## Draft System Design and Maintenance

Tom Schmidlin National Homebrewers Conference Grand Rapids, MI June 2014

#### Draft beer

# You've moved from

#### But instead of



#### you've got



pics from mountainhomebrew.com, micromatic.com

## You need to ask yourself . . .

- How cold do I like my beer?
- How carbonated do I like my beer?
- How am I going to serve my beer?
  - Direct draw (keezer, kegerator, converted fridge)
  - Long draw (kegs are in the basement, taps are in the kitchen)
- How many beers do I want to serve?
- How often will I be pouring beer?

#### How cold do you like it?

Most bars serve beer between 34°F and 38°F

#### How carbonated do you like it?

- Usually varies by style
  - 2 volumes for porter
  - 2.5 volumes for IPA
  - 4 volumes for weizen

There are no rules, serve your beer the way you like it!

With the temp and volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> you can BALANCE your system.

#### B.A.L.A.N.C.E.



To balance your system, you want pressure to equal restriction

#### First:

#### • Determine the pressure:

• Porter, 36°F, 2 volumes of CO<sub>2</sub>

														Pres	sure (	PSI)															
(°F)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	(°F)
30	1.82	1.92	2.03	2.14	2.23	2.36	2.48	2.6	2.7	2.82	2.93	3.02	3.13	3.24	3.35	3.46	3.57	3.67	3.78	3.89	4	4.11	4.22	4.33	4.44	4.55	4.66	4.77	4.87	4.98	30
31	1.78	1.88	2	2.1	2.2	2.31	2.42	2.54	2.65	2.76	2.86	2.96	3.07	3.17	3.28	3.39	3.5	3.6	3.71	3.82	3.93	4.03	4.14	4.25	4.35	4.46	4.57	4.68	4.78	4.89	31
32	1.75	1.85	1.95	2.05	2.15	2.27	2.38	2.48	2.59	2.7	2.8	2.9	3	3.11	3.21	3.31	3.42	3.52	3.63	3.73	3.84	3.94	4.04	4.15	4.25	4.36	4.46	4.57	4.67	4.77	32
33	1.71	1.81	1.91	2.01	2.1	2.23	2.33	2.43	2.53	2.63	2.74	2.84	2.96	3.06	3.15	3.25	3.35	3.46	3.56	3.66	3.76	3.87	3.97	4.07	4.18	4.28	4.38	4.48	4.59	4.69	33
34	1.68	1.78	1.86	1.97	2.06	2.18	2.28	2.38	2.48	2.58	2.69	2.79	2.9	3	3.09	3.19	3.29	3.39	3.49	3.59	3.69	3.79	3.9	4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	34
35	1.63	1.73	1.83	1.93	2.02	2.14	2.24	2.34	2.43	2.52	2.63	2.73	2.83	2.93	3.02	3.12	3.22	3.32	3.42	3.52	3.62	3.72	3.82	3.92	4.01	4.11	4.21	4.31	4.41	4.51	35
36	1.6	1.69	1.79	1.88	1.98	2.09	2.19	2.29	2.38	2.47	2.57	2.67	2.77	2.86	2.96	3.05	3.15	3.24	3.34	3.43	3.53	3.63	3.72	3.82	3.92	4.01	4.11	4.21	4.3	4.4	36
37	1.55	1.65	1.74	1.84	1.94	2.04	2.14	2.24	2.33	2.42	2.52	2.62	2.71	2.8	2.9	3	3.09	3.18	3.27	3.37	3.46	3.56	3.65	3.75	3.84	3.94	4.03	4.13	4.22	4.32	37
38	1.52	1.61	1.71	1.8	1.9	2	2.1	2.2	2.29	2.38	2.48	2.57	2.66	2.75	2.85	2.94	3.03	3.12	3.21	3.3	3.4	3.49	3.59	3.68	3.77	3.87	3.96	4.06	4.15	4.24	38
39	1.49										2.43	2.52	2.61	2.7	2.8	2.89	2.98	3.07	3.16	3.25	3.34	3.44	3.53	3.62	3.71	3.81	3.9	3.99	4.08	4.18	39
40	1.47				_									2.65															4.01	4.1	40
41		1.52				1.88											2.88					3.32			3.59			3.86	3.95	4.04	41
42						1.85								2.56								3.26								3.97	
43					1.72																	3.21			3.47						
44	1.35					1.78								2.47						2.99				3.33			3.58			3.84	
45	1.32	1.41	1.49	1.58		1.75								2.42			2.69					3.11						3.62	3.7	3.79	45
46	1.28	1.37	1.45	1.54	1.62	1.71	1.8	1.88	1.96	2.04	2.13	2.22	2.3	2.38	2.47	2.55	2.64	2.72	2.81	2.89	2.98	3.06	3.15	3.23	3.31	3.4	3.48	3.57	3.65	3.74	46
47						1.68																3.02				3.35	3.43	3.51	3.6	3.68	47
48						1.65																2.96								3.63	
49	1.21	1.29	1.37	1.45	1.53	1.62	1.7	1.79	1.86	1.93	2.01	2.1	2.18	2.25	2.34	2.42	2.5	2.58	2.67	2.75	2.83	2.91	3	3.07	3.15	3.23	3.31	3.39	3.47	3.56	49
50	1.18	1.26	1.34	1.42	1.5	1.59	1.66	1.74	1.82	1.9	1.98	2.06	2.14	2.21	2.3	2.38	2.46	2.54	2.62	2.7	2.78	2.86	2.94	3.02	3.1	3.17	3.25	3.33	3.41	3.49	50

