

Note: Many machine made cigars have a pre-pierced hole which eliminates the necessity of clipping. The holes are notoriously small allowing juices to concentrate on the tongue rather than on the whole palate. Some smokers prefer to clip these pre-pierced cigars with a V or Guillotine cut. The best machine made cigars have closed heads and the individual smoker can choose any clipping method preferred.

LIGHTING: To get the full enjoyment of the tobacco taste, light your cigar with a butane lighter, which produces an odorless and tasteless flame. A wooden match is also good but you must allow the head of the match to burn off first to avoid a sulphur taste. Never use a fluid type lighter or paper match as they can adversely affect the taste of your cigar.

To properly light your cigar, hold it at a 45-degree angle with the open end (“foot”) down. Hold the tip of the flame one-half inch from the foot without placing the cigar to your lips. Rotate the cigar slowly over the flame. This warms the cigar and releases the volatile oils in the leaf giving you full flavor right from the first puff. Be careful not to char or blacken the foot.

After a few seconds, the end of your cigar will be ready for lighting. Draw gently on the cigar as you rotate it between your fingers with the tip of the flame about one-half inch below the end. This procedure will gradually light the entire diameter of the cigar for an even, steady burn.

SMOKING: Here is the best part! Sit back and slowly “sip” your cigar as if it were a glass of fine wine or brandy. Relax and savor the rich tobacco flavor; no need to inhale, the satisfaction is in the taste. (It is best not to smoke in a windy place as this will hasten the combustion and may affect the taste adversely.) At the end of your smoke, let your cigar go out by itself. Never grind or crush it in an ashtray, as this will spread the burned tobacco, creating a strong, unpleasant char odor. It is best to dispose of cigar butts as soon as they self-extinguish and present no fire hazard.

CIGAR STORAGE

A good cigar, in order to produce the smoking pleasure for which it was created, must be stored properly. For that reason, your Tinder Box tobacconist features a large, walk-in humidor or humidified “cigar wall” cabinet that scientifically maintains the precise humidity and temperature to always keep his inventory of cigars at their optimum freshness. If you are an occasional smoker, you may prefer to buy just a few cigars at a time from your Tinder Box so you can be assured that they will be at their peak condition.

If you prefer to buy larger quantities by the box or bundle, and want to enjoy a good cigar in top condition at home or at the office, a humidor with a built-in humistat and hygrometer is the best way to ensure always having a fresh supply of your favorite cigars close at hand. In fact, many cigar smokers have two humidors:

a large one for home use and a smaller one for the office. The humistat will keep your cigars fresh, and should be checked once every week in order to maintain proper humidity and to keep your cigars from drying, cracking or smoking too hot. Your Tinder Box tobacconist can assist in selecting the humidor that best suits your individual needs.

When traveling, it is advisable to protect your cigars from physical damage by keeping them in a leather cigar case made expressly for that purpose.

MAY WE RECOMMEND

Our buyers expend their best efforts the year round to bring you the finest cigars available on the market today. Following the sun to the lush tobacco growing regions of the world, their work begins right in the fields where only the finest crops are selected. They choose the best wrapper leaf for each range, and personally supervise the blending of the premium filler tobaccos. In short, we monitor the product from crop selection to final packaging. Our position as the largest chain of quality pipe and tobacco shops in North America enables us to bring you not only quality at its zenith, but attractive prices as well. Tinder Box recognizes that you deserve the very best. Our name on each box of Tinder Box Private Stock and Tinder Box Exclusive cigars is our signature attesting to the fact that these are the best values to be found anywhere today.

TINDER BOX EXCLUSIVE FRONTMARKS

Tinder Box Punch Box Pressed

Since 1928, Tinder Box has endeavored to bring its customers the finest tobacco and cigars available anywhere, this Punch is no exception. The Punch Box Pressed cigars are blended specially for Tinder Box using only the finest Honduran and Dominican filler tobaccos and are finished with the most beautiful Cuban-seed Ecuadorian wrappers we have ever seen. This wrapper is nicer than most Cuban wrappers we have come across. These exclusive Punch cigars offer the smoothest, most delicious rich Punch flavor we’ve ever experienced. Punch Box Pressed cigars use an old Cuban method of packaging by literally pressing them into a box form. The result is an exciting, uniquely shaped cigar with a firm feel and easy draw. They are offered in boxes of 20 in 4 popular sizes. Available in both English Market Selection and Maduro wrappers.

