

BREEDING SHOW COLOUR

'BRANDER'

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*Right:
English Show Tippler from Mick Bassett
(Germany).*



Before going to the Genetic explanation, I think we need to look at the meaning of a few genetic terms as simple as possible.

1. Heterozygous meaning one copy of a particular mutation/gene.
2. Homozygous meaning two copy of a particular mutation/gene.
3. Mutation is nothing but variation or change of a gene.

A bird can have maximum two copies of any gene (sex-linked genes for hens is an exception, but that is not necessary to talk in this case), so when we say a bird is homozygous for a particular gene/mutation, it simply means that the bird is pure for that gene/mutation. And when we say a bird is heterozygous for a mutation/gene it indicates the bird has only one copy of that particular mutation out of two copies that the birds can possibly possess. Heterozygous and Homozygous we may say in simple terms as het and homo respectively.



*Left:
English Show Tipplers,
'show' colour birds with too
much black pigment = a
greenish purple sheen, like
the bird on the left (green is
not wanted, must be
purple). But if the bird is
good type that does not
matter; pair to a recessive
Red (which masks Bronze)
and you can get a whole
flock of good colour/mar-
kings/sheen offspring.
Some extra Black is wanted
in some pairings or you lose
the black flight and tail bar
colour.*



Above: English Show Tiplers (only this colour/marking allowed for exhibition).

Whether it is a dark brander coloured bird or a bird with bronze all over except black on tips of flight and tail band, or a red bird that moult in white, all birds from a pure Brander breeding strain would possess two copies of the Brander bronze mutation. In other words, they are all homozygous or pure for Brander.

In a number of breeds like German Show Tiplers, Berlin short-faced Tumblers, etc. the birds breed true for the brander colouration. But in case of English Show Tiplers, Dutch Highflyers and Danish Tumblers, they don't breed true for the brander colouration that is allowed to be

exhibited or present in the Show standard of these breeds. In the former case, the colour of the birds is generally Black/Bronze all over the plumage, except flights and tail should be black when closed, whereas in the latter case, the black colour is limited to the tips of primaries and secondaries and area of tail band; the rest of the plumage should be deep clear Chestnut Brown. Recessive red is the mutation or genetic factor or gene responsible for this difference in colour.



Left: Adult English Show Tippler, recessive red, which carries Brander Bronze (a Bronze in the background). The recReds make a good impact on the pearl eye colour of the Bronze birds. These recReds always look 'self' Red in the nest.

Right:
English Show Tippler, recessive Red,
masking the Brander bronze.



BRANDER BRONZE

Birds with dark flights and tail when closed and rest of the plumage black/ bronze. Genetically they are homozygous brander and are free from recessive red mutation. The colouration is traditionally called Black in English Show Tipplers and Kite in Dutch highflyers. Not showable in either breeds, but this is what is being exhibited as brander in breeds like German Show Tipplers, Berlin short-faced Tumblers, etc. The small amount of variation in the colour of homozygous brander from breed to breed is possibly caused by additional factors that are unknown to us.

BRANDER HETEROZYGOUS RECESSIVE RED

(Show Colour in English Show Tipplers and Dutch Schoorsteenveger)

Genetically they are also homozygous brander bronze. But additionally they possess a copy of the recessive red mutation; in other words, they are also heterozygous recessive red. Presence of a copy of recessive red mutation enhance the Bronze colouration and produces birds with black colour limited to the tips of primaries, secondaries and area of the band on the tail feathers. And the rest of the plumage should be a deep rich Bronze colour (more specifically Chestnut Brown coloured). This is the signature colour of brander in English show tipplers (called show type bronze), Dutch Highflyers (called *Schoorsteenveger*/Chimney-sweep) and Danish Tumblers. The colouration does not occur in breeds like German Show Tipplers, Berlin short-faced Tumbler and some breeds from the Asian continent as the recessive red factor is not used in those breeds.

RECESSIVE RED

Since recessive red factor is present in brander breeding of English Show Tippler, Dutch Highflyers and Danish Tumblers, self red progeny (in nest feather, moult partial white) occur in the breeding pen of these breeds. Same as in the first two cases, the reds out of brander breeding are all homozygous brander. Additionally they have two copy of recessive red mutation, in other words, they are also homozygous recessive red. Homozygous recessive red masks brander bronze, thus the bird appears full red in nest feather. (Homozygous recessive red masks many other colours, for example if we add two copy of recessive red in to ash red or blue or black or brown, they all appears full red... I am trying to explain it as simple as possible.) In both English Show Tipplers and Dutch Highflyers they are simply called red. They always moult in white feathers and become light mottle-like phenotype.



