

**SMOKER FRIENDLY**



# CIGARS

## Machine-Made vs. Premium hand-rolled

*The first question most consumers ask is what is the difference in cigars. A good place to start is the difference between machine-made and premium hand-rolled.*

*Machine-made cigars are similar to cigarettes and do not require humidification. Most machine-made cigars are not made with long filler tobacco, which is tobacco that runs the full length of the cigar. This is why machine-made cigars burn faster than premium hand-rolled cigars.*

*Examples of machine-made cigars are: **Swisher Sweets, Phillies, Hav-a-Tampa, Winchester, Backwoods, Grenadiers, Black & Mild, Blackstone's, Dutch Masters, White Owl, Muriel's, and some Garcia y Vega.***

*Hand-rolled premium cigars are more expensive than machine-mades quite simply because they take much longer to make, are labor-intensive, and use much more expensively produced and matured leaves.*

*Examples of premium cigars in our stores are: **Macanudo, Arturo Fuente, Montesino, Punch, Hoyo De Monterrey, Partagas, H.Upmann, Carlos Torano, Romeo & Julieta, La Gloria Cubana, Excaliber, Cuesta-Rey, SF, Cusano, Drew Estate Acid, Puros Indios, Sancho Panza, Joya de Nicaragua, Montecristo, Trinidad.***

## The Strength of Cigars

*Mild cigars brands: **Ashton, Casa Blanca, Cuesta-Rey, Macanudo, Royal Jamaica, H.Upmann.***

*Mild to Medium brands: **Arturo Fuente, Nat Sherman, Bauza, Canaria D'Oro, Davidoff, Don Diego, Joya de Nicaragua, Primo del Rey, Punch, Romeo Y Julieta, Te-Amo, Cusano, SF.***

*Medium to Full brands: **Aliados, Don Ramos, Dunhill, Excalibur, Henry Clay, Montecristo, Montecruz, Custa-Rey.***

*Full: **Bolivar, Partagas, Ramon Allones, Trinidad.***

## Humidification of premium cigars

*Premium (hand-rolled) cigars require humidification. Most stores use a 'Humidi-Fresh' to humidify cigars. The 'Humidi-Fresh' is simply a fan that blows air onto distilled water to create humidity. Premium cigars require a humidity level of 68%-72% and a temperature of 68-72 degrees at all times. Believe it or not, premium cigars will never go stale or become outdated if kept at 70 degrees and 70% humidity. Hand-rolled cigars, if properly maintained, will last indefinitely.*

## Building a Cigar

*The construction of a fine cigar is as important as the tobacco that goes into it. Most premium cigars are made in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Honduras, Jamaica and Cuba. Most cigars are, in fact, blends of tobacco from different regions. Master cigar makers create exotic and flavorful recipes for cigars, using “a little of this and a little of that,” in much the same way Highlander masters blend Scotch whiskey from different distillers. All handmade cigars share the same basic construction. They all have filler, a binder, and a wrapper. It is in the marriage of the recipe of the filler to the perfect binder and wrapper – properly aged – through which cigar makers achieve tobacco’s highest potential.*

### **Filler**

*The filler is always made of a mixture of leaves folded together, accordion style, just densely enough to allow smoke to pass through easily. Leaves from three parts of the tobacco plant are often used in premium filler:*

- *Ligero leaves are picked from the top of the plant where growth is most rapid. Known for their robust nature, Ligero leaves must be matured at least three years before they can be used.*
- *Seco, meaning dry, leaves are from the middle third of the tobacco plant. Although still flavorful, their overall character is somewhat more refined.*
- *Volado leaves, picked from the lower third of the plant, is included to help cigars burn smoothly and evenly.*

### **Binder**

*Used to hold the folded filler leaves, the binder is the strongest, although least flavorful, tobacco in the cigar. Aside from being necessary to the cigar’s “superstructure,” good binder tobacco will help a cigar burn evenly throughout the smoke. Some of the best binder leaf is grown in Mexico.*

### **Wrapper**

*Although a wrapper leaf is but one out of many in a cigar, it accounts for a large amount of a cigar’s taste and character. The most prized (and expensive) of cigar tobacco; wrapper leaf is grown under shade to keep oiliness to a minimum. Good wrapper should be pliable, with no protruding veins to hamper appearance or burning quality. Surprisingly, wrapper is also grown in Mexico, Cameroon, Sumatra, Costa Rica and Honduras.*

## Wrapper Colors

When considering a cigar's wrapper, look for a smooth fine-textured surface. A finely textured surface means that the cigar was made from a "first cut" wrapper, and will produce a cooler, more even smoke.

