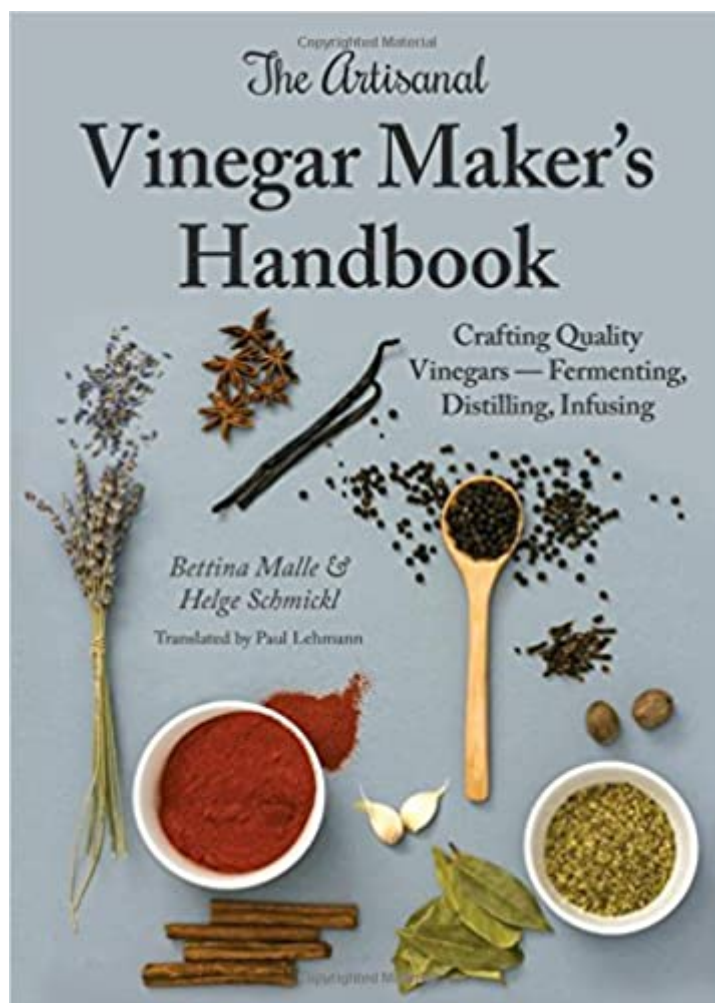


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# The Artisanal Vinegar Maker's Handbook



## Synopsis

Vinegar making is a very ancient craft. Mankind first harnessed the creation of vinegar, along with its preservative and medicinal qualities, more than ten thousand years ago. Nowadays, however, most guides to making your own vinegar are limited to allowing wine to ferment on its own, often with less-than-stellar results. Truly high-quality vinegar production is an art and science in itself. Austrian distillers Helge Schmickl and Bettina Malle use their experience and scientific background to provide special insight into the creation of artisanal vinegars. Translated into English for the first time, this guide offers tips on vinegar fermentation, distillation, and infusion. Schmickl and Malle instruct readers on the three processes commonly used to make vinegar - generator, surface, and submerged - as well as the ideal equipment for both the casual beginner and small-scale producer. Schmickl and Malle's meticulous experimentation has uncovered the optimal conditions for creating high-quality vinegar using every imaginable starter material, from wines to fruits to herbs. Readers will also learn recipes for using their vinegar in cooking, cleaning, and healthy living. Detailed, step-by-step instructions for over a hundred recipes illuminate this fascinating process for beginners, and even experienced vinegar crafters are bound to refine their techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Amateur vinegar makers have been usually poorly served as far as guides compared to those who are brewing beer or wine. Books on vinegar are published infrequently and rely only on traditional and non-scientific methods. However, the Artisanal Vinegar Maker's Handbook goes a long way in

rectifying this situation finally providing a book for vinegar makers on par with the best books on homebrewing. Bettina Malle and Helge Schmickl are some of the most knowledgeable experts outside of the industry and their resurrection of the packed generator process has allowed vinegar makers to produce vinegar more quickly and without the risk of spoilage. I highly recommend this and hope it is a turning point into launching vinegar brewing as a mainstream hobby. --Reginald Smith, Supreme Vinegar LLC

