C, which can be accelerated by pointing a fan at it.
6. At 63°C, wrap the pot in blankets again and stir in the malt.
7. For 90 minutes, stir occasionally. Then remove the blankets again.
8. Pour the mixture into your disinfected fermenter, and top it up to 100 liters. Try to cool it to 27°C fast to reduce infection risk.
9. At 26°C, pitch the yeast and stir it in.

10. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done. It will be mostly done after 4 days, but you will get a better product if you leave it to ferment for 5-7 days. Don't go beyond a week though, as the risk for infection will rise.
11. Filter the mash through a large mesh grain bag. Let the liquid settle overnight and then rack the clear mash into your still. Any sediment or filtered grain is not to be discarded, as it will be used for Gumballhead production!

### **19.3 Fermenting Gumballhead**

1. Take 13 liters hot backset from the Wheated Bourbon stripping run and dissolve the sugar in it.
2. Add fresh water so you will get 100 liters after step 3.
3. Once the mixture is below 26°C, add the filtered-off grain and the bottom layer that was left when racking mash into the still.
4. Pour the mixture into your fermenter.
5. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (about 4 days).

## 20 ShineonCrazyDiamond's Honey Bear Bourbon

Fermenting on the grain and especially the use of honey malt give this bourbon a unique character. The use of crushed oyster shells is to buffer pH.

### 20.1 Ingredients

- 12 kg cracked maize or 8 kg maize meal
- 2 kg rolled oats (or 2 kg additional maize for less mouth feel)
- 2 kg white wheat malt
- 2 kg red wheat malt
- 2 kg pale malt
- 1 kg honey malt
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- 4 handful oyster shells

### 20.2 Fermenting

1. Put the maize, honey malt and oats into your fermenter.
2. Bring 80 liters water to a boil in a pot.
3. Pour the water into your fermenter, wrap it in blankets and stir occasionally while it slowly cools.
4. Once the mash temperature falls to 67°C, stir in all the malt.
5. Wrap the fermenter up again and let it rest for a few hours.
6. Chill the mash to the yeast's preferred temperature.
7. Crush the oyster shells and stir them in.
8. Stir in the yeast.
9. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (about 4 days).

## 21 Uncle Jesse's Cooked Rye Mash

This recipe for an all-rye whiskey might look simple, but a lot can go wrong, so consider it one of the more advanced ones. The forum thread discusses variations and modernizations.

### 21.1 Ingredients

- 24 kg malted rye
- 3 teaspoons distillers yeast

### 21.2 Fermenting

1. Mill the malted rye, not too finely though, if it is not already.
2. Use a big pot (at least 120 liters) with a false bottom.
3. Bring 60 liters of water to a hard boil to sanitize your pot.
4. Add 60 liters fresh water.
5. Bring the temperature to about 75°C, then turn off the heat.
6. Stir in the rye. Temperature should drop to about 64°C.
7. Cover the pot, let it sit for at least 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.
8. Optionally test starch conversion with a solution of iodine.
9. Drain the mash into your fermenter, filtering it through the false bottom and leaving behind the grain. The mash need not be clear.
10. Once the mash is cold enough, aerate it and stir in the yeast.
11. Put the airlock on and let it ferment till it's done (about 3 days).

## 22 Jimbo's Single Malt All Grain

One of the easiest all-grain recipes, due to both its use of milled malt as well as the simple, precise instructions.

### 22.1 Ingredients

- 18 kg milled red wheat malt or milled barley malt
- 20 g dried yeast
- 4 teaspoons calcium sulphate (=gypsum)
- Optionally: Backset from the previous run

### 22.2 Fermenting

1. Dissolve the gypsum in 65 liter hot water (and backset).
2. When the temperature is at 71°C, stir in the malt.
3. Put the lid on loosely, wrap the vessel in blankets and stir every 15-30 minutes for a few hours.
4. Remove the blankets and quickly cool the mash to your yeast's preferred temperature, eg by pointing a fan at the vessel.
5. Add fresh water to get to 100 liters and stir well to aerate.
6. Pitch the yeast and let it ferment on the grain till it's done (1-2 weeks).
7. Rack the mash off from the top and let it settle overnight if necessary.
8. Squeeze the goo near the bottom of your fermenter through a cloth to get the liquid out. Let that liquid settle overnight and rack it off.