#### First:

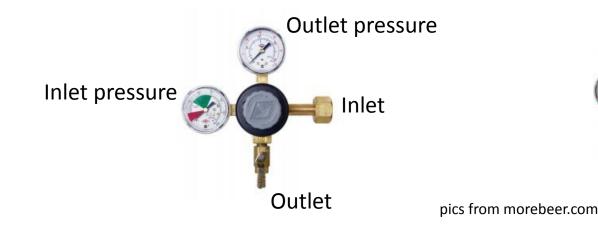
#### • Determine the pressure:

• IPA, 36°F, 2.5 volumes of CO<sub>2</sub>

														Pres	sure (	PSI)															
(°F)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	(°F)
30	1.82	1.92	2.03	2.14	2.23	2.36	2.48	2.6	2.7	2.82	2.93	3.02	3.13	3.24	3.35	3.46	3.57	3.67	3.78	3.89	4	4.11	4.22	4.33	4.44	4.55	4.66	4.77	4.87	4.98	30
31	1.78	1.88	2	2.1	2.2	2.31	2.42	2.54	2.65	2.76	2.86	2.96	3.07	3.17	3.28	3.39	3.5	3.6	3.71	3.82	3.93	4.03	4.14	4.25	4.35	4.46	4.57	4.68	4.78	4.89	31
32	1.75	1.85	1.95	2.05	2.15	2.27	2.38	2.48	2.59	2.7	2.8	2.9	3	3.11	3.21	3.31	3.42	3.52	3.63	3.73	3.84	3.94	4.04	4.15	4.25	4.36	4.46	4.57	4.67	4.77	32
33	1.71	1.81	1.91	2.01	2.1	2.23	2.33	2.43	2.53	2.63	2.74	2.84	2.96	3.06	3.15	3.25	3.35	3.46	3.56	3.66	3.76	3.87	3.97	4.07	4.18	4.28	4.38	4.48	4.59	4.69	33
34	1.68	1.78	1.86	1.97	2.06	2.18	2.28	2.38	2.48	2.58	2.69	2.79	2.9	3	3.09	3.19	3.29	3.39	3.49	3.59	3.69	3.79	3.9	4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	34
	1.63			_																									4.41	4.51	
	1.6	_	_				_	_																					4.3	4.4	
37	1.55																								3.84						
38	1.52			1.8	1.9	2						2.57													3.77					4.24	
39	1.49																2.98								3.71					4.18	
40	1.47							2.1				2.47								3.19					3.64						
41	1.43				1.79							2.43					2.88					3.32			3.59					4.04	
42 43	1.39 1.37											2.39 2.34													3.53					3.97	
43	1.37				1.69												2.78								3.47					3.84	
45	1.32				1.66							2.26					2.69								3.36					3.79	
45	1.28							1.88									2.64					3.06					3.48			3.74	
40	1.26											2.18															3.43			3.68	
48	1.23																2.55					2.96					3.38			3.63	
								1.79						2.25					2.67											3.56	
50	1.18					1.59																2.86								3.49	

## Secondary regulators

- You need one for every different serving pressure you want
  - Can I carb to different levels and serve at the same pressure?
  - Can I serve my beer at different temperatures?
  - Does splitting the gas line affect the pressure?
  - Does the length of the gas line matter?
  - Does the length of the beer line matter?