Historical Background  
Fundamentals  
WHAT IS VINEGAR?  
Characteristics of a good vinegar  
CHEMICAL PROCESSES  
How does vinegar form?: Synthetic production, Microbiological Production (Step 1: Alcoholic Fermentation, Step 2: Acetic Fermentation)  
Vinegar bacteria  
Thermal balance  
TYPES OF VINEGAR  
Fermented vinegar: Wine vinegar, Fruit vinegar, White vinegar (distilled vinegar, brandy/spirit vinegar), Malt vinegar, Beer vinegar, Cider vinegar, Pickling vinegar, Potato vinegar, Raisin vinegar, Whey vinegar, Rice vinegar, Honey vinegar, Pomace vinegar, Balsamic vinegar  
Infused vinegar: Aromatic and spice vinegar, Fruit vinegar  
Minimum acidity  
Microbiological Vinegar Production Processes  
SURFACE PROCESSES  
Orleans process, Pasteur process  
GENERATOR PROCESSES  
Rolling generators, Rotating generators, Boerhaave process, SchÄ zenbach's quick vinegar process (German process), Circulating or trickling generator (Frings generator)  
SUBMERGED PROCESSES, FRINGS ACETATOR  
Making your own vinegar  
ALCOHOLIC FERMENTATION - PREPARATION OF THE MASH  
Types of fruit and starchy products; Treatment of the fruit; Fermenting container; Traditional cider and fruit mashes; Conventional mashes; High-grade mashes, concentrating the mash, adding sugar to the mash; Starch mashes; Checking the progress of the fermentation; End of fermentation; Fermentation problems; Filtration; Storage; Using finished wine, fruit wine, mead, cider, perry, beer, distillate  
VINEGAR FERMENTATION  
Traditional method  
Simple vinegar fermentation: Equipment, Alcohol, Acidity, Vinegar bacteria, Fermentation temperature, Fermentation progress and further treatment, Produce more vinegar, Summary  
Improved surface process: Ratio of alcohol content to acidity, total concentration; Mineral nutrients; Acid-proof materials; Equipment and preparation (Airflow, Water bath or heat mat, Active vinegar culture - mother of vinegar, Pasteurizing); Instructions for the improved surface process  
Generator process: Advantages of the generator process, Basic assembly of the apparatus, Making the apparatus yourself, Schmickl vinegar generator, Vinegar generator - A brief user guide, Detailed instructions for the generator process (Pretreatment of the packing material, Starting the process, Spray schedule, Fermentation progress, Produce more vinegar or increase the total concentration)  
Reactivating, multiplying, and storing

vinegar cultures: Surface processes: Reactivation and multiplying (Living vinegar; Store-bought vinegar culture; Gelatinous mother of vinegar; Thaw frozen living vinegar; Active packing material from a generator; Store-bought, unpasteurized vinegar), Storage of active vinegar (Bottle the living vinegar, Mothers of vinegar, Freeze);<sup>Â</sup> Generator processes: Reactivation and multiplying (Frozen or fresh active packing material, Create more active packing material, Adding living vinegar to the generator), Storage of active packing material Problems, contamination, unwanted smells, and pests during fermentation: Fermentation problems, Fungal contamination, Unwanted smells, Animal pests (Vinegar eels, Small fruit flies - vinegar flies, Vinegar mites), Alcohol issues (Causes and remedies), Overoxidation, Slime accumulation

### Chemical Analysis DETERMINING ACETIC ACID CONTENT

Titration with a burette: Necessary equipment, Titration instructions, Taking readings from the burette  
Acidometer cylinder and 2/15 N blue caustic solution  
Hydrometer for vinegar

### DETERMINING ALCOHOL CONTENT

Alcohol content of a distillate: Hydrometer, alcoholometer; Refractometer; Pycnometry  
Alcohol content in the mash and in the vinegar: Vaporimeter, Vinometer, Ebullioscope, Alcohol measurement with a hydrometer for vinegar (Instruction, Calculation), Frings-Alkograph, Alcohol measurement with the Rebelein method, Photometric alcohol measurement, Alcohol measurement with IR-Spectrometer, Alcocontrol measuring system, Alcohol measurement with the Schmickl method (Alcohol content calculation without previous titration - wine, mashes, liqueurs; Alcohol content calculation with previous titration - vinegar), Comparison of the various measurement methods  
Relative density measurements  
Further treatment  
Filtration; Storage; Fining; Carbon treatment; Bottling; Pasteurizing; Dyeing, preserving

