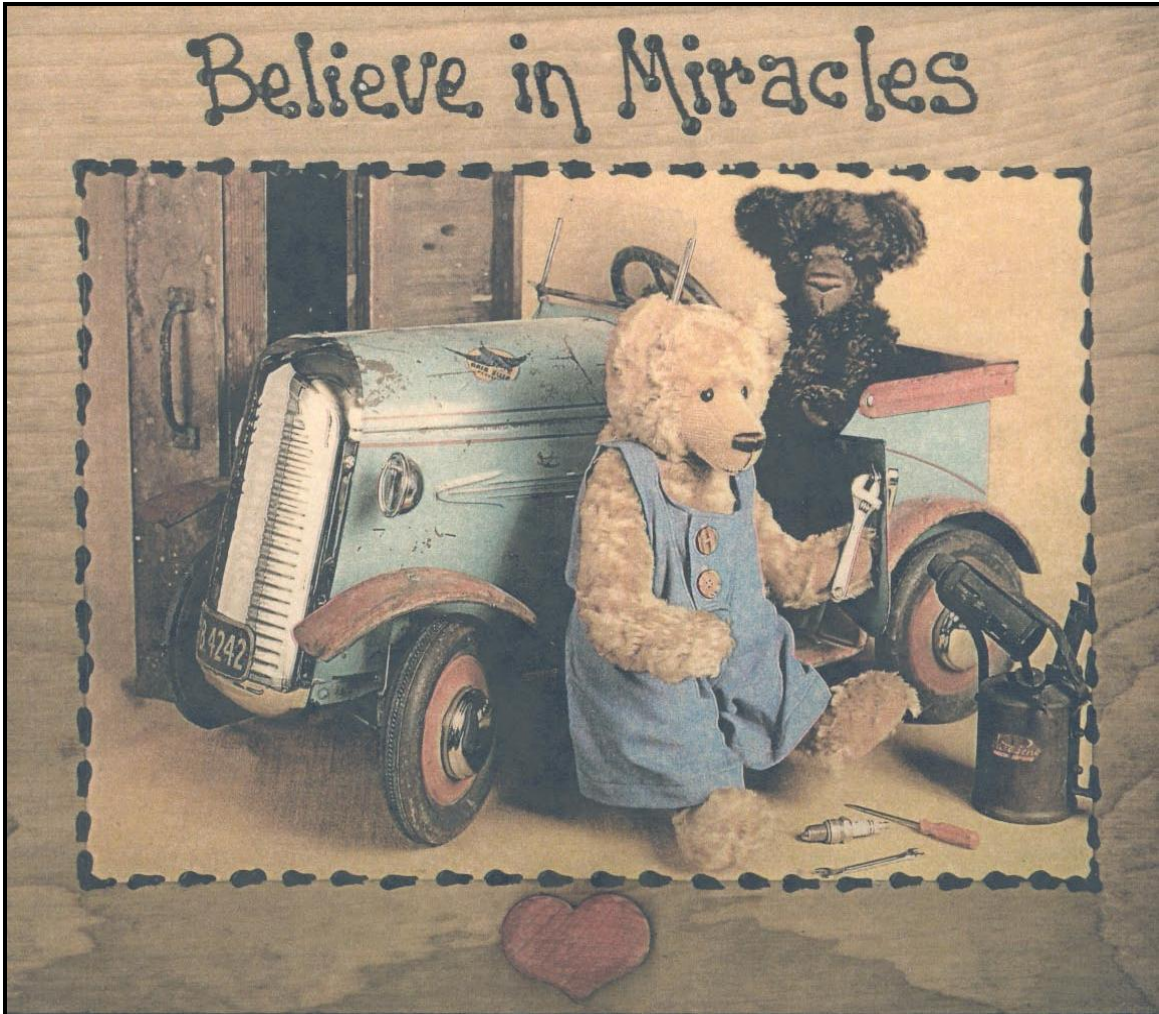


THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Issue #51

December 2011



This poster is from the collection of **Al Austin**. Can anyone identify the blow lamp?