#### How long should my beer line be?

What is the inner diameter of the line?

These numbers are not set in stone, the restriction varies by material and manufacturer.

	BEER T	UBING	
Туре	Size	Restriction	Volume
Vinyl	3/16" ID	3.00 lbs/ft	1/6 oz/ft
Vin <mark>yl</mark>	1/4" ID	0.85 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Vinyl	5/16" ID	0.40 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft
Vinyl	3/8" ID	0.20 lbs/ft	3/4 oz/ft
Vinyl	1/2" ID	0.025 lbs/ft	1-1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	1/4" ID	0.30 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	5/16" ID	0.10 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft
Barrier	3/8" ID	0.06 lbs/ft	3/4 oz/ft
Stainless	1/4" OD	1.20 lbs/ft	1/6 oz/ft
Stainless	5/16" OD	0.30 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Stainless	3/8" OD	0.12 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft

## Other sources of resistance

- Gravity:
  - For every foot of height change between the keg and the tap, you have to allow ½ psi of static resistance. Measure from the center of the keg.
- Couplers, fittings, shanks, faucets, bends
  - How much restriction from each piece?
    - Shank and faucet about 5 psi, but there are a lot of variables
  - Does it matter? Do you need to account for each piece?
- Subtract 5 psi, calculate hose length, and shoot for 1 gpm flow rate.

#### How long should my beer line be?

Porter and 1/4" ID vinyl:

7 psi on the beer, 0.85 psi/ft (7-5) / 0.85 = 2.35 \* 2 = 4.7 ft

IPA and 3/16" ID vinyl:

10 psi on the beer, 3.0 psi/ft (10-5) / 3.0 = 1.67 \* 2 = 3.3 ft

Cut your lines long – it is easier to cut off more than to add length!

,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	BEER T	UBING	
Туре	Size	Restriction	Volume
Vinyl	3/16" ID	3.00 lbs/ft	1/6 oz/ft
Vinyl	1/4" ID	0.85 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Vinyl	5/16" ID	0.40 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft
Vinyl	3/8" ID	0.20 lbs/ft	3/4 oz/ft
Vinyl	1/2" ID	0.025 lbs/ft	1-1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	1/4" ID	0.30 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	5/16" ID	0.10 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft
Barrier	3/8" ID	0.06 lbs/ft	3/4 oz/ft
Stainless	1/4" OD	1.20 lbs/ft	1/6 oz/ft
Stainless	5/16" OD	0.30 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Stainless	3/8" OD	0.12 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft

#### B.A.L.A.N.C.E.



• What happens if something changes?

