

HOP TOPIC



THE ULTIMATE BEER PROGRESSION GUIDE

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We'll Show You How To Drink Beer The Right Way



Order is important. Drinking different styles of beers in a particular order creates a completely different experience. Light to dark? Increasing IBU ratings? What's right for what occasion? We call this the ultimate beer progression. Let's explore some of the most recommended beer orders.



THE BITTER BREAKUP

(Descending IBU ratings)

1 INDIAN PALE ALE

Starting with a hoppy beer is always a solid choice. As soon as you take the first sip, the rich, herbal taste of an IPA will take your mind off of everything. You'll instantly feel the high alcohol content.

Our Top Picks:

Beer'd Hobbit Juice IPA **The Beer'd Brewing**
Alexander Keith's Pale Ale IPA **Alexander Keith's**
Dogfish Head 120 Minute IPA **Dogfish Head**



2 PALE ALE

After the initial flavor shock, work your way down to a Pale Ale. Expect a good balance between hops and malt character as you wean yourself away from the gutrot that can come after too many rich beers.

Our Top Picks:

Kissmeyer Nordic Pale Ale **Beau's Brewing**
Hawaiian Style Pale Ale **Spearhead Brewing**
Party Animal **Beyond the Pale**



3 PILSNER

End the night with a light gold Pilsner. This will be a good contrast between the previous beers and should help you keep your cool with the babe you've been checking out all night.

Our Top Picks:

Scrimshaw Pilsner **North Coast Brewing**
Warsteiner German Pilsner **Warsteiner Brauerei**
Shell's Pils **Shell's Brewery**



WHO LET THE DOGS STOUT

(Creamy Stout Climax)

1 COFFEE STOUT

Start with a coffee stout. It won't have the caffeine of a regular coffee, but it will give you the same feeling of energy. This is many people's favorite type of stout because of its authentic full-bodied taste.

Our Top Picks:

Breakfast Coffee Stout **Founder's Brewing Co.**

Pinstripe Coffee Stout **Blue Pants Brewery**

Bourbon County Coffee Stout **Goose Island**



2 IMPERIAL STOUT

Imperial stouts are no joke. Combining a thick malt character, high alcohol content and hoppy flavor, you end up with a very vivid gastatory experience. This is your climax!

Our Top Picks:

Dragon's Milk **New Holland Brewing**

Old Rasputin Imperial Stout **North Coast Brewing**

Bourbon Barrel Aged Vanilla Bean Dark Lord

3 Floyds Brewing Co.



3 MILK STOUT

Arguably the smoothest and creamiest type of stout, a milk stout is the perfect drink to end the night. It's sweet and full-bodied character will leave you feeling warm and euphoric.

Our Top Picks:

Duck-Rabbit Milk Stout **Duck-Rabbit Brewing**

Milk Stout Nitro **Left Hand Brewing**

Cafe Con Leche Stout **Cigar City Brewing**



HOPPY SECONDS

(A Double IPA Sandwich)

1 GERMAN PILSNER

The first sip is always crucial — it sets the tone and therefore has to be the whole package. The first round should be a standard old style beer that is flavorful, yet balanced and prepares your palate for what's to come next.

Our Top Picks:

Prima Pils **Victory Brewing Co.**

Mary Hill **Farmstead Brewery**

Tannenzäpfle Pils **Badische Staatsbrauerei Rothaus**



2 DOUBLE IPA

After cleansing your palate, the second beer should be as bold as possible. A double IPA is perfect for this. It will taste like you're being force-fed spoonfuls of hops — and that's a good thing.

Our Top Picks:

Moylander Double IPA **Moylan's Brewery**

Outburst Imperial IPA **Pyramid Breweries**

Red Brick Double IPA **Red Brick Brewing**



3 RED AMBER ALE

Amber ales are perfect beers to wind down to. They generally have a light fruitiness and malt character making them a perfect nightcap beer.

Our Top Picks:

Bell's Amber Ale **Bell's Brewery**

Ruby Bloom Amber Ale **Bloomington Brewing Co.**

Fat Tire Amber Ale **New Belgium Brewing**



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