**Double Claro:** A very green in color light tasting wrapper, Someta.

**Claro:** Usually referring to shade grown, light green to tan in color.

**Natural, English Market Selection:** This light brown, almost almond-colored wrapper is usual for Connecticut shade-grown tobacco. It produces mild, "dry" and pleasantly aromatic flavor.

**Colorado Claro:** Common to Cameroon wrapper, this mid-brown or tawny tobacco has just a bit more zest than Connecticut shade-grown.

**Colorado:** Dark brown and richly aromatic, associated with mature cigars, not quite a Maduro.

**Maduro:** Traditionally made from Connecticut Broadleaf or Mexican tobacco, this dark brown, medium-strength oily wrapper provides rich flavor.

**Oscuro:** Very dark brown, almost black in color, this dark Maduro wrap[per is very fully flavored and somewhat sweet.

## Traditional Sizes of Premium Hand Made Cigars

**Petite Corona:** 4 ½" x 40 ring

**Panatela:** 5" x 34 ring

**Corona:** 5 ½" x 42 ring

**Lonsdale:** 6 ½" x 43 ring

**Gran Corona:** 6" x 47 ring

**Robusto:** 4 ¾" x 50 ring

**Churchill:** 7" x 49 ring

**Double Corona:** 7 ½" x 50 ring

## Shapes of Cigars

**Pyramid:** Conical in shape with tapered head usually about a 50 ring.

**Perfecto:** Closed head and feet with bulging middle more rounded than a torpedo.

**Torpedo:** Closed both ends with a rounded middle.

**Belicoso:** Tapered head with straight sides.

**Culbera:** Three braided cigars.

**Diademas:** A very large pyramid shape about 7 ½" long.

## Cutters

*There are many acceptable ways to cut a cigar.*

**Guillotine:** *A guillotine cutter is probably the best way to prepare a cigar for smoking. Place the cigar firmly against both blades, and clip the head off with a firm stroke. This type of cut opens the entire head of the cigar, which allows for a smoother, more even flow of smoke.*

**V-Cut:** *Another popular cutter is the V-cut. This cutter leaves a deep V-shaped gouge in the cigar.*

**Punch:** *A punch, auger or piercer are also acceptable ways of preparing a cigar to smoke. This concentrates the smoke into a single hole, where tars may build up, creating a harsh smoke. This type of cut should be used on smaller ring gauge cigars (43 or less).*

**Teeth:** *Using your teeth is acceptable if you don't have any other cutting device. Try to use the same principle as that of a double-edged guillotine – press your teeth against both sides of the cigar and bite firmly.*

## Lighters

*Once the cigar is cut, the next task is to light it. Whichever method is selected, there are some rules. Never let the flame actually touch the cigar. Rotate the cigar slightly over the flame tip so that you light the entire foot of the cigar. Blow through the cigar after embers appear on the end to blow out any odors that may have come from the lighter or match.*

*Wooden matches remain one of the best ways to light a cigar. Always let the sulfur burn off before you bring the tip of the flame about 1/2 inch under the cigar's foot. Don't hesitate to use two or three matches at once to get a proper light.*

*Butane lighters are perfectly acceptable. They burn with an even flame, and some lighters, made specifically for cigars, actually come with two burners to increase the size of the flame. The lighters often are windproof, and they are not only portable, but can be a beautiful piece of jewelry as well.*

*Some lighters are less than ideal. A fluid-fuel lighter must be used very carefully: If you pull the fumes through the cigar it can affect the taste. But used properly, this type of lighter is perfectly functional.*

*Never light a cigar from a candle flame. The wax particles in the flame will ruin the taste and burning quality of your cigar. Beware of anything that burns with a noticeable odor other than wood; the cigar could absorb these aromas, which could affect its taste.*

