Bag Tek Mushroom Grow Kit, Starter, Makes 1.33kg, 1lb Rye Spawn Bag and a Quarter Brick of Coir Bulk in a Large Bag

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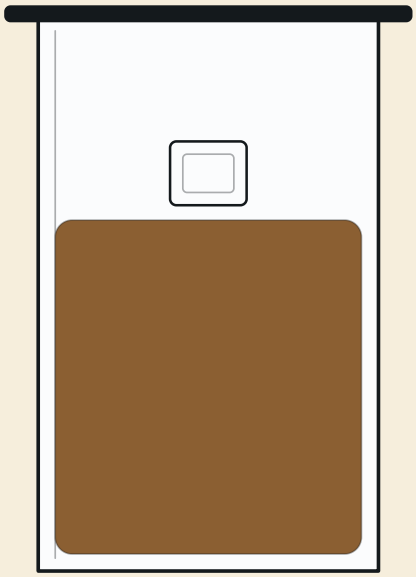
HOW THE BULK IS MADE FROM A QUARTER OF THE BRICK, IN THE KIT'S BAG





Hour 24

1 Put a quarter of the 10 litre coco coir brick (163 g) in the kit's grow bag

2 Add 30 ml of vermiculite

3 Add 30 ml of gypsum

4 Boil the kettle: you need 700 ml

5 Pour in 700 ml of boiling water; a friend holds the bag up, it collapses with hot water; mind the steam

6 Seal the top with a sealer stick or bag clip (not included)

7 Into an insulated bucket for 24 hours: this pasteurises it

8 Use when cool: mix it inside the sealed bag before use

About Bag Tek Mushroom Grow Kit, Starter, Makes 1.33kg, 1lb Rye Spawn Bag and a Quarter Brick of Coir Bulk in a Large Bag

Bag Tek, the starter kit: a monotub in a bag. A 1 lb (450 g) sterilised rye grain spawn bag with an injection port, a quarter of a 10 litre coco coir brick (163 g dry) with the vermiculite and gypsum to make 0.875 kg of CVG bulk substrate by the boil-in-the-bag method, and the large grow bag the bulk is made, mixed, colonised and fruited in. Colonise the grain, pasteurise the bulk in the bag on the day the grain is ready, mix the two when cool, let the bag go white, then cut it open for one or two heavy flushes.

What it is

The bulk method of a monotub without the tub: 1.33 kg of colonised substrate (450 g of rye plus 0.875 kg of CVG) fruited from a cut-open bag standing on a shelf. Nothing is pre-mixed; you colonise the spawn and pasteurise the bulk yourself, in the kit's own bag.

Total substrate	1.33 kg: 450 g rye spawn + 0.875 kg CVG bulk (coir, vermiculite and gypsum)
Spawn	1 lb (450 g) sterilised rye grain, injection port and filter patch
Bulk	0.875 kg of CVG: a quarter brick, 163 g dry, 30 ml vermiculite, 30 ml gypsum, 700 ml of boiling water, pasteurised in the bag
Bag	Large grow bag, filter patch
Injection	5 to 10 ml of liquid culture into the spawn bag
Temperature	22 to 23 °C for the spawn, 22 to 24 °C for the bulk
Fruiting	Opened: indirect light, misted walls, fanned once or twice a day

Bag Tek kit instructions

Bag Tek is a monotub in a bag. The kit is a sterilised rye grain spawn bag that you colonise, the makings of a coir bulk substrate that you pasteurise in the grow bag itself, and the bag the two are mixed, colonised and fruited in: the starter kit (a 1 lb spawn bag and a quarter of a brick, 0.875 kg of bulk, 1.33 kg of substrate in all, in a large bag), the small kit (1 kg of rye and half a brick, 1.75 kg of bulk, 2.75 kg in all, in an XLS bag) or the large kit (1.5 kg of rye and a whole brick, 3.5 kg of bulk, 5 kg in all, in the XL 80 cm bag). Unlike a sealed Inject-and-Forget bag, a Bag Tek bag is cut open to fruit, for one or two heavy flushes. Read the injection rules and the incubation rules first.

