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## How to Make Homemade Orange Marmalade - Easily!

Making and canning your own orange marmalade is also quite easy. Here's how to do it, in easy steps and completely illustrated. If you're looking for a [jam recipe and directions, click here!](#) We also have directions to make [applesauce](#), [apple butter](#), [pickles](#) and others!

### Ingredients and Equipment

- **Fruit** - 8 whole oranges, thinly sliced (4 cups cut)  
3 whole lemons, thinly sliced (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups cut)
- **Orange juice or Water** - 4 cups of either. I use orange juice instead of water, for extra flavor.
- **Sugar** - about 4 cups of dry, granulated (table) sugar
- **Pectin** (it's a natural product, made from apples and available at grocery stores (season - spring through late summer) and in Wal-Mart, grocery stores, etc. It usually goes for about \$2.00 to \$2.50 per box. [See here for more information about how to choose the type of pectin to use.](#)
- **Jar funnel** (\$2 at Wal-Mart, Target, and sometimes at grocery stores) or order it as part of the kit with the jar grabber.
- **At least 1 large pot**; I prefer 16 to 20 quart Teflon lined pots for easy cleanup.
- **Large spoons and ladles**
- **1 Canner** (a huge pot to sterilize the jars after filling (about \$30 to \$35 at mall kitchen stores, sometimes at Wal-Mart (seasonal item). Note: [we sell canners and supplies here, too - at excellent prices](#) - and it helps support this web site!)
- **Ball jars** (Publix, Wal-Mart carry them - about \$8 per dozen quart jars including the lids and rings)

- **Jar grabber** (to pick up the hot jars) - WalMart carries it sometimes - or order it here. It's a tremendously useful to put cans in the canner and take the hot jars out (without scalding yourself!). The kit sold below has everything you need, and at a pretty good price:



- **Lids** - thin, flat, round metal lids with a gum binder that seals them against the top of the jar. They may only be used once.
- **Rings** - metal bands that secure the lids to the jars. They may be reused many times.

#### Optional stuff:

- **Lid lifter** (has a magnet to pick the lids out of the boiling water where you sterilize them. (\$2 at WalMart or it comes in the kit at left)

## Orange Marmalade Directions

This example shows you how to make orange marmalade. The yield from this recipe is about 18 eight-ounce jars (which is the same as 9 pints). I'll explain both the way to make traditional orange marmalade (which in my opinion has a bitter edge to it) and an orange marmalade without the bitterness.

### Step 1 - Select the fruit

If you are lucky enough to live in Florida or southern California you can go pick your own Oranges in January and February! Otherwise, you'll have to go to the grocery store for the oranges and lemons.

Pick fresh oranges and lemons that are not soft, moldy or discolored.



### Step 2 - Wash the fruit

I'm sure you can figure out how to wash the fruit in plain cold water.



### Step 3 - Get the jars and lids washed

The dishwasher is fine for the jars; you don't really have to sterilize the jars - the boiling water bath sterilizes everything, jar, lid, contents and all; but you DO want to get the jars as clean as you can first. I get the dishwasher going while I'm preparing everything else, so the jars are clean and hot (and less likely to crack when you put boiling hot fruit in them) by the time I'm ready to fill the jars.

Lids: Put the lids into a pan of hot water for at least several minutes; to soften up the gummed surface and clean the lids.



Need lids, rings and replacement jars?

[Get them all here, delivered direct to your home, at the best prices on the internet!](#)

### Step 4 - Remove the outer part of the peel

Take a look at Step 10 - if you are going to use method 10a, then with a vegetable peeler, remove only the colored part of the peel and set it aside. This outer portion of the peel is what give marmalade its bitter taste. If you like it, chop it finely and set it aside for now.

If you don't like the bitterness, then you are going to use the method Step 10b, so just then just peel the fruit with your hands as shown in step 5 (and skip



step 4)



**Step 5 -Remove the remaining rind**

Using your fingers, peel off the remaining white portion of the rind, discard this - it is a tasteless and spongy.



**Step 6 -Slice the oranges and lemons in half**

Cut the fruit in half, across the segments, as shown.



The tough, white part in the center must be cut out and discarded - it's too tough and tasteless to leave in!

The easiest way to remove it is with a pair of scissors; just snip it out.

Save any juice that leaks out!

**Step 7 - Chop the oranges and lemons**

Next, slice the two halves into thin slices



And then chop the slices up a bit! Remove and discard any seeds or tough parts of the orange that you find in the process.

Continue to save any juice that leaks out!



### Step 8 - Measure out the sugar

You'll need to follow the directions that come with the pectin, but generally, the lower sugar pectin recipes call for about 4 cups of sugar per box, and the regular pectin calls for 7 cups of sugar.

Mix the dry pectin with about 1/4 cup of sugar and keep this separate from the rest of the sugar.

**Note:** you can also add some spice at this point, if you like! Some people add 1 teaspoon of cinnamon, ginger or cloves. Purists add none of these!



### Step 9 - Mix the chopped oranges with the pectin

Stir the pectin into the chopped fruit. Put the mix in a big pot and set aside for a moment.

**Notes about pectin:** I usually add about 30% more pectin (just open another pack and add a little) or else the jam is runnier than I like. With a little practice, you'll find out exactly how much pectin to get the thickness you like.

