

Carboy Hacks

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Carboy Volume Marking

- Benefits
 - Know how much beer / trub you have.
 - Too much to fit in a keg?
 - How many bottles to prep?
 - Know your efficiency for replication and recipe creation.



Preparing your Carboy

- Clean and dry the outside.
- Weigh the water, don't measure it.
 - Measuring cups are not always accurate.
 - 1 gallon of water weighs 8.345 pounds
- Decide on an increment
 - ½ gallon increments for 3+ gallon



Measure and Mark

- Process
 - Use both sides of the carboy
 - Draw vertical lines on each side to keep your marks straight.
 - Dry Erase marker or blue tape works good.
 - Add $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon water (or whatever increment).
 - Wait for it to settle.
 - Mark with dry erase marker or tape.
 - Repeat until full.
 - Empty carboy and dry.
 - Watch the lines!

Create your stencils

- Use Numbers and long dashes for whole gallons.
- Short dashes for ½ gallon marks.
- Cameo, Cricut, or similar cut printer works great.
 - Use paper type 651
- Raid your wife's scrapbooking supplies.
- Make your own out of blue tape.



Attach to Carboy

- Weed your stencils
- Use a nail point.
- Keep it straight vertically.
- Use the waste on the other side.
- Press on with hard plastic, credit card, spatula.



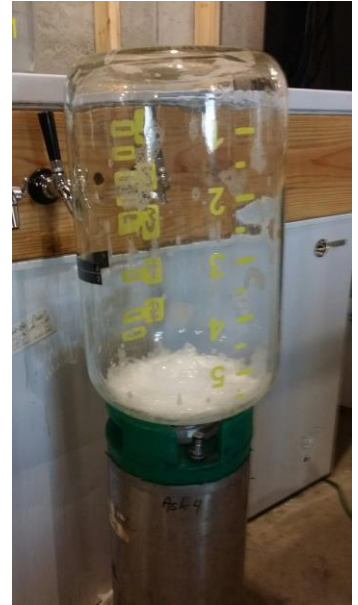
Glass Etching

- Can be purchased at a craft store (Michaels)
- Its an acid, use caution.
- Use a small paint brush to apply.
 - Small area at a time.
 - Stay in the lines.
- Wait 5 minutes
 - Re-use on a different area.
- Wipe etching cream off carefully with paper towel
- Rinse with cold water.
- Leave the stencil on until it wears off (if you want to)

More Hacks...

Sanitizing... if you didn't know

- Star san only requires 30 seconds of wet contact.
 - Fill carboy with about 1 gallon of Star san.
 - Or use a spray bottle.
 - Swirl around.
 - Invert on keg to drain.
 - No need to rinse.
- Seal your keg, its sanitized now as well.
 - Push out Star san with CO₂
 - Star san can be reused until pH is higher than 3.0



Carrying Do's and Don't's

- They are heavy, breakable, and dangerous.
- Do: Use a carboy carrier
- Don't: Carry it by the neck
- Do: Use Gravity
 - This is cold side, replace tubing frequently.
 - Clean immediately after use.
 - Pump or gravity transfer.
 - Helps to oxygenate the wort.



Using gravity

[View the Wort Transfer Video](#)



Cleaning...PBW and Hot water

- Use a carboy brush.
 - Wet the bristles first
- Buy/build a carboy scrubber for your drill:
 - Long threaded screw
 - Cloth towel



Carboy Cleaner

- Sump pump, bucket, and PVC attachments
 - More power is not necessarily a good thing.
 - Drill holes in PVC for side wall cleaning.
 - Cap top and drill holes, or leave open.
 - Water needs to get out too.
 - Anything that needs cleaning can be put in the bucket.

[View the Carboy Cleaner in action](#)



What about a keg cleaner?

- Add a T fitting with gas/liquid post
 - Use a cap to force PBW to post cleaner.
 - Drill holes in the cap.
 - Don't use a bucket lid, keg sits on the T.
 - Use hose clamps.



What about a growler cleaner?

- Stick the growler handle into the cord outlet on the lid.
- Lots of force, hold it down.
- Lots of water, use a small diameter pvc to get the water out.



What about a bottle cleaner?

- My pump would turn that into a bottle rocket, its too powerfull.

Dont

- Carboys are NOT meant for pressurized transfer.
 - Its dangerous, any crack or weakened glass could cause it to blow up.