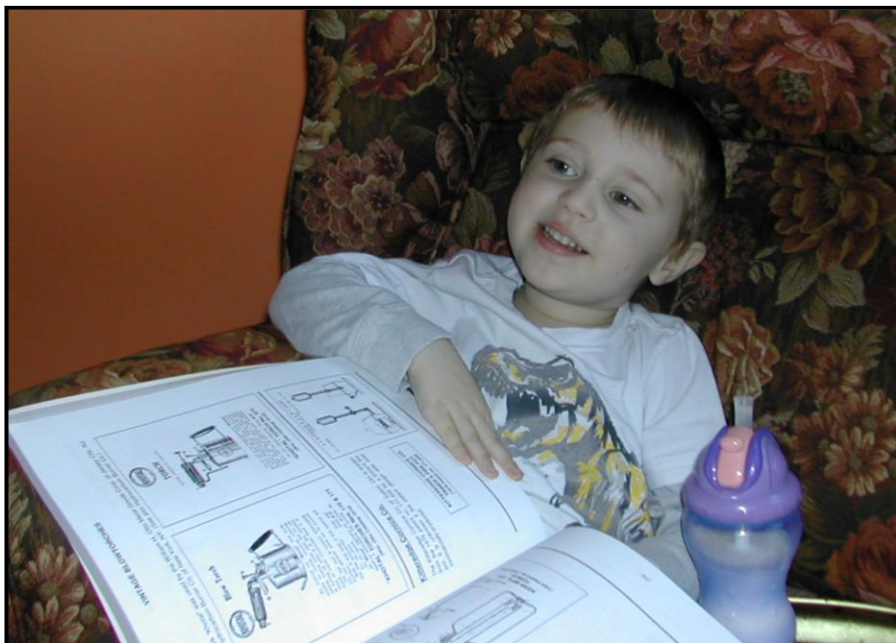


This very rare Lyon Conklin & Co. NEW MARVELL blow torch is from the collection of **Dave Kolb**. The torch is missing the burner assembly; see the Classified Ads for more details.

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph R. Guy of Mechanicsville, MD is very new to blow torch collecting since he started just six months ago. *“My sister loved antiques, and after she passed away I started where she left off. My wife and I started going to antique stores, one in particular in the Pennsylvania area had nothing but mantiques (Note: mantiques are antiques related to men stuff). I picked up a few miners carbide lanterns and some torches. I also purchased a refinished torch from another torch collector. It looked so great all redone and polished, so I have started to polish mine.”* JR also collects old lanterns, miner’s lamps, and some soldering irons.

Ned Maire of Fair Lawn, NJ is, without a doubt, our youngest member....nearly four years old! He is the grandson of BTCA member **Ted Maire**. Ted writes; *“Ned enjoys perusing through my VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES reference book, reviewing Grandpa’s torch collection, and watching Grandpa restore blow torches. He is curious about all the different parts and metals. He will soon be old enough to venture out to flea markets in search of great finds. His other hobbies include; dinosaurs, playing in piles of leaves, the alphabet, and throwing rocks in ponds and streams. He will be four years old in March 2012”*



We are not sure if Ned will ever take up torch collecting when he is much older, but we are sure that grandpa will have plenty of torches to pass on to him!

Baltazar Rodrigues of Campinho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has been a collector for twenty six years and has accumulated a large assortment of items, including over 350 torch related pieces...of which 280 are restored. You can see his entire collection of items at: WWW.MUSEUDASFERRAMENTAS.COM.BR. Unfortunately the text is in Portuguese, but the photos are excellent. It is worth the time to see his amazing collection!

James Wyatt of Alcombe, Somerset, England is a sixteen-year veteran to lamp collecting with over 250 pieces in his ever growing collection. *“I collected lamps with my dad until he passed away. To this day I do not know why we started, but it was enjoyable to do something together. My dad was a farmer and gardener and he never used a torch. We never had any torches professionally cleaned or had dents removed... I feel that it is part of their history since every dent tells a story. When we first started collecting we would buy anything we saw and later replaced them if we saw one in better condition. We never fired one of our lamps up... the idea never really appealed to us setting fire to a container full of petrol goes against all my common sense!”* James also collects soldering irons, farm wrenches (over 200 pieces), primus stoves, oil cans (over 150 pieces), and brass scales.