Step 1: colonise the spawn bag

Wipe the spawn bag's port and inject 5 to 10 ml of liquid culture into the 1 lb bag, 10 ml into the 1 kg bag or 20 ml into the 1.5 kg bag. Incubate in the dark at 22 to 23 °C. When white patches show, about day 10, mix the grain through the plastic; mix again on day 15. The bag is ready when every grain is white, usually by day 20. The animation on the kit's page shows the bulk being made; the spawn bag's own steps are the ones on the injection rules page.

Step 2: make the bulk in the grow bag

Follow bulk substrate in the bag with the kit's coir, vermiculite and gypsum, in the grow bag supplied: the coir is broken up dry with the vermiculite and gypsum, boiling water is poured in, the bag is closed and left to pasteurise and then to cool. The amounts scale with the kit: a quarter brick (163 g), 30 ml of vermiculite, 30 ml of gypsum and 700 ml of boiling water for the starter; half a brick (325 g), 60 ml, 60 ml and 1.4 litres for the small; a whole brick (650 g), 120 ml, 120 ml and 2.8 litres for the large. The drawing on each kit's page shows its own amounts. Do not go on until the bag is at room temperature; warm bulk kills the spawn. Make the bulk only once the grain is ready: a pasteurised bulk keeps for about ten days, so it is never made in advance.

Step 3: mix the spawn in

Wipe the outside of the spawn bag, open the bulk bag's top, break the colonised grain up through its plastic, and tip it in. Mix the grain through the bulk with clean, gloved hands until it is evenly spread, then fold the top of the bag over twice and clip it shut with a bag clip, peg or sealer stick (not included). The filter patch does the breathing.

Step 4: colonise the bulk

Stand the bag somewhere dark at 22 to 24 °C. The grain runs through the bulk in about 10 to 14 days; the bag is ready when the surface is white through.

Step 5: cut open and fruit

Cut the top of the bag off above the substrate, or cut a wide window in the front, and bring the bag into indirect light at room temperature. Mist the inside walls, not the surface, once or twice a day, and fan the opening when you do, so the surface neither dries nor pools. Pins show within a week or so; harvest with a

gentle twist at the base when the caps begin to open. For a second flush, soak the block for 12 hours, drain it, and return it to the same light and misting.

Liquid culture is not included with any of the three kits; every culture on the liquid cultures page is kit-compatible. Psilocybe cubensis spores sold on this site are supplied for microscopy and taxonomy only and are not for use with this kit.

Injection rules

Almost every contaminated bag we have ever replaced went wrong in the thirty seconds between opening the syringe and finishing the injection. The syringe, the needle and the bag all arrive sterile; the job is to keep them that way for those thirty seconds. These are the rules our sterile guarantee asks you to follow, and they apply to gourmet liquid cultures and spawn bags alike.

Rule 1: never heat, flame or wipe the needle

Every needle arrives gamma-irradiated sterile in its own wrapper, and the syringe casing and end cap keep the contents sterile. Flaming a needle leaves soot and a hot tip that kills what it touches; wiping it with alcohol drags whatever was on the wipe onto the one part that goes inside the bag. Use the needle straight from the wrapper. There is a sticker on every bag saying the same thing.

Rule 2: seat the needle properly

A loose needle is the other big cause of contamination. Push the needle hub onto the Luer lock and give it a quarter turn until it stops. It should not wobble. If it does, take it off and seat it again before you go anywhere near the bag.

Rule 3: work still, not clean

You do not need to sterilise the room. You need still air. Close the windows and doors, turn off fans and heating, and wait a minute for the air to settle. Wash and dry your hands, then keep them away from the needle. A still air box helps but is not required for a bag with a self-healing port.

Rule 4: go through the port, once

Every bag has a self-healing injection port. Push the needle through the centre of the port at a slight angle, inject, and withdraw in one movement. Do not inject through the plastic beside the port, do not make a second hole, and do not open the bag to "check" the grain.

Rule 5: how much, and where

Use the amount the product page for your bag gives, and inject all of it in one place. Do not move the needle tip about inside the bag and do not wind the needle round in the port: that can damage the port. The liquid is spread afterwards, not with the needle. An Inject-and-Forget bag is mixed straight after injection. A grain-based bag is tilted so the solution runs across the whole base of the bag.

