

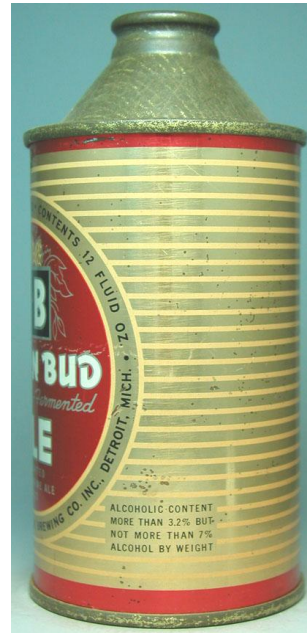
## MICHIGAN “DID YOU KNOW” – CONE TOPS OF E&B By Randy Karasek

Though all major Ekhardt and Becker brewery, Detroit, Michigan cone top variations are documented in the USBC, this article shows pictures of some of the side panel differences as well as includes some comments regarding rarity.

### E&B Golden Bud Ale



**USBC 160-13**



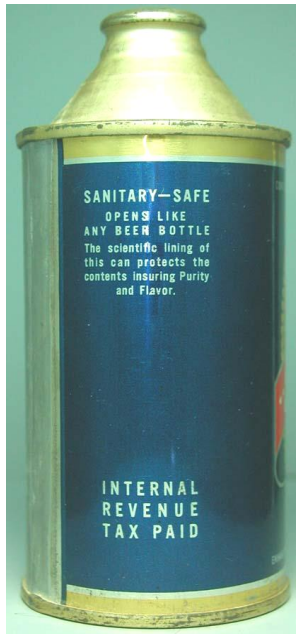
**USBC 160-14**

The USBC definitely has the rarity correct on these, with both being fairly tough cans to acquire in any condition. The front face is the same for both cans, with USBC 160-13 having no alcohol statement on the right side, and USBC 160-14 having the text “ALCOHOLIC CONTENT MORE THAN 3.2% BUT NOT MORE THAN 7% ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT”. Also notice the brewery mandatory stating Ekhardt & Becker, not E&B.

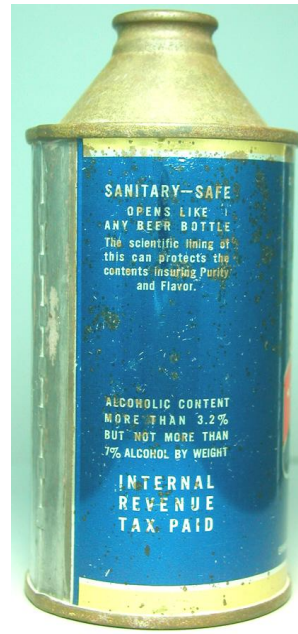
### E&B Special Beer

The E&B “Special” (pictured on the next page) is listed as USBC 160-15 (no alcohol statement) and USBC 160-16 (3.2-7% alcohol statement). Both cans pre-date 1944 and at one time very tough cans. However, in 1975 approximately **185 CASES** of near mint cans, that’s over **4,000 CANS** folks, were found unfilled on skids in the old E&B warehouse on 1551 Windser Street. These unfilled cans have to be the most overpriced cone you will ever see at shows or on Ebay, at best maybe a \$20-25 example just because it is an attractive clean design, not because of its rarity. What is much tougher is to find an example which was actually filled with beer!

The alcohol statement variation is more difficult to find than its no statement counterpart.



**USBC 160-15**

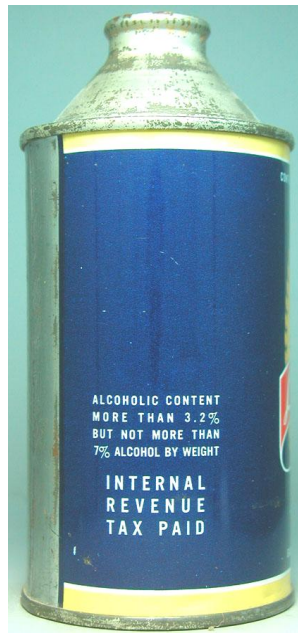


**USBC 160-16**

### **E&B Light Lager Beer**



**USBC 160-17**



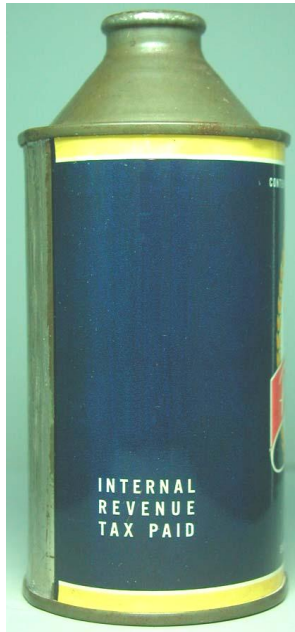
**USBC 160-18**

The next E&B offering is their “Light Lager”, listed as USBC 160-17 (no alcohol statement) and USBC 160-18 (3.2-7% alcohol statement). Note the front face now carries the brewery mandatory “E&B BREWING INC”. The brewery changed their name in 1944 from the older Ekhardt and Becker to the shorter “E&B Brewing”. Possible fallout post WWII or just a marketing change?

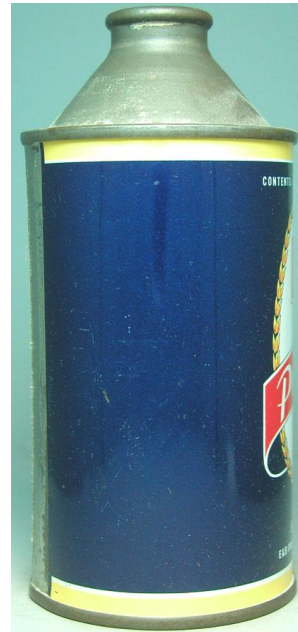
As for rarity, the USBC definitely has this one wrong, listing both Light Lager examples with the same price. While the no alcohol statement USBC 160-17 not too difficult to obtain, try finding USBC 160-18. I have only seen a small number of them, and there is no example currently sitting in my Michigan collection!!!

## E&B Premium Beer

The last offering in the E&B cone top mix, and a design that carried into the flat top era, is USBC 160-19 (still carrying the IRTP statement) and USBC 160-20 (a design that survived removal of this requirement).



**USBC 160-19**



**USBC 160-20**

Again the USBC has really gotten the rarity of these two variations wrong. USBC 160-19 is not too difficult to obtain, but try finding USBC 160-20 in any condition. While I was finally able to obtain a faded example for my collection, the only on-grade example I have seen for sale went over \$1,000 on Ebay in 2005!

## Where is the symmetry?

As seen above, there are both no alcohol and alcohol statement variations of the Special and Light Lager. But where is the equivalent 3.2-7% for the Premium? Does such an example exist and just a matter of time?

Also, there can be no symmetry of IRTP and non-IRTP for the Special, since the Special carries the Ekhardt and Becker mandatory, with E&B name appearing in 1944, long before removal of the IRTP requirement. However, is there a non-IRTP Light Lager? None currently known, but just maybe... ☺



**USBC 58-28**