

# GoTab vs. Toast

SELF-POUR & RFID QUICK CLOSE BATTLECARD · FIELD REP

Updated: May 2026

Supplement to GoTab vs. Toast Main Battlecard

REFERENCE **BOTTOM LINE**

Toast connects to PourMyBeer — but barely. It sends pour data to an open check, and that's where the integration ends. There's no RFID activation from a bar terminal, no unified tab that follows a guest across zones, no automated card disconnection, no phone-based pour access, and a documented bug that floods kitchen printers with a receipt for every single pour. GoTab's PourMyBeer integration is native and tab-centric: RFID cards are activated from any GoTab terminal, they link to an open persistent tab, they travel with the guest across zones and vendors, and they close automatically. PourMyBeer's own support docs use GoTab as their showcase integration. That's the real story.

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Terminal to activate RFID with Toast (dedicated charger only)

**Any**

GoTab terminal can activate &

pair RFID — bar, handheld, kiosk

**42%**

Higher avg. ticket on GoTab open tabs vs. closed-check systems

**Auto**

GoTab auto-closes & disconnects RFID at tab close — zero manual steps

## CORE SELF-POUR INTEGRATION COMPARISON GOTAB + POURMYBEER

**RFID Activation Workflow** Staff activates RFID card directly from any GoTab POS terminal (bar, handheld, or kiosk). Card is linked to guest's running tab in the same step. No separate dedicated terminal required.

**Tab Architecture** RFID card is linked to a persistent open GoTab tab. Guest keeps ordering (bar, server, QR, kiosk) on the same tab. Pour wall charges append in real time. One check for the entire visit.

**Tab Mobility Across Zones** EasyTab: guest scans QR at any zone, tab follows. RFID wristband tap at any bar pulls up the same running tab. Pour wall + F&B + merch on one check regardless of where in the venue.

**Multi-Zone / Multi-Vendor** Same RFID card works across multiple zones, bars, and vendors within the venue.

One card, one tab, one check — even in food hall or multi-concept configurations.

**RFID at Bar Terminal** Any bartender at any bar terminal can tap a guest's RFID wristband to pull up their running tab instantly — add drinks, check balance, reauthorize. No separate station needed.

**Phone-Based Pour Access** Guests can use their own phone (via QR/URL) to access the pour wall — no RFID card required. Age verification handled through GoTab. Perfect for return guests or card-free scenarios.

Staff must open a ticket in Toast first, then take the guest to the dedicated PMB charger terminal, use an admin/staff card to access open tickets, select the correct ticket, and pair the card — a multi-step, multi-terminal flow requiring a dedicated check-in station.

Pour data is sent to a Toast open check. Check must be created manually before card pairing. Pour wall and F&B may end up on separate checks depending on service flow — especially in multi-zone venues.

Toast checks are location-anchored. Moving a guest from pour wall check-in to a table or second bar requires manual server transfer. No native tab mobility across floors or zones.

Toast has no native multi-vendor routing. Each vendor or concept typically requires a separate check. No revenue split logic. Not designed for food hall or shared revenue environments.

RFID interaction is siloed to the dedicated PMB charger terminal. Bartenders at the bar cannot pull up or interact with a guest's pour wall tab using RFID — they must go to the check-in station or use the POS manually.

Not available. Toast + PMB requires a physical RFID card or wristband for every guest. No phone-based pour wall access.

	Disconnect	walkout risk from open cards.	is not instantaneous and requires
	When the GoTab tab closes (auto	Staff closes the Toast ticket per	the ticket to be closed on the
	at EON or guest-initiated), the	standard workflow. PMB ticket	Toast side first.
	RFID card is automatically	closes on the charger side within	
	deactivated. Zero manual steps.	~5 minutes. Relies on staff to	
Automated Tab Close & Card	No forgotten active cards, no	close the POS ticket; deactivation	

Auto-Close Tabs at EON Tabs auto-close with default tip applied at end of night — or close with a single tap.  
 No staff chasing down open tabs.  
 Especially valuable for self-pour venues where card-holders may leave.

Kitchen Printer Behavior Pour wall activity routes appropriately. No kitchen ticket spam from self-pour transactions.  
 No native auto-close mechanism. Staff must manually close all open checks at end of service. In a busy self-pour venue, this is a significant labor burden.

