



## DISTILLERS ART SERIES BARREL KIT



At Copper Fox Distillery we make every effort to provide you with the highest quality Whiskies, Spirits and Barrels. Please note that the nature of the barrel is organic, therefore, we are not able to guarantee the rate of evaporation in each barrel, or that each barrel/spigot will be 100% leak-free. However, that being said, we expect your barrel experience to be as happy as ours. Feel free to contact us should any unusual concerns arise.

### Getting Started

- Before using your barrel, make sure the spigot is inserted tightly. You may need to tap lightly with a rubber mallet.
- Fill the barrel with room temperature water through the bung hole.
- Gently, but firmly insert the bung.
- If the barrel leaks, don't worry. Leave the barrel filled with water for 3–4 days and spray the outside of the barrel with water every few hours until the slats expand and the barrel completely seals.
- If there are no leaks your barrel is ready to fill with your spirit. For best results completely fill barrel with another bottle of spirit or spring water. Topping off the barrel will reduce the rate of evaporation.
- Make note of the date your barrel was filled! Save your spirit bottles. We left space on the front label for you to record the date you filled your barrel and your periodic and final tasting notes.
- CHECK ON YOUR BARREL EVERY NOW AND THEN. MONITOR FOR LEAKS AND RATE OF EVAPORATION. AGE 4–6 MONTHS MAXIMUM ON FIRST FILL.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q. Where can I purchase barrels?

In some areas, you can find our “Copper Fox Barrel Kit” which includes a 2 liter barrel packed with two bottles of spirit in one box! If you are not lucky enough to have such a retailer you can order barrels directly from us.

2 liter (holds 2½ bottles) — \$49.95+Tax (VA) and Shipping  
Call 540-987-8554 to order Mon. through Sat. 10am to 6pm ET, and Sun. 1–6pm ET

#### Q. Do the barrels come full?

No. The barrels come to you empty. Also, unless you are buying a kit, the bottles of Copper Fox Spirit are sold separately.

#### Q. Are the barrels charred?

Yes. The barrels are lightly charred and hand made from American white oak without glue, nails or paraffin wax.

#### Q. Where can I purchase Copper Fox Single Malt, Rye or Bourbon Mash Spirit?

If you bought your kit at a retail store, you should be able to purchase bottles there as well. Your retailer can get spirit from their distributor even if the bottles are not on the shelf. In Virginia you can also special order both spirits through your favorite VABC store. You will need the VA product codes with you:

Copper Fox Single Malt Spirit: #952348

Copper Fox Rye Spirit: #952347

Copper Fox Bourbon Mash: #953791

Visit our website for the most current state-by-state availability.

**Q. How long do I age the spirit?**

We recommend aging 4 to 6 months for the “first fill”. Part of the experience of owning a Distillers Art Series Mini Barrel is tasting the spirit as it progresses. Savor the journey and age your spirit to your personal taste preference.

**Q. Will I lose any volume in the barrel?**

Yes, the angels must have their share. Also, a new barrel will soak up some volume as the wood becomes saturated. You can lose up to 10% to 50% on the first fill, but much less on subsequent fills. Especially if there is a leak, which is one reason to check on your barrel every now and then for signs of leakage!!!

**Q. Is there a best place to store my barrel once filled with Copper Fox Spirit?**

For fastest aging you want warmth and/or variation in temperature. Think expansion and contraction of the wood. Also, motion can help; feel free to give your barrel a shake every now and then. We know a barrel head that drives around with the barrel in the back seat of his car. Some say put it in a window that gets a lot of sun. Other writing on the subject suggests that imported whisky was favored just because it had the advantage of a transatlantic voyage in barrels — think of the rocking and sloshing!

**Q. Can I put already aged whisky in the barrel?**

Absolutely. We encourage responsible, creative adult beverage science experiments!

**Q. Can I add other ingredients?**

Yes. As you may know we are rather fond of toasted apple wood chips. If you want to try something different but do not want to commit a whole barrel, try a small jar or portion of your bottle.

**Q. Why are the Distillers Art Series Spirits 124 proof?**

Cask strength (124 proof) spirit is traditionally the best strength to optimize the reaction of spirit and wood. In

order to truly replicate the aging process at home we are supplying spirits at industry standards.

**Q. 124 proof is too strong for me how do I reduce the proof?**

While a lot of serious whisky connoisseurs love a wee dram at cask strength, for many people cask strength is too strong. Just add water to reduce the proof. For 90 to 92 proof; Fill up to the top of the label (550ml) with spirit and fill to the middle of the neck (200ml) with good water.

**Q. Will the proof change as it ages?**

Based on our experience with large barrels, proof may slightly increase or decrease depending on climate conditions. If you start with 124 proof you will likely be within 1% of that no matter what you do.

**Q. What is the best way to empty my barrel?**

Find a clean empty container, remove the bung and empty the barrel through the spigot. The barrel will release some carbon particles so we recommend that you use a funnel with a coffee filter when you are ready to bottle your whisky.

**Q. Can the barrel be re-used?**

Yes. The second fill gives a different result than the first and can remain in the barrel longer. Initially the barrels age more like bourbon. Subsequent fills shift to a more “scotch like” finish. We will be experimenting and learning the limits along with you.

**Q. What about storing my barrel empty?**

Don't do it! After tasting your results, we hope you will get more Copper Fox Spirit and get started with your next batch ASAP!! If you must delay, keep your barrel filled with water until you are ready to refill with Spirit. An empty barrel will begin to dry out, develop leaks, and eventually the metal bands will drop off, and unless you are desperate for kindling, this is quite sad.



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