

Old Fashioned

The most classic cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz bourbon whiskey
- 0.5 oz demerara syrup
- 3-5 dashes Angostura bitters
- A few dashes plain water

METHOD

Combine all ingredients in an old fashioned glass and stir with a large ice cube.

GARNISH

An orange peel and a lemon peel. Optionally a cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

The glass used is also sometimes called a rocks glass or lowball glass.

Classically this drink is made with a sugar cube instead of syrup. This original recipe involves dousing the sugar cube with bitters and then muddling until it is dissolved.

The pairing of orange peel and lemon peel to garnish is sometimes referred to as the rabbit ears garnish.

Espresso Martini

Ah, something that combines my love for coffee with my love for cocktails.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz espresso
- 2.5 oz vodka
- 0.5 oz vanilla syrup

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled martini glass.

GARNISH

Two espresso beans or grated dark chocolate.

COMMENTS

I prefer dark chocolate as a garnish. The espresso beans look good but don't contribute to the flavour of the cocktail.

Add your espresso last. The shot starts losing freshness as soon as it is pulled.

Please freshly grind your coffee.

Jungle Bird

A tiki drink with pineapple juice and bitter Campari.

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz dark Jamaican rum
- 0.75 oz Campari
- 1.5 oz pineapple juice
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 0.5 oz demerara syrup

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled old fashioned glass with ice.

GARNISH

A pineapple wedge and a cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

I like to use big ice in this one too although crushed ice is also a suitable option.

You can get creative with the garnish on this one! I've seen people add pineapple leaves, mint leaves, tropical (edible) flowers, a lime wedge or wheel or even an orange peel.

Paloma

A very easy to drink grapefruit and tequila cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz silver tequila
- 1.5 oz grapefruit juice
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 0.5 oz simple syrup
- 3 oz grapefruit Bubbly

METHOD

Add tequila, grapefruit juice, lime juice and simple syrup into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a Collins glass. Add an ounce of the grapefruit Bubbly. Top up with ice and the remaining grapefruit Bubbly. Swizzle with a bar spoon and serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A large grapefruit peel. Salt to taste.

COMMENTS

This cocktail is typically made with a prepackaged grapefruit-flavoured soda like Fresca, or Jarritos.

Paloma is Spanish for “dove”.

I’m convinced my Paloma recipe is the best.

Gimlet

A refreshing classic gin cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz London dry gin
- 1 oz lime juice
- 0.5 oz simple syrup

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and double strain into a chilled coupe.

COMMENTS

Historically this cocktail is made with Rose's lime juice—a sweetened lime juice concentrate patented in 1867—but modern tastes are less sweet so fresh lime juice is normally preferred.

I find it very tasty to replace the simple syrup with Saint-Germain: an elderflower liqueur.

A gimlet can also be made using vodka instead of gin.

Martinez

A predecessor to the Martini.

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz London dry gin
- 1.5 oz sweet red vermouth
- 1 bar spoon Maraschino liqueur
- 2-3 dashes orange bitters

METHOD

Stir all ingredients over ice and strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

A lemon or orange twist.

COMMENTS

You can substitute the London dry gin for Old Tom gin, the orange bitters for Angostura bitters or the Maraschino liqueur for dry curaçao.

Negroni

A bitter Italian classic.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 oz London dry gin
- 1 oz Campari
- 1 oz sweet red vermouth

METHOD

Combine all ingredients in an old fashioned glass and stir with a large ice cube.

GARNISH

A large orange peel.

COMMENTS

Make sure to express the oils of the orange peel into the cocktail and perfume the glass.

It's easier to peel citrus if it's at room temperature.

I've heard that premixing the cocktail and serving it after having stored it in the fridge for three days gives it a better taste.

Manhattan

A classic old fashioned variation.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz rye whiskey
- 0.5 oz sweet red vermouth
- 1-3 dashes Angostura bitters

METHOD

Stir all ingredients over ice and strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

A cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

Canadian whisky is a common and delicious alternative to rye whiskey.

Classically, a Manhattan is served straight up but served in an old fashioned glass with a large ice cube is also acceptable.

Mojito

A traditional cuban highball with mint and lime.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz white rum
- 1 oz lime juice
- A demerara sugar cube
- A few dashes simple syrup
- 8 mint leaves
- 5 oz Soda water

METHOD

Add mint, lime juice, sugar cube and syrup to an empty cocktail shaker and muddle. Add rum and lightly dry shake to incorporate ingredients. Pour into a Collins glass and add two ounces of the soda water. Top up with crushed ice and the remaining soda water. Serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A sprig of mint and lime wheels.

COMMENTS

Muddling the mint with the sugar cube will create some extra abrasion and help express its oils. Don't over muddle.

Using a dark or spiced rum will add some complexity but at the cost of refreshment.

It's common practice to gently smack the sprig of mint used for garnish to get the aromas going.

It's a really nice touch to add Angostura bitters to a mojito.

