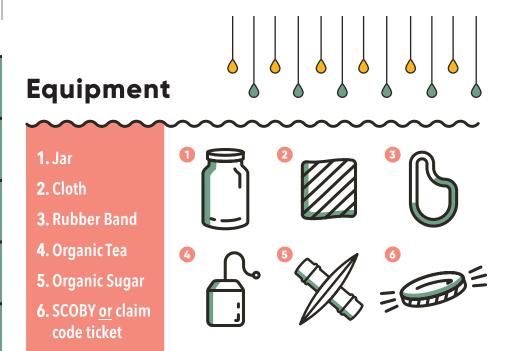


# A guide to brewing your own kombucha.

Kombucha is a fizzy, slightly sweet and tart fermented tea that has been around for a LONG time. It is thought to have found its origins in China in the 200's BC! Kombucha has long been enjoyed for its many health benefits and bold, delicious taste. Every glass is packed with probiotics, acids, enzymes and all kinds of vitamins and minerals which help maintain a healthy and happy tummy!

At is kombuc

Enjoy your kombucha tea!



#### **Other Recommended Equipment**

- Medium stock pot
- Ten 12 oz swing top bottles or our Kombucha Bottling Kit
- Funnel for bottling
- Measuring cup

## Sanitation

The most important part of the kombucha making process is properly sanitizing your equipment. If any outside bacteria get in to your brew they will grow and make your kombucha undrinkable. Be sure to use soap that is NOT antibacterial (most dish soaps work) when cleaning equipment, as this will kill all of the positive bacteria that kombucha needs to thrive.

#### Brewing

- 1. Pour 4 cups of water into your pot & bring to a boil. Once a boil is achieved remove pot from heat.
- 2. Let cool for about 2 minutes. Add organic black tea to the included bag, then add to the pot. Steep in the hot water for 15 minutes.

- 3. After steeping, remove tea bag from pot and give it a good squeeze to remove any excess water and discard.
- 4. Add sugar to pot and stir to dissolve.
- 5. Add 9 cups of <u>cool</u> filtered water directly to the glass jar then pour contents from pot into the glass jar.
- 6. Once liquid in jar is room temperature, add SCOBY & the liquid (starter tea) from its pouch to the jar. Add more water to the jar if necessary to get to about 4 inches below the top.
- 7. Cover jar with the included cloth & secure with the rubber band.

#### Fermentation

Be sure to ferment out of direct sunlight at a temperature between 70 - 85°F with access to plenty of air (no closets or cabinets). Be sure to ferment away from plants, produce, trash or compost. Your kombucha will ferment for 7 - 14 days. We recommend tasting your kombucha with a clean spoon at day 7. If you like the flavor, move on to bottling. If you prefer it to be more tart continue fermenting.

# Salvage Your SCOBY

Before bottling or adding any flavor you will need to remove your SCOBY from the jar to save it for future batches. You may notice that the SCOBY has grown or multiplied - this is normal. The original "mother" SCOBY will have created a new culture during fermentation. They may remain attached or may have separated. Either way, remove any & all SCOBYs from the jar with clean hands and place in a glass bowl. (Note: do not wash your hands with antibacterial soap, as this could kill the SCOBY.) With a measuring cup, scoop 1 - 2 cups of fermented kombucha from the jar and add to the bowl with your SCOBY. This will serve as "starter tea" for your next batch. Once your kombucha is bottled return the SCOBY & reserved liquid to the now-empty jar and cover with the cloth and rubber band. Store for up to 4 weeks before making another batch of kombucha.

#### **Bottling**

A

B

C

After fermentation & after your SCOBY and starter tea are removed, your kombucha is ready to bottle. There are a few options for bottling below. We highly recommend adding fruit to your kombucha, as the natural sugar helps with carbonation!

If you want to drink your kombucha right away, you can bottle, immediately refrigerate & drink. Only trace amounts of carbonation will have developed during fermentation, so your kombucha will be nearly flat.

If you prefer a fizzier kombucha, you can bottle & store at room temperature for 3-4 days before testing a bottle for carbonation. If it's fizzy, refrigerate. If not, test again in 2-3 days. Be sure to fill bottles sufficiently, leaving about only 1" of headspace. Fuller bottles mean more carbonation. Be sure to not forget about them, if they stay at room temperature for too long pressure can build and burst the bottles!

If you'd like to add fruit or herbs to flavor your kombucha you can add these directly to your bottles before filling with kombucha. Age for 2-3 days before testing a bottle for carbonation. Once fizzy, refrigerate. Find flavoring tips in the next section!

