



Beer Craft: A Simple Guide to Making Great Beer

William Bostwick, Jessi Rymill

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Six easy steps to making world-class beer in your kitchen! *Beer Craft* by William Bostwick and Jessi Rymill is your guide to drinking the best beer you've ever tasted—by making it yourself. This kitchen manual has everything you need to turn your stove into a small-batch, artisanal brewery. Hone your craft by perfecting the basic beer styles, or go wild with specialty techniques like barrel-aging and brewing with fruit. *Beer Craft* is the ultimate modern homebrewing resource, simple and clear but packed with enough information to satisfy anyone making their first, or four-hundredth, beer.

- Master simple stovetop recipes for all your favorite styles, from pale ales and barleywines to fruit and sour beers
- Flavor your beer with spices, special grains, and a pantry full of deliciously unexpected extras like coffee, chocolate, and homegrown hops
- Create labels and bottle caps for your home brewery, and get inspired by retro designs of beers gone by
- Get pro tips on advanced techniques like barrel-aging and wild bacteria from interviews with brewers at Rogue, Sierra Nevada, Stone, and more of today's best craft breweries
- Learn facts from beer history, like recipes for ancient bog-myrtle and heather beers, the story of the great London beer flood of 1814, and even brewing advice from Thomas Jefferson

Beer Craft: A Simple Guide to Making Great Beer Details

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Ashlie says

Way more style than substance, which annoyed me and made me want to rate it 1 star, but the substance that is there salvaged the rating. The main idea in the book is brewing one gallon, all-grain batches which allows the brewer to easily try different styles. The book provides (very) basic recipes and ideas for adapting them to the brewer's preferences. There were some good ideas on decorating bottles -- I particularly like the idea of the fired-on labels -- and bottle caps in order to add one's own style beyond what's inside the bottle. However, I think this is better taken from the library than purchased, or if you must own it, get it used. Most of the info on brewing itself has been covered much better -- and the history of beer styles more accurately reported -- by others.

Brad says

Great little book about beginning all-grain homebrewing in simple one-gallon batches. The book is very well designed and is filled with interesting and informative graphics. Also starts with a nice little history of beer where I learned quite a few things. The book is small and will come in handy for someone trying to follow along and use as an instruction manual when trying out their first homebrew. Does a great job of describing the different varieties of the different ingredients, giving some basic recipes and offering advice on how to do variations. Also enjoyed the little one page interviews they had with various professional craft brewers, from the big (Sam Adams) to the small (Jolly Pumpkin). A pretty quick read that will be handy to hold onto as a guide to homebrewing for someone like me, who knows beer but doesn't know much about brewing, can understand.

Ellen says

This book is lovely--as much graphic triumph as handy guide to brewing your own beer.

LINDA says

One of the most simple and most useful Beer Brewing books that I have come across! A fun read that inspires you to get your brew on! P. 148 had instructions to fire-on a permanent label to your bottles at home!

Kyle says

Great quick read. Would highly recommend this book as a good reference guide.

Steven Raines says

One of the bedtime home brewing books I have in my collection, this is just a very straight forward guide to all grain brewing. Definitely not for the experienced brewer, but a great choice for new brewers or the occasional brewer looking for simple step by step instructions. Recipes included are for basic styles with instructions on how to make modifications (hoppier, maltier, spiced, etc). I especially like that the book explains beer making for 1 gallon batches (10-12oz bottles) which suit small kitchen brewers.

Katia says

Super easy and fun read which I finished over the weekend. Cute graphics full of info. I was hoping for the video tutorials they said could be found on their site, but was unable to find them. The blog is good and informative. Super excited to start brewing this fall. Need to buy some equipment.

Alex Podolsky says

Perfect for a beginning brewer who is really interested in learning about the ideas behind beer. Builds a foundation that's sufficient to go and start brewing, but then offers a ton of detail and opens a window on the variety that's possible in the world of beer. While it may seem overwhelming at times, the easy-to-follow design and an understandable language make it a great introduction for a beginner.

Clif Brittain says

I love this. Exactly where I want to be: newbie, all-grain, small batch, MacGyver brewer. Extra bonus that book has very neat graphics. Love bar charts with stubbie bottles as icons. Not as complete as Palmer, but great first brew book. My brew library would now be 1. Bostwick, 2. Palmer, 3. Miller.

Victor says

As it says: simple guide. I started brewing with this book and it has everything you need to brew. If you are a beginner it is perfect.

Sagely says

Recently I've converted to one gallon brewing. The truth is, I'll never drink 53 beers of whatever I've home-brewed (especially if the results are less than impressive). I share with friends, but pastors have to be careful to whom they hand out free beer. (You never want to send someone back down a dark road they've been

struggling so hard to leave behind.)

Beer Craft presents a fairly usable intro to one gallon home brewing (though the layout and text colors sometimes make for hard reading). Its simplicity is helpful. I'm going to try a few of their basic beer style recipes.

But BC lost me with its emphasis on label design. I could have used a lot more info on the brewing process without page after page of beer labels--most of which aren't that impressive.

Maybe the highpoint of BC is the interviews with professional craft brewers. Some of the advice and especially the reflections offered there will keep me thinking for a while.

Dale says

Excellent book for anyone who is just getting started as a home brewer. I purchased this book because it had recipes for one gallon batches of home brew, where most other books concentrated on five gallon batch recipes. Easy to read, straight forward and packed with great information.

Jenny says

A great little book for anyone looking to start home brewing. Or that just wants to learn more about beer brewing in general. It is well organized and concise with tons of great beer information. The graphics really help illustrate many of the facts and info in the book. A great resource for any home brewer. Thoroughly enjoyable and quick read.

Ken says

Fantastic little reference that's a handy guide for starting out with homebrewing or getting more info about the history and current state of the hobby. Very well laid out with sections that allow it to serve -in my opinion- more as a reference than narrative text.

Doug says

I liked this book and have tried some of the recipes with good results. It is a good starter book for small all grain batches.