### Recipes FERMENTED VINEGAR

Apple vinegar, Apricot vinegar, Banana vinegar, Beer vinegar, Blackberry vinegar, Bullace plum vinegar, Cereal vinegar, Cherry vinegar, Cider vinegar, Currant vinegar, Elderberry vinegar, Fig vinegar, Honey (mead) vinegar, Juniper berry vinegar, Malt vinegar, Mango vinegar, Medlar vinegar, Mirabelle plum vinegar, Molasses vinegar, Nut vinegar, Peach vinegar, Pear vinegar (perry vinegar), Pineapple vinegar, Plum vinegar, Pomace vinegar, Pomegranate vinegar, Potato vinegar, Prune Plum vinegar, Quince vinegar, Raisin vinegar, Raspberry vinegar, Rice vinegar, Rose hip vinegar, Rowanberry vinegar, Sloe vinegar, Strawberry vinegar, Sugar beet/sugarcane vinegar, Vegetable vinegar, Vegetable vinegar, Whey vinegar, Wine vinegar, Zibartes

### FERMENTED VINEGAR WITH AROMATIC PACKING MATERIAL

General instructions  
Specific instructions: Cinnamon; Citrus fruits: Grapefruit, oranges, lemons, limes, etc.; Coffee; Coniferous wood: Fir, spruce, Swiss pine, etc.; Dried fruits, nuts, pumpkin seeds; Fruit, fresh: Berries, fruits with cores or pits; Herbs, hay flowers; Juniper berries; Roots; Wood: Beechwood, oak, etc.

### Case studies: Apricots, Beechwood shavings, Beer, Cider, Cranberries,

Damsons, Figs, Grape juice, Herbs, Juniper berries, Lemon peels, Lemongrass, Orange peels, Orange/lemon wine, Pears, Plum wine, Prunes, Raisins, Sloe, Swiss pine cones, Swiss pine shoots, Walnut, Walnuts and Raisins, Whisky (Single Malt), Wine (Retsina, Uhdler, Vitiano Umbria)

**BALSAMIC VINEGAR**Balsamic vinegar from concentrated fruit juice, Balsamic vinegar from a high-grade mash

**INFUSED VINEGAR**Herb vinegar: Basil, Borage, Chervil, Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Hyssop, Juniper, Lavender, Lemon balm, Lemongrass, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint, Nasturtium, Oregano, Parsley, Pimpinella, Ramson (Wild Garlic), Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Tarragon, Thyme

**Spice and aromatic vinegars:** Caraway, Chilies, Cloves, Cinnamon, Dried fruits (e.g., apricots, figs, plums, raisins), Elderflowers, Garlic, Ginger, Honey, Horseradish, Hot peppers, Lemons, Mustard seeds, Nuts, Onions, Oranges, Peppercorns, Peppers, Roses, Spruce tips, Swiss pine, Violets

**Aromatic fruit vinegar:** Apples, Apricots, Blackberries, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Currants, Figs, Lingonberries, Pears, Plums - Mirabelle plums - Sloes, Quinces, Raspberries, Rose hip, Strawberries

**MIXTURES**Essential oils

**Uses****COOKING**Aperitif, Cordial, Salads, Appetizers: Poached Eggs, Roasted Asparagus, Soup: Cold Vegetable Soup, Pumpkin Soup, Entrees: Goulash, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Spreads: Apple Spread, Tuna Spread, Desserts: Strudel Dough for Apple, Curd Cheese, and Meat Swirl Strudel; Syrup for Vanilla Ice Cream, Sundae

**Mustard**Pickling: Pickled Gherkin

**IN THE HOUSEHOLD**Household Disinfectant, Surgery disinfectant, Air Freshener and Odor Removal, Weed Killer, Stain Removal, Descaler, Mold Removal, Cleaning Agent

**MEDICINE**Wart Removal, Corns, Weight Loss, Vinegar Poultices for Fevers, Hemorrhoids, Varicose Veins, Classic Morning Tonic, Constipation, Bruises and Insect Bites, Hangovers, Hiccups, The Common Cold

