

## chapter 2



# temporary draught dispense

**d**raught beer goes great with outdoor events, but the temporary setting prohibits use of traditional direct-draw or long-draw draught equipment. Instead, we usually use one of two different systems: picnic pumps or jockey boxes.



### Picnic Pumps

Picnic pumps or party taps allow draught beer dispense for a one-day occasion or event. These systems compromise accepted standards of draught dispense in order to offer a simple method for serving draught beer.

In the simplest systems, the beer flows to a simple plastic faucet attached to short section of vinyl hose. Gas pressure comes from compressed air introduced by way of a hand-operated pump integrated into the coupler. The pictures above

show plastic- and metal-construction examples of a picnic tap.

Since these systems introduce compressed air into the keg, they are only suitable for situations where the beer will be consumed in a single day. Also, these dispensing systems typically do not produce the best serving results, since balancing the correct top pressure is very imprecise. For best results, the keg must be kept in ice and consistently—but not excessively—pumped as the contents are dispensed.

Improved designs use single-use CO<sub>2</sub> cartridges with an integrated regulator. These units may also include a traditional vented faucet mounted on a short length of stainless steel beer line. This design overcomes the key shortcomings of hand-pumped picnic taps.



### Jockey Boxes

Jockey boxes offer another way to improve on the picnic tap as a solution for portable dispense. Here, a

normal coupler is attached to the keg and CO<sub>2</sub> is used to pressurize the system. Beer in route from keg to faucet passes through a cold plate or stainless steel tubing inside an ice chest in order to cool it to the proper dispense temperature. A cold-plate-equipped jockey box uses ice to cool beer flowing through the cold plate. A jockey box equipped with stainless steel coils uses ice and water to chill beer flowing through the coil.

These systems are not appropriate for day-to-day use, as draught beer is perishable and room temperature storage accelerates that process. Partial kegs remaining from temporary service are not usable in other settings.

## Jockey Box Setup and Use

Coil-style jockey boxes pour beer at a faster rate than those equipped with a cold plate. Thus, they better suit situations where you need higher volumes or faster pours. The cold plate style is appropriate for beer dispensed at a slower rate.

Kegs used with a cold plate should be iced if the ambient temperature is above 55°F since they have limited cooling capacity; however, coil boxes can pour beer efficiently even with the kegs at room temperature (64° – 74°F). If the ambient temperature is above that, the coil-box kegs should be iced as well.

Setup affects the efficiency of both jockey box styles.

### To set up a cold plate:

- **Tap** the keg and run beer through the faucet before adding ice to the jockey box. This removes water left behind during the cleaning process before temperatures in the plate get cold enough to freeze it causing turbulence or blockage of the beer flow.

- **Place** ice both underneath and on top of the cold plate in the ice chest. As time passes, the ice will “bridge” and should be removed for better contact with the cold plate. Ice should be added periodically and water drained from the ice chest.
- **Set** CO<sub>2</sub> pressure to 30 to 35 psi.

### To set up a coil box:

- **Tap** the keg and run beer through the coil and out the faucet.
- **Add** ice to the ice chest and completely cover the coil.
- **Add** cold water to the top of the coil. This causes an ice bath giving excellent surface contact.
- **Set** CO<sub>2</sub> pressure to 35 to 40 psi on 120 ft. coils. Shorter coils are not recommended, but if used, should dispense at 30 – 35 psi.

## Cleaning and Maintenance

When cleaning jockey boxes, the water in the lines must be blown out to prevent mold growth.

- If the re-circulation pump is capable of being run dry:
  - Before breaking down re-circulation loop, remove inlet from rinse water with pump running so air pushes out all of the rinse water in the lines.
- If the re-circulation pump is **not** capable of being run dry:
  - After breaking down the re-circulation loop and reattaching faucets, tap an empty cleaning canister and use the gas pressure to blow all of the water out of the lines. ■