



Thunderbolts & Lightning Imperial Apricot IPA



One summery afternoon while relaxing beneath a shady tree and contemplating the bubbles rising in your glass, you heard a snap, and then when WHAMOO! You were bonked on the noggin with a falling apricot! But instead of seeing stars, you saw lightning, and in a moment's genius you discovered the law of iso-apri-delish-iosi-ism, which is long-haired gobbledygook for, "Holy s#%t, Hop Boy! This amped-up imperial apricot IPA is mo#%er-f*king, a\$\$-k*&%ing awesome!" (Censor's note: we apologize for any sudden outbursts of profanity. Research reports that apricot-bonked inspiration stirs the depths of rabid, hop-psychotic intellectualism.) Who would've guessed that the juicy ripeness of apricot married with hop-flavor-explosion titillates the taste buds like Olympian gods hurling thunderbolts of yumminess upon your senses? Well, brush the guessing aside, because with one sip you'll be a believer—except that you'll glance down in disbelief at how you drained your glass with lightning speed!

Just the Facts, Ma'am:

BJCP Style: 14C. Imperial IPA With Apricot Flavor
Original Specific Gravity: 1.074 - 1.078
Final Specific Gravity: 1.012 - 1.016
Alcohol by Volume: 8.1%
Color: 9 SRM (An apricotty light amber! Hey, is "apricotty" really a word?)
International Bittering Units: 85
Yeast Starter: Recommended For Liquid Yeast
Secondary: Recommended
Time to Awesome Drinkability: 8 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:

Malt Bag 1

2.4 lbs. Light Malt Extract Syrup

Malt Bag 2

5.5 lbs Light Malt Extract Syrup

1.1 lbs Wheat Mal Extrat Syrup

2 lbs Corn Sugar

Grains & Wort Additives:

5 oz 10L Crystal Malt (Crushed)

4 oz 40L Crystal Malt (Crushed)

Hops:

2 oz Warrior Hops (Bittering, 65 Minutes)

¼ oz Azacca Hops (Flavor & Aroma Hop, After-the-Boil Steep, 10 Minutes)

¼ oz Falconer's Flight Hops (Flavor & Aroma Hop, After-the-Boil Steep, 10 Minutes)

¼ oz Wai-iti Hops (Flavor & Aroma Hop, After-the-Boil Steep, 10 Minutes)

¼ oz Zythos Hops (Flavor & Aroma Hop, After-the-Boil Steep, 10 Minutes)

¾ oz Azacca Hops (Flavor & Aroma, Dry Hop)

¾ oz Falconer's Flight Hops (Flavor & Aroma, Dry Hop)

¾ oz Wai-iti Hops (Flavor & Aroma, Dry Hop)

¾ oz Zythos Hops (Flavor & Aroma, Dry Hop)

Yeast:

Liquid Yeast: Wyeast 1056 American Ale Yeast or
Wyeast 1272 American II Ale Yeast

Or

Dry Yeast: Safale US-05 Yeast or Lallemand BRY-97 Yeast

Brewing Supplies & Flavors:

4 oz Apricot Flavor Extract

1 Muslin Bag

5 oz Priming Sugar

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. For more information about yeast starters, please visit the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section on boomchugalug.com.

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)

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

- 5 gallon carboy • Airlock • Stopper

The Magical Procedure:

Liquid Yeast Activation Before Brewing:

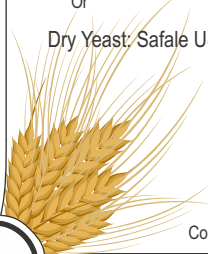
If you are fermenting with liquid yeast, you must activate the yeast packet before it is ready to pitch. Always check the manufacturing date stamped on the yeast packet. Yeast that is less than 1 month old may be activated on brew day. A yeast that is more than 2 months old may require additional preparation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

Time to Brew!

Total Boiling Time: 65 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

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





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which you will later add your hot boiled wort.

1. Place the crushed grains in a muslin bag and add to 2.5 gallons of water. Measure this volume carefully to ensure you extract the proper amount of hop bitterness.
2. Heat water until the temperature is between 150 and 170 degrees. Steep the grains between this temperature range for 30 minutes.
3. Remove and discard the grains. Add Malt Bag 1 and stir until dissolved. Bring this mixture to a boil.
4. When boiling begins, add 2 oz of Warrior hops. Boil these hops for the entire 65 minutes. During the boil, periodically add more boiling water to the brew kettle to maintain the original approximate liquid level.
5. With 5 minutes remaining in the 65 minute boil, pause the brew timer, remove the kettle from the heat. Add Malt Bag 2 and the corn sugar. Stir until dissolved, bring the wort back to a boil, and boil for the last 5 minutes.
6. At the end of the 65 minute boil, remove kettle from the heat. Add ¼ oz each of Azacca, Falconer's Flight, Wai-iti and Zythos hops. Place the cover over kettle and steep for 10 minutes.

Note: During this steep, it is important to cover the kettle to prevent loss of the delicate and volatile hop oils. Loss of these delicate oils WOULD BE BAD, because you would deprive your taste buds of the mind-blowing deliciousness. Just saying.

Chill out, Man! (Chill the Wort)

1. At the end of the 65 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 more information about cooling your wort quickly, please see 'Fast Wort Chilling' in the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section on our website. .
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 62° - 74°F. Do not let the temperature drop below 64°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.

1. Dry Hop: When siphoning your beer into the secondary, add ¾ oz each of Azacca, Falconer's Flight, Wai-iti and Zythos hops when racking into the secondary carboy. Just cut 'em open and dump 'em in. Dude, that was easy!
2. Allow the beer to rest in the secondary for 1 - 2 weeks before bottling.
3. Add the apricot flavor. On the day before you bottle your beer, add the apricot flavor to the fermenter. No need to stir—the flavor will mix throughout the beer before bottling!

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 (62° - 74°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. More information about baking your bottles can be found under 'Baking Beer Bottles' in the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section on our website.
2. Dissolve 5 ounces (by weight) or 3/4 cup of corn sugar in 16 oz of water. Boil for 5 minutes. Corn sugar is sometimes called dextrose or priming sugar.
3. Pour the sugar solution into the bottling bucket, and siphon in the beer. 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. When done siphoning, gently stir the beer in the 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 8 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.
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!

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