WELCOME ABOARD!
◆ ◆ ◆ ◆



NOTES FROM ALL OVER

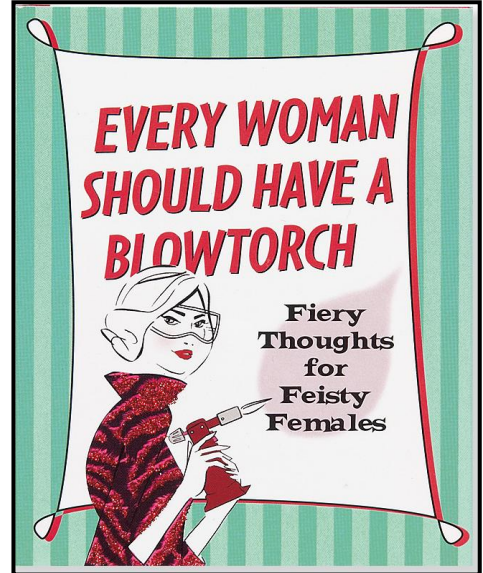


We received a follow up to a recent article on **Jon Suta**. We printed a photo in the June 2011 issue of THE TORCH showing Jon using a gasoline blow torch to remove seventy years of flooring from his dining room floor. Jon was happy to report that the project was safely completed without burning down the house!

We heard that **Gary Fye** received a book from his wife titled; EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE A BLOWTORCH: FIERY THOUGHTS FOR FEISTY FEMALES.

A description of the book reads: Every woman should have a blowtorch, Julia Child once said as she commenced to caramelize the top of a crème brulee. And every woman could use a dish of empowering bons mots every so often as well. (Note: for those of you, including me, that do not know the meaning of bons mots, it is an 18th century French word translated as “good word”. The English version is clever remarks or witticism.)

Here is the perfect little book of wit and wisecracks from outspoken free spirits that shine their piercing light on men, love, marriage, life, work, and more.



Mike Thornhill sent in a photo of a most unusual looking “torch”.

The photo was not reproducible, but is described as looking like a small bowling ball! It is 7.5” in diameter, a 26” circumference, and the burner assembly looks very similar to Otto Bernz burners. Mike, please send us a few more usable photos so we can post it in the next newsletter.



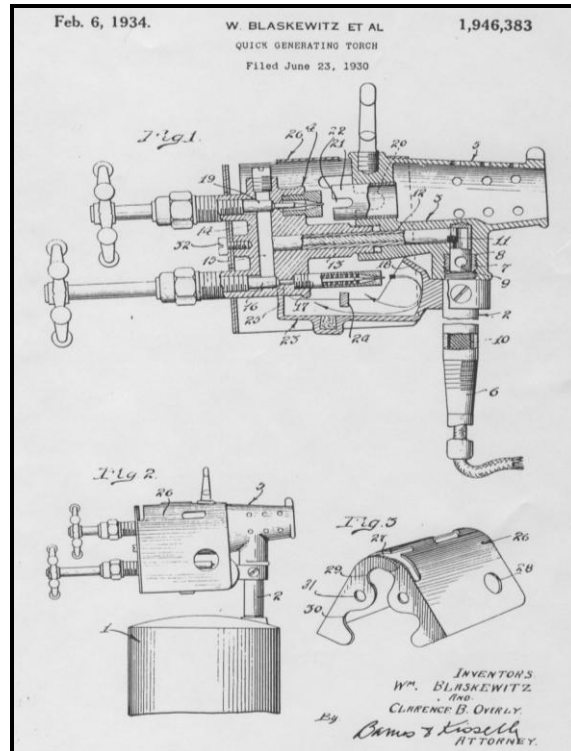
Dave Schulte recently acquired a blow torch manufactured by the Acorn Brass Mfg. Co. There is a similar older model shown on page 11 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES. All Acorn blow torches have a figurative acorn embossed on the pump knob as seen below.



Here is a torch mystery solved for **Ron Carr** thanks to a note from **Don Steininger**. "Don sent me a short note with a Sears, Roebuck & Co. Craftsman operating instruction sheet for a Craftsman model 5529 blow torch. The torch illustration on the instruction sheet looked very familiar, and after searching through my collection, I discovered that I own a Craftsman model 5529. The torch is not listed in either of the two reference books, nor is it shown as a similar torch under the Turner Brass Works listings. It is believed that Turner manufactured most of the Craftsman line of torches.