## 23 Theholymackerel's Oat Whiskey

This oat whiskey has a mild, subtle flavor and should not necessarily be put on oak. Make sure to age at least some of it white for a few months!

### 23.1 Ingredients

- 24 kg oatmeal
- An unspecified amount of amylase enzyme
- An unspecified amount of neutral ale yeast

### 23.2 Fermenting

1. Put the oatmeal into your fermenter.
2. Add boiling water to bring the volume to 100 liters.
3. Stir well, then insulate your fermenter.
4. Allow the mixture to slowly cool to 65°C.
5. Add some amylase, stirring it only into the top layer.
6. Cover the fermenter and let it cool to 24°C.
7. Add some more amylase and the yeast, again stirring only the top layer.
8. Cover the fermenter and put the airlock on.
9. Each day, stir the liquid top layer a few centimeters into the sediment below it, then put the lid and airlock on again. Repeat this, until the whole mash has become thin liquid.
10. Let it ferment until it is finished (about two weeks total).
11. Rack the liquid into your still, leaving the yeast sediment behind.
12. Run the still slow and careful to not burn the mash badly - a little burn will likely go unnoticed in the spirit.

## 24 Uncle Remus' Apple/Alder Wood Smoked Barley Whiskey

A smooth whiskey that attains a unique aroma through use of smoked barley.

### 24.1 Ingredients

- 14 kg smoked rolled barley. You can smoke it with apple and alder wood, see the thread on [homedistiller.org](http://homedistiller.org) for instructions with pictures.
- 3 kg rolled maize
- 3 kg ground pale ale barley malt
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- 16 g alpha amylase enzyme
- 16 g gluco amylase enzyme

### 24.2 Fermenting

1. Heat 80 liters water to 74°C.
2. Stir in the maize and the smoked barley.
3. Heat it up to 74°C again, then turn off the heat.
4. Cover the pot, let it slowly cool, and stir every so often.
5. At 67°C, stir in the malt and alpha amylase.
6. Cover the pot and let it rest for at least 2 hours.
7. Cool the mash to 35°C, then stir in the yeast and gluco amylase.
8. Put the airlock on and let it ferment.

## 25 Bentstick's Oat/Wheat/Rye Whiskey

By carefully balancing the grain composition, you get whiskey that makes use of the best traits of each of the ingredients.

### 25.1 Ingredients

- 8.5 kg whole oats with husks (milled to bust husks, no more)
- 5 kg wheat
- 5 kg rye
- 3.5 kg malted wheat
- 3.5 kg malted rye
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- An unspecified amount of alpha amylase enzyme
- An unspecified amount of gluco amylase enzyme

### 25.2 Fermenting

1. Put the oats, wheat and rye (none of the malt!) into your fermenter.
2. Add 70 liters boiling water and mix well, eg with drill and paint stirrer.
3. Once the mixture cools to 82°C, add the alpha amylase and stir.
4. Once the mixture cools to 65°C, add the gluco amylase and both malts. Again, stir well.
5. Let it rest over night, stirring every now and again at the beginning.
6. Add cold fresh water to get to 100 liters.
7. Cool the mix to below 35°C, then pitch the yeast.
8. Put the airlock on and let it ferment.

## 26 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.

### 26.1 Ingredients

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

### 26.2 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.

## 27 Junkyard Dawg's Mezcal

Tequila's big brother is coming to town - that is, if you happen to have access to a mature agave plant that you are allowed to dig out, and if are willing to put the considerable effort in that is needed for the mashing process.

Since mash volume will likely be determined by the plant size, amount listings in this recipe will be vague and left to your intuition.

