

THC, HOW TO MAKE/USE

EXTRACTS, ABSTRACTS, COMPILATIONS.

Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol(THC) is the chemical in marijuana responsible for the “high”. It is a combination of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, $C_{21}H_{30}O_2$. It is a viscous hydrophobic oil that resists crystallization and is of low volatility. It has a molecular weight of 314.5 grams and a boiling point of 200 degrees Celsius at .02 mm hg. For most individuals, between three and five mg. of delta-9-THC are needed to produce a traceable euphoric effect.

In 1988, Dr William Devane, who completed his studies in pharmacology at the St. Louis University School of medicine in 1980, discovered the membranes of nerve cells contain protein receptors that bind delta-9-THC. Once in place the delta-9-THC molecule kicks off a series of cellular reactions that lead to the euphoric feeling. Marijuana, or delta-9-THC does not kill brain cells, the delta-9-THC binds to these receptor sites which fit a chemical called anandamide that is found and manufactured in the human body. delta-9-THC has some differences from anandamide, although it shares most characteristics.

Anandamide is derived from arachidonic acid, a 20-carbon carboxylic acid that is the starting point for many complex biochemical reactions. One of these reactions lead to the production of leukotrienes, the key substances in the inflammation process. Another leads to the formation of prostaglandins, which play a role in mediating pain. Another reaction leads to the production of anandamide. In small doses anandamide may be involved in the regulation of mood, memory, pain, movement, and other activities including appetite and may be linked to eating disorders.

In small to moderate doses Delta-9-THC causes feelings of well being and euphoria. In large doses the chemical can cause paranoia, hallucinations, and dizziness. The chemical may remain in the brain for up to 24 hours, attaching to specific receptor sites in four main areas of the brain: 1. the limbic which controls pleasure reward systems, 2. the frontal cortex which processes incoming information and initiates voluntary behavior 3. the hippocampus, the site of memory transfer and 4. the cerebellum which controls coordination and movement.

Your body begins breaking down delta-9-THC immediately into metabolites. These metabolites, 11-hydroxy-THC and 11-nor-9-carboxy-delta-9-THC are what is stored in your fat cells, not the chemical which causes the psychoactive effect. Because these metabolites carry the prefix THC, many anti-drug activists are able to claim that marijuana stays in your body for much longer, and keeps you high for days or weeks. The delta-9-THC that is found in marijuana must be broken down into these water soluble molecules before they can be removed from the body.

Marijuana has come into contact with a lot of controversy in the last few years. New studies have found that the chemicals, specifically delta-9-THC can be medically adapted to provide relief for painful diseases including cancer and AIDS, and can help restore eyesight in glaucoma patients. Although delta-9-THC has been synthesized and is available with a doctor's prescription, it is very expensive and not as effective.

People have been smoking the marijuana or the cannabis plant for thousands of years and there has been little evidence of a death ever being directly attributed to the drug. There has never been a study that showed conclusive evidence of permanent memory loss or brain damage. The danger, physically, of delta-9-THC, is less than that of nicotine or caffeine. When compared to alcohol and driving, it would take 4000 times the amount of delta-9-THC to cause the effects of alcohol. Alcohol is responsible for thousands of deaths on the highways each year and is linked to almost every crime committed, yet alcohol is legal. It has been said that the most dangerous characteristic of marijuana is that it is illegal.

A technique of extracting the essential oils from hemp. The final product will be a dark, oily liquid that contains 80+% pure THC. The following steps require nothing more than simple, easy to find materials and a little time.

Advantages of THC oil:

- No hot, harsh smoke to irritate your lungs
- No tar to stain your teeth and fingers

- Very little smell
- 5 times as much THC in bloodstream
- Get 5 times as many “trips” per \$\$\$ as compared to joint/bong smoking
- No carcinogens to give you cancer

The list goes on and on but let’s get down to business...

Materials you’ll need for extraction:

- A glass jar with a watertight lid (widemouth Mason jars work great)
- A metal measuring cup with handle (2 cup capacity recommended)
- Bottle of 190 proof grain alcohol (Everclear brand is perfect)
(any high-proof alcohol works; methylated spirits, isopropyl)
- Any quantity of pot, any strength (from a gram up to a few ounces)
- A 1’ X 1’ piece of sturdy cloth (t-shirt material works fine)
- An eye-dropper bottle (contact lens type bottles work great)
- The use of an ELECTRIC stove AND its overhead fan

-- Step 1 --

You’ll need to chop up your weed and pick apart the buds until it looks like grass clippings. Remove any seeds, they have their own oils which we don’t want. Use the metal cup and heat 1 cup of grain alcohol until it’s good and hot. Only use ELECTRIC stoves for this step, also use the overhead fan to draw away alcohol fumes. Dump the chopped up weed into the mason jar and pour the hot alcohol onto the weed. There should have been enough alcohol to completely cover the weed and let it float around freely. Place the lid securely on the jar after it has cooled enough to touch it. Secure the lid and shake it a few times. The purpose of heating the alcohol before adding it to the weed helps soften the THC oil and to change THC-acids into THC, making your final product more potent.