Craftsman Model 5529 with Instant Light Generator Burner



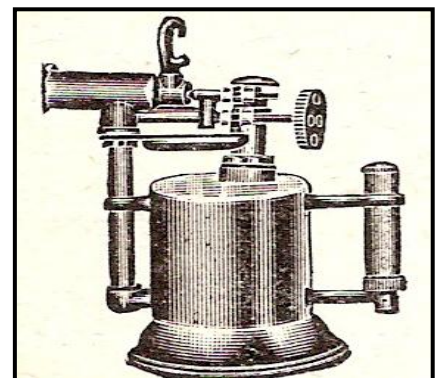
Clayton & Lambert Quick Generating Torch patent

(While we believe that the Turner Brass Works manufactured most of the Craftsman line of torches, since Clayton & Lambert held the US patent for the quick generating feature, we believe that C&L most likely manufactured this torch for Sears, Roebuck & Co.)

The torch is a bit unusual due to the generator burner that is directly below the main burner and is advertised as a self-generating instant light torch. The generator burner has a separate valve that, when opened and ignited, continues to burn until proper vaporization of the main burner is achieved. The generator burner assembly is in lieu of a drip cup. This feature is seen on a few other torches produced by other manufacturers."

Ted Maire sent in photos of a Geo. Diener torch that has never been reported, a No. 033. It appears to be identical to a Diener No. 0 slant burner torch that Charles Smith just uncovered in his vast collection. (See the follow up article titled UNLISTED DIENER TORCHES on page 18.)

Here is another torch that has never been seen before, a Turner No. 18. **Graham Stubbs** discovered this one in a 1922 catalog from the W.A.L. Thompson Hardware Co. of Topeka, KS. It is difficult to get a good idea of what the torch looked like since this is a catalog illustration. It is a pint-size unit that retailed for \$14.40 in the 1920s.



HOW DO YOU SAY BLOWTORCH?

Gary Fye came up with a suggestion for a newsletter article....how do you say blowtorch or blow torch in different languages. Here are a few that we came up with:

Bulgaria, ROPENKA
Finland, PUHALLUSLAMPPU
Spain, SOPLETE
Vietnam, DEN HAN
Italy, BRUCIATORE DI SALDATURA
Czech, SVÁŘEČKY
Turkey, LEHİM LÂMBASI
Romania, PARCA
Germany, LÖTLAMPE
Brazil, MAÇARICO
France, LAMPE À SOUDER
Holland, SOLDEERBRANDER
Denmark, SLAG FAKKELEN
Philippines, PANGHINANG NA LAMP

How did we do on the spelling? Can you add any to the list?

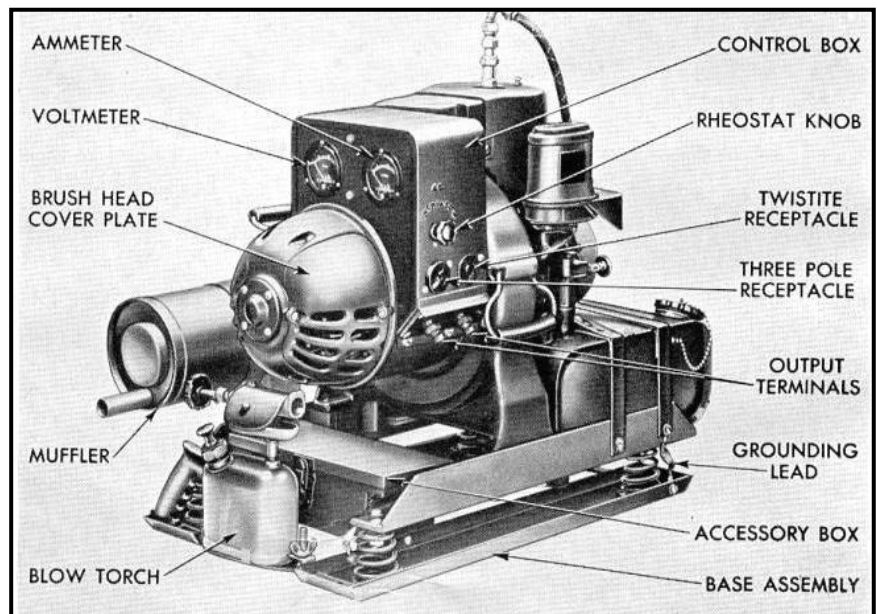


Homelite Corp. Blow Torch

By Charles Smith

“Earlier this month I acquired an unlisted Wall auto torch with a Homelite Corp. label on the right side of the tank. Homelite is well known today for its quality chainsaws and other gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment. Its earlier history included the manufacture of a variety of DC generators. At least one of these generators was their Model No. 24A120-23, and was supplied with this torch for warming the engine in cold weather prior to cranking.”

