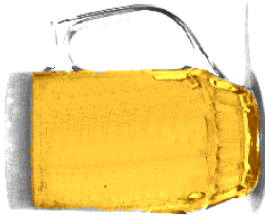


Clearing Beers

Home brewers are always looking to achieve a high degree of clarity in their beers and lagers. In the past beer was judged by flavour alone, however, with the lighter beers now becoming more popular, clarity is also an important consideration.

Many home brewers have found it necessary to consider some form of clarification for their beers.

Filtration is not possible for the home brewer due to the relatively low alcohol content of beers and the associated preservation difficulties. Therefore the choice of an effective fining reagent is a simple means for producing a sparkling clear beer and also producing a sediment that sticks to the bottom of the bottle or barrel.



Many forms of beer fining reagents are available, including gelatine and Irish moss. Isinglass, has however, long been the preferred fining agent for the commercial and home brewer due to its versatility and high success rate. As mentioned earlier, there have been problems with the storage and keeping of isinglass and also its temperature sensitivity. These problems are now eliminated by using the new freeze-dried **BEERBRITE** fining reagents.

Conventional dry finings are difficult to mix and take at least a day to prepare, whereas **BEERBRITE** is ready for use within 15 minutes.

VINCLEAR, **BEERBRITE** and **SUPER ENZYME** descriptions are referring to the sachet products.

Both **VINCLEAR** and **BEERBRITE** are high quality products produced and patented after many years of research and development. Both are free from spoilage organisms. These products promote rapid settlement of yeast's to form compact sediments. **VINCLEAR** will remove certain astringents and harsh flavours in wines without affecting the esters or fruity bouquet. **BEERBRITE** is a combined clarifier and chill proofing, using the best properties of isinglass and silica hydrogel in a single unique dry package.

Freeze-dried isinglass is a patented product. **VINCLEAR**, **BEERBRITE** and **SUPER ENZYME** are copyright protected names.

Harris Filters, 42 & 43 Zoar Street,
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www.harrisfilters.com



Latest Technology for Clearing Wines & Beers

HARRIS FILTERS
HIGHERLY ACTIVE Wine Finings

VIN CLEAR

Sufficient for up to 22½ litres (5 gallons)

- SIMPLE TO USE
- QUICK TO CLEAR

BEST BEFORE END: DEC 2007

HARRIS FILTERS
HIGHERLY ACTIVE Pectic Enzyme

SUPER ENZYME

Sufficient for up to 22½ litres (5 gallons)

- REMOVES PECTIN
- AIDS CLEARING
- IMPROVES COLOUR

BEST BEFORE END: SEE OTHER SIDE

HARRIS FILTERS
HIGHERLY ACTIVE Beer Finings

BEER BRITE

Sufficient for up to 22½ litres (5 gallons)

- SIMPLE TO USE
- QUICK TO CLEAR

BEST BEFORE END: DEC 2007

VIN CLEAR AND BEERBRITE DRY v LIQUID FININGS

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ It is a scientifically advanced form of Isinglass.
- ✓ It is highly effective for both wines & beers.
- ✓ Will not affect colour or taste (as some finings do!).
- ✓ It produces a compact sediment (less waste).
- ✓ Environmentally friendly with simple packaging.
- ✓ A completely natural product.
- ✓ You are not purchasing a high % of bottled water.
- ✓ Compact weight and volume for easier distribution.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

POWERFUL

With almost indefinite shelf life

- Only the need to mix with a small amount of water 15 minutes before use.

Clearing Wines

Many winemakers will think when reading this title, why bother, allowing my wines to stand, followed by racking has always been good enough for me. Bouquet and taste are very important, but the appearance of a wine is normally its first attraction. Take a glass of water from the tap, hold it up to the light and observe the brilliance...we take this for granted if not for drinking! Wines should also be made to shine like this.

The clearing of wines can be a complex subject, however, by following a few simple rules the winemaker can produce brilliant wines quickly and easily.

Firstly, it is necessary to understand the reasons why some wines remain obstinately cloudy long after fermentation has completed.

After fermentation and racking, wines often have a hazy appearance. Hazes are basically formed from all fruit and vegetables used in winemaking and are also present in concentrates used in kit wines. Country wines in particular, can produce the most complex hazes, which are more difficult to clear. Technology can prove that the finest wine haze can take up to 60 years to settle and few winemakers are not likely to wait that long, hence the need to speed up the operation.

There are normally millions of microscopic particles in the wine, of all shapes and sizes that are too light to settle and are constantly floating in the wine. It is the vast number of particles present which cause the haze. These particles carry a minute positive electrical charge, which prevents them from joining to form larger ones. However, by adding a substance with an opposite charge (you will recall from science lessons that unlike charges attract) this enables the particles to grow, become heavier and then fall as a sediment.

This is the principle of fining and is a vital step in the effective clearing of wines.

Unfortunately, in some wines there are stubborn hazes that carry no minute electrical charge. These are pectin and starch hazes where a jelly-like film surrounds the haze particles making it more troublesome to clear. This produces a type of frog-spawn effect in the wine, making it difficult for a fining reagent to reach and be attracted to the haze particles.



To obtain star-bright wines easily and quickly it is necessary to consider the following basic steps: -

1. **Treat for PECTIN (or starch).**
2. **Add FININGS.**
3. **FILTER for professional brilliance.**



1. It is reasonable to assume that pectin will be present to some extent in all wines. To remove pectin treat with **Super Enzyme** (now available in sachets) preferably at the time of adding the yeast, or during fermentation. However, if added later you should then keep the wine in a warm place for at least 3-4 days.

2. Add **VINCLEAR** wine finings (or similar) to the wine whenever it remains cloudy after fermentation and racking. Many types of wine finings are available, but for hundreds of years isinglass has been a most reliable treatment for clearing both beer and wine. Although isinglass is convenient to apply in the liquid form, there has always been concern over its shelf life. From the time of manufacture, it begins to deteriorate, a simple analogy being that of a charged battery that begins to discharge upon standing. Isinglass liquid finings also denature rapidly, with consequent loss of fining properties, when exposed to temperatures above 20 C, even for short periods of time.

VINCLEAR sachets are now available in freeze-dried powder form. This new product can be stored almost indefinitely at any temperature and still remain 100% active.

VINCLEAR is a highly effective fining reagent, containing a mixture of both freeze-dried isinglass and silica hydrogel. The latter is normally only available to the commercial breweries.

3. To achieve professional brilliance, it is worthwhile considering a wine filter, which is extremely useful and simple to use. A filter will remove minute particles much smaller than the human eye could ever possibly see.

The principle of wine filtration is straightforward.... a barrier is simply placed across the path of the wine. The barrier (better known as a filter pad) comprises a material having countless thousands of pores that are small enough to trap the greatest possible number of haze particles, whilst still allowing the wine to pass through. Filter pads are highly sensitive products, having small pores that perform much better when used for polishing a reasonably clear wine, typically after following the earlier steps 1 & 2. After polishing through a filter kit, this will produce a wine with true colour and professional brilliance.