Margarita

The classic tequila cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz silver tequila
- 1 oz Triple Sec or Cointreau
- 1 oz lime juice

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled margarita glass.

GARNISH

A lime wedge. Optionally salt to rim the glass.

COMMENTS

There's many ways to serve this cocktail: straight up, on the rocks, with crushed ice, blended, salt, no salt, in a Collins glass with soda water, in a coupe... The choice is yours. I like mine in a double rocks glass with a large ice cube (and yes I normally make a double).

Margarita is Spanish for “daisy”.

Boulevardier

The Negroni's whiskey cousin.

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz bourbon whiskey
- 1 oz Campari
- 1 oz sweet red vermouth

METHOD

Stir all ingredients over ice and strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

An orange twist

COMMENTS

A Boulevardier can also be served on the rocks.

Mary Pickford

A balanced fruity pale-pink rum cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz white rum
- 2 oz pineapple juice
- 1.5 bar spoon grenadine
- 1 bar spoon Maraschino liqueur

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and double strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

Three cocktail cherries on a pick.

COMMENTS

Can also be served with only one cherry or no cherries. Other popular garnishes include a pineapple leaf or a pineapple wedge.

Dark ‘n Stormy

A rum buck.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz Gosling’s Bermuda Black Seal Rum
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 5 oz ginger beer

METHOD

Fill a Collins glass with ice and ginger beer. Add rum and lime juice into a cocktail shaker with a small piece of ice. Shake well and pour into the Collins glass. Gently stir to incorporate and serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A lime wedge or optionally a soft ginger candy.

COMMENTS

The name of this drink is actually trademarked by Gosling’s. If it’s not made with Gosling’s rum, it’s not a Dark ‘n Stormy.

Presbyterian

A rye buck.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz rye whiskey
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 5 oz ginger beer

METHOD

Add rye whiskey and lime juice into a cocktail shaker with a small piece of ice. Shake well and pour into a Collins glass with ice. Add two ounces of the ginger beer. Top up with ice and the remaining ginger beer. Serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A lemon wedge or optionally a soft ginger candy.

COMMENTS

This cocktail can also be built in the glass. I'm just of the mindset that if any cocktail has some sort of fruit juice, it should be shaken.

Corpse Reviver No. 2

A cocktail with a spooky name

INGREDIENTS

- 1 oz gin
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 1 oz cointreau
- 1 oz lemon juice

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and double strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

A lemon twist.

COMMENTS

There is also a Corpse Reviver No. 1 made with cognac.

It is thought that the name comes from the cocktail being a hangover cure.

Bramble

A refreshing berry-gin cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz London dry gin
- 1 oz lemon juice
- 0.5 oz simple syrup
- 4 blackberries

METHOD

Add lemon juice, simple syrup and blackberries to an empty cocktail shaker and muddle. Add gin and a small piece of ice. Shake well until the ice is melted and pour into a chilled double rocks glass. Top up with crushed ice and serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A blackberry. Optionally a lemon wheel or wedge.

COMMENTS

Another easy to drink one. The classic recipe for this cocktail uses crème de mûre instead of the muddled berries.

Tequila Sunrise

A beautiful ombré tequila cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz silver tequila
- 5 oz orange juice
- 0.5 oz grenadine

METHOD

Add the grenadine to the bottom of a Collins glass with ice. Add tequila and orange juice into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into the Collins glass. Gently stir to incorporate the grenadine. Serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

An orange wedge and a cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

Most recipes just pour the grenadine on top but this makes the gradient harder to achieve.

Whiskey Fix

A sweet, sour and refreshing whiskey cocktail.

INGREDIENTS

- 2.5 oz bourbon whiskey
- 1 oz lemon juice
- 0.5 oz simple syrup

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with a small piece of ice. Shake well until the ice is melted and pour into a chilled double rocks glass. Top up with crushed ice and serve with a metal straw.

GARNISH

A lemon wedge and a cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

This cocktail works equally well with rye whiskey.

Mexican Firing Squad Special

The name sounds wrong but it's a tasty cocktail!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz silver tequila
- 0.75 oz lime juice
- 0.75 oz grenadine
- 3 dashes Angostura bitters

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled margarita glass.

GARNISH

An orange twist and a cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

Like the margarita, you have some options for serving this one: with ice cubes, crushed ice, in a Collins glass with soda water, salt, no salt... I also like this one in a double rocks glass with a large ice cube.

You can take some liberties with the garnish here too. I've seen people make it with a lime or orange wedge or wheel, a pineapple wedge, pomegranate seeds in the cocktail.

Last Word

A sour, sweet and pungent equal parts drink.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 oz gin
- 1 oz green Chartreuse
- 1 oz Maraschino liqueur
- 1 oz lime juice

METHOD

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled coupe.

GARNISH

A cocktail cherry.

COMMENTS

If you replace the gin with rye whiskey and the lime juice with lemon juice, you've made yourself a Final Ward.