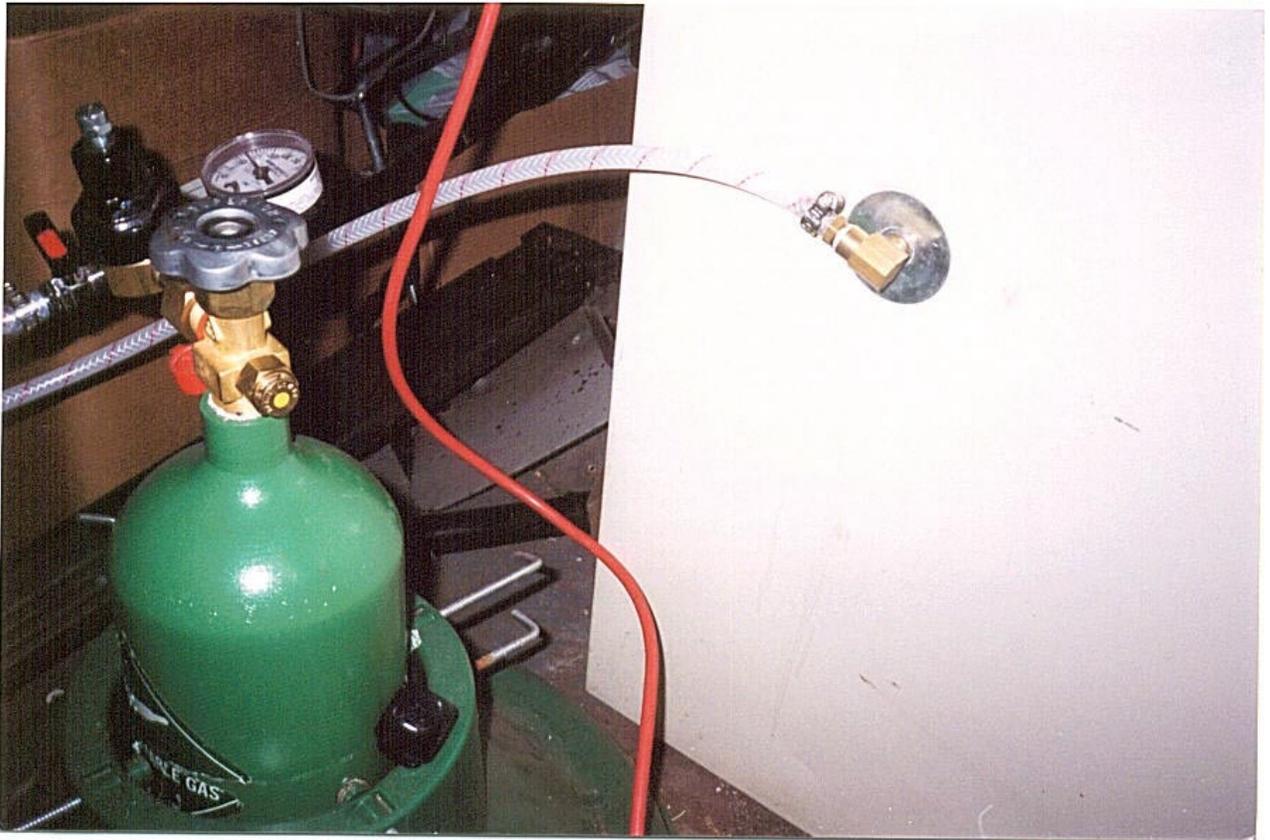


My keg-O-rator

By Greg Guyton

Please be sure to take all necessary safety precautions when dealing with electrical appliances and power tools.

My in-laws were kind enough to give me their old refrigerator several years ago. A dedicated beer fridge is a nice thing to have when you make your own beer, but it's a necessity when you serve your beer from kegs. I started with black plastic picnic taps but I didn't like having to open the door to dispense a beer so I decided to install taps through the fridge door. After some thought and some measurements of the fridge and the height of my "stout faucet" I decided the door was not my best option. The freezer section is on the top on this model and the freezer door would have interfered with the tap handles. I then decided to go through the side.



The first hole I made in the fridge was for the CO2 line. (Unplug the refrigerator before drilling) I drilled a small pilot hole in the inner plastic liner stopping just as the bit penetrated the plastic then I inserted a small screwdriver into the hole and poked around to be sure the area did not contain any wiring or refrigerant lines. Once I was certain it was safe I drilled through the insulation and outer sheet metal skin with the small bit. I then used a hole saw to cut the hole for the gas line. I used a 1/4" brass pipe nipple, barbed fittings and some fender washers as a bulkhead fitting arrangement.



I took some measurements of both the inside and outside to determine the highest point I could mount the taps and placed a piece of masking tape across the fridge at that height.



I purchased a wall mount drip tray that had 3 tap holes 3" on center, so I marked the middle hole in the center and the other two 3" on either side. The positioning of these hole was more critical so I drilled them from the outside, drilling through the sheet metal first, again checking to be sure the area was clear of obstructions. Then I cut the holes with a 1" hole saw.



This is the drip tray with the shanks installed. The shanks are 4" long. I sealed all the holes with caulking to keep and moisture from getting inside the liner.

All that remained to complete the project was the installation of the gas lines inside the keg-o-rator to the faucets, the drip tray and the faucets.



Drip tray with the faucets and handles installed.