“The auto torch was undeniably manufactured by the P. Wall Mfg. Co. To my knowledge, this style is totally unknown to us. Its design is similar to their No. 61 (see page 471 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES), but the filler and pump assembly is one unit mounted on the upper right rear part of the tank. The burner is of uniform diameter and looks similar to the No. 61 on the lower right part of page 471. This torch lacks a rear soldering-iron hook since the unit was not used in soldering; only supplying heat to the generator.”

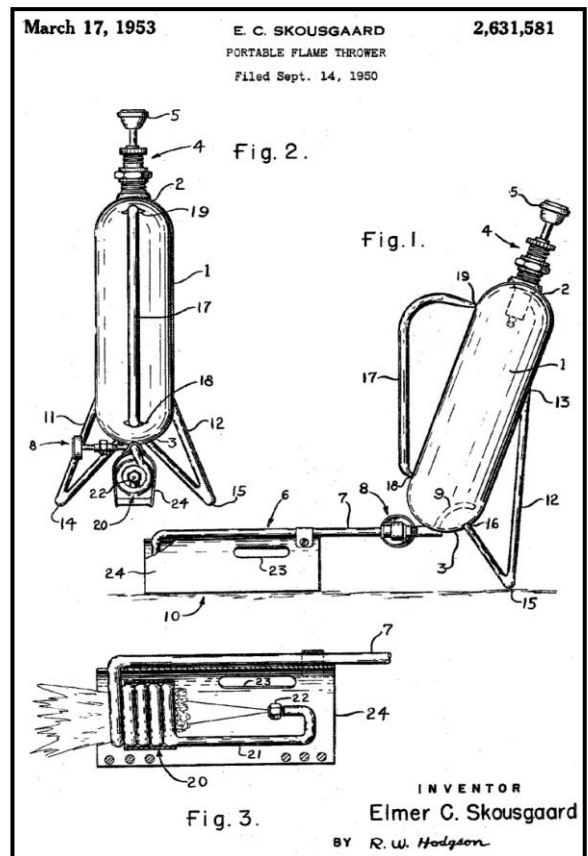


Otto Bernz Flame Thrower

By Graham Stubbs

"In thirty plus years of collecting blowtorches I had never seen any hint of the existence of this torch from one of the three biggest suppliers, the Otto Bernz Mfg. Co. The torch is large and unconventional in configuration. The fuel tank is twenty inches long and four inches in diameter, holding more than three quarts of kerosene. The burner, which measures nine inches long and three inches across, is attached to the bottom of the tank, and rests on the supporting surface, with the fuel tank aligned almost vertical. The intended applications are weed burning and soil sterilization."

"A note in the operating instructions to screw the burner to the control valve on the tank suggests that the burner might have been intended to be separated when not in use. The threaded joint between the burner and the control valve is the only support for the burner, and it appears to be a weak point in the design. In this example the burner fuel supply pipe was badly bent, and the torch would have been unworkable in that condition."



"I did not recall seeing this unusual design in BTCA files of blowtorch patents. I tried "Flame Thrower", the product name on the label, in Google Patents, and came up with US patent 2,631,581, which was awarded in 1953 to Elmer C. Skousgaard of Rochester, NY. The patent illustration is almost identical to the actual torch.

In the patent specification, the inventor pointed to advantages of rugged construction of the fuel tank and the distinction of being an easy to carry self-contained unit, where other weed burners were carried in a shoulder harness with a flexible pipe connection to a burner head."

The following operation instructions are printed on the label on the fuel tank:

OTTO BERNZ FLAME THROWER

**This burner will operate with kerosene, 38 degrees gravity, stove oil or distillate.
DO NOT USE GASOLINE.**

Instructions for proper operation

Screw burner into burner control valve on bottom of tank. Use pipe wrench, do not attempt to turn burner.

Remove pump from top of tank and fill up to within --- inches of top with kerosene or stove oil. (Do not use gasoline.)

Replace pump and tighten securely.