Let this mixture sit for a few hours, shaking it every once in a while. The alcohol should have turned a dark green color and when shaken should form small, colorful, oily bubbles on top. Place the sturdy cloth over the metal container and press the cloth down to form a funnel. Carefully pour the contents of the mason jar onto the cloth which is in the metal cup. Make sure to get most of the weed particles out of the jar. Gather up the edges of the cloth and squeeze the remaining liquid out of the lump of weed into the metal cup.

-- Step 2 --

Be sure to use an ELECTRIC STOVE in this step! (If you don’t have one, read -- Step 2a --)

Take the metal cup containing the green liquid over to the stove. Turn one of the ELECTRIC eyes on LOW setting and place the metal cup on that burner. I HIGHLY suggest using the fan over the stove to remove the alcohol vapors during this entire step. Watch the liquid closely. It should only boil slightly, **NEVER** raise the burner temperature above MEDIUM LOW. If the temperature of the mixture gets too high, THC will begin to evaporate into thin air... you certainly don’t want this to happen. We need the liquid to cook down until it’s **slightly** thicker. This may take some time but be patient.

Once the liquid starts to thicken and turn darker, remove it from the heat. Never let it get too thick or it’ll be too difficult to work with. If you do accidentally make it too thick, just add a small quantity of the grain alcohol to the metal cup and swirl it around till it’s thinner. Let it cool down to room temperature inside the metal cup. It should be runny enough to be poured into the eye-dropper bottle easily. Use some aluminum foil to make a small funnel so as not to spill any of the oil. You now have your final product: THC oil. It’s necessary to have some grain alcohol left in the resulting liquid so it’s easy to work with. This will not affect the potency of the oil.

-- Step 2a --

This part is for the people with GAS stoves. **DO NOT USE A GAS STOVE TO COOK DOWN ALCOHOL!** The vapors will explode! You’ll have to have patience to complete this step. To get a final product just put the metal container in a place where it won’t be disturbed. The alcohol will have to evaporate on its own. If at all possible keep it in a slightly warm area with decent ventilation. It may take days. If you just can’t wait for that long it is

possible to replace alcohol with acetone. NEVER heat acetone under ANY circumstances! It is toxic and will explode if heated. Just use room-temperature acetone and soak the weed for about 4-6 hours in the mason jar. Shake it once in a while. Strain it through the sturdy cloth into a 9 X 9 cake pan and squeeze all liquid out of the lump. Let the liquid sit until it **ALL** of the acetone has evaporated. Acetone is used because it evaporates very quickly and leaves no residue. Be sure to use only pure acetone, **NOT** finger nail polish remover. Scrape up all the resulting stuff into a small container and mix with about 2 tablespoons of grain alcohol or until dissolved. Pour this liquid into your eye-dropper. You now have THC oil!

-- Smoking Instruction --

(NOTE: When smoking this oil in any form, do not let it come into direct contact with a flame. That destroys much of the THC and defeats the purpose of this whole project.)

You have the oil in the eye-dropper bottle and you're ready to smoke some? Clean up your mess first. You don't want to have to explain why a rag of wet marijuana is lying on the kitchen table do you? Wash out the jar, the metal cup, and throw away the cloth. Throw away the weed too, it's useless. Use a water/alcohol mixture to wash out the jar and cup.

Materials you'll need for smoking:

- A 5" X 5" piece of aluminum foil
- A Bic pen tube (take out all the stuff until it's hollow)
- A stationary flame source (a butane torch works best, but you can use a candle, lighter, etc.)
- The THC oil in the eye-dropper bottle

Make a "spoon" out of the aluminum foil. This takes some practice but you'll get a design that works. Put 6-8 drops of the oil into the "spoon" and hold it about 4" over the flame. It should begin to boil slightly. Don't let it get too close to the flame just yet. It'll cook down and turn very dark brown and begin to make crackling sounds. Now you should lower the spoon so the THC is directly over the flame. The spoon is still face up, we're just really putting the heat to it. Hold the Bic pen tube about 1" above the dark brown area and inhale through the tube. You'll see a white smoke come up from the dark area, this is vaporized THC. Once you have a lungfull, remove the spoon from the flame. You'll feel the effects almost instantly. Exhale and place the spoon back over the flame and inhale again. You may notice THC has a distinct taste, aromatic and almost sweet. It won't take long to know when all the THC in the spoon is gone, you'll taste a charred, burned smoke instead of THC. Once you've smoked what's in the spoon, put a few more drops in and repeat as many times as you want. If you're a smoker, you can put a few drops into a cigarette, let it dry, and feel free to catch a buzz without the smell. Using ¼ oz of average weed, performing this project, end up with the equivalent of ¾ oz great weed.

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