I think I must mention some genetic factors which are present in all good coloured brander. Test breeding indicates that all well coloured branders are T- pattern, additionally they are also pure or homozygous for mutations such as sooty and dirty. Dark feet and skin of babies out of brander breeding is due to the presence of the 'dirty factor'. But the recessive red babies always have light beak and skin, that is typical for recessive red.

Left: Thanks to Jith Peter for this genetic explanation and simplification.

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SHOW TIPPLER BREED

The English Show Tippler was first bred in the early part of the 1800's as a Show Breed, in one colour only, what we now know is Brander heterozygote recessive Red, supported by the two 'stock' colours Dark Brander and recessive Red (recRed).

The British Club catering for the English Show Tippler being founded in 1891.

The Breeds used in all probability were the Macclesfield Tippler, a Blue 'Print' Pattern breed and at that time the ONLY breed called 'Tippler' (all other 'colour' breeds called Tumbler). The 'Mac' also quite often showed some Black and Bronze ticking amongst the Blue feather pattern.

Add the Danish Brander Bronze Tumbler (not at all like the present day 'Danish Tumbler' I might add) and possibly Kite and Red Agate from the English Short Face Tumbler, at that time ONLY exhibited as the 'Almond Tumbler', the 'other colours' merely supporting the 'Show Colour' (as in the ESTippler). This would account for the particular tameness and character of the ESTippler in comparison with the Flying Breeds of the Dutch Schoorsteenveger and Danish Tumbler.



Above and right: Young English Show Tipplers feathering out.

Initially and for the greater part of the breeds early history, at the Shows some 90% of the birds exhibited were the so called 'Mottle' in dark and light mottle, bronze ground colour, white feathers forming a mottle pattern, the 'light' mottles the reverse; white ground colour with bronze single feather mottle pattern. (The ideal of 'mottle' is solid colour/white feathers).

Right: Young English Show Tipplers feathering out, showing a lot of ticking in the wings.

The 'Selfs' were very much the 'poor relation' in the Breed, the infamous 'Chuck', a white bird with a small bronze bib, solid colour flights or with solid colour flights and secondary feathers all with the Black tips and a solid bronze tail with black bar, being produced by heavy feather plucking in the nest through adulthood.





(Thankfully no longer practised.) Efforts to BREED a 'Chuck' have only produced birds with very washy flight and tail colour. For a correct 'Chuck' marking, in fact for ALL markings, the flights and tail MUST be solid clean/clear Bronze with the required black markings.

Left: A beautiful English Show Tippler at Mick Bassett's (Germany).

After the 2nd World War the impetus was on breeding 'Self' ESTipplers, very few Mottles being produced and virtually no 'Chucks', although all 'typical' ESTipplers should 'carry' the Mottle gene, most selfs tending to produce the odd white feather with age and some birds naturally developing as 'dark mottle'. Also after the War it became the 'Mode' with the breed to cull out the recessive reds and to some extent the dark brander from breeding. The Breed then became a reputation for being 'very difficult' to breed a good one, quite obvious if all the important stock birds were being culled out, as that caused the 'show' colour to be very unstable, resulting in very few show-able birds produced.

On the other side of the English Channel

In the 1930's English Show Tipplers, Flying Tipplers and Exhibition Tipplers (all exhibited in the UK) were exported to Germany and the German 'English Tippler Club' was founded in 1936 shortly before WW2. Unfortunately it appears that the Germans were not fully informed about the ESTippler breed (ONE colour for exhibition) and the Breed developed with no real contact to the outside world into a completely different breed for looks and colour inheritance, behind the DDR 'Wall'. A further anomaly occurred in German with the development of the 'Black', most possibly translation confusion?, as the name for the Dark Brander at that time in the UK was commonly called Black! (enough to confuse anyone)