														Pres	sure (	PSI)															
(°F)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	(°F)
30	1.82	1.92	2.03	2.14	2.23	2.36	2.48	2.6	2.7	2.82	2.93	3.02	3.13	3.24	3.35	3.46	3.57	3.67	3.78	3.89	4	4.11	4.22	4.33	4.44	4.55	4.66	4.77	4.87	4.98	30
31	1.78	1.88	2	2.1	2.2	2.31	2.42	2.54	2.65	2.76	2.86	2.96	3.07	3.17	3.28	3.39	3.5	3.6	3.71	3.82	3.93	4.03	4.14	4.25	4.35	4.46	4.57	4.68	4.78	4.89	31
32	1.75	1.85	1.95	2.05															3.63								4.46	4.57	4.67	4.77	32
	1.71							2.43																4.07			4.38	4.48	4.59	4.69	33
	1.68																		3.49					4				4.4	4.5		
	1.63	_	_	_		_																									35
36		1.69	_																										4.3	4.4	36
3/		1.65																	3.27												37
	1.52 1.49				1.9	2				2.38									3.21				3.59								
-	1.49									2.34													3.46						4.08		39 40
-	1.47							2.06											3.05						3.59				3.95		40
-	1.39																2.83						3.35						3.88		42
-	1.37							1.99																	3.47						43
44		1.43						1.95									2.73				3.07		3.24				3.58				44
45	1.32	1.41	1.49	1.58	1.66	1.75	1.84	1.91	2	2.08	2.17	2.26	2.34	2.42	2.51	2.6	2.69	2.77	2.86	2.94	3.02	3.11	3.19	3.28	3.36	3.45	3.53	3.62	3.7	3.79	45
46	1.28	1.37	1.45	1.54	1.62	1.71	1.8	1.88	1.96	2.04	2.13	2.22	2.3	2.38	2.47	2.55	2.64	2.72	2.81	2.89	2.98	3.06	3.15	3.23	3.31	3.4	3.48	3.57	3.65	3.74	46
47	1.26	1.34	1.42	1.51	1.59	1.68	1.76	1.84	1.92	2	2.09	2.18	2.26	2.34	2.42	2.5	2.59	2.67	2.76	2.84	2.93	3.02	3.09	3.18	3.26	3.35	3.43	3.51	3.6	3.68	47
48	1.23	1.31	1.39	1.48	1.56	1.65	1.73	1.81	1.89	1.96	2.05	2.14	2.22	2.3	2.38	2.46	2.54	2.62	2.71	2.79	2.88	2.96	3.04	3.13	3.21	3.3	3.38	3.46	3.54	3.63	48
49	1.21	1.29	1.37	1.45	1.53	1.62	1.7	1.79	1.86	1.93	2.01	2.1	2.18	2.25	2.34	2.42	2.5	2.58	2.67	2.75	2.83	2.91	3	3.07	3.15	3.23	3.31	3.39	3.47	3.56	49
50	1.18	1.26	1.34	1.42	1.5	1.59	1.66	1.74	1.82	1.9	1.98	2.06	2.14	2.21	2.3	2.38	2.46	2.54	2.62	2.7	2.78	2.86	2.94	3.02	3.1	3.17	3.25	3.33	3.41	3.49	50

#### Where are you storing your beer?



Keezer at the Hudecek Compound

## Things to consider with your build

- Shanks that stick further into the cold space chill the beer better
  - They also get in the way
- CO<sub>2</sub> tank inside or out?
  - Minimal waste of gas
  - Gauges may not react as well as when they are warmer
- Keezers are hard to lift kegs in and out of, but the builds look better
- Upright fridges dump cold air when they are opened, but they are better non-direct draw systems

#### Short draw systems

- Example, kegs in basement, taps in kitchen:
  - 8 feet of elevation gain
  - 16 feet minimum distance
  - Beer at 40°F, 2.5 volumes
  - 12 psi to carbonate the beer
  - Allow 8\*0.5 = 4 psi for elevation
  - 8 psi for restriction
  - Using 1/4" ID barrier tubing x = (8-5) / 0.3 = 10 ft of tubing No fudge factor?

°F)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
30	1.82	1.92	2.03	2.14	2.23	2.36	2.48	2.6	2.7	2.82	2.93	3.02	3.13	
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35	1.63	1.73	1.83	1.93	2.02	2.14	2.24	2.34	2.43	2.52	2.63	2.73	2.83	
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    Choker line

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Vinyl	1/2" ID	0.025 lbs/ft	1-1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	1/4" ID	0.30 lbs/ft	1/3 oz/ft
Barrier	5/16" ID	0.10 lbs/ft	1/2 oz/ft

## Mixed gas

- Used for nitro pours and sometimes for long draw systems
- Comes in various mixes, 75% N<sub>2</sub> / 25% CO<sub>2</sub> is common
- For nitro beers, carbonate normally to low volumes
- Push with nitro mix at ~30 psi
- If you are using a 75/25 mix, you have 7.5 psi of CO<sub>2</sub> pressure

