

HOW TO POUR THE PERFECT BLACK AND TAN™



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BASIC PRINCIPLES

Density

Creating layered beer drinks is all about liquid density. A lighter liquid will float on top of a heavier one. Just like oil floating on water. Unlike oil and water however, because the basic composition of different beers is very similar and their densities relatively close, the liquids will not separate after being mixed. Therefore, in order to create a great layered beer, the top beer must be gently poured over the bottom layer to minimize the mixing and allow the beer layers to remain separate.



More information on density can be found in this [Wikipedia entry](#).

Color

The color of the beers being layered is very important. If one beer layers well over another but the color of the beers is the same, what's the point? The whole reason for serving a layered beer is for dramatic effect. Luckily beers come in a nice range of color from black (Guinness Draft) to amber (Killian's Irish Red) to light yellow/tan (Miller Lite or Corona). More information about beer color can be found [here](#).

SRM	STYLE	COLOR
2	PALE LAGER	
3	MAIBOCK	
4	WEISSBIER	
6	PALE ALE	
8	SAISON	
10	ESB	
13	DOUBLE IPA	
17	DARK LAGER, AMBER ALE	
20	BROWN ALE, DUNKELS	
24	DOPPLEBOCK, PORTER	
29	STOUT	
35	BALTIC PORTER	
40+	IMPERIAL STOUT	

The clarity of a beer can also be considered. Some beers are clear while others are cloudy. Common beer clarity descriptors include brilliant, hazy, cloudy, turbid, opaque, clear, crystal, bright, dull. Two beers of the same color, but of different clarity, can be layered with a nice effect.

CHOICES

Type Of Layer

Here is the hard part. So many choices, so little time. In addition to many great beers, different layer combinations are also possible.

- Dark on Top
- Dark on Bottom
- Clear / Cloudy



Beer Selection

Disclaimer

It is very important to know that not all beer combinations will layer well. Obviously, many beers will have almost the same density. Often they will mix even when pouring very gently. Experimentation with many different beers may be needed.

Rules of Thumb

1. Nitro stouts generally work well for a top dark layer ie Guinness or Murphy's
2. Regular stouts and porters generally work well for a bottom dark layer
3. Black lagers may work well for either a top or bottom dark layer
4. When in doubt as to whether to try the dark beer on the top or bottom, try the dark beer on the top first. You will be able to tell right away if it works or not. If it doesn't layer and the dark beer drops down quickly into the lighter bottom layer, reversing the layers will often result in a good combination.

These rules say 'generally' because there are beers that will layer over a stout (ie Miller Lite) and beers that will layer under a porter (ie Franconia Wheat). Black lagers may work well as a dark bottom layer or a dark top (ie Bottom: New Belgium 1554, Top: Shiner Black Lager).

HOW TO DO IT - Pouring a Perfect Black and Tan

1. Fill a beer glass ½ full with the selected bottom beer. Having some foam on top is OK and probably helps.
2. Place the Perfect Black and Tan beer layering tool on top of the glass.
3. Gently pour the top beer into the center of the layering tool & let the beer drip down over the bottom layer beer.
4. Stop pouring and remove the layering tool when the beer reaches the top of the glass.
5. Enjoy your creation. It's that simple!



NOTES

Recipes

Check out our recipes link to see a list of beers that should layer well. Our blog also has lots of pictures of successfully layered beers.

For the First Time

If this is your first time in layering beers, here are some recommended combinations using Guinness Draught in a can as a top layer.

- Half & Half: Guinness Draught can over Harp Lager
- Black and Blue: Guinness Draught can over Blue Moon



Infographic

The infographic is set against a black background. At the top, it lists the ingredients: a tall black beer glass, a circular metal layering tool with 'the perfect Black + Tan' embossed on it, a grey beer bottle, and a grey can. Below this is the title 'HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT BLACK AND TAN' in a white, serif font. The process is shown in three numbered steps: 1. A bottle pours yellow beer into the glass. 2. The layering tool is placed on top of the glass. 3. A can pours dark beer into the center of the tool. Below the steps are three text blocks. At the bottom left is the brand logo. At the bottom center is an illustration of the ingredients and the finished drink. At the bottom right is the final instruction.

HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT BLACK AND TAN

1 Fill a beer glass 1/2 full with the selected bottom beer. Having some foam on top is OK and probably helps.

2 Place the beer layering tool on top of the glass.

3 Gently pour the top beer into the center of the layering tool & let the beer drip down over the bottom layer beer.

Stop pouring and remove the layering tool when the beer reaches the top of the glass.

~THE~
PERFECT
BLACK+TAN