*Right:
An outstanding English Show Tippler.*

Breeding Brander

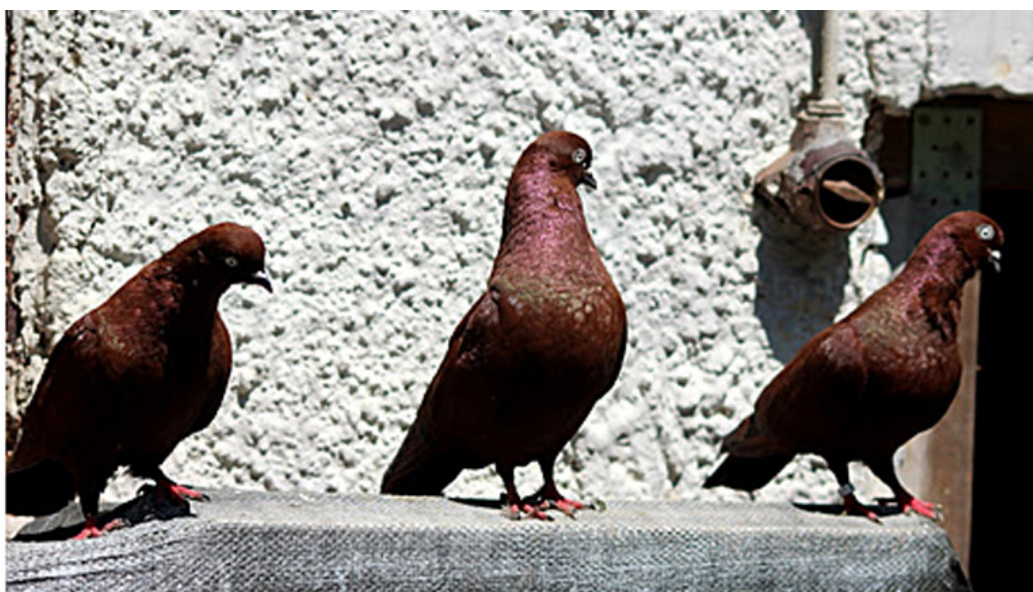
In my last conversations with Ken Shaw before he died, a notable top fancier for over 50 years, he did say he used both the recRed and the dark Brander in his pairings. He even mentioned 'Yellows' that appeared - here I am thinking he meant 'sulphur'? (dilute Bronze) - as in the nest it appears as a very pretty clear mustard yellow. I did have one hen bird produced and she acted as a 'normal' Brander het recRed in Breeding, producing excellent type and colour birds.



Also the 3 pedigrees he sent me (I still have them) show some 'Mottle' breeding.

Right:
The bird on the left in this picture is an adult recessive red English Show Tippler.

The other notable exhibitors during the latter period in the UK were the Pratt Family, Robin Pratt taking over the breed when his father died and having many show credits to the Family name. Another fancier, Colin Ronald did win a 'Best In Show' with a youngster from my breeding but he has since sadly, given-up the breed.



Left:
The English Show Tippler the particularly tame and also very curious, as you can see in this picture.

The only way to maintain the Show Colour - the combination of Brander (homo) heterozygote recessive Red - at the quality level of the English Show Tippler and the Schoorsteenveger (a specialist colour variety of the Dutch High Flyer), is to consciously use ALL three colours;

Dark Brander (homozygote) & Brander heterozygote recessive Red (the Show colour) & recessive Red (moult partial White) which, as seen above, is actually Brander (homo) plus 2 doses of recessive Red which effectively masks the Brander.

It is so completely logical when the colour for showing these two breeds is Brander+recRed, that BOTH the 'stock' colours and the Show Colour, MUST be used to maintain the correct show colour in the English and the Dutch Breeds!

The Art of Breeding is in HOW you do it !

There is a basic easy to follow system also practised in the Dutch Schoorsteenveger, the rest depends on the qualities of the birds in front of you (how to balance the pairings) and the knowledge you have of the Breed and the make-up (pedigree) of those birds plus a bit of 'Gut Feeling'....

Dark Brander x recRed (either way) = 100% 'Show Colour'

Brander het recRed x Brander het recRed = 50% Show Colour + 25% dark Brander + 25% recRed

Dark Brander x Brander het recRed (Show Colour) (either way) = 50% dark Brander + 50% Brander het recRed (Show Colour)

Brander het recRed (Show Colour) x recRed (either way) = 50% Brander het recRed(show) + 50% recRed

Dark Brander x Dark Brander and recRed x recRed are 'dead-end' pairings, of no use, unless you are very short on these colours.