### 27.1 Ingredients

- A big agave plant
- Tools to dig the plant out
- A barbecue grill
- Some agave sweetening syrup
- Some yeast
- Acid buffer (eg citric acid & shells)
- Yeast nutrients (eg cooked yeast trub)

### 27.2 Plant Preparation

1. Dig out the agave. You can cut the leaves and roots, but keep the *heart* intact (where the leaves join, just above the roots).
2. Clean the heart section and cut its flesh into manageable pieces.
3. Wrap the pieces up and grill them at low heat for multiple days.

### 27.3 Fermenting

1. Prepare a starter from yeast, nutrients, acid buffer and agave syrup.
2. Crush the grilled agave heart in your fermenter and add the starter.
3. Let the mash ferment out.
4. Rack the liquid into your still, and press liquid from the fibrous sediment with a fruit press or by twisting it inside a cloth bag.

## 28 Tater's Peach Brandy

This is the purist variation of the next recipe. Here, no sugar is added.

### 28.1 Ingredients

- 200 kg peaches
- An unspecified amount of wine yeast

### 28.2 Fermenting

1. Wash the peaches and cut away any damaged or decaying parts.
2. Freeze the peaches. This will break the cell walls, releasing flavor.
3. Thaw the peaches.
4. Mix them to a pulp, with skins and pits.
5. Filter the pulp through a mesh to get rid of skin and pit parts.
6. Stir in the yeast, aerating in the process.
7. Put on the fermentation lock and let it ferment.

## 29 Tater's Fruit/Berry Recipes

This is more a blueprint than a specific recipe, as it can be used for the manufacture of a whole variety of brandies.

### 29.1 Ingredients

- 70 liters ripe fruit or berry
- 10 kg sugar
- 120 mL lemon juice
- 10 g EC-1118 yeast
- 30 g distiller's yeast

### 29.2 Fermenting

1. Freeze the fruit/berry fully, then thaw it up again.
2. Dissolve the sugar in some boiling water, and add the lemon juice.
3. Pour the hot sugar syrup over the fruit/berry.
4. Mix and mangle the contents to a homogeneous pulp.
5. Add cold water to get to a volume of 100 liters.
6. Pour the mixture through a wire sieve to filter out skins and seeds.
7. Pour 5-10 liters of the mixture into a large jar, add the yeasts, and stir in a good amount of air. This is your yeast starter.
8. After some hours, when the starter is actively fermenting, add it back to your fermenter. Stir it in well.
9. Cover the fermenter, and put on it a fermentation lock.
10. Stir down the pulp that floats to the top from time to time.
11. Let it ferment slowly in a cold spot until the mash tastes dry.

## 30 Tater's Blueberrie Liqueur

The approach in this recipe is quite unique: Use a large portion of the berries for mashing and distilling, then macerate a small portion of berries in the distillate, and make a syrup from them by drawing out flavor with sugar.

### 30.1 Ingredients

- 40 kg blueberries (frozen & thawed berries ferment better!)
- 25 kg sugar
- 120 ml lime juice
- An unspecified amount of yeast
- A small amount of honey

### 30.2 Fermenting

1. Wash the berries.
2. Pick out stems, as well as unripe or decaying berries.
3. Boil 22 liters water, dissolve 20 kg sugar and the lime juice in it.
4. Put 35 kg berries into your fermenter and pour the hot water in.
5. If necessary, add water until the berries are covered in liquid.
6. Mix the contents until you get a homogeneous pulp.
7. Add water to get to a volume of 100 liters. Mix well.
8. Take about 10 liters of the mixture, transfer them into a separate vessel with much headspace, and make a yeast starter: Stir in all of the yeast, and make sure to aerate the liquid well. Then let the starter work for a few hours, possibly overnight, until it is well into fermentation.
9. Once the starter is ready, mix it into your fermenter.
10. Close the fermenter, put the airlock on, and place it somewhere cool.
11. During the slow and lengthy fermentation, stir down the cap that floats on top whenever needed, such that it doesn't dry or get moldy.
12. When the sweetness is gone and bubbling stops, it's ready for the still.

### 30.3 Distillation

Perform a single distillation on the mash. Discard the foreshots/heads fraction up to the point where it stops tasting sweet. Collect from there until the ABV drops to about 40%. Let the distillate breathe for a few weeks.

