



Fireside Winter Warmer



Your slippers poke out from the end of the comforter as you watch the flames lick up from the fireplace, and between your hands you clasp a spirited pint of Fireside Winter Warmer, with its deep amber hue so perfectly complementing the kindling glow in the hearth beyond. Although the frozen air outside may rustle shivery drafts within, your animated amber ale, with its soul-warming embrace of 8% alcohol, pours smooth, malty and sweet and warms you inside with the charm of the fire flickering sprites about the room. And as you contemplate those shadows dancing on the walls, you'll also contemplate your ale's effortless unfolding of velvety caramel and just a kiss of toast and nuts. And if you've brewed this winter classic with the optional spices, then you'll revel in your winter wassail, with its enticing flavors of vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg to propel you beside the fire through the most chilling winter nights!

Just the Facts, Ma'am:

BJCP Style: 21B. Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer
Original Specific Gravity: 1.075 - 1.079
Final Specific Gravity: 1.013 - 1.017
Alcohol by Volume: 8.1%
Color: 19 SRM (Flickering With Caramel & Copper!)
International Bittering Units: 20
Batch Size: 5 Gallons
Time to Awesome Drinkability: 6 Weeks!

Your recipe kit includes the freshest malt, hops and yeast. If you are not going to brew your recipe immediately, it is important to refrigerate your yeast and hops. If your recipe includes bags of malt syrup, these should be refrigerated too. Bags of dried malt do not require refrigeration. Also, all grains are best stored at dry room temperature.

Ingredients:

Fermentables:

6.6 lbs Amber Malt Syrup
2.2 lbs Light Malt Syrup
1 lb Brown Sugar

Grains & Wort Additives:

4 oz 60L Crystal Malt (Crushed)
4 oz 90L Crystal Malt (Crushed)
2 oz Chocolate Malt (Crushed)

Hops:

1 oz Galena Hops (Bittering, 60 Minutes)
1/2 oz Saaz Hops (Bittering & Flavor, 10 Minutes)
1/2 oz Saaz Hops (Aroma, 1 Minute)

Yeast:

Liquid Yeast: Wyeast 1056 American Ale Yeast
Or
Dry Yeast: Safbrew S-33 Ale Yeast

Brewing Supplies & Flavors:

1 Muslin Bag
5 oz Priming Sugar

Optional Spices for Brewing Wassail:

5 inches Cinnamon Stick (Chop into fine pieces)
5 tsp. Nutmeg
1 Vanilla Bean (Chop into fine pieces) or 1 Tbs. Vanilla Extract

Pre-Brew Day Checklist:

If you are using liquid yeast, it is always desirable to make a yeast starter when fermenting higher alcohol brews. Making a yeast starter allows you to propagate to a greater (and necessary) cell count to ensure complete fermentation. You can find the complete yeast starter instructions at www.boomchugalug.com/yeaststarter.htm

Brew Day Checklist:

On brew day, you will require the following equipment:

- Brew Pot - A 5 gallon brew pot is ideal, but never use a pot that is less than 4 gallons.
- Long-handled spoon or paddle for stirring the boiling wort.
- Primary Fermenter - A 6½ gallon (or greater) food-grade plastic bucket with lid, or a 6½ glass carboy.
- Airlock
- Stopper (if using a carboy)
- Funnel (if using a carboy)
- Hydrometer (Optional, if you want to measure your specific gravity)
- Sanitizing Solution
- Scissors
- Glass Jar with Lid (for spice potion)

Preparation of the Spice Potion!

On brew day, place the cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla in a jar with 1 cup of vodka. Screw on a tight fitting lid and let the spices soak in the vodka until bottling time.

Note: Don't hesitate to use the least expensive "rot-gut" vodka you can find. The quality of vodka has no effect on the final quality of the spice potion.

On the day you rack the beer into the secondary fermenter, you will require the following equipment:

- 5 gallon carboy
- Airlock
- Stopper
- Siphon Setup

The Magical Procedure:

Liquid Yeast Activation Before Brewing:

If you are fermenting with liquid yeast, you must activate the yeast packet before it is ready to pitch. Always check the manufacturing date stamped on the yeast packet. Yeast that is less than 1 month old may be activated on brew day. A yeast that is more than 2 months old may require additional preparation time. Always make sure your yeast has been properly activated before using. Please see

Flip the sheet to continue the magic. Also, this is a good time to pour a cold one! →



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www.boomchugalug.com/wyeast.htm for complete liquid yeast activation instructions.

Time to Brew!

Total Boiling Time: 60 Minutes. While your wort is boiling, you should sanitize your fermentation equipment, such as your primary fermenter, airlock, scissors, stopper, etc. After you have sanitized your fermenter, fill it with 2 gallons of cold water, into which you will later add your hot boiled wort.

1. Place all grains in the large muslin bag and add to 1.5 gallons of water. Measure the water volume carefully to ensure you extract the proper amount of hop bitterness during the boil.
2. Heat water until the temperature is between 150° and 170°F. Steep the grains between this temperature range for 30 minutes. Steeping longer than 30 minutes does not hurt.
3. Remove and discard the grains, and bring this mixture to a boil. Remove the pot from the heat and add malt extracts and brown sugar. To prevent scorching, stir until all of the malt is dissolved. Then bring this mixture to a boil. Watch for boilovers!
4. When boiling begins again, add 1 oz of Galena hops. Boil for 60 minutes.
5. With 10 minutes remaining in the 60 minute boil, add 1/2 oz of Saaz hops
6. With 1 minute remaining in the 60 minute boil, add 1/2 oz of Saaz hops.

