

Hemlock Mill

Kölsch – 5.5 Gal - OG 1.054 – FG 1.011 – ABV 5.6% - IBU 20 – SRM 5.3

Knocking down walls, building desks, laying floor, and building new rooms is hot and sweaty work. For the last couple of months behind the scenes, we (Adrian) have been knee deep in renovations. One thing that quenches your thirst after some hard manual labour is a cold glass of beer. This month's beer is the epitome of that philosophy.

Named after our brand-new mill room, which is made from beautiful re-claimed hemlock beams – Hemlock Mill Kölsch is an extremely easy drinking Kölsch. It is well balanced, with a light honey sweetness that makes it super crushable. It is hopped just enough for balance and a bit of fruit character.

The secret ingredient is a tiny bit of honey at bottling/kegging. If you are planning to bottle, prime this beer with honey instead of sugar, and if you are kegging, add 1/8 cup of honey right before applying CO2 to the keg!

Ingredients

Grains

	Amount (lbs)
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Pilsner	6.0
Wheat Malt	2.0
Munich Type 1	1.0
Carafoam	0.5
Biscuit	0.3
Acidulated	0.25

Hops

	Amount (oz)	Boil Schedule (minutes)
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Hallertau (5.5% A.A.)	1.5	30
Nelson Sauvín (10.6)	1.0	0

Yeast

Kölsch – Escarpment Labs	1 Package
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Extras

Irish Moss	1 tsp for last 15 minutes of boil
Honey	165g (1/2 cup) at bottling for priming

Important Tips on Brewing

- Be extra cautious when it comes to cleaning! Once you have stopped boiling your wort everything that gets in contact with the beer MUST be sanitary.
- The temperature of your mash is ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL. Not being in the 150-155f range can drastically affect your beer. Make sure you correct the temperature ASAP once all of the grain has been added to the mash.
- Always let your beer ferment for 10 days! Do not disturb it, do not open the lid. It is absolutely natural for the airlock to stop bubbling after a few days, it is still fermenting though.
- Oxidization: Airspace is always something to consider. When undergoing primary fermentation airspace is needed so that the beer can bubble up and ferment vigourously without leaking out of the container. The fermentation creates a layer of CO2 that remains in the pail due to the airlock. Once primary fermentation is over, and the lid has been opened, the layer of CO2 dissipates, and oxygen replaces it. At this point airspace can ruin your beer. When racking into carboys make sure they are filled to the top, or you blast CO2 inside to prevent oxidization. Ask us for details on this!
- Before bottling, make sure you use a priming calculator (many can be found online) to verify the amount of sugar that needs to be added.

[Step by step Instructions on the other side](#) →→→

Instructions

Mashing -> converting the grain into a fermentable liquid.

- 1) Bring 6 gallons of water in your brew pot to 155°F. This is our strike temperature. Turn off the heat to the pot.
- 2) Wrap the muslin/nylon bag around the brew pot and slowly pour all the milled grains into the bag. Stir them in while adding to prevent clumps. The addition of grain should drop the temperature down to 150-155°F.
- 3) We want to mash the grain at 150°F for 60 minutes. It is very important to hold the temperature at 150°F. If the temperature rises above 155°F it hurts the fermentation, or if it dips below 149°F it can lead to a thinner tasting beer.
 - a. The first 15-30 minutes are essential for the success of your brew. The temperature HAS TO BE IN THE RANGE OF 150-155°F. Sometimes adding the grain to the strike water does not lower the temperature enough, in this case add a little bit of cold water to bring the temperature down. Cover the pot with your lid and let it sit.
 - b. Most brew pots will be able to maintain 150°F without adding heat for 20 minutes, we recommend checking the temperature every 15 minutes, and if it drops add more heat to bring it up. We recommend opening the lid and using a thermometer in the liquid.
- 4) After 60 minutes, bring the temperature of the mashing grain up to 170°F and hold for 10 minutes. This is our mash out.
- 5) Time to remove the grain. Lift the bag full of grain out of the brew pot. Let the liquid in the bag dribble into your wort. Once that is done, put the bag inside of a brewing pail, or another empty pot. There will be about 4 gallons of wort in the brewpot, we need to get it to 6 gallons before we can begin the next stage.
- 6) Run warm water through the grains in the bag, aim for 170°F – let it run through the grains and add to the brewpot. Add until you reach 6 gallons.
 - a. **PSA:** It is natural to think that the grains need to be squeezed to get all of the liquid out of them, **DO NOT DO THIS**. Aggressively squeezing the grains will lead to tannin extraction and a doughy taste in your beer. Lightly pressing the bag is fine, but do not try to squeeze every last drop out.

