

# SoCo Homebrew www.socohomebrew.com (512) 428-6564

# ALL GRAIN ALE BREWING INSTRUCTIONS

Brewing all-grain recipes can be accomplished using many different methods. These instructions describe one of these methods. You will need the follow equipment:

- One of our Beer Equipment Start Kits
- Mash Tun
- Boil Kettle
- 48-50 Beer Bottles
- Bottle Caps
- All Ingredients for a Beer Recipe

# STEP 1: CLEAN AND SANITIZE

Clean & sanitize equipment using products such as One Step, Iodophor, & Star San. Use according to manufacture directions.

# STEP 2: THE MASH

If you have liquid yeast with your recipe, remove the yeast from the refrigerator & set aside before you begin the brew. Heat 1.5 quarts of water per pounds of grain to approximately  $160^{\circ}$ F. Mix the grain that came with your kit in the water. The temperature of the mash should fall to the ideal temperature of  $150^{\circ}$ F to  $155^{\circ}$ F. Mash for 60 minutes. Towards the end of the mash, heat approximately 3 gallons of water in a separate pot to  $170^{\circ}$ F. This will be your sparge water.

#### **STEP 3: SPARGING**

Before you sparge, drain out about 2 quarts of the sugary liquid (also known as "wort") from the bottom of the mash tun and pour back on top of the grain. Next, begin draining the wort into a boil pot and start sparging on top of the grain with the hot sparge water. Continue to sparge and drain the wort until you have collected 6.25 to 6.5 gallons of wort in the boil pot. The amount of wort needed in your boil pot depends on how quickly you burner/pot system boils off wort during the boil.

#### STEP 4: THE BOIL

Bring the wort to a boil. Occasionally stir to prevent the wort from boiling over. Once the wort is boiling, stir in any additional sugars included in your kit (do not mix in priming sugar). Be careful not to burn any sugars on the bottom of the pot.

**Hop Additions:** Begin adding hops according to the schedule listed in your kit recipe instructions. If your recipe calls for steep/whirlpool additions, then add these hops after the boil & before you chill the wort.

#### STEP 5: CHILL THE WORT

After the boil, you need to quickly cool your wort to under 80° F. Popular ways to chill your wort include placing smaller pots in ice baths or using submersion style wort chillers. Once the wort has cooled, pour the wort into a sanitized primary fermenter (commonly a 6.5 gallon or 7.9 gallon plastic bucket). You may need top up the fermenter to 5.25 gallons with clean water if you ended up with less than 5.25 gallons after the boil. If you have a hydrometer, you can check the original gravity (OG) and write it down.

# **STEP 6: PITCHING YOUR YEAST**

Stir well to aerate the wort before pitching your yeast. If you have wet yeast, open the packages with sanitized scissors and pour on top of the wort. If you have dry yeast, sprinkle the yeast around the top of the wort. If your Original Gravity is above 1.065, then you may want to consider pitching 2 packets of yeast or building up a yeast starter.

#### **STEP 7: PRIMARY FERMENTATION**

Put the lid on the fermenter with an airlock installed. Fill the airlock to the fill line with water. After 12-36 hours, CO2 will begin to bubble up through the airlock. After 5-7 days, the bubbling in the airlock will begin to slow and a thick "yeast cake" will form at the bottom of the fermenter.

# **STEP 8: SECONDARY FERMENTATION**

After 5-7 days, use a sanitized auto-siphon to siphon the beer to the sanitized secondary fermenter (usually a 5 or 6 gallon glass or plastic carboy). Be careful to only transfer the beer while leaving as much of yeast cake and sediment at the bottom of the primary fermenter behind. **Dry Hop:** If the recipe calls for dry hopping, add these hops to the secondary fermenter according to the schedule on your recipe. Put a sanitized drilled stopper into the top of your carboy. Seal the stopper hole with an airlock and fill the airlock with water up to the fill line.

# **STEP 9: BOTTLING**

After secondary fermentation, there should be no more bubbling in the airlock. If there is still bubbling, wait an additional 2 days before you bottle. If you have a hydrometer, take a gravity reading to verify that you have reached your final gravity (FG). Write down the final gravity. To calculate the actual alcohol content of the beer, subtract the FG from the OG and then multiply by 131.

Pour 2 cups of water in a sauce pan and bring to a boil. Add 4-5 ounce of priming sugar to the sauce pan and boil for a minute. Let the solution cool for a few minutes.

Next, pour the sugary solution into the plastic bucket (primary fermenter), and then siphon the beer from the secondary fermenter into the bucket so the sugary mixture can mix thoroughly with your beer. Be careful to not disturb the sediment on the bottom of the secondary fermenter.

**Flavoring:** If your recipe contains flavoring add the flavoring to the bucket before bottling.

Once the beer is in the bucket, place the bucket on a counter top. Attach the bottle filler to the end of the tubing. Siphon the beer while using the bottle filler to fill each beer bottle. When you remove the filler, the level of beer will be appropriate for capping. Cap each bottle and store in a dark place at room temperature. You can move your beer to the refrigerator after the beer carbonates (typically 7-10 days).