



The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter

News , Views , & Comments

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Section #1 Beginners .

SMOKY FACTOR recessive autosomal , symbol (sy)

Points to look for:

- (1) Overall "smoky" colouration with " blurred looking Bar and checker patterns.
- (2) No Albescent strips on outer tail feathers
- (3) Wider than usual sub-terminal tail band
- (4) wide light grey terminal tail band
- (5) Darker patterns may have light grey wedge shape on back at base of neck .
- (6) Under wings are smoky rather than the usual off white colour.
- (7) Often the beaks are horn colour although may be darker or lighter.
- (8) The albescent grey rump patch will be dark smoky gray.
- (9) Makes blacks shiny rich black with flesh coloured beaks .
- (10) Thought to enhance colour in recessive reds possibly lightening the beak.

Heading photos : Feral - Editor , Russian Tumbler - Mike Walters Sr. & slate Indian Fantail - from the Net .

While it is considered one of the so - called "Cruddies" ., it actually serves a number of very useful roles in the enhancement and beautification of other colour effects .

Volume 5 page 2 : The general overall effect is what gave it the name "smoky" because it renders the entire bird as if it is being viewed through a slight haze of smoke . Bright (whitish areas) such as the albescent areas (outer white strips of the tail feathers , rump areas and underwings are made darker) , while the dark areas of the beak , skin and feet are lightened.

When Spread blue/ black birds are also pure for smoky factor , they will have light coloured beaks as opposed to the normal near black beaks . In the pattern series birds of any base pigment , the smoky influence usually produces a dark tip on the beak called (horn) colour. The presence of Dirty factor (V) will darken the entire bird including the beak.

Good recessive reds mask or hide shiny black spread factor birds that may also be smoky. This combination is believed to cause or enhance the flesh coloured beak as well.

Smoky blue bar racer.....Photos for the collage from Edward Karel



This above diagram shows you all of the main areas of the bird that are significantly affected by the smoky trait . It still takes however , a keen eye to spot the difference between this and a few other Modifiers that you will learn about later on .

Section #2 Intermediate :

A name that became synonymous with smoky factor on the blue series is "**Slate**". It describes in particular , the smoky factor saturated T-Pattern . However it gradually became a trend in some regions to use the term Slate to mean any smoky factor bird regardless of Base colour or wing Pattern.

Young Smoky Blue Bars Qafi's Lofts



Dirty factor smoky Blue Bars Gopal Gadhavi.



Developing good show colours by standard for show purposes is basically not a major issue at most shows in North America. However in Europe, especially Germany , smoky factor can pose problems in the Blue series bird . The idea is to get the bird to exhibit its ideal clear colouration with a dark beak, but if smoky is involved , you can see that both colour and pattern will be hindered . Instead of the naturally dark beak, smoky will cause a clear or horn tip colouration. . Pure Dirty factor (V) may darken the beaks but colour again will be sacrificed .

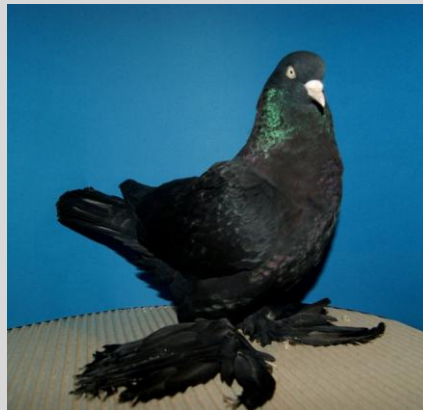
Undergrizzle smoky , plus (G)? , saturated T-Pattern Blue Series Prasad Pamadath



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Dirty factor smoky saturated T-Pattern Blue Series

Champion Old Cock Indian Fantail for Garry Glissmeyer of the U.S.A.



Smoky Spread Blue Series (BLACK) , note flesh colour beak. Althollandischer post facebook .



Smoky Black Russian Tumblers - Mike Walters Sr.

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Smoky Blacks ~ Rajib Khan Facebook post .

Section #3 Advanced :

Below - smoky / plus ? Archangel colour arrangement on this interesting Indian Breed : The genome is not known. Pale factor may be involved although the bronze is a much lighter tone than the "Gold" pale bronze or the dilute sulphur . The young appear short down. Smoky factor appears to be part of the genome .

Mohammedpur Farm . (Chua Chondon Breed).



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Below : smoky"Atlas" Paul Gibson's Newsletter , Dirty , smoky , ash-red T-pattern Oriental Roller Facebook Group.



Smoky Ash-red bar - Umar Faruk , breeder.



This is a typical smoky factor expression but is often mistaken as sooty factor (dappled) NOTE: The center of each shield feather is ash not dark red as it would be in a Sooty ash-red bar.

Below : A juvenile smoky ash-red check and then in his adult plumage . Post , David Maddan.



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Smoky may smudge dark pigment on the same areas that normally would express Coarse spread .

Smoky factor inherits in exactly the same way as milky factor as it is a recessive autosomal gene . You therefore may chart it in the same way in order to predict the ratio of young from any given mating.



Smoky Blue Bar Post by Sahroz Khan .