(°F)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
30	1.82	1.92	2.03	2.14	2.23	2.36	2.48	2.6	2.7	2.82	2.93	3.02	3.13
31	1.78	1.88	2	2.1	2.2	2.31	2.42	2.54	2.65	2.76	2.86	2.96	3.07
32	1.75	1.85	1.95	2.05	2.15	2.27	2.38	2.48	2.59	2.7	2.8	2.9	3
33	1.71	1.81	1.91	2.01	2.1	2.23	2.33	2.43	2.53	2.63	2.74	2.84	2.96
34	1.68	1.78	1.86	1.97	2.06	2.18	2.28	2.38	2.48	2.58	2.69	2.79	2.9
35	1.63	1.73	1.83	1.93	2.02	2.14	2.24	2.34	2.43	2.52	2.63	2.73	2.83
36	1.6	1.69	1.79	1.88	1.98	2.09	2.19	2.29	2.38	2.47	2.57	2.67	2.77
37	1.55	1.65	1.74	1.84	1.94	2.04	2.14	2.24	2.33	2.42	2.52	2.62	2.71
38	1.52	1.61	1.71	1.8	1.9	2	2.1	2.2	2.29	2.38	2.48	2.57	2.66
39	1.49	1.58	1.67	1.77	1.86	1.96	2.06	2.15	2.25	2.34	2.43	2.52	2.61
40	1.47	1.56	1.65	1.74	1.83	1.92	2.01	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.39	2.47	2.56

#### Other beverages

- Better grade of stainless (304) for other beverages
  - Sours, wine, mead, cider, even spirits
- What if you want to dispense a still beverage?
  - Push with an inert gas, argon is typical for wine

## Avoiding leaks – use the right parts and tools

#### • Use

- Stepless clamps
- Clamp crimper

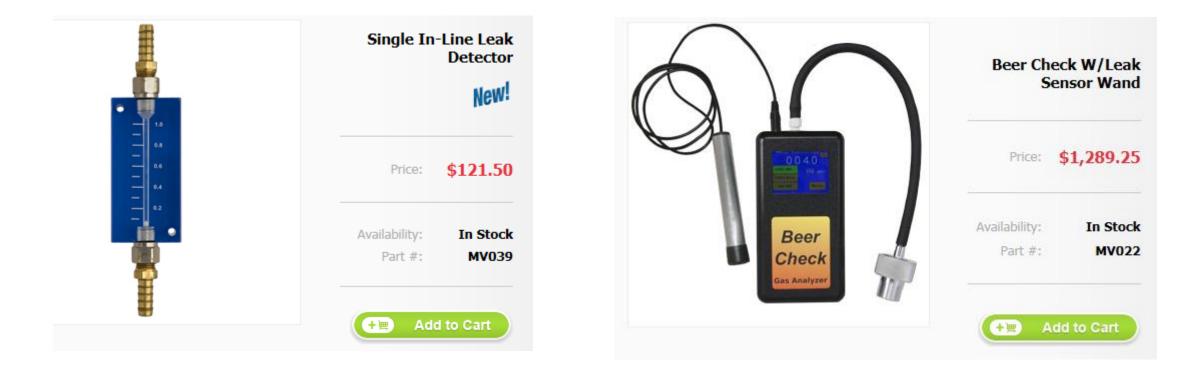


- The right sized barb for the type and size of hose you are using
  - A 3/16" barb is good for 3/16" vinyl but 1/4" barrier line
  - Vinyl is flexible and can be forced onto a larger barb, barrier line can not
- Teflon tape on threaded connectors
- Keg lube
- Do not use
  - Worm clamps
  - Pliers

CO<sub>2</sub> safety

- Basements = bad
- Long term exposure to >5000 ppm = bad
- Immediate exposure to >40,000 ppm = bad
- 20 lb tank in a 4000 cuft room (20x25x8) = > 40,000 ppm = bad
- 400 ppm = normal outside
- <1000 ppm = normal inside
- CO monitor = good but not useful
- CO<sub>2</sub> monitor = good

#### Leak detection - micromatic



#### Leak detection - morebeer



#### Sanitizing Spray Bottle

12 Reviews

\$2.99

Item #: CE96 Shipping: Eligible for Free Shipping Program Weight: 0.25LBS

Availability: California - In Stock Pennsylvania - In Stock



#### Tracking down a leak

- Spray all connections and look for bubbles
- Make sure all gaskets and o-rings are in place and in good shape
- Check tightness of threaded connections
- Re-tape and tighten threaded connectors
- Isolate parts of the system
- Check your corny fittings!!!

