

Vinyl On Tap:

Pairing Midwest Brews With Midwest Tunes

Feature: Kevin Sterne

Whether you spin a record and kick back with friends, bring speakers into the bathroom for a shower beer, or go to a concert and exchange 10 bucks for a Dixie Cup of Bud Light—there's no denying that few things go together better than tunes and suds. This is especially true in the Midwest, which has birthed some of the best albums in rock, folk, hip-hop, and hardcore over the past decade or so, while simultaneously carving a niche in the world of craft beer. Here's a list pairing several records and brews to give your senses the best combinations Middle America has to offer.



ARCTIC PANZER WOLF

3 FLOYDS BREWING CO.

What: American Double / Imperial IPA

Where: Munster, Indiana **When:** Year-round **ABV:** 9%

Drink it with: Haste The Day's *Attack Of The Wolf King* (2010)

Like a punch to the face for your senses, both of these wolves hit you hard. The brew beards behind Panzer Wolf concoct just the ideal balance of citrus and malt without disguising much of the alcohol; this beer is not for the weak. Listeners be warned as well; *Wolf King* will claw at your eardrums with all the metalcore intensity that these Indiana natives can muster.



BENDER

SURLY BREWING COMPANY

What: American Oatmeal Brown Ale

Where: Minneapolis, Minnesota **When:** Year-round **ABV:** 5.1%

Crack open with: Doomtree's *All Hands* (2015)

This ale mixes oats, burnt caramel, vanilla, brown sugar, chocolate, and a tight malt-hop balance. There's no doubt you'll need a few sips to unwind from this palate twister. To pair, put on *All Hands* by Minneapolis' own hip-hop collective, Doomtree. It's a dark, explicit cocktail from the brains of P.O.S, Dessa, Sims, Cecil Otter, and Mike Micltan—underground rappers, hip-hop artists, and intellectuals hell-bent on raising a middle finger to the mainstream with their smart, turn-of-phrase spit-balling.



BREAKFAST STOUT

FOUNDERS BREWING CO.

What: Stout **Where:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

When: Fall **ABV:** 8.3%

Sip with: La Dispute's *Rooms Of The House* (2014)

This dark drinker is a java lover's dream, hitting the nostrils with a heavy dose of roasted coffee and following with bitter chocolates and more dark coffee in the taste. It's a no-brainer to match stouts and hardcore, but these two share the same song and dance for accessibility and nuance. The lyrics, "After dinner / Do the dishes / mother hums / The coffeemaker hisses on the stove / The steam a crescendo," from opener "Hudsonville, MI 1956," should coincide perfectly with the first sip.



SPOTTED COW

NEW GLARUS BREWING COMPANY

What: Cream Ale / Farmhouse Ale

Where: New Glarus, Wisconsin **When:** Year-round **ABV:** 4.8%

Down it with: Bon Iver's *Bon Iver* (2011)

Miller is Milwaukee but Spotted Cow is Wisconsin. Brewed with flaked barley and oats, Spotted Cow also brings fruit subtleties that capture the down-home feel of the state's farming, hunting, and relaxing lifestyle. With a sound literally made in an upstate cabin, Justin Vernon's passion project is a no-brainer to complement. Be sure to opt for a second beer over sentimentality when third track, "Holocene," comes on.