However you proceed, we recommend using swing top bottles. You can ask for extras at a bar or pick them up from your local home-brew shop. Another option is using our Kombucha Bottling Kit, which includes ten 12 oz Stout Bottles and caps designed specifically for kombucha.

- 1. Rinse bottles with warm water and make sure there isn't any sediment or other potential contaminants.
- 2. Wash bottles (do NOT use antibacterial soap).
- **3.** Pour your finished kombucha into bottles. We recommend using a funnel & doing this over the sink.



#### Flavoring

If you plan to add fruit &/or herbs to your bottled kombucha you'll want to first decide on a flavor. Typically, we like to add one or two fruits with an herb or spice. The sky's the limit, so have fun with it! Just be sure to follow our rules of thumb:

- If you're adding fresh juice (recommended over concentrate) use a ratio of about 10% juice and 90% kombucha per bottle.
- You can also add chopped up fruit directly to the bottle. We recommend finely chopping the fruit to ensure the maximum amount of surface area contact with the kombucha for maximum flavor.
- Herbs are a matter of personal taste. It's best to add a little at a time, wait a day and taste to see if you prefer more intensity. Dried herbs are more potent than fresh, so be careful when using dried. Remember, it's always easy to add more, but you can't take flavor away!
- Write everything down! Remembering recipes and keeping a log is the best way to remember how much of what ingredient gives you the flavor your looking for.
- Once your flavor is added seal the bottles and put it in a dark & room temperature place to let it work its magic! Natural sugar from the fruit will feed the yeast and will create carbonation after a couple days to give you that fizzy goodness. After desired carbonation is achieved place bottles in the refrigerator to lock in the carbonation.

#### WARNING!

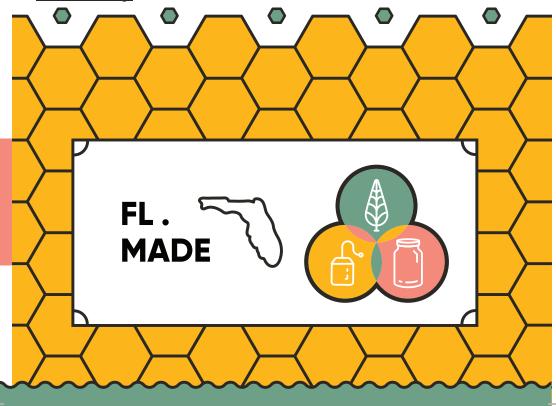
Don't forget about your bottled kombucha! If left at room temperature for too long pressure will continue to build & bottles may burst. The safest way to get fizzy kombucha is to test for carbonation every few days by "burping" the bottles & listening for a hiss. Once desired carbonation is achieved, immediately refrigerate the batch.

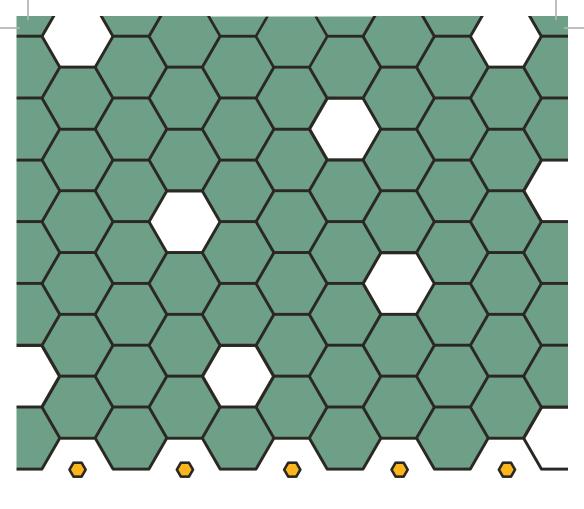
#### A Word on Alcohol

Just like your favorite store-bought kombucha, your homebrewed booch will contain trace amounts of alcohol. During fermentation & bottling, the yeast that converts sugar into carbonation will create less than 0.5% alcohol, which is comparable to non-alcoholic beer.

### **Looking Ahead to Your Next Batch**

With the equipment and SCOBY in this kit, you can continue brewing kombucha for infinite-TEA! All you'll need is 1 cup of sugar and 6 tsp (or 6 bags) of black tea to start a new batch. Find ingredient refills on our website or experiment with your own tea blends. Be sure to salvage your SCOBY & 1-2 cups of fermented kombucha after each batch. With each fermentation you'll notice the SCOBY grow and change - this is normal. If you're ever concerned about the appearance of your SCOBY, email us before discarding!





#### 🗩 visit us online 🗢

# craftabrew.com drinkhumblebumble.com © 2020 CRAFTABREW. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOLLOW ALONG O F