Another tip: use the low sugar pectin. It cuts the amount of sugar you need from 7 cups per batch to 4 cups! And it tastes even better! On the other hand; I have



never had success with the No-sugar pectin. It always turned out runny and bland. You might want to try using the low sugar recipe with a mixture of sugar and Splenda; that could work.



Is your jam too runny? Pectin enables you to turn out perfectly set jam every time. Made from natural apples, there are also low-sugar pectins that allow you to reduce the sugar you add by almost half!

[Get it here at BETTER prices!](#)



## Step 10 -Cook the fruit - With Peels or Not?

Peels add the characteristic bitterness to marmalade, but some people do not like marmalade BECAUSE it is bitter - so here are both ways to make it (do one OR the other):

### Step 10a - With the Peels:

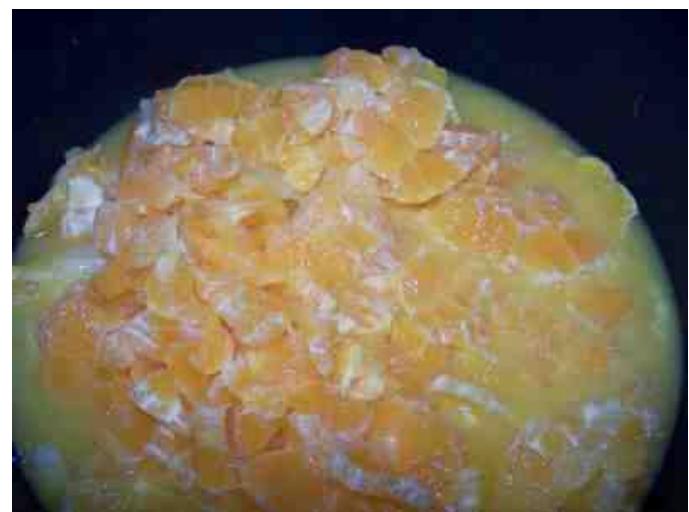
If you want the characteristic bitter taste of marmalade, put the peels, use 2 cups of the original 4 cups of water or orange juice (for a richer flavor) and 1/8 teaspoon of baking soda in a saucepan.

Bring the mix to a boil. Cover it, turn



down the heat and let it simmer for 20 minutes.

Add the chopped fruit, the remaining 2 cups of juice and simmer for 10 minutes more.



**Step 10b - Without the peels**

If you want a less bitter taste, skip the preceding and instead place the chopped fruit and 4 cups of water or orange juice in a saucepan and simmer for 10 minutes



**Step 11 - Add the sugar and return to a boil**

Add the sugar and bring the mixture back to a full boil.

**Step 12 - Bring the mixture to a full boil**

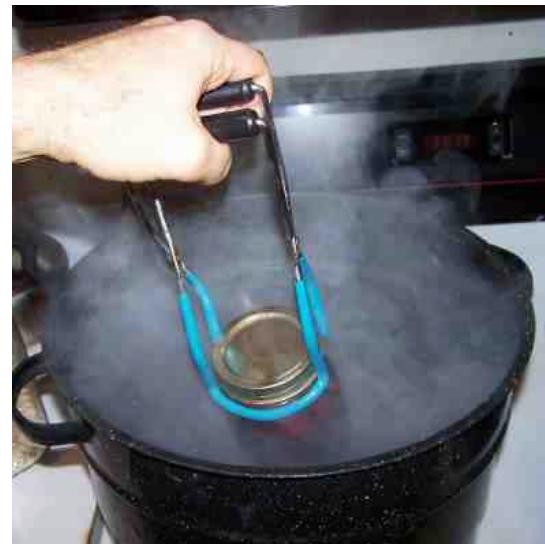
Stir the mix and bring it to a full boil, hard, for one minute.



**Step 13 - Fill the jars and put the lid and rings on**

Fill them to within 1/4 inch of the top, wipe any spilled jam off the top, seat the lid and tighten the ring around them. Then put them into the boiling water canner!

This is where the jar tongs come in really handy!



### **Step 14 - Process the jars in the boiling water bath**

Keep the jars covered with at least 1 inch of water. Keep the water boiling. Boil them for at 15 minutes.

Note: Some people don't even boil the jars; they just ladle it hot into hot jars, put the lids and rings on and invert them, but putting the jars in the boiling water bath REALLY helps to reduce spoilage! To me, it makes little sense to put all the working into making the jam and then not to process the jars to be sure they don't spoil!



### **Step 15 - Done**

Lift the jars out of the water and let them cool without touching or bumping them in a draft-free place (usually takes overnight) You can then remove the rings if you like.

**It may take up to two weeks for the marmalade to set and thicken up. It will be runny until then!**

Once cooled, they're ready to store. I find they last about 18 months. After that, they get darker in color and start to get runny. They still seem safe to eat,

but the flavor is bland. So eat them in the first 12 to 18 months after you prepare them!

### **Other Equipment:**

From left to right:

1. Jar lifting tongs  
to pick up hot jars
2. Lid lifter  
- to remove lids from the pot of boiling water (sterilizing )
3. Lid  
- disposable - you may only use them once
4. Ring  
- holds the lids on the jar until after  
the jars cool - then you don't need them
5. Canning jar funnel  
- to fill the jars