### 30.4 Syrup Extraction

1. Take a large jar and put in 5 kg blueberries.
2. Add the spirit you distilled earlier.
3. Let the berries macerate for a few months.
4. Separate the liquid from the soaked berries. Store away the spirit.
5. In a smaller jar, layer sugar and soaked berries, covering them well.
6. Put the jar in a warm spot and shake it ever so often.
7. Once all sugar is dissolved, pour the syrup into a bottle.
8. Again add sugar to the berries to extract more flavor from them. Repeat this process until the berries don't hold any more liquid. The remaining husks can be used to garnish a fancy ice cream.
9. Mix some berry syrup and honey into the spirit according to taste.

## 31 **Odin's Easy Gin**

Called *easy gin*, because the ingredient list is stripped down to easily available botanicals, and because the maceration method allows for manufacturing a gin without a gin basket on your still. This will yield **1 liter** of gin.

### 31.1 **Ingredients**

- 1 liter 43% ABV neutral alcohol
- 1 tangerine
- 12 grams of juniper berries
- 3 grams of coriander seeds

### 31.2 **Procedure**

1. Carve the zest off the tangerine skin and keep the zest. Make sure not to include any of the white, spongy flesh from underneath the zest.
2. Mildly crush the juniper berries and the coriander seeds.
3. Add the zest, berries and seed to the alcohol and let it macerate at room temperature for
  - (a) 12-48 hours if you plan to distill with the herbs in the boiler
  - (b) 2 weeks if you plan to distill just the liquid
4. After maceration, fill the liquid into your potstill. Include the berries and seed if distilling on the herbs, but take out the zest in any case.
5. Distill slowly, as in a spirit run.
6. Discard the first 10 milliliters.
7. Collect the next 400 milliliters.
8. The distillate will have 70-80% ABV. Dilute it to 45%.
9. Let it rest for 5 weeks in a glass vessel.
10. Adapt the recipe to include more herbs and spices to your liking.

## 32 Lacedspirits' Espresso-Laced Vodka

Though this recipe looks similar to Tia Maria and kahlúa, it is said to have a distinct, coffee-based character.

### 32.1 Ingredients

- 500 mL neutral alcohol (50%ABV vodka)
- 250 mL espresso, at best fresh and still warm
- 450 g sugar
- 1 vanilla bean or decent vanilla extract

### 32.2 Procedure

1. Dissolve the sugar in the espresso.
2. Let the espresso cool to room temperature.
3. Add the alcohol and stir well.
4. Fill the mixture into a bottle.
5. Split the vanilla bean and add it (or the extract) to the bottle.
6. Let it blend together for a week.
7. Strain or filter the liquid and bottle it.

## **33** **AnalWaste's Tia Maria**

A coffee liqueur, similar to kahlúa.

### **33.1** **Ingredients**

- 700 mL rum
- 350 mL brown sugar
- 200 mL white sugar
- 100 mL instant coffee
- $\frac{1}{2}$  of a vanilla bean

### **33.2** **Procedure**

1. Dissolve the sugar and instant coffee in the rum.
2. Split the vanilla bean and add it to the mixture.
3. Bottle the mixture and let it rest for a few weeks.

## 34 Tater's Kahlúa

Always have some kahlúa aging in case you decide to mix up a white russian!

### 34.1 Ingredients

- 500 mL neutral alcohol (at least 40%ABV)
- 500 mL super strong coffee extract (arabica medium roast or instant)
- 150 mL white sugar
- 150 mL brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon glycerin (honey can be used alternatively)
- 1 vanilla bean

### 34.2 Procedure

1. Heat the coffee without boiling it, and dissolve the sugar in it.
2. Let the mixture cool to room temperature.
3. Add the alcohol, glycerin and vanilla bean.
4. Bottle it and let it blend together for at least one week, even better one month.

