

Grandpa Style: Loose Leaf in a Mug, All Day

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Grandpa-style brewing, in summary: Loose leaf left in a mug and topped up all day. The least fussy loose-leaf method, genuinely good with forgiving whole leaf, and quietly bad with broken or very astringent tea.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Grandpa Style: Loose Leaf in a Mug, All Day. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/grandpa-style-brewing/>*

The least fussy loose leaf method there is, and a genuinely good one. This sits in the brewing cluster beside [western vs gongfu](#).

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in May 2026.

What it is, and why it works

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What it is, and why it works , Grandpa Style: Loose Leaf in a Mug, All Day. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/grandpa-style-brewing/>*

The method is almost nothing, which is the point: put loose leaf directly in a large mug or glass, add hot (not always boiling) water, drink it down slowly, and top up with more hot water before it runs dry so it re-infuses through the day. It works because good whole leaf settles and stops giving much once it has released its first rounds, so it self-regulates in a way bagged or broken tea cannot, the opposite of what you would expect from leaf left sitting in water. The whole trick is restraint: a modest amount of leaf, hot but gentle water, topped up before it dries out, drunk unhurried over a long session rather than as a fast strong mug. See [loose leaf tea](#).

Which teas suit it

Choose the leaf for the method. Forgiving whole-leaf greens, lighter oolongs and some blacks reward it, because they settle and hold something back. Very astringent or broken teas, and fine powders, do not: they over-steep and turn bitter sitting in the cup, so this is not a method for everything. Pick a forgiving whole leaf and it rewards you all day for no effort; force a delicate, broken or dust-grade tea through it and it punishes you. See the [troubleshooting guide](#) if a cup turns bitter.

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Method	Kit	Best for	Watch out for
One cup brewing	mug + large basket infuser + lid	a clean single cup, leaf removed on time	must lift the infuser out, no pot to decant
No equipment / office	just a cup and hot water	travel, the office, proving leaf beats kit	needs a saucer pour off to stop it
Grandpa style	a mug, nothing else	all day forgiving leaf, topped up	broken or very astringent leaf turns bitter

Where it fits, and the no-pot alternatives

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Where it fits, and the no-pot alternatives , Grandpa Style: Loose Leaf in a Mug, All Day. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/grandpa-style-brewing/*

Grandpa style is the everyday working method across much of China precisely because it is unpretentious, needs no equipment and asks almost no attention. It belongs in the brewing family beside [western and gongfu](#) as simply a third deliberate setting of the same dials: no apparatus, leaf left to self-regulate, attention minimal. It is the casual all-day end of the no-pot trio, with the bare-cup office method its travel cousin and one-cup basket brewing its tidier relative, and the right way to choose is by situation rather than by any one being more correct. It will never match a careful gongfu session for nuance or a timed one-cup brew for precision, and it is not meant to; its whole value is the absence of fuss with a leaf chosen to forgive it. See [Chinese tea culture](#).

Want to buy a good one?

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Want to buy a good one? , Grandpa Style: Loose Leaf in a Mug, All Day. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/grandpa-style-brewing/*

Keep a forgiving whole-leaf green or lighter oolong for it. Browse the full [tea shop](#) or the [loose leaf range](#), buy on the cup and the per-cup price rather than the marketing, and free UK delivery is over £35.

[Browse the tea range](#)

Reference noted

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brewing/

- [EFSA: Scientific opinion on dietary reference values for water](#)

Worth picking up: the [English tea range](#) and [loose leaf range](#).

FROM THE CURATOR teas · Take the simplest thing on this page that fits your routine. Range and ritual are for week two.

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More from the tea wiki

- [Western vs gongfu](#)
- [Loose leaf guide](#)
- [Re-steeping](#)
- [One cup brewing](#)
- [Chinese tea culture](#)

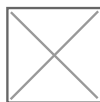
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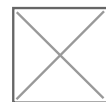
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