

SCOTTISH WEE HEAVY

Official NORTHERN BREWER Instructional Document

Some Scottish historians theorize that Charles Stuart didn't flee Scotland after the failed 1745 uprising; instead, he had a few too many Wee Heavies in the Outer Hebrides and then just sort of woke up in France. History may keep her secrets, but you can share the experience of a Wee Heavy. There's a little Jacobite Revolution in every bottle. These are the very strongest of all Scottish ales, with a garnet-brown hue, profound maltiness and high alcohol content. Our Wee Heavy showcases complex toffee and vinous notes and a restrained hop character. Best imbibed in small doses, this kit continues to develop with age and is great for cellaring.

O.G.: 1.083 READY: 3 MONTHS

2-4 weeks primary, 2 months secondary,
2-4 weeks bottle conditioning

KIT INVENTORY:

SPECIALTY GRAIN

- 0.5 lbs English Medium Crystal
- 0.375 lbs Belgian Biscuit
- 0.125 lbs English Roasted Barley

FERMENTABLES

- 6 lbs Gold malt syrup (60 min)
- 6 lbs Gold malt syrup late addition (15 min)

HOPS & FLAVORINGS

- 1 oz German Northern Brewer (60 min)

YEAST

- **WYEAST 1728 SCOTTISH ALE.** Apparent attenuation: 69-73%. Flocculation: high. Optimum temp: 55°-70° F.
- **DRY YEAST ALTERNATIVE: DANSTAR NOTTINGHAM ALE YEAST.** Optimum temp: 57°-70° F.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN ...

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Homebrewing starter kit for brewing 5 gallon batches
- Boiling kettle of at least 3.5 gallons capacity
- A 5 gallon glass carboy, with bung and airlock, to use as a secondary fermenter - If you do not have a secondary fermenter you may skip the secondary fermentation and add an additional week to primary fermentation before bottling
- Approximately two cases of either 12 oz or 22 oz pry-off style beer bottles

UNPACK THE KIT

Refrigerate the yeast upon arrival

- Locate the Kit Inventory (above) - this is the recipe for your beer, so keep it handy
- Doublecheck the box contents vs. the Kit Inventory
- Contact us immediately if you have any questions or concerns!

PROCEDURE

A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREWING DAY

1. Remove the liquid Wyeast pack from the refrigerator, and "smack" as shown on the back of the yeast package. Leave it in a warm place (70-80° F) to incubate until the pack begins to inflate. Allow at least 3 hours for inflation; some packs may take up to several days to show inflation. Do not brew with inactive yeast - we can replace the yeast, but not a batch that fails to ferment properly. If you are using dry yeast, no action is needed.

2. Prepare a yeast starter. Follow the Yeast Starter Kit instructions. Allow the starter to incubate for at least one day. Or, instead of a yeast starter, reuse a yeast cake from a previous batch.

- **ALTERNATE METHOD: YEAST CAKE.** Instead of a yeast starter, reuse yeast from a previous batch. Brew a batch of beer using the same yeast 1 to 2 weeks before Brew Day. On Brew Day, transfer the batch out of the primary fermenter and save the slurry from the bottom to pitch into the chilled wort. Be sure to follow good sanitizing procedures!

ON BREWING DAY

3. Collect and heat 2.5 gallons of water.

4. For mail-order customers grains for extract kits come crushed by default, but if you requested uncrushed grains, crush them now. Pour crushed grain into supplied mesh bag and tie the open end in a knot. Steep for 20 minutes or until water reaches 170°F. Remove bag and discard.

5. Bring to a boil and add 6 lbs Gold malt syrup. Remove the kettle from the burner and stir in the Gold malt syrup.

6. Return wort to boil. The mixture is now called "wort", the brewer's term for unfermented beer.

- Add 1 oz German Northern Brewer hops and boil for 60 minutes.

- Add 6 lbs of Gold malt syrup 15 minutes before the end of the boil.

7. Cool the wort. When the 60-minute boil is finished, cool the wort to approximately 100° F as rapidly as possible. Use a wort chiller, or put the kettle in an ice bath in your sink.

8. Sanitize fermenting equipment and yeast pack. While the wort cools, sanitize the fermenting equipment - fermenter, lid or stopper, fermentation lock, funnel, etc - along with the yeast pack and a pair of scissors.

9. Fill primary fermenter with 2 gallons of cold water, then pour in the cooled wort. Leave any thick sludge in the bottom of the kettle.

10. Add more cold water as needed to bring the volume to 5 gallons.

11. Aerate the wort. Seal the fermenter and rock back and forth to splash for a few minutes, or use an aeration system and diffusion stone.

12. Measure specific gravity of the wort with a hydrometer and record.

13. Add yeast once the temperature of the wort is 78°F or lower (not warm to the touch). Use the sanitized scissors to cut off a corner of the yeast pack, and carefully pour the yeast into the primary fermenter.

14. Seal the fermenter. Add approximately 1 tablespoon of water to the sanitized fermentation lock. Insert the lock into rubber stopper or lid, and seal the fermenter.

15. Move the fermenter to a warm, dark, quiet spot until fermentation begins.

BEYOND BREWING DAY, WEEKS 2-4

16. Active fermentation begins. Within approximately 48 hours of Brewing Day, active fermentation will begin - there will be a cap of foam on the surface of the beer, the specific gravity as measured with a hydrometer will drop steadily, and you may see bubbles come through the fermentation lock. The optimum fermentation temperature for this beer is 55-70° F - move the fermenter to a warmer or cooler spot as needed.

17. Active fermentation ends. Approximately two weeks to four weeks after brewing day, active fermentation will end. When the cap of foam falls back into the new beer, bubbling in the fermentation lock slows down or stops, and the specific gravity as measured with a hydrometer is stable, proceed to the next step.

18. Transfer beer to secondary fermenter. Sanitize siphoning equipment and an airlock and carboy bung or stopper. Siphon the beer from the primary fermenter into the secondary.

BEYOND BREWING DAY- SECONDARY FERMENTATION

19. Secondary fermentation. Allow the beer to condition in the secondary fermenter for 2 months before proceeding with the next step. Timing now is somewhat flexible.

BOTTLING DAY-ABOUT 2.5 MONTHS AFTER BREWING DAY

20. Sanitize siphoning and bottling equipment.

21. Mix a priming solution (a measured amount of sugar dissolved in water to carbonate the bottled beer). Use the following amounts, depending on which type of sugar you will use:

- Corn sugar (dextrose) 2/3 cup in 16 oz water.
- Table sugar (sucrose) 5/8 cup in 16 oz water.

Then bring the solution to a boil and pour into the bottling bucket.

22. Siphon beer into bottling bucket and mix with priming solution. Stir gently to mix-don't splash.

23. Fill and cap bottles.

2-4 WEEKS AFTER BOTTLING DAY

24. Condition bottles at room temperature for 2-4 weeks. After this point, the bottles can be stored cool or cold.

25. Serving. Pour into a clean glass, being careful to leave the layer of sediment at the bottom of the bottle. Cheers!