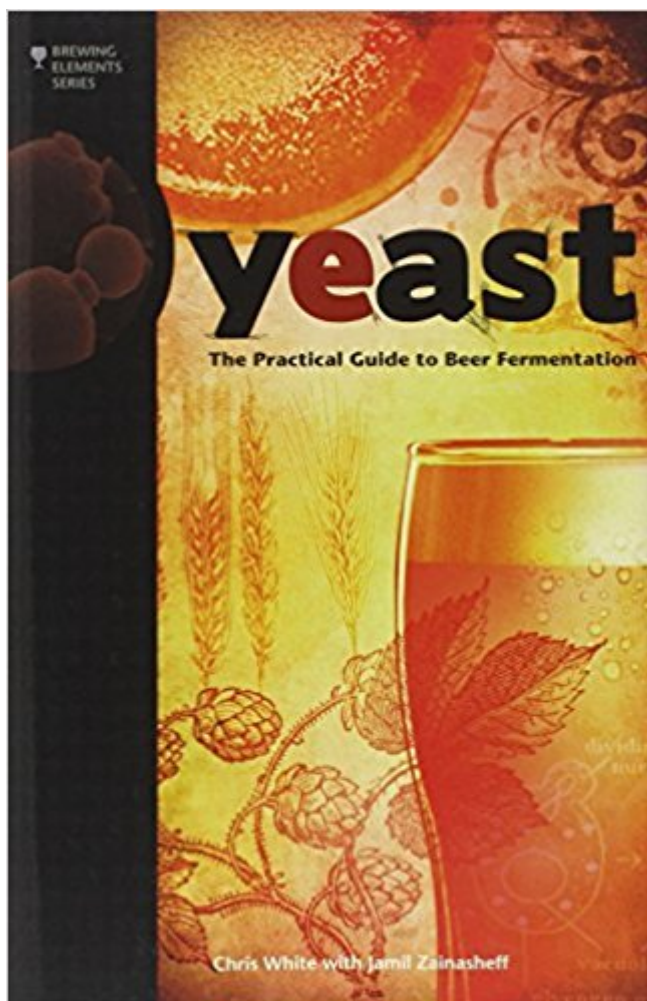


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# Yeast: The Practical Guide To Beer Fermentation (Brewing Elements)



## Synopsis

Yeast: The Practical Guide to Beer Fermentation is a resource for brewers of all experience levels. The authors adeptly cover yeast selection, storage and handling of yeast cultures, how to culture yeast and the art of rinsing/washing yeast cultures. Sections on how to set up a yeast lab, the basics of fermentation science and how it affects your beer, plus step by step procedures, equipment lists and a guide to troubleshooting are included.

## Book Information

Series: Brewing Elements

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## Customer Reviews

From the foreword: "...loads of sound information and techniques that will work for brewers at all levels, from beginning homebrewers to production brewers at any sized brewery. Included are fantastic tips for working with all kinds of yeast strains and beer styles, introducing new strains, and how to use best brewing and lab practices to keep your yeast healthy and your beer tasting great."  
Mitch Steele, Head Brewer/Production Manager, Stone Brewing Company

Chris White lives in San Diego, Calif., USA, where he serves as President and CEO of White Labs Inc. Chris founded White Labs in 1995 to manufacture yeast cultures and provide fermentation services to the brewing, wine, and distilling industries. Chris has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California, San Diego and a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Davis. Jamil Zainasheff started brewing in 1999 and soon started winning awards in homebrew competitions. He has brewed beers in every style recognized by the Beer Judge

Certification Program, taken medals in the finals of the National Homebrew Competition every year since 2002 and amassed more than 20 Best-of-Show awards. He contributes articles to Zymurgy and is the Style Profile columnist for Brew Your Own.

