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The Best Cup of Drip Coffee Possible

By Chiacchia Del

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With a "good" cup of coffee costing almost as much as a good sandwich these days, more and more people are taking to making their coffee at home from an "old fashioned" drip coffee machine. With the influence of Starbucks and the others out there, people are demanding a better cup of coffee all of the time. This article should help you make the best cup of drip coffee possible.

Coffee from a can just doesn't work for the general public anymore. You know what I'm talking about and it sounds as lousy to you as it does to me. The good news is that great coffee beans can be obtained at pretty much any grocery store. If you use coupons (and if you don't, shame on you), you should do quite well if you aren't too worried about the brand name. My tip for you - worry about quality more than anything else. The big stores like Sams Club and Costco offer big bags of coffee beans at some very good prices. Your author's favorite, in case you're interested, is Kirkland brand (two pound) of Espresso Roast (Starbucks) that you can find at Costco.

Be willing to experiment with different bean types to find the kind of coffee you like best. For what it is worth, more times than not, I've found that a good espresso roast makes a great cup of drip coffee as well. Do experiment though, you just might be surprised at what you find.

Good beans deserve a good grind. You'd be surprised at the difference between a good grind and a bad one. If you don't have a good grinder at home, consider grinding the beans at the store where they were purchased as the grinders there often do a great job. Burr grinders are the best, and the most expensive.

It is probably obvious but good water makes a difference as well. The more things you take out of the water, the better your coffee will taste.

A good drip machine is also a must. More than anything else, the warming element is what you need to worry about. If you find that your coffee often has that scalded burned taste, the warmer might be too

The Best Cup of Drip Coffee Possible

hot. And, of course, there is seldom a way to change that so, ... you'll need a new machine.

Consider the French Press alternative. French presses are dirt cheap, make an incredible cup of coffee, and never leave you worrying about overactive warmers, water tube build-up and the like. Remember that the grind for French Press is different than normal drip coffee so grind accordingly.

What about people stuck in a bad coffee situation in the office or somewhere else? Here's a trick that can help with some issues: Bring in a cinnamon shaker and dash a little on the grinds before starting the machine. This will give the coffee a bit more taste, hide some of the bad taste and help with the aroma. Grab the coffee as soon as is brewed and, most of all, lobby for better coffee.

You're worth it.

Chiacchia Del is the webmaster of Yo! Coffee, the Internet's hot spot for all things coffee. You can read more of her work at

Coffee Maker Types

By A. Pruder

When we hear the term `coffee maker' most of us think of only one type of coffee maker. Most often, the drip style coffee maker or the espresso type machine comes to mind, depending on where you live and your taste in coffee. Of course, the choices vary with the region in which people live also.

One type of coffee maker may be frowned upon in certain parts of the world, while being quite acceptable in another location. Some types of coffee makers are quite antiquated by today's standards, but are still being used by those who prefer the coffee produced.

Such is the case with the percolator style coffee makers. There are two types of percolator style coffee makers, the stove top model and the electric percolator. Both percolators work in the same fashion, which is circulating boiling water over the coffee grounds and through a metal filter repeatedly. Some argue that this makes a good cup of coffee while others say this style coffee maker makes the worst coffee imaginable. The naysayers exclaim the percolator produces a bitter tasting coffee no matter what brand or grind of coffee you use.

The automatic drip coffee maker is by far the most recognized type of coffee maker. This coffee maker produces coffee by heating water in a reservoir which then travels up into a coffee bin holding a filter with the coffee grounds. Then hot water steeps through the coffee and the filter in the bin and drips into an awaiting pot or carafe. These coffee makers usually have a heating element to keep the brewed coffee reasonably hot until the coffee is gone or it's time to brew another pot. Some models come with a thermal style carafe which allows the coffee drinker to brew a pot of coffee right into the carafe for coffee on the go.

The Best Cup of Drip Coffee Possible

Automatic drip coffee makers are the most widely used coffee makers by the American consumer. This type of coffee maker also has the versatility to make from one to usually ten cups of coffee at a time. There are also specialized one cup coffee makers which make use of the automatic drip method. The automatic drip coffee maker uses disposable filters, unlike the percolator style coffee makers.

The espresso coffee maker comes in two versions for the consumer, stovetop and electric. The stovetop model is of course less expensive than its electric counterpart. Another advantage to the stovetop espresso maker is that it is highly portable, unlike the electric model, which is limited in mobility by its size and need of electricity.

One drawback to the stovetop espresso coffee maker is that it may leave bits of very fine powdery granules. This makes the stovetop espresso coffee maker a device that one must master the techniques of using to get a perfect cup of coffee.

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