



The Saturday White Bread -- Ken Forkish from [Flour Water Salt Yeast](#)

Makes 1 loaf. Takes about 6-8 total hours.

This book is amazing -- [Flour Water Salt Yeast by Ken Forkish](#), and the recipe is adapted from it. His story is fantastic and he truly gets bread.

What I love most about this recipe is that it's simple. AND you can make it in a day. Read through this a few times. The steps are slightly different than what we have been doing.

This recipe is designed for someone who wants to make good, crusty loaves of white bread from start to finish in one day.

Mix the dough first thing in the morning, shape it into your loaf about five hours later, and then bake in the late afternoon in time for dinner.

Here you get the taste-good benefits of a medium-length fermentation, resulting in a versatile, delicious bread that's great as a dinner bread and also works well for sandwiches and toast.

Ken likes to make this bread with 10 percent whole-wheat flour for the round, earthy flavors it adds.

If you want to do that, simply make this recipe with 450 grams of white flour and 50 grams of whole-wheat flour.

Ingredients

- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups + 2 tablespoons white all-purpose flour (500 grams; **do not use** high-protein bread flour)
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups water (360 grams; 90 to 95 degrees) this temperature is IMPORTANT!
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tablespoon plus fine sea salt (10 grams)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon instant active dry yeast (3 grams)

Instructions

Bulk fermentation: About 5 hours

Proof time: about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours

Sample schedule: Begin at 9:30 a.m., finish mixing at 10 a.m., shape into loaf at 3 p.m. and bake at 4:15 p.m. The bread will be out of the oven just after 5 p.m.

1. Autolyse: In a large bowl, combine the flour with the 90- to 95-degree water. Mix by hand just until incorporated. Cover and let rest for 20 to 30 minutes.

2. Mix: Sprinkle the salt and yeast evenly over the top of the dough. Mix by hand, wetting your working hand before mixing so the dough doesn't stick to you. (It's fine to rewet your hand three or four times while you mix.) Reach underneath the dough and grab about one-quarter of it. Gently stretch this

section of dough and fold it over the top to the other side of the dough. Repeat three more times with the remaining dough, until the salt and yeast are fully enclosed.

Finger Pinch: Using your thumb and forefinger like pincers, squeeze big chunks of dough and then tighten your grip to cut through the dough five or six times across the entire mass of dough, rewetting your hands as necessary to keep the dough from sticking.

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Then fold the dough over itself a few times. Repeat, alternately cutting and folding until all of the ingredients are fully integrated and the dough has some tension in it.

Let the dough rest for a few minutes, then fold for another 30 seconds or until the dough tightens up. The whole process should take about 5 minutes. The target dough temperature at the end of the mix is 77 to 78 degrees. Cover the bowl and let the dough rise.

3. Fold: This dough needs **two folds**. Apply the first fold about 10 minutes after mixing: With a moistened hand, reach underneath the dough and grab about one-quarter of it.

Gently stretch this section of dough and fold it over the top to the other side of the dough.

Repeat three or four times, then invert the dough so seams are face down. You have just completed the first fold.

Make the second fold during the next hour (when you see the dough spread out in the bowl, it's ready for the second fold).

If need be, it's OK to fold later; just be sure to **leave it alone for the last hour of rising.**

When the dough is **triple its original volume, about 5 hours** after mixing, it's ready to be divided.

4. Shape: Dust a proofing basket with flour or a 9-inch bowl lined with a tea towel. Shape the dough into a medium-tight ball by stretching a quarter of the ball over itself and repeating three more times. Place the ball seam side down in its proofing basket or bowl.

5. Proof: Lightly flour the top of the loaf. Set them side by side and cover with a kitchen towel, or place each basket in a nonperforated plastic bag.

Plan to bake the loaf about 1 1/4 hours after it has been shaped, assuming a room temperature of about **70 degrees.** If your kitchen is warmer, it will be optimally proofed in about 1 hour. Use the finger-dent test (*see note below) to determine when it is perfectly proofed and ready to bake, be sure to check the loaf after 1 hour.

With this bread, 15 minutes can make the difference between being perfectly proofed and collapsing a bit.

6. Preheat: At least 45 minutes prior to baking, put a rack in the middle of the oven and put your only your Dutch oven on the rack with the lid on. **Preheat the oven to 475 degrees.**

7. Bake: For the next step, please be careful not to let your hands, fingers or forearms touch the extremely hot Dutch oven.

Invert the proofed loaf onto a lightly floured countertop, keeping in mind that the top of the loaf will be the side that was facing down while it was rising -- the seam side.

Use oven mitts to remove the preheated Dutch oven from the oven.

Remove the lid. Carefully place the loaf in the hot Dutch oven seam side up. Use mitts to replace the lid, then put the Dutch oven in the oven. Maintain the temperature at 475 degrees.

Bake for 30 minutes, then carefully remove the lid and bake for about 20 more minutes, **until at least medium dark brown** all around the loaf. Check after 15 minutes of baking uncovered in case your oven runs hot.

Remove the Dutch oven and carefully tilt it to turn the loaf out. Let cool on a rack or set the loaf on its side so air can circulate around it. Let the loaf rest for at least 20 minutes before slicing.

**** Note:** Poke the rising loaf with a floured finger, making an indentation about 1/2 inch deep.

If it springs back immediately, the loaf needs more proofing time. If the indentation springs back slowly and incompletely, the loaf is fully proofed and ready to bake. If the indentation does not spring back at all, the loaf is over-proofed. You've waited too long, and the loaf may collapse a bit when you remove it from its basket or put it into the Dutch oven for baking.