Documented PMB knowledge base issue: "Toast Kitchen/Prep Station Prints Receipt For Every Pour." In a 30-tap venue with active guests, this can mean dozens of

**GOTAB + POURMYBEER**

		unwanted kitchen prints per hour — noise, paper waste, and kitchen confusion.	
Multiple RFID Passes on One Tab	tab — ideal for groups, events, and private parties. All pour activity tracked per card, all charges to one check.	Each RFID card maps to a separate Toast ticket. Group scenarios require multiple open checks — more complexity, more reconciliation at close.	knowledge base includes a dedicated guide: "How to Manage Beverage Products Between PourMyBeer and Toast" — the complexity is documented.
Product Setup (Menu Sync)	GoTab POS integration maps: products configured once in		
Multiple RFID cards/wristbands can be linked to a single GoTab	PourMyBeer, sync to GoTab automatically. No duplicate entry required.	Products must be imported/mapped in both PMB and Toast separately. PMB	
	included in GoTab product mix reports.		operation.
Product Mix Reporting PMB pour data	Unified reporting across self pour, bar, and F&B — one view of the entire		Pour data flows to Toast check totals.

Reporting integration at settlement level only and Toast.

— no unified product mix view between PMB

Real-Time Tab Transparency	live tab after every pour — they can see their running balance in real time from their phone. Reduces sticker shock at checkout.	tab. charger terminal, coordinating No native real-time tab visibility for pre-auth across both systems guests via text. Guests must ask staff or check the charger terminal for their running balance.
Pre-Auth / Walkout Protection Guests receive a text link to their	Native card pre-authorization at tab open — chip/tap/Apple Pay supported. Protects against walkouts. Pre-auth holds across self-pour and F&B on the same	Pre-auth available on Toast but handled separately from the PMB flow. In a self pour venue where the card is activated at a separate
Offline / On-Premise Mode server mode: POS, handhelds, kiosks, and	On-Premises printers stay connected locally during internet outages. Self-pour operations continue. Limited offline capability. Toast's POS	requires connectivity for most functions. PMB also has on-premise server infrastructure — but POS/PMB synchronization is disrupted during outages.
Underage / Non-Alcohol Cards	Native age-gating per tap: 21+ taps serve alcohol, underage guests can pour non alcohol items on the same wall without a separate system. Configurable from GoTab directly.	within PMB but is not natively coordinated through Toast. Operators must configure restrictions at the PMB level only — no Toast-side age-gate logic.
RFID at Kiosk Guests can self-checkout at a	Age-gating configuration exists GoTab kiosk using their RFID card — no staff required for self-pour checkout. Tap card, review tab, pay, done. Toast kiosks available but do not natively support RFID card-based tab retrieval or	self-pour checkout. Kiosk and self-pour are separate workflows.
PourMyBeer Preferred Status <b>GOTAB + POURMYBEER</b> kitchen printer bug and a multi-step check-in flow.	PourMyBeer's own integration docs showcase GoTab as their premier integration partner — dedicated workflows for RFID pairing, age verification, and QR	Toast is listed as PMB's most documented common integration in the U.S. — but the depth of integration is shallow by comparison: push-to-check only, with a access. GoTab has a dedicated lead submission page on PMB's site.

**FIT ASSESSMENT**

passes on one tab for private parties

Venues that want phone-based pour access (no card needed) for return guests or streamlined check-in

Operators who've outgrown Toast's two-system check-in flow and want RFID activation at the bar

Any operator tired of kitchen printer spam from pour wall transactions

**WHEN GOTAB + PMB WINS**

Any self-pour venue where guests roam — the tab and RFID card must follow them across zones, bars, and vendors

Multi-floor or multi-bar venues (pour wall + seated F&B + bar service = one check)

Food halls and multi-vendor environments where PMB revenue needs to split properly alongside other vendors

High-volume taprooms where end-of-night tab closes need to be automatic, not manual staff labor

Operators with group event business — multiple RFID

**SELF-POUR GUEST JOURNEY — SATURDAY EVENING SCENARIO**  
WHEN TOAST + PMB MAY BE SUFFICIENT

Simple single-zone taproom where guests check in once, pour, and leave — no tab mobility needed

Operator deeply embedded in Toast ecosystem with no near-term switching appetite

Low-volume self-pour venue (under 20 taps) where check-in complexity is manageable with a dedicated staff position

#### GOTAB + POURMYBEER

1. Guest Arrives Bartender taps guest's RFID wristband from the bar terminal — tab opens, card on file captured, card activated for pour wall. 30 seconds. Guest goes directly to the wall.

2. Guest Pours Each pour posts in real time to the GoTab tab. Guest gets a text after each pour showing their running

3. Guest Moves to Table Guest scans table QR code. Existing tab reconnects to new location. Server can add

4. Friends Join Guest shares tab link via text. Friends can be issued their own RFID wristbands linked to the same GoTab tab. All pours tracked per card, one unified check for the group.

