# Best of both worlds keezer build

Looking to expand my keg storage and dispensing capacity I obtained a chest deep freezer which I wanted to convert into a keezer. Looking at build plans online I found that pretty much every one was a variation on one of two designs. The simple collar keezer:

Or the coffin or tower based designs:

While both these designs are functional and look great, they both have drawbacks. The simple collar keezer was not an option for me since I have a 2 year old, and the collar would put the tap handles where they would be easily within her reach. And while the coffin tower would solve this issue, and look nicer in my opinion, it had its own issues. Namely the difficulty it adds for access. You would have to be able to pull the keezer far enough out from a wall to be able to lift the lid without the tower banging into the wall.

Seeing as how I plan to eventually have 7 kegs on tap, opening the keezer easily to add, swap out, or clean would be a major benefit. I decided that I wanted the best of both, without the drawback of either.

The idea was to build a whole new lid with a portion, the coffin tower, fixed in place while the other portion could be easily opened and closed. I enlisted my brother's help since he has a better tool selection and a carpentry background. We started by removing the lid, 8 screws on the hinges and it was gone. I wrapped it to keep it safe and set it aside should I ever need to convert it back.

Then we added a simple collar using 2x4s.

The collar simply resets on the top of the keezer. Then to hold it in place we lined the outside of the 2x4s with a 6in fence planks. I went with pre stained cedar, but you can use whatever you like.


For aesthetic reasons we joined the fence planks at 45 degree angles to create smooth corners.

Then we began constructing the new top which would sit atop the collar fitting in to seal it. To do this we used ply wood and 1in thick pink foam board insulation, with more cedar plank on the top.

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This fixed portion was cut such that the pink board fit tightly to create a seal, but we added wood glue and nails to secure it. Next we completed the removable front using the same methods minus the glue and nails. To cover the flats of the planks we created a lip to hang over and serve as handles when lifting as well.

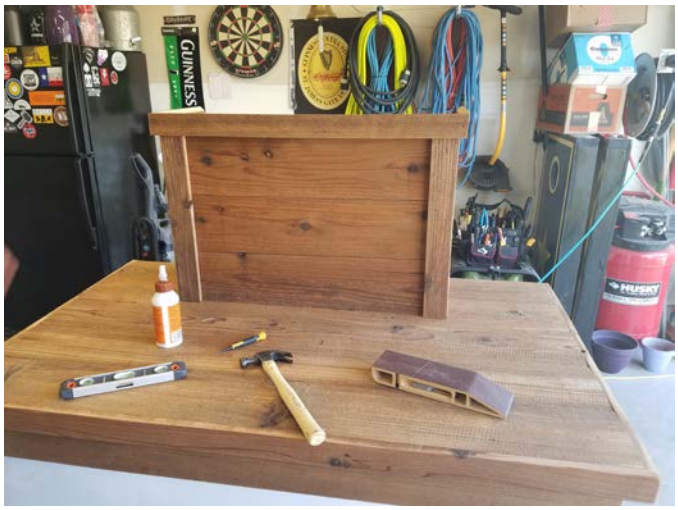
The front can readily be lifted by one person and removed, but fits snuggly inside and seals nicely.

The next step was the coffin tower build. Again we framed it with plywood. We also cut three holes from the freezer into the tower. One for draft lines, one for a fan to blow up into the tower and one for a fan to blow down into the keezer to create circulation and keep the draft lines cool.

I wired two old CPU fans to an old phone charger to serve as my tower cooler.

The tower was sealed with wood glue and nails at this point.

The next step was to wrap the tower with the cedar planks as well. We erred and forgot to miter the corners to get a nice edge, so my brother decided to create a frame to go around and cover the corners.





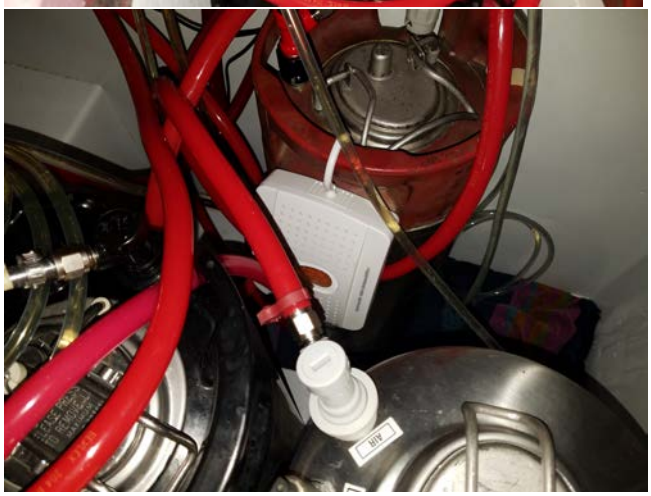
The top of the coffin tower is removable using the same compression method as the front portion of the keezer top.

After adding in my faucets and lines I lined the inside of the coffin tower with 1in pink board insulation as well.

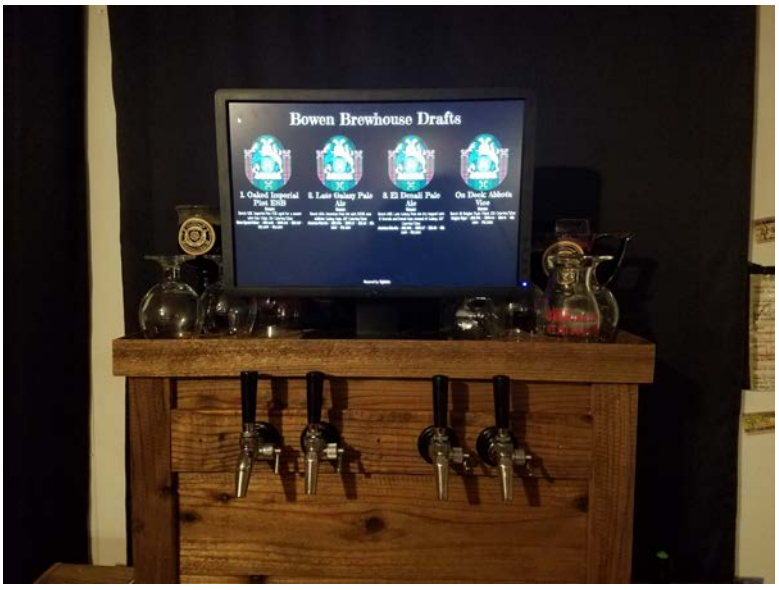
Having had experience with tower height before I made sure that my taps were at a height such that my 64ox growlers could easily rest in the drip tray while filling.


Currently I only have 4 taps, but laid them out on the tower in such a way to make expanding up to 7 simple and easy. Since I can easily fit 7 kegs in the keezer.

I had some issues initial with condensation, but was able to resolve them by adding pink board insulation around the top inside collar, and sealing it with silver tape. As well as adding an Eva-Dry Dehumidifier.



Then using an old monitor, a raspberry pi and taplist.io I set up a digital online tap list on the cheap.


I have a 20lb CO2 tank with a dual pressure regulator, so I had to drill two holes to run my gas lines in, but if you have a 5 lb tank or don't mind losing the space for 1 keg you could keep the CO2 in the keezer.

Future plans include expanding to 7 taps, wrapping the rest in cedar, and possibly putting on casters.