## Tips, Hints & Proper Etiquette

- *Never light someone else's cigar; instead, offer your lighter or matches.*
- *Don't puff too rapidly on a cigar. It will burn hot and acquire unsavory, burned flavors. A puff a minute is considered more than adequate to keep a cigar lit.*
- *Don't play architect with the ash. If you wait too long to knock it off, it will end up on your pants or on the tablecloth. Watch for a small crack in the ash, and then tap it off.*
- *There are no rules for how far down to smoke a cigar. Some people smoke it only halfway. Others burn their fingers with a stub. Simply stop if the cigar starts to taste bad.*
- *Never grind your cigar out in an ashtray. A cigar will self-extinguish itself quite rapidly. In fact, by grinding out your cigar, you'll release more odors into the air than by leaving it alone.*
- *In general, cigars with thicker ring gauges provide more flavorful, complex smokes. There's a simple reason: In a thicker ring-gauge cigar, the blender can combine three or four different tobaccos to make the bunch.*
- *To test for moisture, cigars must be lightly grasped. But if you squeeze them too hard, they will crack.*
- *Smelling a cigar isn't going to tell a layman a whole lot about a cigar. Don't push it up your nose to take a deep whiff, and don't run it under your nose while you take deep breaths. If you are so inclined, think about the buyer, or buyers, before you who did the same thing.*
- *To get the best out of them, cigars should be smoked slowly. The smoke should not be inhaled. A cigar like a corona will take about half an hour to smoke, with larger cigars taking an hour or more.*
- *If your cigar goes out, don't worry, this is quite normal, particularly if you have already smoked half of it. Tap the cigar to remove any clinging ash. Then blow through the cigar to clear any stale smoke. Re-light as you would a new cigar. You should have a satisfactory smoke even if you leave the cigar for a couple of hours. Left much longer than that, it will taste stale.*

## Cigar Glossary

**Amatista:** A glass form of packing cigars started in Cuba. Traditionally packed in quantities of 50 cigars.

**Band:** Considered the first form of cigar advertising. One story has it that Catherine the Great invented cigar bands to keep her gloves from getting stained. Traditionally, bands are elaborately printed, contain the cigars' name and sometimes more information like country of origin or if they (the cigars) are handmade. A great collector's item.

**Belicoso:** A short, pyramid shape cigar usually not more than 5 ½ inches long.

**Binder:** One of the three main components of a cigar. Used primarily for construction purpose. A single leaf that is used to hold the filler tobacco (bunch) together.

**Blend:** The 'recipe' of tobaccos used to make a cigar, consisting of the filler, binder, and wrapper.

**Blue Mold:** One of the tobaccos worst enemies. A fungus that effects tobacco while in the fields. Can wipe out an entire crop in a matter of days.

**Bouquet:** Much like wine, used to describe the aroma of a cigar.

**Box pressed:** Style of packing which gives cigars a squared off finish.

**Bunch:** Alternative name for filler. Usually, a combination of different tobaccos, which makes the 'meat' of the cigar.

**Bundle:** Term used to describe a form of packing. Usually associated with lesser grade cigars or cost effective cigars, packed without a box.

**Candela:** Green shade wrapper, also known as double claro or American market selection. (AMS)

**Cap:** Small piece of tobacco used to finish the head of the cigar and secure the wrapper.

**Capa:** Another name for wrapper.

**Cedar:** Wood that has always been closely associated with cigars. An aromatic wood that helps in the aging process of cigars as well the production of humidors or anything used to hold cigars.

**Churchill:** A size made popular by Sir Winston Churchill. Traditionally 7" X 48 ring.

**Cigarillos:** Popular European size cigar. Machine made, with a small ring size and usually not more than 3" long. Sold in boxes/tins of 10 or 20.

**Claro:** A delineation of wrapper color. Traditionally light neutral green to light brown in color.

**Colorado:** A wrapper color delineation – medium brown to brown/red.

**Connecticut Shade:** Referring to a type of tobacco originally grown in Connecticut for cigar wrappers. A delicate, silky wrapper with a complimentary flavor.

**Corona:** One of the most common sizes of premium cigars. Although some artistic license is taken, usually around 5 ½ X 43 ring.

**Cuban Seed:** A type of tobacco, originally from Cuba but now grown in other tobacco growing regions.

**Culebra:** Braided cigar...3 cigars braided together. One story has it that the cigars were braided to demonstrate that they used all long-filler tobaccos.

**Diademas:** A cigar size...very large pyramid or tapered cigar usually about 8” long.

**Double Claro:** Same as Candella.

**Double Corona:** A cigar size slightly larger than a Churchill. Usually about 7 ½ X 50.

**Draw:** Just like it sounds. Basically how a cigar smokes once it is lit. If the cigar is made poorly...too tight, it will be plugged and hard to draw. Conversely, too loose, it will burn too hot.

