



The firkin is basically a keg that is made of wood, metal (Aluminum or Stainless Steel) or plastic that uses gravity flow to dispense the beer. A firkin (sometimes called a Firkin Nine) is 9 Imperial Gallons (10.8 US Gallons).



A Typical Firkin

## Terms Used Around a Firkin

### **BUNG**

Round cork or plastic stopper used for protecting the inside of empty casks from insects etc.



Two types of Bungs  
Shive (Left) - Keystone (Right)

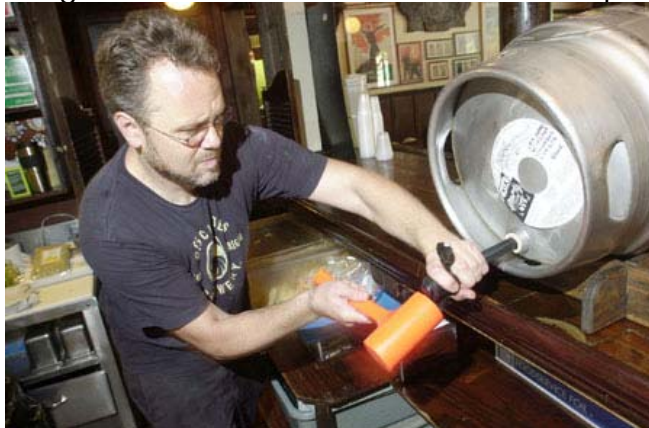
## **HARD SPILE**

Long, thin, non-porous wooden peg used to broach the shive and to prevent natural condition escaping out of the beer.



## **KEYSTONE**

The small round bung on the front of a cask where the tap is driven in.



## **MALLET**

Rubber or ash wood headed hammer used to drive in taps and spiles.



## **SHIVE**

The large round bung on the top of a cask containing the tut.



## **SOFT SPILE**

Short porous wooden peg used to deliberately allow dissolved CO2 to escape from the beer, and to enable air to enter the cask to replace dispensed beer. Usually made of bamboo.



## **SPILE PEG**

A wooden peg used for venting a cask and controlling the conditioning process. There are two varieties, see HARD SPILE & SOFT SPILE.



## **STILLAGE**

Sturdy metal or wooden frame that casks rest on when in use or conditioning.



## **TAP**

Plastic or brass valve that is driven into the keystone with mallet blows.



## **TUT**

The stopper in the center of the shive that is pushed through when a cask is vented.



The Tut is the the small center of the Shive

## VENT

The act of broaching the shive, usually done by driving a hard spile through the tut.



### Common English Keg Measurements

Name	Imperial Gallons	US Gallons
pin	4.5 gallons	5.4 gallons
firkin	9 gallons	10.8 gallons
kilderkin	18 gallons	21.6 gallons
barrel	36 gallons	43.2 gallons
puncheon	72 gallons	86.5 gallons
tun	216 gallons	259.4 gallons
hogshead	54 gallons	64.85 gallons
butt	108 gallons	129.7 gallons