Rule 6: wipe the port, and nothing else

Every bag comes with a small alcohol swab. Just before you inject, wipe the injection port with it, once, and give it a few seconds to dry. That is the only thing on the outside of the bag that gets wiped: not the needle, not the rest of the bag, and nothing afterwards. The port reseals itself; do not tape over it and do not wash the bag.

Rule 7: one syringe, one job

A syringe is a single-use item. Draw from a fresh syringe for each strain or culture, cap it if you have to pause, and do not put a used needle back into a sterile bottle.Spare needles can be added at the basket.

What happens next

The bag goes somewhere warm and dark and stays sealed until it is fully colonised. That part is covered by the incubation rules. Follow both sets of rules, buy the syringe and the bag together from us, and if the bag still contaminates before it is opened for the first time, the sterile guarantee replaces it.

Psilocybe cubensis spores sold on this site are supplied for microscopy and taxonomy only; germinating them is illegal in the UK and they are not for use with any growing product. These rules are written for gourmet liquid cultures.

Incubation rules

Once the bag is injected, the work is done and the waiting starts. Our spawn bags and all-in-one grow bags are made to stay sealed from injection to first harvest, so the incubation rules are mostly about resisting the urge to help. These are the rules our sterile guarantee asks you to follow after the injection rules.

Rule 1: keep it sealed

Do not open the bag, cut the bag, or add anything through the port after the injection. The filter patch lets the bag breathe; nothing else needs to. A bag opened "to have a look" is no longer a sealed bag, and it is no longer covered by the guarantee.

Rule 2: warm, dark, still

Put the bag out of direct light, where it will not be moved or knocked, at the temperature for its type: 22 to 23 °C for a grain-based bag (the 50/50 all-in-one bag, the LightBag, the SprinkleBags and every rye grain spawn bag), and 26 to 27 °C for the brown rice flour Inject-and-Forget bags. Grain-based systems are kept cooler so the grain layer at the base does not dry out. An airing cupboard, the top of a wardrobe or a heated incubator all work; the LightBag is made to colonise in dim light, the others prefer dark. Do not put a bag on a radiator, on a heat mat with no thermostat, or in a window: mycelium that goes past 28 °C stalls, and hot bags sweat, which is what contaminants like.

Rule 3: mix on the schedule, not before

An Inject-and-Forget bag is mixed well, through the plastic, on the day it is injected. That same-day mix is the reason Inject-and-Forget bags work so fast. A grain-based bag is the opposite: leave the grain where it landed, and only break it up and shake it after day 10, once the spores have germinated. After any mix, leave at least five days before the next one so the mycelium comes back healthy. Shaking a grain bag before day 10, or mixing more often than every five days, breaks the early growth and spreads whatever else is in there. When you do mix, mix well: knead the bag through the plastic, not a little shake.

Rule 4: wait for full colonisation

White mycelium spreads from the germination points and joins up. In a grain-based bag you see it first on the bottom of the bag, where the solution ran. An Inject-and-Forget bag that was mixed straight after injection shows hundreds of germination points all through the substrate. A bag is ready when the grain is white all the way through with no yellow, brown or grey patches. That takes two to four weeks for most gourmet species at the right temperature, longer if the room is cool. Slow is not the same as failed.

Rule 5: know what contamination looks like

Green, blue-green, black or pink patches, a wet grey slime, or a sour smell through the filter patch are contamination. White fluffy growth, small drops of yellow-brown liquid on the mycelium and a mushroom smell are not. If you are unsure, photograph the bag against a plain background in daylight and send it to us before you do anything else; the contamination guide has pictures.

Rule 6: when the bag is fully white, move on

A grain bag is fully colonised when every grain is covered in mycelium. For a spawn bag, that is the moment to mix it into bulk substrate for a monotub or bag-tek, with the substrate calculator giving the quantities; a grain bag is not fruited without a bulk substrate or a casing layer. A fruit-from-the-bag system is usually ready to fruit by day 20 on our mixing schedule: mix first on day 10, again on day 15 and again on day 20, then place it into fruiting conditions, still sealed until the product page says to open it. Opening the bag for the first time is where the guarantee ends and the growing begins.

If something goes wrong

Contamination before the first opening, on a bag and syringe bought together from us and handled by these rules, is covered by the sterile guarantee. Send the claim form with photographs of the whole bag, the injection port and the filter patch, and your order reference, and we will replace it.

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