

# Reject the Brewers Platform!

By Tom Hennessy, Colorado Boy Brewing



*Note: You can subscribe to Tom's blog, The Affordable Brewery, [here](#).*

I have nothing against the brewers platform - that stainless throne that holds all those wonderful buttons and dials, but I want to make an argument for why it's a waste of money.

Now I am talking about systems around 7 BBL's here. You really do need a platform for bigger systems and of course controls too, but most breweries are in the 7 BBL range so that's what I am focusing on.

First off, a platform will cost you about 5k for starters. If you include hard piping between your kettle, mash tun and hot liquor tanks, and another 4k, then if you have pumps and switches the whole thing could be anywhere between 15 and 25k. All this for tanks that are at the most six feet tall. Crazy.

Why not just go to Home Depot and buy a \$75 platform ladder that has hand rails. Shoot, they even have wheels so you can roll it around.

Now I am going to get really crazy. Ditch the hard piping and the control panel, and instead have a pump on a cart, two lengths of good quality hot transfer hose and you are done. Your control now consists of one on and off switch on your pump.

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This will not affect the quality of your brew, but WILL save you a bundle that you could use to purchase more fermenters, A zahm Nagel CO2 tester, some lab equipment, things like that which will affect the quality of your beer.

Just think about this if you are planning on building a brewery. If you think I'm crazy, go on, change my mind.



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*Tom Hennessy has opened seven breweries of his own and helped open over 100 more with his Colorado Boy Brewery Immersion Course. His video Frankenbrew, from 1995 has become a cult classic in the brewing world. His three brewing books include The Brewery Operations Manual, Colorado Boy SOP, and The Affordable Brewery. Tom lives, brews and writes in his mountain town of Ridgway, Colorado.*