Smoky light checkers post by Alim Ansari.

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Smoky Medium Blue Check by Afsal AS and Smoky , Saturated T-pattern PGNV&C ~ P. Gibson .



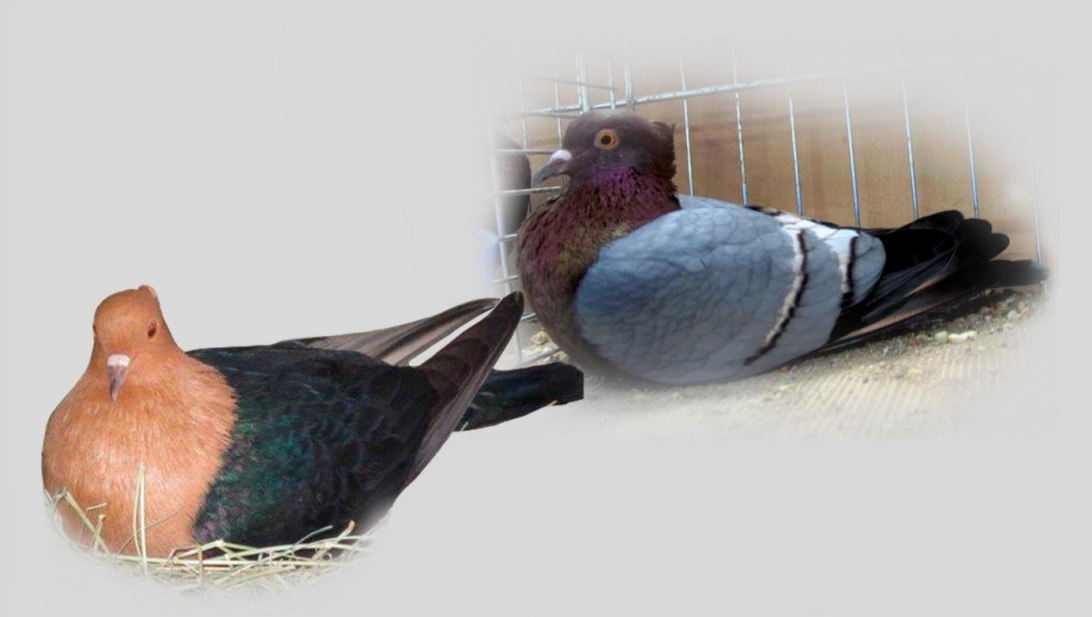
Below , a very nice smoky Blue Bar (Encyclopedia of Birds) Post Fb.



The above photo is about as perfect as it gets to demonstrate the true expression of the smoky trait . This would not be considered a "slate" simply because of the variation of darker pattern and light shield contrast whereas on a T-Pattern the contrast is much less pronounced and the entire bird takes on the colouration of a slab of slate rock.

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The Gimble Arrangement of the Black wing Archangel. Smoky plays a significant role in this phenotype as it lightens the skin , beak , and eye ceres while enhancing colour of the coarse spread areas and feather sheen.



The ideal is a black wing with a beetle green iridescence . This photo shows us where the sheen expresses at the edges of the feathers where the ragged contours reflect more light . Smoky is said to contribute to this effect although logic would suggest that the opposite should be true . However it is from solid rich blacks , rich deep recessive reds , and high sheen Archangels that smoky has been extracted. Photos Fb.

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You may find that you have a bird that seems to look like it could be smoky or some other trait , yet it looks a bit different for some reason . You are told many different things by various people and it just becomes very confusing. There are websites and Books , etc. that people recommend you check into , but again you end up more confused . One reason is that not all of the information out there is correct or just simply outdated by many years . Another reason is that it is not just a simple matter of giving a name to every single phenotype .

There are many modifiers that can blend with one another thus giving a slightly different effect ., and it not only becomes impossible to name the result ., but also it may be impossible to say just what some of the individual traits are .



Here we can see two contradictory combinations, a greatly diminished Albescent strip on the outer edge of the tail feather in the first photo that implies smoky is present . However there is no light gray terminal tail band as is so commonly seen with smoky . Secondly the sub-terminal tail band is not blurred looking and wide as is common with smoky. The bars show some widening and forked streaking, and do not appear as blurred as in most smoky birds, BUT the rump area is indeed typically dark as with smoky . In real life this hen was darker all over and expressed a slightly brownish tone as opposed to the blue in the photo , also my hand appears overly light . I suspect Dirty factor is also present in this bird . Photo Bob R.