## Cheap and easy glycol systems

- Easiest if you are using a refrigerator freezer for your kegs
- For long draws using trunk line
  - Run trunk line through refrigerator door to the taps
- Bucket of glycol in the freezer
  - Submersible pump in bucket
  - Vinyl lines from bucket, out through the freezer door, in through refrigerator door, connect to trunk line glycol lines
  - Insulate the exterior vinyl lines
- Connect the ends of the glycol lines with a U





## Cheap and easy glycol design considerations

- Most freezers are preset with a thermostat range of -20°F to 20°F
- You want your freezer to be at least 10°F warmer than the freezing point of your glycol/water mixture
- The submersible pump will heat the glycol
- Keep air out of the glycol line

PROPYLENE	GLYCOL - \	NATER S	SOLUTIC	ON SPEC		AVITY,		
CONCENTRA	TION AND	FREEZI	NG POI	NT CHA	RT			
Specific Gravity	– SG 60°F	1.000	1.008	1.017	1.026	1.034	1.041	1.046
Propylene Glycol	by mass	0	10	20	30	40	50	60
Solution %	by volume	0	10	19	29	40	50	60
Freezing Point	°F	32	26	18	7	-8	-29	-55
Temperature	°C	0	-3	-8	-14	-22	-34	-48

### How cheap is it?

- 1 gallon of glycol, \$40
  - This is concentrate, you will dilute it
- 1 submersible pump, <\$30
  - Hydroponic pump, comes with hose barbs
- Vinyl hose, free
  - Because you bought 100' of it to begin with and still have some left over
- 2 straight splicers and a U splicer, \$10
- 4 clamps, \$2
- Trunk line, varies
  - Depends on number of beer lines and length, \$10-\$25 per foot

#### Cleaning your system – why?

- Dirty lines affect a beer's flavor and aroma, even if it's not "off"
- Clean lines increase beer sales, dirty lines decrease beer sales

#### How to clean your system

- Breweries and restaurants (ideally)
  - Recirculating caustic for 15 minutes every 2 weeks
  - Disassemble and hand clean faucets and couplers
  - Recirculating acid every 3 months time to remove scale
  - Replace vinyl yearly
- Homebrewers (reality)
  - Beer line cleaner pushed from keg at random intervals
  - Disassemble and hand clean faucets and couplers sometimes
  - No acid except maybe starsan
  - Replace line when it looks dirty

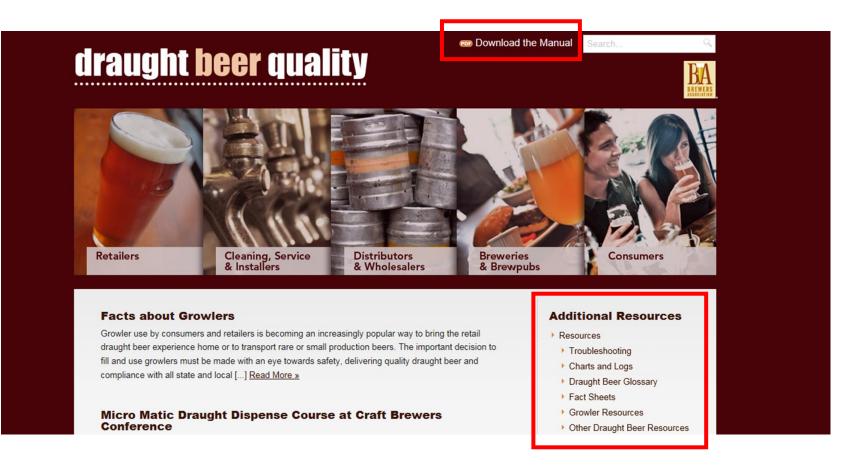
#### What is better?

- Reverse flow of cleaning solution \$8 from micromatic
- Recirculate with a pump
  - You can gang all of your lines together and clean them at the same time
- Use proper cleaning solutions, follow instructions



#### Write this down:

http://www.draughtquality.org/



#### Questions?

Tom Schmidlin tschmidlin@gmail.com

Postdoc Brewing Company Redmond WA, opening fall 2014