5. Server Adds a Round Server adds drinks from handheld to the same

6. Checkout Guest reviews full tab on phone — all pours, F&B, any server-added items. Tips, pays from phone. Tab auto-closes; RFID card deactivates automatically. Zero staff intervention needed.

Operator who only needs pour data on the check — no need for unified tab, zone routing, or auto-close

balance. No kitchen printer noise.

Staff opens a Toast ticket, then walks guest to the dedicated PMB charger, uses admin card to access open tickets, selects ticket, pairs RFID card. Separate stations, multiple steps. Busy nights create a line at the charger.

Pour data pushes to the Toast open check. No real time text to guest. Kitchen/prep stations may receive a print for every pour — documented PMB bug with Toast.

food to the same tab. RFID wristband still active — guest can return to pour wall and charges append to same check.

Server must manually transfer the Toast check

from the bar/check-in area to the table. QR ordering (if used) creates a separate check — two checks for one guest. Food and self-pour may never merge.

Each new guest gets their own Toast ticket at check in. Group of 4 = 4 separate checks. No native way to link friends' pour activity to a single group tab.

guest tab. Self-pour and server-added items on one check, one KDS stream. Guest sees the update instantly on their phone.

Server adds items on POS — likely a separate check from the self-pour tab unless manually merged. No live tab visibility for the guest.

Staff closes Toast ticket. PMB card deactivates within ~5 minutes.

Staff must reconcile any split checks (self-pour + table F&B). No auto-close; end of-night requires manual check closure for all open tickets.

#### OBJECTION HANDLERS — SELF-POUR & RFID

Q:

A: Toast does connect to PourMyBeer, but the integration is surface-level — it pushes pour totals to an open Toast check, and that's it. To even pair an RFID card, staff needs a dedicated charger terminal separate from their POS. There's no RFID activation at the bar, no tab that follows the guest to a table, no auto-close at end of night, and a documented bug that prints a kitchen receipt for every single pour. GoTab's integration is what PourMyBeer built their showcase workflow around — RFID activation from any terminal, automated tab close and card disconnect, real-time texted balance updates for guests, and everything on one unified check. The question isn't whether Toast works with PMB — it's whether your staff and guests deserve a better experience.

Q:

A: They're used to it because that's all Toast allows — not because it's the best experience. A dedicated check-in station creates a bottleneck on busy nights: every new guest must queue at the charger before they can pour. With GoTab, any bartender at any terminal can tap a wristband and activate it in seconds — no line, no separate station. Bear Cave Brewing (52 taps, 17,000 sq ft) specifically cited eliminating check-in friction as a key operational win. When you remove the queue, guests pour faster, drink more, and staff spend time on hospitality instead of check-in logistics.

Q:

**A:** That's exactly what Toast gives you — and nothing more. The problem shows up the moment a guest with an open pour wall tab wants to sit down and eat: now you have two checks. Or when a group of four comes in and they want one bill at the end. Or when you're closing up and realize you have 12 open Toast tickets from guests who've already left. GoTab handles all of those automatically — one tab, one check, auto-close. "Just pour data on the check" works fine until your Friday night gets busy and you're manually merging checks and chasing unclosed tabs at midnight.

**Q:**

**A:** PourMyBeer does note that Toast is their most common U.S. integration — because Toast has the largest installed base. But read their own support docs: there's a dedicated article for managing Toast and PourMyBeer without integration, a known kitchen printer bug, and a multi-step check-in workflow that requires a separate charger terminal. Then look at their GoTab docs: RFID pairing directly in the POS terminal, automated tab close and card disconnect, QR code access, and an age-verification workflow built natively. PourMyBeer even has a dedicated GoTab demo request link on their site. Market share isn't the same as best integration.

**Q:**

**A:** Two things worth knowing: first, Toast's merchant agreement allows you to terminate without an early termination fee if Toast raises your processing rates and you object in writing before the effective date — and they've raised rates twice since 2024. Second, mark your auto-renewal date and give written notice 30 days before. In the meantime, every month you stay on Toast with PourMyBeer is a month your staff is doing manual check-in at a charger terminal, closing tabs by hand at end of night, and dealing with kitchen printer spam on pour wall activity. Start the GoTab conversation now so you're ready when the window opens.

**Q:**

**A:** GoTab's QR capability isn't just for ordering food — it's how guests can access the pour wall from their phone instead of needing an RFID card. A guest who pre-registered or is a return visitor can scan a QR code and start pouring without staff issuing a card at all. It also means your bartenders can handle tab management from a handheld anywhere in the venue rather than being anchored to a check-in station. The QR and RFID systems work together in GoTab — they're not separate products bolted together.