So you can see from this that the easiest way to breed a whole generation of 'Show colour' marked birds to select from, is from two stock bird colours (this practise is not unusual in various pigeon breeds)

Breed TYPE is/should be, a done thing, as all birds should be 'Breed Typical' for type in the first place.

I have noted over the years that the recRed also most definitely has a Positive influence on the pearl eye colour and the eye colour change. (All young have dark eyes in the Nest.)

Also when you have a recRed in the nest with a Bronze (either of the two Bronzes) the recRed is often the better breed type, so the recRed also plays a part in maintaining type in the ESTippler Breed.

The Dark Brander and the recRed (Stock bird colours) are there in the first place to produce 100% Show Colour to select from. This mating most often produces the most stable Show Colour, so offspring selection is mostly on breed type.

Right:
Sunbathing English Show Tippler,
showing their perfect
wing and tail marking.



If you go further than TWO generations of Show Colour x Show Colour pairing, you start getting increasing variability in the (both) Bronzes produced in colour quality, black markings and eye colour change (recReds produced 'seem' unaffected....) and this variability increases the more generations you do that mating, until you produce few 'show quality' birds in these two 'Brander Bronze' breed colours, the two 'stock' colours are essential.

Before you reach that stage of instability, it is far better to use the Dark Brander and the recReds to 'balance' the show colour offspring produced from any Show Colour x Show Colour pairings and continue with the mixing.

Show colour x Show Colour is fine once, the offspring from the Dark Brander x recRed pairings (all Show colour) can be paired that one generation (producing 50%-25%-25%) but the Show Colour from that pairing should either go to a Brander, a recRed, or a Show Colour bred from a mixed mating (the 50% show colour produced).

With the bird's background breeding in mind, the balance of the pairings is then the priority. This means that IF the type is correct, you get few or NO actual culls!, as all birds with good type and colour breeding, can be compatibly (balanced) paired together.

That is the real positive Plus+ of these breeds that have more involved pairing systems; most all birds produced are 'useful' to the Breed.

You can never, ever get bored breeding the English Show Tippler and the same can also be said of the Schoorsteenveger (Dutch High Flyer) Two very different breeds with One Show colour in mind.

If you are not prepared to enjoy breeding from all three colours present in these two breeds, (in the Danish Tumbler all can be exhibited) then simply get another breed; they are not for you.

There is NO short-cut in breeding the Brander het' recessive Red, Show Colour. If you do however like the Brander Bronze expression at its peak of achievement, then these two quite different breeds, for type-size-temperament, can totally fulfil that desire.

Important colour features of both the ESTippler and the Schoorsteenveger

Clean-Clear rich Bronze colour with intense sheen, the Black restricted to distinct black tips to the primary and secondary wing feathers and a black tail bar. The 'sheen' on the Schoorsteenveger is purple but a little green in the sheen is tolerated.

In the ESTippler, the ideal is a rich purple sheen, in the best specimens no hint of green, the green sheen colour is linked to the black pigment. In Dark Brander this is often extreme but causes no problem when they breed Show Colour offspring. Also Show Colour birds with minimal black flecking (usually on the rump) will often show a little green in the purple sheen; this is easily corrected by proper pairing (in this case to a recRed).

Type comes first so I would personally class extra, very minimal restricted black pigment, in an otherwise very good bird as a very minor fault, the same with an absolute minimal (often depending on the light source) tint of green in the purple sheen. The general effect must always be of an intense purple sheen, the 'cleaner' the better. Both can easily be counteracted by choosing the ideal partners for the birds. Breed type and overall balance in type and colour, stance and temperament, always comes first.

Regarding my own birds, I have continued to breed to the Ken Shaw Ideal of the first 6 birds he sent to me. The only additions were from:

Robin Pratt, who kindly sent me over 4 cock birds - 3 dark brander, one 'show' colour - to Germany to enhance my breeding flock; Colin Ronald, another two birds, a dark brander and a recRed. Unfortunately due to ill health I had to send most of my birds (some 36 birds) back to the UK in 2011, as I did not want them stranded in Germany if anything happened to me. Later, with my flock rebuilt from just 2 pair (they easily produced 21 young the first season) that I had retained, from pure Ken Shaw breeding. 4 years ago Ian Mathews sent a further 5 recReds (from my own breeding but bred in the UK, but nonetheless recReds that I needed at that time.)

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