

Beer Styles

Written by Mark Emiley

Tuesday, 15 July 2008 17:03 - Last Updated Monday, 26 January 2009 05:49

Developing a better understanding of beer styles allows brewers to be better competitors and judges. This doesn't necessarily make you a better brewer, but in the field of competitive brewing, beers are judged to style. A sound understanding of the profiles and ingredients which define a style greatly increases your chances of making (or judging) a beer better.

The [Beer Judge Certification Program](#) has created the BJCP Style Guidelines which are used in virtually all homebrewing competitions as the standard for styles. These guidelines can be found [here](#).

The [Brewing Network](#) has compiled an excellent series of podcasts led by Jamil Zainasheff covering details of each of the BJCP beer styles and how to brew them. These podcasts are an excellent resource for brewers looking to brew a particular style and are also a great way for judges to freshen up on what defines a certain beer style profile and how it is built up. We strongly encourage listening to these podcasts to get ready for your next brew day, judging session, or BJCP exam.

Note: As additional podcasts become available, the links will be updated. Last updated 24 November 2008.

Recommend right clicking on style and selecting "Save Target As";

Category	Cat #	Subcategory
1. Light Lager	1A	Lite American Lager
	1B	Standard Premium Lager
	1C	Premium American Lager
	1D	Munich Helles
	1E	Dortmunder Export
2. Pilsner	2A	German Pilsner (Pils)
	2B	Bohemian Pilsener
	2C	Classic American Pilsner
3. European Amber Lager	2D	Vienna Lager

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | <u>3B</u> | <u>Oktoberfest/Marzen</u> |
| 4. Dark Lager | <u>4A</u> | <u>Dark American Lager</u> |
| | <u>4B</u> | <u>Munich Dunkel</u> |
| | <u>4C</u> | <u>Schwarzbier (Black Beer)</u> |
| 5. Bock | <u>5A</u> | <u>Maibock/Helles Bock</u> |
| | <u>5B</u> | <u>Traditional Bock</u> |
| | <u>5C</u> | <u>Doppelbock</u> |
| | <u>5D</u> | <u>Eisbock</u> |
| 6. Light Hybrid Beer | <u>6A</u> | <u>Cream Ale</u> |
| | <u>6B</u> | <u>Blonde Ale</u> |
| | <u>6C</u> | <u>Kolsch</u> |
| | <u>6D</u> | <u>American Wheat or Rye Beer</u> |
| 7. Amber Hybrid Beer | <u>7A</u> | <u>Northern German Altbier</u> |
| | <u>7B</u> | <u>California Common Beer</u> |
| | <u>7C</u> | <u>Dusseldorf Altbier</u> |
| 8. English Pale Ale | <u>8A</u> | <u>Standard/Ordinary Bitter</u> |
| | <u>8B</u> | <u>Special/Best/Premium Bitter</u> |
| | <u>8C</u> | <u>Extra Special/Strong Bitter</u> |
| 9. Scottish and Irish Ale | <u>9A</u> | <u>Scottish Light 60/-</u> |
| | <u>9B</u> | <u>Scottish Heavy 70/-</u> |
| | <u>9C</u> | <u>Scottish Export 80/-</u> |
| | <u>9D</u> | <u>Irish Red Ale</u> |
| | <u>9E</u> | <u>Strong Scotch Ale</u> |
| 10. American Ale | <u>10A</u> | <u>American Pale Ale</u> |
| | <u>10B</u> | <u>American Amber Ale</u> |
| | <u>10C</u> | <u>American Brown Ale</u> |
| 11. English Brown Ale | <u>11A</u> | <u>Mild</u> |
| | <u>11B</u> | <u>Southern English Brown</u> |

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	11C	Northern English Brown
12. Porter	12A	Brown Porter
	12B	Robust Porter
	12C	Baltic Porter
13. Stout	13A	Dry Stout
	13B	Sweet Stout
	13C	Oatmeal Stout
	13D	Foreign Extra Stout
	13E	American Stout
	13F	Russian Imperial Stout
14. India Pale Ale	14A	English IPA
	14B	American IPA
	14C	Imperial IPA
15. German Wheat and Rye Beer	15A	Weizen/Weissbier
	15B	Dunkelweizen
	15C	Weizenbock
	15D	Roggenbier(German Rye Beer)
16. Belgian and French Ale	16A	Witbier
	16B	Belgian Pale Ale
	16C	Saison
	16D	Biere de Garde
	16E	Belgian Specialty Ale
17. Sour Ale	17A	Berliner Weisse
	17B	Flanders Red Ale
	17C	Flanders Brown Ale
	17D	Straight (Unblended Lambic)
	17E	Gueuze
	17F	Fruit Lambic

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- 18. Belgian Strong Ale
 - [18A](#) [Belgian Blond Ale](#)
 - [18B](#) [Belgian Dubbel](#)
 - [18C](#) [Belgian Tripel](#)
 - [18D](#) [Belgian Golden Strong Ale](#)
 - [18E](#) [Belgian Dark Strong Ale](#)
- 19. Strong Ale
 - [19A](#) [Old Ale](#)
 - [19B](#) [English Barleywine](#)
 - [19C](#) [American Barleywine](#)
- 20. Fruit Beer
 - [20](#) [Fruit Beer](#)
- 21. Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer
 - [21A](#) [Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer](#)
 - [21B](#) [Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer](#)
- 22. Smoke-Flavored and Wood-Aged Beer
 - [22A](#) [Other Smoked Beer](#)
 - [22B](#) [Wood-Aged Beer](#)
 - [22C](#) [Other Smoked Beer](#)
- 23. Specialty Beer
 - [23](#) [Specialty Beer](#)
- 24. Traditional Mead
 - [24A](#) [Dry Mead](#)
 - [24B](#) [Semi-sweet Mead](#)
 - [24C](#) [Sweet Mead](#)
- 25. Melomel
 - [25A](#) [Cyser \(Apple Melomel\)](#)
 - [25B](#) [Pyment \(Grape Melomel\)](#)
 - [25C](#) [Other Fruit Melomel](#)
- 26. Other Mead
 - [26A](#) [Metheglin](#)
 - [26B](#) [Braggot](#)
 - [26C](#) [Open Category Mead](#)
- 27. Standard Cider and Perry
 - [27A](#) [Common Cider](#)
 - [27B](#) [English Cider](#)
 - [27C](#) [French Cider](#)
 - [27D](#) [Common Perry](#)

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[27E](#) [Traditional Perry](#)

28. Specialty Cider and ~~28A~~ [Perry](#) [New England Cider](#)

[28B](#) [Fruit Cider](#)

[28C](#) [Applewine](#)

[28D](#) [Other Specialty Cider/Perry](#)