Boiling -> Hop addition time

- 1) Bring 6 gallons of your wort to a rolling boil, and let it boil for 5 minutes, this is called the hot break.
- 2) **Set a timer for 90 minutes**, keep the wort boiling (212°F) and uncovered.
- 3) With 30 minutes left in the timer, add 1.5oz of Hallertau hops.
- 4) With 15 minutes left, add 1 tsp of Irish Moss, and if you're using a wort chiller add that too.
- 5) When your timer goes off, turn off the heat, **add 1oz of Nelson Sauvin hops** and proceed to the cooling stage.
- 6) Now it's time to cool the beer down to 75°F (20-25°C) as quickly as possible.
 - a. We love using a wort chiller for this, it can get the beer down to temperature in 20-30 minutes. Otherwise, you can immerse the brew pot in an ice bath or wait it out. The longer it takes, the greater the risk of infection

Fermentation -> Turning the wort into beer

- 1) After the boil is done it is time to be extra careful in regard to sanitation. We recommend using a no-rinse sanitizer called Starsan. Mix ¼ tsp of it with water in a 500ml spray bottle. Before we touch any part of the beer we spray it with Starsan.
- 2) Transfer the cooled wort into your fermenting pail or carboy. Run it through a strainer to catch any hop or grain residue.
 - a. It is also an important time to take a hydrometer reading. It should be around 1.054 give or take a few points.
- 3) Your choice of fermentation vessel is important. During primary fermentation, it will bubble up quite a bit, you want to be sure there is airspace for it to work away. Otherwise the pressure of it will push out the airlock.
- 4) Make sure the wort has been cooled to at least 25°C!!! Adding yeast at a higher temperature will likely kill it.
- 5) Once the beer is in the fermenter, pour in the entire package of Kölsch yeast from Escarpment Labs.
- 6) Put the bung and airlock in the hole (make sure there is water filled up to the line in the airlock). If using a pail, make sure the lid is sealed tight. Put the pail in a room that is in the range of 16-19°C. The ideal temperature for a Kölsch ale fermentation is a consistent 17°C.**
- 7) After 8 days have passed, move the fermenter somewhere that is 20°C for two days. This allows the fermentation to finish.
- 8) It has now been 10 days; it is time to proceed to the bottling stage. First, take a hydrometer reading. It should be somewhere between 1.010-1.015.
- 9) Lately, we have been of the opinion that secondary is an unnecessary step. Unless you are kegging, we recommend skipping secondary and going straight to the bottling process. Clarification can occur in the bottle rather than in a carboy, and the risk of oxidization is greatly reduced.

Bottling -> We're getting close to Beer Time now.

- 1) Rack the now fermented beer into a bucket.
- 2) At the same time, mix the priming sugar (165g of honey) with 300ml of boiling water and add to the beer. Stir it in VERY gently.**
 - a. **We use honey in this recipe because it adds a tiny bit of extra sweetness to the beer that we find really completes it. If you are uncomfortable using honey, feel free to use dextrose or DME instead.**
- 3) Rack the beer into your bottles or growlers. Then, let them sit for 2-3 weeks at room temperature. Chill and enjoy!

PS, if you are kegging rather than bottling. We recommend adding 1/8 cup of honey to the beer prior to carbonating it!