Close burner control valve and pump approximately 20 full strokes with pump handle on top of tank.

Open valve slightly and fill drip pan approximately one quarter full.

Light oil in pan to preheat burner. In 3 to 5 minutes burner will begin to roar and throw out flame even though the burner control valve is still closed.

When oil in drip pan is almost consumed open burner control valve slightly and if burner is hot enough the flame will begin to blow.

Adjust flame to desired size with burner control valve. When turning flame off allow time for oil in burner to burn off.



Aeroil Burner Co. One-Quart Torch

The Aeroil Burner Co. of Chicago, IL sold a line of large torches as shown on page 13 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES. Recently an example surfaced of a conventional one-quart torch carrying the Aeroil name. The control valve knob and some details of the pump construction are similar to those found on some blowtorch models from the Otto Bernz Co.; this torch was presumably made for Aeroil by the Bernz Co.

The label carries these inscriptions:

AEROIL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS CO. INC.
EST. 1917
WEST NEW YORK N.J.
SAN FRANCISCO CAL
CHICAGO ILL
DALLAS



US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS SOLDERING EQUIPMENT

Charles Smith recently acquired of a US Army Signal Corps wooden box labeled "SOLDERING EQUIPMENT TE-26-A" on its lid. The olive drab painted box measures eighteen inches in length, eleven inches in width, and eight inches in depth. Each corner of the box has sheet-metal protection attached by screws. The lid is attached to the box with metal hinges and two metal latches to secure the lid and provide a tight seal. A steel carrying handle completes the box hardware. The inside lid of the box contains an applied four by five inch sheet listing the box contents and locates their storage areas. The box is compartmentalized with two separate areas for solder, and spaces for the torch, two soldering irons, and numerous sheets of sandpaper. When acquired, only the torch and two soldering irons were present.



The torch is a Turner Brass Works, Sycamore, IL auto-type torch with "TL-130" stamped into the right front portion of the burner. This identifying number is consistent with the same number applied to several auto torches from other manufacturers (see bottom of page 89 in *MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES*).

The torch is unlisted in our two reference books undoubtedly due to its having been manufactured under a US Government contract solely for the military services and never intended for public sale.



Seeking additional information about the equipment, Charles contacted the U. S. Army Signal Corps Museum located at Fort Gordon, GA. The Director explained that she was aware of the equipment from historical property lists, but that no similar physical objects were represented in the museum. The next decision was an easy one for Charles. The soldering equipment, "TE-26-A", now has a new home at the Fort Gordon Museum.



BAUM & BENDER AUTO TORCH

This is a Baum & Bender auto torch from the collection of **Charles Smith**.

We have seen very few B&B torches, and this is the first B&B auto torch. There are very few similarities to other auto torches other than the stabilizer bar on the bottom of the fuel tank that is similar to Otto Bernz auto torches.

The burner does have one highly unusual feature. There is a small square hole at the rear of the burner flush with the face where the needle protrudes through. That hole is in the top of the burner as well as the bottom. We have no idea what those square holes would be used for. Other B&B torches have those same square holes. Does anyone have a clue on their use?



SOLDERING IRONS (Part 2)

By Graham Stubbs

Soldering Irons: Makers / Identification

Photos by Graham Stubbs

Identification of the makers of soldering irons is not always easy. Where there are markings, they are most often on the copper bit, and repeated exposure to heat and to acid flux can obliterate all trace. Additionally, a mark may have been added after manufacture by a retailer or by a user. A few examples of marks are shown below.

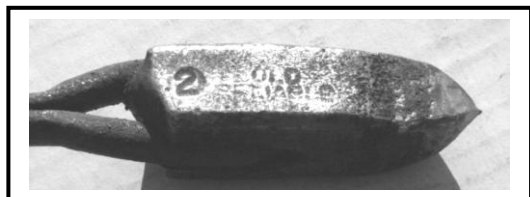
One of the most commonly seen makes is The Electric Materials Co. of North East, PA. On some examples the abbreviation EMC appears in a circle. This Pennsylvania corporation was organized in 1915 for the manufacture of copper, bronze, brass and steel products used principally in electric equipment, and is still in business.



