



Midwest Homebrewing Supply

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Double Ratchet Basket Press

Instructions and Care

Before getting started be sure you have all of the equipment. The press should have the following items:

- 1 round metal rod
- 2- half-moon wooden plates
- 2- long wooden blocks
- 4- small wooden blocks
- 2- flat, rectangular metal ratchet pins for the slots on top of the ratchet press

Getting to Know the Press: The first step is to understand the ratcheting mechanism as it is contrary to traditional press operation. In order to engage the ratcheting mechanism the basket must be loaded with tension between the ratchet head and the fruit to be pressed. The resistance created will help the ratchet mechanism work its way down the screw. A traditional screw press does not require this tension and that is the major difference. The ratchet does the work for you!

Tip: If the ratcheting mechanism is painted shut, lightly tap the pointy end of the top plate to loosen it up. Be careful of paint chips falling into the basket. Remove them as soon as you can before using the press.

Loading the Basket: Be sure the two plates in the ratchet head are loose before loading the basket. Next, fill the basket, spreading the fruit evenly around the screw in the middle. When it is full, place the **two half-moon wooden plates** on top of the grapes or fruit you are pressing. Adjust the entire ratchet assembly down the screw by spinning until it comes into contact with those plates. Be sure they are touching. Remember, it is this tension that will allow the press to operate. Next, place the **metal rod** in the hole located on the front of the ratchet head and tighten it in place with the securing bolt on top. Place the **ratchet pins** in the slots located on either side of the ratchet head (be sure they are facing the same way) and start cranking back and forth. The ratchet will move down the screw if everything is in proper position. You may need to adjust the positions of the ratchet pins at this point to get the press to move in the right direction, just be sure that they are facing the same way. The pins determine the direction of the ratchet head.

Keeping Tension: When you come to the top of the basket, raise the ratchet head by reversion the direction of the ratchet pins and start placing the pieces of wood underneath it, one piece on either side of the screw. Start with the **long blocks** first, the move onto the **smaller blocks** until you run out of blocks. To make certain you are extracting the maximum amount of juice, allow the pressure from the ratchet to do the job for you. Use enough pressure to get the juice flowing and when it slows or stops, increase the pressure by adding the blocks. Always maintain tension between the ratchet head and the fruit and the juice will flow.

Cleanup and Storage: As soon as the juice has been extracted, reverse the direction of the ratchet pins and spin the head up to the starting position. Remove the pins that hold the basket together and discard the pulp that is left. The equipment should be washed immediately to avoid stains and difficult-to-clean debris. Allow to air dry and store for next season.