After reading the other reviews I was a little unsure if purchasing this book would apply to homebrewers. After reading this book extensively I believe that this is an excellent starting point for homebrewers who want to learn how to culture and store their own yeast. The other reviews are correct, there are a few basic introduction chapters in the beginning but the vast majority of the book is an extensive guide on yeast culturing practices from start to finish. The author(s) do an excellent job explaining concepts and procedures in a clear way giving the reader a step-by-step guide, with some photographs. The authors give examples of how commercial breweries grow up their yeast to pitchable rates, but the vast majority of this book is written for homebrewers who are working in 5 and 10 gallon batches. Everything is covered in detail, from washing and rinsing yeast harvested from a primary fermentation vessel, pitching rates, yeast starters, harvesting yeast, storing yeast, preparing slants and petri dishes and streak plating yeast cells to grow and isolate different colonies. For those homebrewers who think that yeast culturing is way too much of a headache and prefer to purchase a new vial of yeast from the store for every batch, please give this book a chance and see how easy it is to culture and isolate your own yeast. The author(s) do an excellent job of describing how complex a brewery laboratory can be, but they do an even better job of teaching the homebrewer to use the exact same techniques at home using nothing more than a pressure cooker, agar, dry malt extract and a wire inoculation loop. If you are a homebrewer who is just starting out and are using extract and partial mash recipes then perhaps yeast culturing is too large of a next step. However, for all-grain brewers who are looking to take their recipes to the next level and begin culturing their own strains and producing strains that are unique to their recipes then this book will be an excellent starting point. The author(s) teach the reader how to streak yeast onto a petri dish and isolate individual colonies as well as how to select the healthiest colonies as well as how to step up these colonies to a pitchable size for a 5 gallon fermentation. All of the other reviews for this book are fairly accurate and each has their own degree of truth, but by all means do not let the negative reviews for this book sway your decision. It does not matter if you are a homebrewer or a full size commercial brewery, if you have considered culturing your own yeast to save money or to create new and unique yeast strains, please give this book a chance.

I was put off by some of the early reviewers of this book, who didn't find it as useful as they had

hoped. And, perhaps partly because they had lowered my expectations--but mostly because of what I read in this book--I am overjoyed with what I found. This book divides brewing into two parts: the brew day, which it calls the "hot side" (which it does not really cover), and what happens after you boil your wort, which it calls the "cold side." This is what the book focuses on. It's about yeast, sure: what they are, how they work, what happens to them under various conditions. But it's really about fermentation, this cold side: the way we control those various conditions to get yeast to do something we want them to do: make great beer. And in its focus, White and Zainasheff hammer home the need for repeatability--same amount of yeast, same temperature, etc. I think they are on to something. And if you suspect that your beer could stand some time and attention spent on this cold side of brewing, there is a wealth of knowledge here. For example, if you had to brew all your beers with just one yeast, what would it be? Two? Three? etc. How many yeast varieties should you try to maintain (based on how often you brew)? This book treats the reader seriously. That means whether you are doing 5 gallons at a time with malt extract or running a microbrewery, the assumption is you want to make the best beer possible--and that fermentation control is key. I did have to smile at the chapter title "Your Own Yeast Lab Made Easy." And yet, for all the high-tech possibilities mentioned that might make your head spin and your wallet empty, there were many simple, free approaches to controlling and measuring your beer. And I think that chapter title captures the spirit of the book--first, to encourage you to think more scientifically about your beer (by which I mean "systemically," where you brew with intention)--which can be a bit off-putting if you think of yourself as a free spirit, creative type; second, that it is as "easy" as you want it to be. Take notes. Sniff. Taste. Do it again. Do you need this book to brew award-winning beer? No. You just need a way to put the right amount of yeast in your wort and hold it at the right temperature(s) for the duration of fermentation--every time. If you are convinced, put this money toward a few flasks and a stir plate, a temperature controller, a fermentation chamber, and a way to heat or cool your beer as it ferments--and hold it to within 1 degree F of your target. But if you aren't convinced, this book might give you the information and knowledge, and allow you to benefit from the experience of these gentlemen.

The information in this book is invaluable, whether you are just starting out as a home brewer, or have years of experience. After brewing for almost 7 years - mostly reading articles from popular brew magazines, collecting information from online forums, watching youtube videos, I would greatly urge you to pick up a copy of this book. Whether it provides too much information or not, is up to you to determine, but even if the knowledge goes on unused, I'd imagine everyone would love to

have an idea of what really goes on in brewing chemistry. I would strongly recommend all the books in this series for anyone who is serious about brewing beer. The book was particularly enjoyable to me because of the mix of science (biological and chemistry) with real scenarios, while still written in a language that anyone can comprehend. Cheers!

This book is aimed at everyone from a homebrewer up to a professional craft brewer. It actually does this fairly well, delineating info aimed at larger operations from those at smaller operations. I am probably never going to have a home lab, but this book even has info at setting up a lab.

An in-depth introduction to yeast in general and to choosing the right yeast for your brew and caring for it. Written by (among others) Chris White of White Labs. Not an easy read if you haven't got a biology/chemistry background I can imagine, but the nerdiest parts can be skipped with little impact on the usefulness of this book. I rated it five stars because it's a great book, and the paper edition is well deserving of five stars. The Kindle edition not so much. There are some useful tables and diagrams that are badly represented in the Kindle edition, even when you zoom in. Maybe it works better on a newer Kindle, I don't know. The Kindle edition gets four stars because of this.

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