**Fermentation:** A natural process used to cure tobacco. As tobacco is stored in bulk, the temperature rises to a point at which the ammonia in the leaves is released. This process helps to make a smoother, less harsh cigar.

**Figurado:** A generic term for shaped cigars.

**Filler:** One of the three major components used to make up the body or guts of the cigar. Usually a combination of at least 3 different types of tobacco. An analogy: if the filler is the ‘meat’ of the cigar, the wrapper would be the spices you would use to flavor it.

**Finish:** A term used to describe the taste. Much like wine, the finish is the last that stays on your tongue after the puff. Slightly subtler in character, but lets you experience the true essence of the cigar.

**Foot:** The open ended side of the cigar you light.

**Gran Corona:** A size delineation – refers to a large cigar usually 6 ½ X 47.

**Guillotine cut:** A straight cut on a cigar. Usually cuts the cap in half.

**Hand:** A means of holding leaf tobacco once it is harvested from the fields. Usually a hand consists of 50 leaves tied together at the base of the stems with the leaves flat.

**Handmade:** Refers to a premium cigar that is completely made by hand. Usually using the best tobaccos.

**Hand rolled:** Basically the same as above. However, hand rolled will refer to the finest tobacco available.

**Head:** The closed end of the cigar.

**Hot:** A term used to describe a cigar, usually rolled too loose, which draws too harsh.

**Long filler:** Whole leaf tobacco that are used to create the bunch. The tobacco leaf used in a long filled cigar will run the entire length of the cigar.

**Lonsdale:** A traditionally, very popular shape. Usually around, 6 ¾ X 43 ring.

**Machine Made:** Cigars that are produced by a machine using short filler or cut tobacco as opposed to the long filler used in hand made cigars.

**Maduro:** A color of wrapper leaf, a very dark reddish brown to almost black.

**Oscuro:** The next shade darker than Maduro...almost black in color.

***Oil:*** Sometimes referred to as the sheen of the wrapper. Natural moisture in the leaves.

***Panatela:*** Another term relating to size. Usually 6" X 32 ring.

***Perfecto:*** A shaped cigar that is closed on both ends.

***Plug:*** Something that effects the smokeability of a cigar. If a cigar is rolled too tight, and it is hard to draw, it is considered plugged.

***Priming:*** On average there are six rows of leaves on a tobacco plant. Each row is considered a priming. The number of primings starts from the bottom up. The first priming is the row closest to the ground, and so on up...

***Punch Cut:*** Refers to a type of cut that boars a hole in the head of the cigar. Gives a nice, even cut without damaging the head the cigar.

***Puro:*** The Spanish name/translation for cigar.

***Pyramid:*** A tapered cigar with usually at least a 50 ring foot with a conical shape to a tapered head.

***Ring Gauge:*** The measurement standard for the diameter of a cigar. It is based on a 1/64 of an inch. i.e. A 50 ring cigar has a diameter of 50/64.

***Robusto:*** A size of a cigar. A stout cigar traditionally 5" X 50 ring gauge.

***Shade Grown:*** Usually referring to Connecticut seed. A means of growing tobacco under a 'tent' that helps filter and protect the tobacco from harsh sunlight producing a delicate yet flavorful taste.

***Short filler:*** Cut tobacco used for machine made cigars because it is not long leaves. It tends to burn quicker and hotter.

***Sun Grown:*** Referring to tobacco grown in direct sunlight, producing a heavier, coarser leaf, generally used for filler and binder.

***Torpedo:*** A tapered cigar with a bulge in the middle.

***Tunneling:*** The uneven burning of a cigar usually referring to a construction problem. If it does happen try spinning or rotating the cigar while smoking.

***Vintage:*** Equivalent of Gran Cru wine. Refers to the year the tobacco was harvested.

***Wrapper:*** The third component of a cigar. A silky high quality tobacco used to finish a cigar because of its appearance and flavor. If the binder and filler represent the 'meat', then the wrapper is how you season it. Some may say that it represents about 50% of the cigars flavor.

