DEVELOPING A FIRM LEVAIN CULTURE

Jeffrey Hamelman

DAY ONE		Initial Mix	
Organic rye flour	75 g	2 oz (1/2 c)	
Bread flour			
Water	100 g	2.6 oz (1/4 c + 1 T)	
TOTAL	250 g	6.6 oz	
Mix well, cover, and leave to ferment in a warm area			

Mix well, cover, and leave to ferment in a warm area, (about 80) for 24 hours.

DAY TWO		One Feeding		
Initial Mix	100 g	3.3 oz (half of above)		
Bread flour	100 g	3 oz (less than 3/4 c)		
Water	60 g	2 oz (11/4 c)		
TOTAL	260 g	8.3 oz		
Mix well, cover, and leave in a warm place (about 80F).				

DAYS THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE

		Two Feedings
211	100 σ	3.3 oz (half of

"Chef"	100 g	3.3 oz (half of above)
Bread flour	100 g	3 oz (less than 3/4 c)
Water	60 g	2 oz (1/4 c)
TOTAL		8.3 oz

The two feedings should be approximately 12 hours apart. Mix well, cover, and leave in a slightly cooler area to ferment, about 75--80F.

On Day Six the culture should have sufficient ripeness to be used for bread. However, in order to continue developing strength and complexity, it may be fed for two or three more days before beginning use in bread production. In that case, follow the same feeding schedule as for Days Three, Four, and Five.

When mature, the culture can be fed with other flours, such as rye, spelt, or whole wheat as necessary when making breads that feature those flours.