**COSMETICS**Hair Tonic, Steam Inhalation, Facial Astringent, Exfoliating Scrub, Skin Blemishes, Foot Bath, Bath Additive

**Legal Status**Germany, Austria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia & New Zealand

The whole story is covered: theoretical backgrounds for alcohol and vinegar fermentation as well as easy to follow user-friendly instructions for both fermentation types. With this book my students are able to work independently, especially to analyse the acetic acid and alcohol content in vinegar with simple equipment. The broad variety of described analytical methods is amazing! Excellent textbook for an interested audience.

very well written with lots of good information

Great book, it teaches you how to make a quality mash, the vinegar processes (surface, generator

and submerged), several vinegar recipes, how to measure alcohol and acetic acid content. The authors also presents his generator and alcohol measurement method. Dr Helge is very attention replying to my questions.

Good

This book is perfect for both beginners and experienced readers. All descriptions are easy to follow and are written from a practical point of view. Beginners will appreciate the instructions "Traditional Method" and "Simple Vinegar Fermentation". Both sections contain important tips how to improve the quality of vinegar right from the start of fermentation, without any analysis or calculation. Some tips were only known among professional producers for so far, the authors adapted these methods to household conditions - just by evaluating vinegar's smell, taste and appearance. Experienced readers learn from in-depth descriptions and more advanced instructions to receive fermented vinegar in an outstanding quality. From my own experience I know it's not so easy to ferment tasty vinegar by yourself. I've read several vinegar books, none of them describes the whole process more structured. The authors point out all critical issues - source of alcohol, infections, plagues, storage, old mother-of-vinegar, etc. The huge collection of recipes is amazing, for fermented vinegar (e.g., cider vinegar, aceto balsamico, etc.) as well as the usage of vinegar.

a bit technical. liked fermentation better

Awesome book ! The authors actually know the subject matter and convey the information effectively. We are avid homebrewers/homesteaders and have purchased other books allegedly on making vinegar and none of them have been fit to make a dust jacket for this excellent (somewhat technical) book. May not be for people that just want to make a quart of vinegar once a year. If you want to make a few gallons this where to learn how.

More than I bargained for! This book gets into the chemistry of vinegar. There was a lot more information along those lines instead of ingredients, recipes and what not.

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Recipes for Brightening Dishes and Drinks with Homemade Vinegars Apple Cider Vinegar: Miracle Health System (Bragg Apple Cider Vinegar Miracle Health System: With the Bragg Healthy Lifestyle) Coconut Oil and Apple Cider Vinegar: 2-in-1 Book Combo Pack - Discover the Amazing Health, Beauty, and Detox Secrets of Apple Cider Vinegar and Coconut ... - Detox - Weight Loss - Hair - Beauty) Making & Using Vinegar: Recipes That Celebrate Vinegar's Versatility. A Storey BASICS® Title Apple Cider Vinegar Benefits - Apple Cider Vinegar Benefits and Cures for Weight Loss and Better Health Vinegar Boy: Encounter Christ Through the Dramatic Story of Vinegar Boy Maker Projects for Kids Who Love Games (Be a Maker!) Seventh Son (Tales of Alvin Maker, Book 1) (Tales of Alvin Maker (Audio)) Prentice Alvin (The Tales of Alvin Maker, Book 3) (Tales of Alvin Maker (Audio)) Alvin Journeyman (Tales of Alvin Maker, Book 4) (Tales of Alvin Maker (Audio)) Maker Projects for Kids Who Love Robotics (Be a Maker!) Oster Expressbake Bread Machine Cookbook: 101 Classic Recipes With Expert Instructions For Your Bread Maker (Bread Machine & Bread Maker Recipes) Oster Expressbake Bread Machine Cookbook: 101 Classic Recipes With Expert Instructions For Your Bread Maker (Bread Machine & Bread Maker Recipes) (Volume 1) The Artisanal Home: Interiors and Furniture of Casamidy The Hot Bread Kitchen Cookbook: Artisanal Baking from Around the World Made in Brooklyn: An Essential Guide to the Borough's Artisanal Food & Drink Makers Artisanal Seattle: Traditional Seattle Recipes (Artisan Recipes, Artisan Cookbook, Seattle Cookbook, Seattle Recipes Book 1)

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