**Q:**

**A:** With Toast + PMB, it already does — there's a documented bug where kitchen/prep stations print a receipt for every single pour from the pour wall. In a 30-tap venue with 50 active guests, that's potentially hundreds of unwanted kitchen prints per service. GoTab's integration routes pour wall data to the appropriate check without flooding the KDS. Self-pour charges don't create KDS tickets unless you route specific items to production — it's configurable, not automatic noise.

## SELF-POUR PROOF POINTS ON GOTAB

### Bear Cave Brewing

Hopkins, MN · 17,000 sq ft · 52 self-pour taps

Previous POS caused double tabs, failed pre-auths, ~\$1K/mo in revenue loss on a massive self-pour operation.

✓ Eliminated duplicate charges and pre-auth failures. Unified food + self-pour on one tab. Runs lean staff across massive venue.

"There is absolutely no way we could maintain this place without these systems."

#### Pour Taproom

Midtown Atlanta, GA · 3-story self-pour venue

Three-floor self-pour venue — needed RFID integration, multi-floor tab management, and walkout protection.

✓ iPourIt RFID wristbands linked to GoTab tabs across all floors. QR mobile ordering reduced bar congestion. Pre-auth protects against

abandoned tabs.

"The flexibility to shift between service styles allows us to optimize efficiency while keeping the guest experience front and center."

### Hoppin' Brands

Multi-location self-pour taprooms

Multi-location self-pour operation requiring consistent guest experience, RFID management, and unified reporting across locations.

✓ GoTab + PourMyBeer deployed across locations. RFID, tab management, and reporting unified under one platform. PourMyBeer cites as reference operator.

## SELF-POUR VERTICAL FIT — GOTAB VS. TOAST + PMB

Malcolm Yards / Golden Mill

Multi-vendor food hall + self-pour

Food hall format with self-pour component — needed pour wall to integrate with multi-vendor tab routing and revenue splits.

✓ GoTab's native multi-vendor architecture handles self-pour, food

vendors, and bar on one tab. No other POS handles this combination natively.

## GOTAB

## WHY IT MATTERS FOR SELF-POUR

**Brewery / Taproom** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Roaming guests + self-pour + server service = one tab. Toast creates fragmented checks. GoTab was born in a brewery.

**Food Hall / Multi-Vendor** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ GoTab natively splits revenue across vendors on one tab. Toast has no food hall architecture — self-pour in a multi vendor context is unsolvable on Toast.

**FEC / Entertainment Venue** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Multi-zone (pour wall + arcade + F&B + events) demands tab mobility. Toast is single-concept. GoTab handles this natively.

**Bar / Nightlife** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Auto-close at EON and roaming tabs eliminate the end-of night chaos. Toast requires manual tab reconciliation at close.

**Hotel F&B** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Self-pour wall + pool bar + dining room on one guest tab. Toast cannot merge these flows natively.

**Full-Service Restaurant** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Even. FSR with a self-pour element benefits from GoTab's unified tab. Traditional table-service-only FSR without self pour — Toast performs well.

**QSR / Fast Casual** ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆ Toast wins here without a self-pour component. Counter service focused design. GoTab's self-pour advantage doesn't apply to pure QSR.

## QUICK CLOSE — THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER

Toast connects to PourMyBeer. **GoTab** integrates with PourMyBeer. There's a real difference: Toast pushes pour data to a check. **GoTab** activates RFID from any terminal, links it to a persistent open tab, lets the tab travel with the guest across every zone, sends them a real-time text balance after every pour, and automatically closes the tab and deactivates the card at end of night. PourMyBeer's own support docs showcase **GoTab** as their premier integration — because the depth of what **GoTab** does with RFID is in a different category than what Toast can offer. If an operator is serious about self-pour, they deserve a POS that treats RFID as a first-class feature, not an afterthought that requires a dedicated charger station and prints a receipt in the kitchen for every pour.

Sources: PourMyBeer Knowledge Base — Toast Usage Guidelines (support.pourmybeer.com) · PourMyBeer Knowledge Base — GoTab RFID Card Pairing Workflow (support.pourmybeer.com) · PourMyBeer POS Integrations Page (pourmybeer.com/pos-integrations) · PourMyBeer Toast Kitchen Printer Bug Article (support.pourmybeer.com) · GoTab + PourMyBeer One-Pager (gotab.com/integrations/PourMyBev) · GoTab Case Studies: Bear Cave Brewing, Pour Taproom, Sketchbook Brewing, Resident Culture · GoTab vs. Toast Main Battlecard (internal, May 2026)

Case Study Links: [Bear Cave Brewing] · [Pour Taproom] · [Hoppin' Brands — request from PMB team] · [Malcolm Yards / Golden Mill — confirm availability]