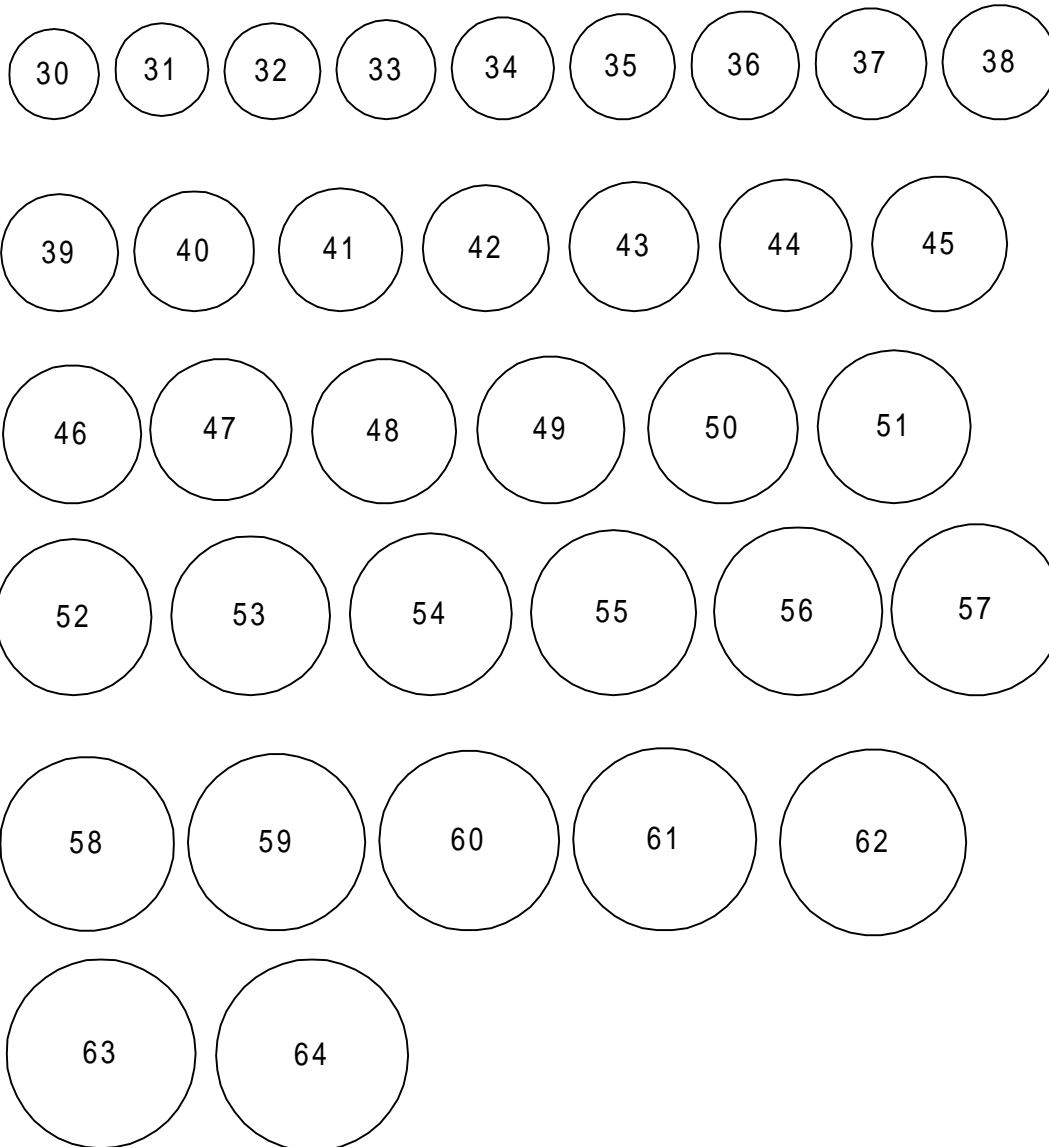
***V-Cut:*** Refers to a style of cutting a cigar. Takes a wedge or a piece of pie from the head of the cigar.

# CIGAR SIZE GUIDE

Below are ring size guides. There are 64 ring sizes to the inch, so a ring size of 40 is 40/64ths in diameter. Common names for sizes are:

Robusto	5" x 50	Lonsdale	6.5" x 42
Corona	5.5" x 42	Churchill	7" x 47
Panatella	6" x 38	Double Corona	8" x 49
Toro	6 x 50	Giant	9" x 52

This is just a guide, as cigar makers can call their cigars whatever they want to.



8"
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7.5"
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7"
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6.5"
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6"
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5.5"
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5"
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4.5"
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4"
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3.5"
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3"