

The BJCP Color Guide

Congratulations

The Beer Judge Certification Program is pleased to present to you our new BJCP Color Guide. This guide is a free member benefit for all active judges in the BJCP. We offer it to you as an education and training tool primarily, although you may find that it has some utility in a competition setting.

The new BJCP Color Guide is designed to allow a beer judge to quickly estimate the color of a beer sample in SRM (Standard Reference Method) units. The color samples printed on the guide have been calibrated using precision test equipment and are intended to be used with a 5cm path in daylight. A convenient measuring aid is printed on the guide.

For additional information on the development and testing of this guide, see <http://www.bjcp.org/colorguide.html>. The guide concept was inspired by the Davison Color Chart, which has not been manufactured since the 1990s.

Instructions for Use

1. Measure a sample of beer in a clear glass or hard plastic cup with a path of 5cm (use the bottom edge of the guide as a measure). If the glass is not 5cm wide, pour a depth of 5cm and look down through the beer.
2. Use a pure white sheet of paper or white tablecloth as a background.
3. Use a natural light source or artificial light approximating sunlight. Do not use a flashlight to provide extra light. The guide and the beer must be viewed using the same light source. Avoid casting shadows with your body or the beer glass.
4. Look through the beer at the white background.
5. Place the BJCP Color Guide next to the beer so that the beer (as viewed with the white background) and the guide can be seen together. Compare the colors and find the closest match. An exact match is unlikely, so look for the closest lightness/darkness match rather than attempting to match hue. If the sample is in between two color patches, interpolate.

Care and Handling

The BJCP Color Guide is durable, but not indestructible. Treat it with some care, particularly in avoiding scratching the color surface. The Guide is water-resistant, and may be cleaned with water and a soft cloth. Avoid prolonged exposure to water or beer, especially the edges. You may find wrapping it in a cloth handkerchief a convenient way of protecting it when not in use.

Replacements

For a free replacement color guide, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

BJCP, Inc.
5115 Excelsior Blvd, #326
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Attn: Color Guide Replacement

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

BJCP Color Guide Committee: Jamil Zainasheff (Chairman), Chad Stevens, A. J. deLange, Joe Formanek, Gordon Strong (BJCP President)