Tinder Box Hoyo de Monterrey

Connoisseur Magazine had this to say about Hoyo de Monterrey: “It has the best balance between rich flavor and luxurious aroma of any cigar yet sampled, the closest to an old fashioned Cuban cigar...The Hoyo de Monterrey is the best full flavored cigar you can buy in America...quite simply the very best.” Tinder Box exclusive Hoyo de Monterrey features filler tobaccos that are carefully selected and further aged to produce the renowned taste of this fine cigar. Available in both English Market Selection and Maduro wrappers.

Tinder Box Punch

Punch...it’s the rare one, the one that seems to come closest to perfection of style, taste and aroma. Punch is simply one of the finest cigars made. Tinder Box exclusive Punch is famous for its distinctive wrappers that produce a wonderful taste and aroma unique to this cigar. The filler tobaccos are well seasoned to produce possibly the finest smoke available. Available in both English Market Selection and Maduro wrappers.

Tinder Box Famous Factory Seconds

Handmade for Tinder Box by one of the premier cigar makers in the Spanish Honduras, we are pleased to offer you these fabulous factory seconds. Made with premium long filler tobaccos and wrapper. These bundles are truly delicious deals. Available in English Market Selection.

Tinder Box Private Stock

Long standing patrons of Tinder Box swear by our exclusive Private Stock cigars. While the tobacco is of unwavering excellent quality, we offer various sizes and shapes to suit every taste and budget. From our Palmas de Luxe and Custom Panatellas to our Flavored Selection, better cigar values can’t be found. A Private Stock cigar enhances your image, rest assured it will never draw a scowl whether in the presence of one or in a crowd. It’s a private pleasure, that pleases everyone, to smoke a Tinder Box Private Stock. Tinder Box Private Stock Cigars are available in many lengths and ring gauges, Candela, English Market Selection and Maduro wrappers. Made in the Dominican Republic.

Tinder Box Flavored Selection

Italian Liqueur – Mild, flavorful and extremely satisfying are the words that best describe this delightful cigar. The savory flavor of Italian almond liqueur makes every smoke a joy.

Cafe Espresso – This pleasing everyday cigar is another Tinder Box innovation. The rich cafe espresso flavor delights the taste buds and it’s sweet aroma is pleasing to all.

Vanilla Selection – Everyone around will enjoy the aroma of this mild, flavorful cigar as you will enjoy it’s wonderful taste!

Finally: Choose, light up, and enjoy! Remember: you don’t have to inhale to get the maximum pleasure from your cigar.

For more information,
visit your local
Tinder Box Tobacconist at:

Tinder Box

Since 1928

Cigar Smoker’s Guide

Prepared to increase your knowledge and enjoyment of one of mankind’s greatest smoking achievements.



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THE CIGAR IN HISTORY

In 1492, Columbus made two great discoveries: one, everybody knows. The other was the first recorded observation of a cigar being smoked. One of the explorer’s officers, Roderigo de Xeres, saw a tribe of Indians in San Salvador smoking large cone-shaped rolls of tobacco.

THE CIGAR SMOKER TODAY

Since then, savoring a fine cigar has been one of life’s great pleasures. Traditionally, cigar smokers have comprised an exclusive fraternity of those who truly appreciate the best things in life, individuals of sophistication and refinement. This fraternity has included world leaders – King Edward VII, Winston Churchill, and John F. Kennedy; Bill Clinton, decision makers – Samuel Gompers, J.P. Morgan, and Lee Iacocca; as well as entertainment notables such as George Burns, Milton Berle, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bill Cosby, Kevin Bacon, Jeff Bridges, Pierce Brosnan, Kevin Costner, Danny Devito, Wayne Gretzky, Kevin Spacey, Denzel Washington and many, many others.

