

Great! Let's now explore the **Decorator Design Pattern** with a **real-world example**, **problem-first explanation**, a **clean solution**, a **class diagram**, and a breakdown of **pros and cons** — just like we did earlier.

What is the Decorator Pattern?

The **Decorator Pattern** allows behavior to be added to an individual object **dynamically** without affecting the behavior of other objects from the same class.


Think of it as *wrapping* an object with new functionality — like adding toppings on a pizza without modifying the original dough.

Problem Scenario: Coffee Shop Billing System

You are building a billing system for a **Coffee Shop**. Your menu includes:

- Base drinks: Espresso, Latte
- Add-ons: Milk, Mocha, Whip, etc.

A customer can choose:





 Espresso + Milk + Whip

Naive Implementation (Problem)

You might try this using a giant inheritance tree like:

```
class EspressoWithMilk extends Beverage {}  
class EspressoWithMilkAndWhip extends Beverage {}  
class LatteWithMocha extends Beverage {}
```

Problems:

-  Explosion of subclasses (combinatorial hell)
 -  Not scalable or reusable
 -  Violates Open/Closed Principle
 -  Hard to test, debug, and extend
-

Solution: Use Decorator Pattern

We use the Decorator Pattern to **wrap add-ons (milk, whip)** around the base beverage (Espresso, Latte) dynamically.

Pattern Breakdown

◆ Step 1: Component Interface

```
public interface Beverage {
    String getDescription();
    double cost();
}
```

◆ Step 2: Concrete Components (Base Drinks)

```
public class Espresso implements Beverage {
    public String getDescription() { return "Espresso"; }
    public double cost() { return 2.0; }
}

public class Latte implements Beverage {
    public String getDescription() { return "Latte"; }
    public double cost() { return 2.5; }
}
```

◆ Step 3: Abstract Decorator

```
public abstract class AddOnDecorator implements Beverage {
    protected Beverage beverage;
    public AddOnDecorator(Beverage beverage) {
        this.beverage = beverage;
    }
}
```

◆ Step 4: Concrete Decorators (Add-ons)

```
public class Milk extends AddOnDecorator {
    public Milk(Beverage beverage) {
        super(beverage);
    }

    public String getDescription() {
        return beverage.getDescription() + ", Milk";
    }

    public double cost() {
        return beverage.cost() + 0.5;
    }
}
```

```

public class Whip extends AddOnDecorator {
    public Whip(Beverage beverage) {
        super(beverage);
    }

    public String getDescription() {
        return beverage.getDescription() + ", Whip";
    }

    public double cost() {
        return beverage.cost() + 0.3;
    }
}

```

Runtime Usage

```

Beverage order = new Espresso(); // Base
order = new Milk(order);          // Add-on 1
order = new Whip(order);          // Add-on 2

```

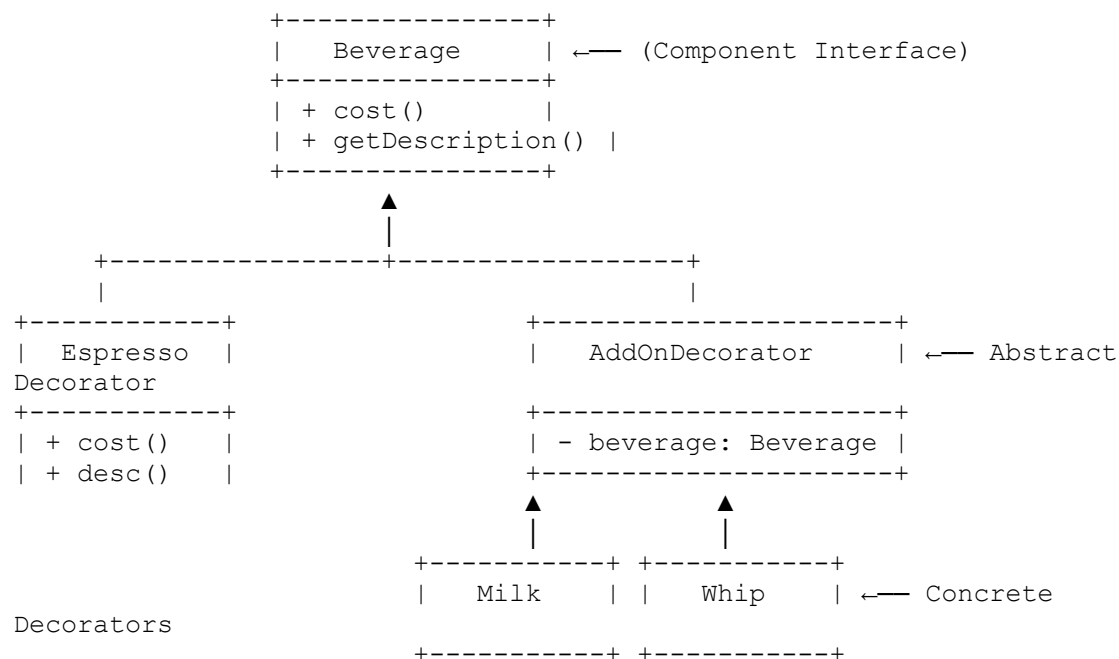
```

System.out.println(order.getDescription()); // Espresso, Milk, Whip
System.out.println(order.cost());           // 2.0 + 0.5 + 0.3 = 2.8





```

- ✓ No class explosion
 - ✓ Add-ons are modular and stackable
 - ✓ Core Espresso class never changed
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Class Diagram



Benefits Gained

Benefit	Explanation
 No subclass explosion	Add-ons don't require new subclasses
 Runtime flexibility	Add behavior dynamically
 Open/Closed Principle	Extend functionality without modifying core
 Composition > Inheritance	Behavior is layered using object composition

Drawbacks

Drawback	Solution
 Many small classes	Group or auto-register decorators
 Debugging wrapper chain	Add logging or use visual composition tools
 Order matters	Be cautious when wrapping (e.g., Whip before Milk or after)

Summary Table

Aspect	Description
Pattern Name Decorator	
Intent	Dynamically add responsibilities to objects
Use Cases	UI widgets, billing systems, file IO wrappers
Core Idea	Wrap a base object with layered functionality
Flexibility	High — reuses base logic and adds enhancements
