



Building a Keezer

Also known as a kegerator – but this one is made from a chest freezer

Step 1 - Research

- Research
- Good links:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHWy_Vlw3J4
 - <http://lovebeerlovefood.com/how-to-build-your-own-custom-keg-system/>
 - <http://www.instructables.com/id/4-Tap-Keezer-Kegeerator-Freezer/>
 - <http://homebrewacademy.com/how-to-build-a-keezer>

Step 2 – The right size

- Before you get the freezer ask yourself:
 - How many taps do I want?
 - 2? 3? 4? 6?
- I wanted 4 taps, so I applied some mathematics and worked out a 205 litre freezer would do.
- Get the freezer. A good place to start is <http://www.gumtree.com.au>

Step 3 – Build the collar

- Remove the freezer lid by unscrewing the bolts. KEEP THE BOLTS, you might need them.
- Measure dimensions for timber collar
- Buy timber – I recommend minimum 35mm thickness to provide sufficient insulation and structural strength.
**I used 45mm thick and 95mm high. Total length needed was 2.6m*
- Buy silastic and screws >60mm to form the collar

Step 3 continued

- Measure dimensions again
- Cut the timber
- Join the frame



Note – The most convenient way to get ready for the fonts is to bore the holes while the collar is not joined to the freezer.

Step 4 – Boring for the font shank

- Work out where you want your fonts – in a corner? Or in the centre?
- Work out how far apart you would like each font – I went with 10cm. Mark where the holes will go
- Measure the shank diameter. The specs and the verniers will say 22mm, but when you spade or bore a 22mm hole, these shanks do not fit.
- Round file the rest of the way until the shank fits.

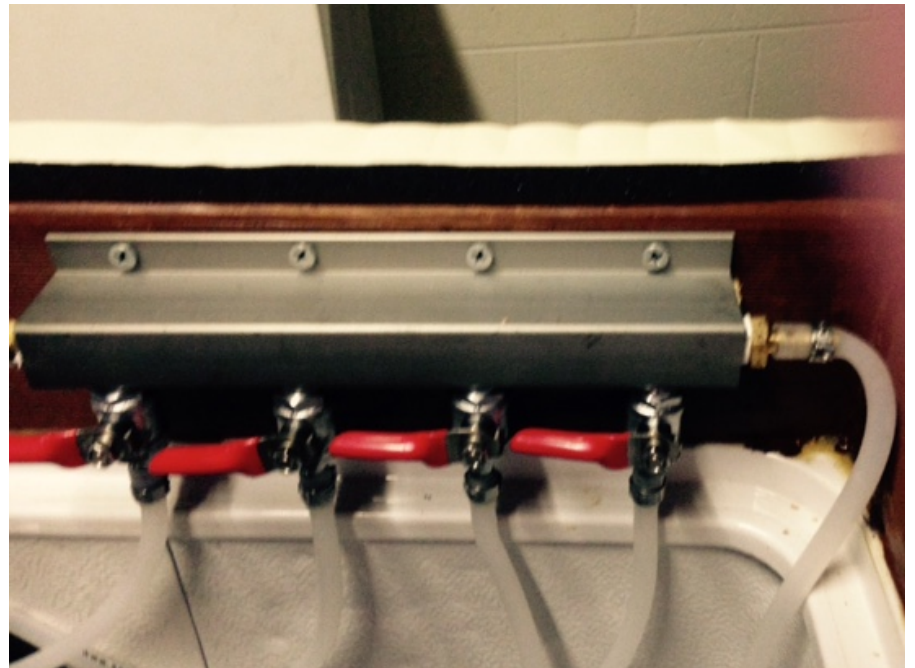
Step 5 – Collar onto Freezer

- Put silastic on the top of the freezer walls where the collar is going to sit
- Place the collar over the freezer walls ensuring all edges and corners are square
- Weigh down the collar to ensure a good silastic seal
- Wait 48 – 72 hours

Note— you can use silastic to seal any gaps you may be worried about during this waiting period

Step 6 – Fitting the CO2 splitter

- Decide where you want the splitter – centre or corner. I went with the corner to make sure I had room to pull kegs out.



Step 7 – Measuring the line lengths

- Before I reattached the lid, I measured and fitted the beer and gas lines so I did not have worry about the lid being in the way
- Tip – measure line length to help you achieve the balance. Good research sites:
 - <http://www.morebeer.com/themes/morewinepro/kegging.pdf>
 - <http://byo.com/yeast/item/164-balancing-your-draft-system-advanced-brewing>
 - <http://beersmith.com/blog/2011/07/14/keg-line-length-balancing-the-science-of-draft-beer/>

Step 7 continued

- Once the measurements have been made, cut the beer and gas lines to length and attach to the relevant parts. i.e. CO2 splitter, disconnects, fonts



Step 8 – Reattach the lid

- I recommend using some window sealing foam atop the collar to assist getting a better thermal seal around the lid.
- Put the lid on to the collar correctly aligned.
- Close the hinges so they are against the collar.
- I used 12G x 30mm wood screws to screw the hinges to the collar.
- You can use the original bolts, but you will need to pre-drill the bolt holes.
- NOTE – the bolts are for metal and their thread is shallow and close, meaning the bolts can slip out.

Step 9 – Set the Keezer Temp

- I bought a terrarium temp controller as I have found them more sensitive and reliable than brewing controllers.

Mine ranges from 0-50°C.



- Work out your serving temperature and pressure making sure you have taken into account the line length.
- Wait until your kegged beer is ready for tasting and enjoy.

Extra Resources

Line length calculator:

<http://www.mikesoltys.com/2012/09/17/determining-proper-hose-length-for-your-kegerator/>

Serving temperature and pressures:

<http://www.tastybrew.com/calculators/carbonation.html>

Pros and Cons - Chest Freezer Keezer

- Pros
 - Easier to shuffle things around by having full access to everything that matters without having to move anything
 - Cold air stays low, so opening the freezer does not upset the cool air as much as an upright
- Cons
 - 19L of beer is heavy to lift up and over a freezer lip, let alone a 95mm collar
 - If there is a spill inside, it is harder to clean

Things to remember

- Research
- Measure twice, cut once – applies for collar and beer and gas lines
- Research a bit more
- Balance your system and then tinker

Are there any questions?

- If you have any questions please email me at jayellul@hotmail.com