WHERE QUALITY CIGAR TOBACCO COMES FROM

In the days before the Cuban embargo, much of the world’s high-quality cigar tobacco came from various regions in Cuba, particularly the “Vuelta Abajo” district. It was there that the best tobacco was grown, cured and the cigars hand rolled. “Made in Havana” used to signify excellence.

The Cuban embargo changed all that. Many of the master cigar-makers and tobacco growers left Cuba, taking with them generation-old skills of tobacco farming and cigar manufacturing, along with whatever tobacco seed they were able to smuggle out. Today the best cigar leaf is grown in many regions of the Caribbean, North, Central and South America, Africa and Asia.

The tobaccos are gathered and brought to Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the United States where they are cured, blended and rolled into the fine quality cigars that are highly prized by connoisseurs.

THE CREATION OF A GOOD CIGAR – HOW THEY ARE MADE

First, all cigar tobacco leaf must be aged and cured in order to produce the precise balance of characteristics the cigarmaker wants for a particular cigar. Premium quality cigar tobacco may be aged for over two years before being blended with other tobaccos to produce a cigar of consistently high quality.

THE BASIC ELEMENTS IN EVERY CIGAR:

THE FILLER: The innermost tobaccos, which form the body of the cigar.

THE BINDER: A middle wrapping of whole leaf or composite material, which holds the filler together in a “bunch.”

THE WRAPPER: A whole leaf segment, which covers the entire cigar.

THERE ARE THREE MAJOR TYPES OF CIGAR

CONSTRUCTION:

HAND-MADE cigars are made by hand from start to finish. The filler tobacco is formed into a “bunch” from long leaves measuring the entire length of the cigar. This “Long Filler” produces the ideal, slow burning characteristics and is the most expensive type of filler used. A quality, natural tobacco leaf binder encloses the filler to complete the bunch. The wrapper leaf of a hand-made cigar is the most expensive part. A silky, smooth, firmly would wrapper rich in natural oils is aesthetically pleasing and promises an excellent smoke. The hand made cigars bearing the Tinder Box label are made of the finest tobaccos available.

HAND-ROLLED cigars are machine bunched. The filler and binder is machine assembled, and then the wrapper is put on by hand. This is an entirely new method that takes advantage of both “state-of-the-art” global technology and traditional “old time” hand craftsmanship. Due to the limited number of skilled cigar makers today, hand-rolled cigars combine the best of both worlds.

MACHINE-MADE cigars use both long and short filler (smaller pieces rather than whole leaf) tobaccos, often of the same grade as the hand made ones. Some machine made cigars use a type of binder called “homogenized tobacco leaf” (H.T.L.), specially processed sheet cigar tobacco, which burns consistently and slowly for a cool smoke. Many machine-made cigars, nevertheless, use natural leaf binder of high quality, and most have natural leaf wrapper, identical to that found in premium hand-made cigars.

Note: Although machine-made cigars are usually lower priced than hand-made cigars, one should not always assume that they are of lower quality. The price reflects the vast cost difference between machine and hand labor. Your Tinder Box tobacconist is very knowledgeable about cigars and can advise as to which is the best cigar value for your taste preference and your pocketbook.

THERE ARE THREE BASIC SHADES OF WRAPPER LEAF:

CANDELA OR DOUBLE CLARO: A light yellowish green shade, which produces the least aggressive taste and the most sharply pungent aroma.

NATURAL OR ENGLISH MARKET SELECTION (EMS): Light to medium brown with a rounded taste and a rich, mellow aroma. The most popular shade for premium quality cigars.

MADURO: Dark brown to mahogany/black, which gives the cigar a zesty, full tobacco taste and aroma.

SHAPES AND SIZES

As listed below there are seven basic cigar shapes, each of which has a traditional name, although they are often given fanciful names by manufacturers. The selection of a particular shape is strictly a matter of individual preference; however, a cigar smoker

should choose a cigar for comfort and appearance in addition to taste. It should both feel and look right in your mouth as well as your hand. Some smokers prefer a smaller cigar during the day, and a larger one in the evening, after dinner. In addition, there is a plethora of cigarillo shapes now available.

