

The perfect puck.

From here on **YOU** are the most important ingredient. Four moves, the same every time — that is half the job of a good espresso. Keep this step card by the machine (it laminates well).

The puck prep sequence

1

Dosing

18 g evenly into the basket.

2

WDT

Break up the clumps with needles.

3

Levelling

Distribute the surface smooth and level.

4

Tamping

Press down straight and firm.

Bottomless = your mirror. The bottomless portafilter shows you every mistake: if it drips to one side, the tamp was crooked — if it sprays, you did not distribute cleanly. Use it to learn.

Typical mistakes — and how to spot them

What you see	Cause	Correction
the stream drips to one side	tamped crooked	press straight down, look from above
spray at the rim	not distributed (channelling)	WDT + levelling more carefully
runs through very fast	too little / too loose	18 g, tamp firmer

Build three pucks.

Your assignment until the next episode: build three pucks along the sequence and pull them bottomless. Watch the stream and note what you see — that is how you train your eye.

Puck log

#	Stream (centred? one-sided? spraying?)	What I will change next time
1		
2		
3		

Remember this

- **The same every time.** Same sequence = same result = you can improve on purpose.
- **Straight matters more than hard.** A straight, calm tamp beats brute force.
- **The puck forgives nothing** — but it also tells you exactly what you got wrong.