

Cost of Brewing, Part 3
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This is a summary of the second edition of the Cost of Brewing series after considering ingredients, fixed, and “soft costs.”

Cost per bottle of beer, volume 2

Extract	All-Grain	Grocery	Brewpub	Restaurant
\$0.57	\$0.50	\$1.20	\$3.00 - \$4.00	\$5.00+

This third edition of the article “how much does it cost to brew beer?” I’ll explore the costs of equipment, such as boil kettles, burners, chillers and fermentors. This is an attempt to look at the fixed costs associated with brewing. I’ll look at four different approaches to brewing: the simple extract brewing setup for five gallons, and for five-, 10-, and 20-gallon all-grain brewing setups. For equal comparison’s sake, I’ll look at brewing over 10 years at one batch per month or about 5980 bottles.

Extract, five-gallon batch.

7.5 gallon kettle	1 each	\$ 80
Miscellaneous items		\$ 80
Carboy/bucket 2ea	2 each @ \$20	\$ 40
Sub-total		\$ 140
Unknown costs		\$ 140
Total		\$155

Assumed over 10 years and 5980 bottles this equipment would add \$ 0.02/bottle.

I neglected to assume that in order to cool five gallons of boiled wort without a chiller you need to use a bag of ice in the kitchen sink Therefore, add \$2.00 per batch (\$.04/bottle).

All-grain, five-gallon batch

7.5 gallon kettle	2 ea @ \$175	\$ 350
Mash Tun	10 gallon	\$ 350
False Bottom		\$ 25
Sparge Arm		\$ 22
Burners	2 ea @ \$90	\$ 180
Pump		\$ 140
Heat Exchanger		\$ 55
Miscellaneous		\$ 50
Carboys	2 ea @ \$24	\$ 48
Subtotal		\$ 900
Unknowns	+10%	\$ 90
Total		\$990

All-grain, 10-gallon batch

All-grain brew sculpture		\$ 1450
Pump		\$ 140
Heat Exchanger		\$ 55
Miscellaneous		\$ 50
Carboys	3 ea @ \$24	\$ 72
Subtotal		\$ 1820
Unknowns	+10%	\$ 180
Total		\$ 2000

All-grain, 20-gallon batch

All-grain brew sculpture		\$ 2150
Pump		\$ 140
Heat Exchanger		\$ 55
Miscellaneous		\$ 100
Carboys	5 ea @ \$24	\$ 90
Subtotal		\$ 2335
Unknowns	+10%	\$ 215
Total		\$ 2750

System Capital

System	Capital Cost	10 yr (5980 bottles)	10 yr (11,960 bottles)
5 G Extract	\$ 155	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.02
5 G All Grain	\$ 990	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.08
10 G All Grain	\$ 2000	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.16
20 G All Grain	\$ 2750	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.23

Cost per bottle of beer, volume 3

Extract	All-Grain	Grocery	Brewpub	Restaurant
\$0.60	\$0.59 - \$0.97	\$1.20	\$3.00 - \$4.00	\$5.00+

Of course, this does not include all costs to homebrew. Miscellaneous costs like hoses, clamps, hop bags, air locks, etc., crop up, but I addressed these costs in the miscellaneous costs and rounded up the overall costs. Most of the time you can find cheaper setups from a “retiring” brewer or garage sales or a homeless guy in Rio Linda. Next, I’ll examine the time it takes to brew a batch of beer. Until then, cheers, and have a homebrew.