RING GAUGE: The circumference of a cigar measured in 1/64th of an inch.

Cigarillo – about 3 to 5 inches long with a ring gauge between 30 and 36 (-1/2 inch). Smoking time 15-20 minutes.

Churchill – about 7 inches long with a ring gauge of 47 to 48 (-3/4 inch). Smoking time 45-60 minutes.

Petite Corona – about 4 1/2 to 5 inches long and a ring gauge between 40 and 42 (-6/10 inch). Smoking time 25 minutes.

Robusto (Rothschild) – about 4 1/2 inches in length and a ring gauge of about 48 (-3/4 inch). Smoking time 25-40 minutes.

Corona – about 5 1/2 inches long and a ring gauge of 42 (-7/10 inch). Smoking time 30-45 minutes.

Panatella – about 6 to 6 1/2 inches long with a ring gauge between 34 and 39 (-1/2 inch). Smoking time 35-45 minutes.

Torpedo – varies in length and ring gauge. Has a pointed cone shaped head, bulge in the body, and a relatively flat foot.

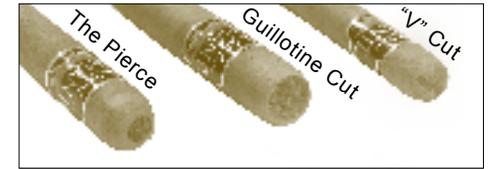
For the beginning cigar smoker, we recommend starting out with a medium to full-sized cigar, such as a Corona, approximately 5 1/2 inch in length x 42 ring gauge because it will be easy to light and draw, and will produce a mild and flavorful smoke. We also suggest starting with a “Natural” or “EMS” wrapper for the most balanced taste. Afterward, you can experiment with darker or lighter wrappers, longer or shorter lengths, and larger or smaller gauges – until you find the ideal cigar for you.



SMOKING THE CIGAR

Yes, there is correct way to smoke your cigar in order to get the best out of it. Here are the three basic steps:

CLIPPING: The head of a hand-made cigar has been sealed to hold in flavor and humidity, and must be cut or “clipped” to provide an easy draw. The correct way is to clip the head of your cigar neatly and cleanly with a cigar cutter especially made for that job. There are three types of cuts:



The Guillotine Cut is performed by a guillotine cutter and is available in various styles. There are single bladed guillotines and double bladed, and can be hand-held or desk models. They can be encased in simple plastic or as elaborate as gold or platinum studded with jewels. They can slide in one direction or close toward each other in a straight or scissor type movement. Like the infamous devise of capital punishment for which it is named after, the guillotine cutter uses a blade that pushes toward the cigar and cuts. If this device is used, it should be done quickly to make an even cut. Slowly will cause the cigar to be pinched, thus the development of double bladed guillotine cutters which cut from both sides at once. But these also should be used with a swift determined motion. Guillotine cutters are the most popular and easiest to find cigar cutters on the market. Another popular type of guillotine cutter are the Cigar Scissors. These are specially designed scissors for cutting cigars, with rounded blades that surround the cigar when cutting. These too are very popular and have the added attraction of being easily sharpened. As with guillotine cutters, cigar scissors should be used with a swift determined motion.

The V Cut is performed by V-Cutters, sometimes known as a slit or slash cutter, cut a V shaped slash across the head of the cigar. These also come in hand-held and desk models. Their main disadvantage is that they do not work well on cigars with a ring size of 48 or larger. But if they have a sharp blade they are quite adequate on smaller cigars.

The Pierce is performed by a device that pierces, drills or cuts straight into the end of the cigar. There are various types of piercing tools. Piercing the head creates a small hole, which can cause the juices and smoke to concentrate on the tongue rather than the whole palate. However, using what is known as a “bullet punch” cutter of surgical steel is a preferred method of cutting cigars. Using a large caliber cutter of 1/4 inch or larger in diameter makes a very adequate cut in the head for a pleasurable smoke without any concentration of juices or smoke on the tongue, and it keeps loose tobacco from entering the mouth.