Chill out, Man! (Chill the Wort)

1. At the end of the 60 minute boil, cool the wort to approximately 75°F as quickly as possible. With extract brewing, the easiest way to quick-chill the wort is to place your brew pot into a sink full of ice. For complete instructions using this method, please see www.boomchugalug.com/cooling.htm.
2. Add your chilled wort to the 2 gallons of water already in your fermenter.
3. Add any extra water needed to bring the total volume in your fermenter to 5 gallons.
4. If you would like to measure the specific gravity, now is a good time. To get an accurate reading, it is important to make sure all of the heavy wort extract you added to the fermenter has been completely mixed in the water.

Pitch the Yeast! (Into the Wort, But Not Out the Window!)

1. When your wort has cooled to approximately 75°F (70° - 78°F is okay), aerate the wort before adding the yeast. Simply close the fermenter and swirl around to mix in oxygen. If you are swirling a carboy, it is helpful to place the carboy on a thick, folded blanket to avoid damaging the vessel.
2. After aerating, pitch (add) the yeast. Use the sanitized scissors to cut open the yeast packet. If you are using liquid yeast, sanitize the pack before opening. If you are using dried yeast, simply sprinkle the yeast over the wort. No mixing is necessary.
3. Close the fermenter, attach the airlock, and keep the fermenter warm (between 70° - 78°F) until you see fermentation beginning, such as the airlock bubbling once every 30 seconds. Wrapping the fermenter with a blanket is an easy way to keep the fermenter warm.

Fermentation:

There are several ways to know when fermentation has begun. First, you will begin to see bubbling through the airlock. If you are using a carboy, then you will usually see the yeast begin to form a layer over the beer's surface.

1. Once fermentation begins, move the fermenter to a room with the proper temperature. The ideal temperature to ferment this beer is between 60° - 72°F. Do not let the temperature drop below 60°F. If you do, fermentation may stop too soon. That's a bummer, man.
2. Active fermentation may take as long as two weeks after pitching the yeast, although fermentation may finish in 3 to 5 days.

Secondary Fermentation:

After about one week, fermentation will begin to slow. This is a good time to siphon

the beer into the 5 gallon glass carboy. Allow the beer to rest in the secondary for 2-3 weeks before bottling. If you will not be using a secondary, allow fermentation to complete in the primary fermenter.

Time to Bottle!

There are several ways to tell when fermentation is complete (besides your drooling). If you correctly pitched the yeast and fermentation quickly began, and if the beer fermented vigorously and the fermenter was always within the correct temperature range (60° - 72°F), then fermentation should finish in two weeks or less. You should see virtually no activity in the airlock. For example, if the airlock only bubbles once a minute or longer, then fermentation should be complete. If you are unsure if fermentation has ended, you may use your hydrometer to measure the specific gravity. If your specific gravity does not change after two or more days, then fermentation is complete and you are ready to bottle!

1. Before bottling, sanitize your bottling bucket, auto siphon (or racking cane), hose, bottle filler, caps and bottles. Glass bottles may be sanitized one day in advance by baking them in the oven. Instructions for bottle baking may be found at www.boomchugalug.com/baking_bottles.htm
2. Dissolve 5 ounces (by weight) or 3/4 cup of corn sugar in a 16 oz of water. Boil for 5 minutes. Corn sugar is sometimes called dextrose or priming sugar.
3. Add the spice potion (optional step). Place your fermenter on the counter and your bottling bucket on the floor. Pour the sugar solution into the bottling bucket, and siphon the beer from the fermenter into the bottling bucket. Siphon carefully, trying to minimize splashing and aeration of the beer. Also when siphoning, be sure to leave behind the sediment at the bottom of the fermenter. There's no problem if you should siphon up a little sediment. When you're done siphoning, gently stir the beer in the bottling bucket to make sure all of the sugar solution has been dissolved. Your racking cane makes a convenient stirring wand.
4. Place your bottling bucket on the counter, and attach your siphon hose and bottle filler to the bucket's spigot. Fill the bottles to about 1 inch from the top, and cap each bottle.

Carbonation and Maturation!

Now that your bottles are primed and capped, the remaining yeast will undergo a second fermentation in the bottle whereby they eat the priming sugar and produce carbon dioxide, which is trapped in the bottle to produce the carbonation. While your beer is carbonating, it will also be clearing and maturing - the young, rough undeveloped flavors develop into your magical beverage! Your wondrous elixir reaches awesome drinkability about 6 weeks from the day you began the brew, but don't be surprised if it keeps getting better as time goes on.

1. Place your bottles in a dark place at room temperature (62 °F - 75 °F), and wait at least two weeks for the beer to carbonate. It is important that you keep the beer between 62 °F - 75 °F for carbonation to develop. If the beer cools below 62 °F, it may not properly carbonate. In brewing, this is officially known as the buzzkill. Keep it warm, let it carbonate!
2. Get your bottle opener handy dude (or dudette), because it's time to drink a beer! When pouring the beer into your glass, be sure to leave the bottle's sediment behind. That sediment is the yeast which carbonated your beer, and if you pour it into your glass, you'll make the beer cloudy and taste yeasty. But this is a ripoff, you say! I'm losing a 1/4 inch of my wonderful beer! If you'd like to do so (and we most certainly do!), you may swirl up and drink the dregs. Brewer's yeast is a rich source of vitamin B complex, so here's to your health!
3. Once your beer is carbonated, you may store it in a cool place. Keep in mind that home-brewed is unfiltered, and unfiltered beers actually continue to improve with time. If your beer seems rough-around-the edges or tastes yeasty, these qualities usually morph into a smooth, clean beer over time. Cheers!