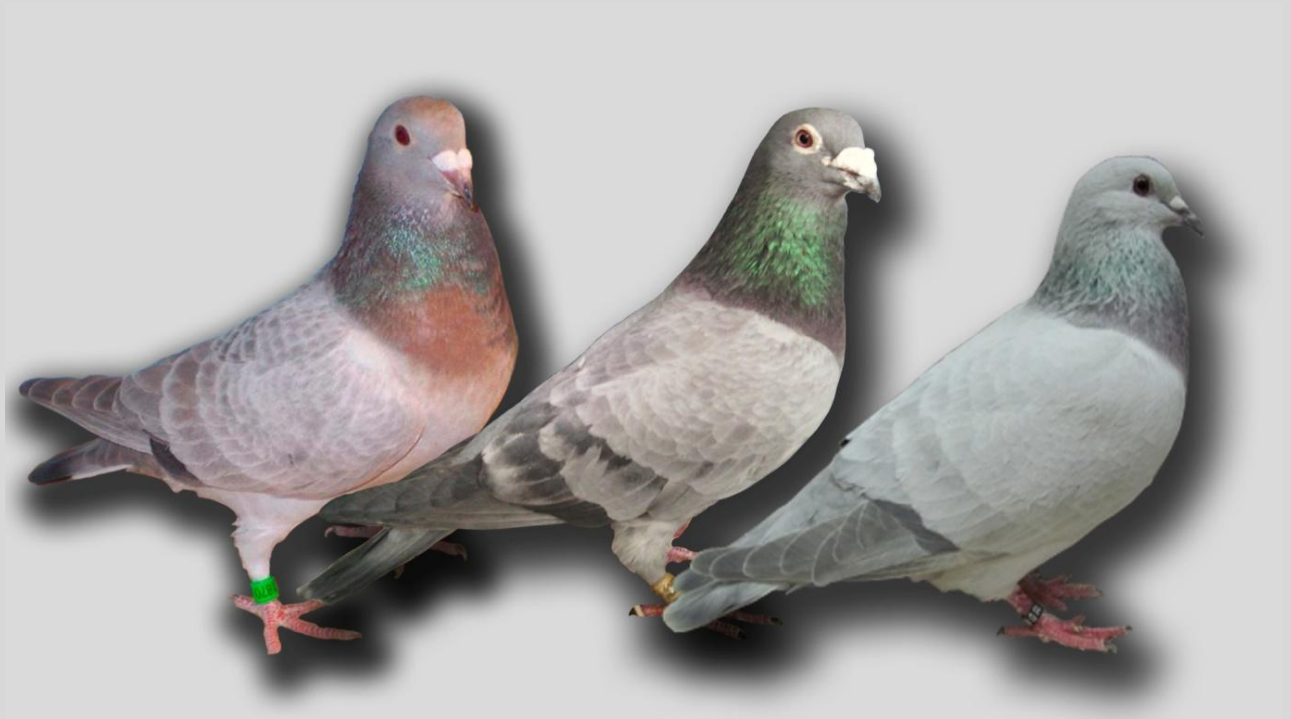
In the second photo we see well defined albescent strips ., however slightly blurred sub-terminal band with rather pronounced light gray terminal tips to the tail feathers . Photo Ryan Harvey.

Very typical smoky T check-pattern post by Darrin A. Facebook.



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Below : left to right , hetero/hemizygous faded blue check by Gary Boomershine , Homozygous smoky Blue bar by Edward Karel . , and a homozygous Frosty blue bar thuringer einfarbige by Mick Basset .



These are just a few of the many examples where we may begin second guessing ourselves and questioning others about which trait is which. Sometimes each similar trait may also be in combination with another given trait , for example a smoky faded blue . , or a smoky Frosty blue bar . Milky or Ice may also be involved along with dilution , so you can see how difficult it can be to identify some correctly and it drives home the importance of good record keeping !

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Below : A smoky ash-yellow and a smoky ash-red as babies and after weaning. Both of them have brownish band on the tip of their beaks which is common in smoky ash-reds. Similar smoky ash-reds with deep rich bronze can be mistaken as recessive reds as the clean beak with brownish ring is common in recessive reds and there would be no phenotypic difference for them from recessive reds..pic by Ismail Haji. breed : racing homer.



Below : Het/ Hemizygous qualmond blue bar with smoky factor Russian tumbler.. and Het/ Hemizygous qualmond spread blue with smoky factor Russian tumblers... by Mike Walters Sr.



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Below : Here we have a Tiger grizzle Juvenile blue T-Pattern by Bruce Coons , However , we see traits that may or may not be as a result of smoky. Here we have both albescent tail feather strips and an albescent Rump not consistent with smoky. We do have however , a very wide terminal light gray tail band typical of smoky , that has taken over space from the Sub-terminal , leaving it unusually narrow and again not typical of smoky. The horn tip beak typical of smoky is also typical of non-smoky grizzles .



Below : Dirty factor smoky blue bars . post Fb.



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Below : Smoky blue barless....pic by Robert fortin .



Below : Pale blueT-pattern smoky with gimpel bronze (Ka1 or Lb)..Breed Miro tumblers,.. pics. from group.



Below : One last look at a few examples of smoky involving Ash & blue series and recessive red .

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smoky Blue Bars , Alim Ansari .



smoky ash - red bar , Qafi's Loft .



smoky unimproved Recessive Red , AK lofts .



In closing it has been stated in the past that smoky also causes a bronze neck and sheen. The above photos seem to bear that idea out , but taking photos with a flash or in certain light can give a false impression. The vast majority of smoky birds we have shown you do not express bronze in the neck . In some cases that may run in a certain strain . It can also be the result of being Hetero for recessive red .

So , until June when we talk about the Bronze Family , it is again "So Long" from the Pigeon Coop !