## 35 Punkin's Muck

*"It's a perfect seasonal [Christmas] drink, since if we drank it all year, we all would die of heart attacks." - RGARRY*

### 35.1 Ingredients

- 500 mL 40%ABV alcohol
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 can thick cream
- 1 tablespoon chocolate syrup
- 1 teaspoon premium vanilla extract
- 3 fresh free range eggs

### 35.2 Procedure

1. Whip the eggs (white & yolk) until they are fluffy.
2. While continuously mixing, add the milk, cream, syrup and vanilla.
3. Still mixing, slowly add the alcohol.
4. Keep the muck in the freezer. Let it rest for one or two days.

## 36 Pothead's Strawberry Panty-Dropper

This easy, straight-forward recipe for delightful goodness is an all-time favorite. The strawberries can be varied to blueberries or similar substitutes.

### 36.1 Ingredients

- 1 liter neutral alcohol or brandy ( $\approx 70\%$ ABV)
- 1 kg frozen strawberries
- a good amount of sugar
- some lemon juice

### 36.2 Procedure

1. Put the strawberries into a jar and cover them with alcohol.
2. Place the jar on a window sill, shaking it daily for one week.
3. Strain the liquid into a bottle.
4. Add sugar to the berries, enough to completely cover them.
5. Place the jar at the sill, again shaking frequently.
6. Once all sugar is dissolved, strain the syrup into another bottle and add new sugar. Repeat this step until all juice is leached from the berries.
7. Add 1-2 tablespoons of lemon juice to the alcohol bottle.
8. Add berry syrup to the alcohol bottle according to taste.
9. Dilute the spirit to  $40\%$ ABV and filter any particles off.
10. Use leftover syrup and berries for a fancy ice cream dish.

## 37 Mr P's Hot Cinnamon Schnaps

The product can be consumed pure (watch your gums though, it has a delayed hotness to it!); is a valuable additive to tea, punsch, cider and the like; and even has medicinal stomach-soothing properties.

### 37.1 Ingredients

- 1 liter neutral alcohol ( $\approx 95\%$ ABV)
- 6 cheap cinnamon sticks
- 1 kg sugar

### 37.2 Procedure

1. Prepare a sugar syrup: Add water to the sugar to roughly double its volume, and carefully heat until you get a syrup. Keep it in a bottle.
2. Place the cinnamon sticks in a jar and pour the alcohol in.
3. Let them macerate for one month.
4. Take 300 mL out from the jar and mix it with 500 mL sugar syrup.
5. Fill the jar back up with 95%ABV alcohol.
6. Continue this process, add more cinnamon sticks if the flavor fades.

## 38 Punkin's Thai Terror

"*You got worms, Punkin?*" - HOOKLINE's insightful reaction to this recipe.

### 38.1 Ingredients

- 2 liters peach brandy ( $\approx 65\%$ ABV)
- 4 small limes, not quite ripe yet
- 2 bird's eye chilies
- 1 habanero chili
- 1 tablespoon japanese pickled ginger
- 1 stalk of lemon grass
- optionally some mint and coriander

### 38.2 Procedure

1. Smoke the habanero.
2. Remove the seeds from the bird's eye chilies.
3. Carve the zest off the limes and juice them. Discard the remainder.
4. Smash the lemon grass stalk.
5. Throw all ingredients into a bottle and cover them with 1 liter brandy.
6. Let that macerate for 3-8 hours.
7. Then strain the liquid into another bottle and add another 1 liter of brandy to the ingredients. Let that macerate for a few weeks.
8. Blend the final spirit from the two bottles, according to personal taste.

## 39 Knucklehead's Amaretto

For an even more DIY approach to this recipe, carefully roast almonds, crush them, soak them in high ABV alcohol, and use that as almond essence.

### 39.1 Ingredients

- 666 mL neutral alcohol ( $\approx 40\%$ ABV)
- 333 mL water
- 333 mL granulated sugar
- 166 mL brown sugar
- 42 mL almond extract
- 14 mL vanilla

### 39.2 Procedure

1. Dissolve the sugars in the water while bringing it to a boil.
2. Let the mixture cool.
3. Add the neutral alcohol, almond extract and vanilla.
4. Store it in a sealed bottle.