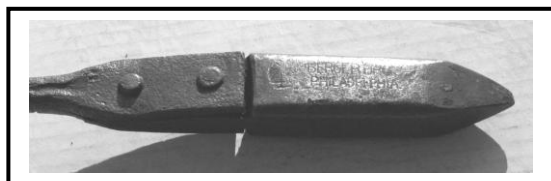
P.S. & W. CO stands for Peck, Stowe, and Wilcox of Southington, CT. The company was famous for its PEXTO line of tinsmith's tools.



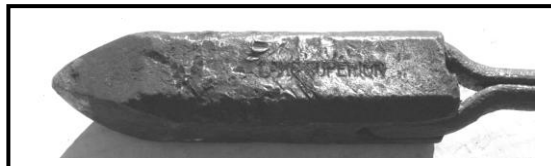
"OLD RELIABLE" was the brand name used by the Turner Brass works.



Berger Bros. of Philadelphia, PA was a hardware distributor. The company survives as Berger Building Products, of Feasterville PA, whose products include copper rain guttering and downspouts.



The use of the name "LAKE SUPERIOR" on this copper tip may be related to the superior reputation of copper from the Michigan North Peninsular region.



The name A.H. CHADWICK, as seen on this “Boston-style” soldering iron, has been observed on other soldering coppers. The nineteenth century company, Chadwick Lead Works in Boston, MA, may have been related.



Patented Soldering Irons

In the course of searching for patents related to blowtorches, BTCA has found at least seventy patents for improvements to soldering irons. The patents listed below describe soldering irons intended to be externally heated, not self-heated-soldering-irons (SHSIs) of either the liquid fuel or gas varieties. Individual patents can be viewed on the Internet websites at <http://www.google.com/patents> and at <http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/srchnum.htm>

The four bolded patents listed below are featured on the following pages.

14,176	249,215	466,520	1,172,545
29,039	249,229	506,011	1,268,877
34,799	277,601	513,222	1,277,793
47,965	278,932	541,210	1,416,508
53,545	283,575	558,759	1,422,357
62,941	294,364	580,555	1,427,770
73,798	294,407	593,796	1,464,933
87,604	300,672	650,643	1,495,686
120,166	305,618	689,318	1,520,597
134,923	334,942	705,752	1,561,134
178,837	339,907	707,212	1,596,061
194,519	344,311	736,283	1,602,266
196,130	346,319	777,711	1,733,125
206,328	347,307	782,068	1,741,707
226,602	365,293	926,708	1,908,056
243,097	371,534	933,318	2,534,257
244,377	438,458	957,327	
249,051	450,093	982,884	

Most of the patented improvements fall into four categories:

- Provision for adjusting the angle of the copper bit in relation to the handle.
- Detachability of the copper bit for easy replacement.
- A reservoir of hot solder and provision for directing it to the work.
- Various details of the design of the copper bit.

Surprisingly, very few examples of these “improved” soldering irons ever show up for sale or in collections. Possibly the additional expense of including patented features meant that they were not competitive. Alternatively, the various patented mechanisms were perhaps more fragile than the traditional designs.

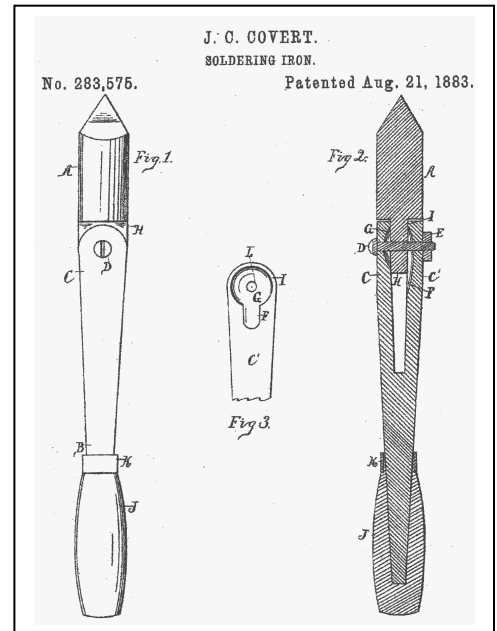
For whatever the reason, patented soldering irons are exceedingly RARE!

Here are four examples and related patents.

Covert's Adjustable Soldering Iron (1883)

Photos by Charles Smith

James Covert, of West Troy, NY described the purpose of his invention as allowing for pivoting the copper head to any angle, with a secondary benefit of ease of changing the copper tip when it wore out.



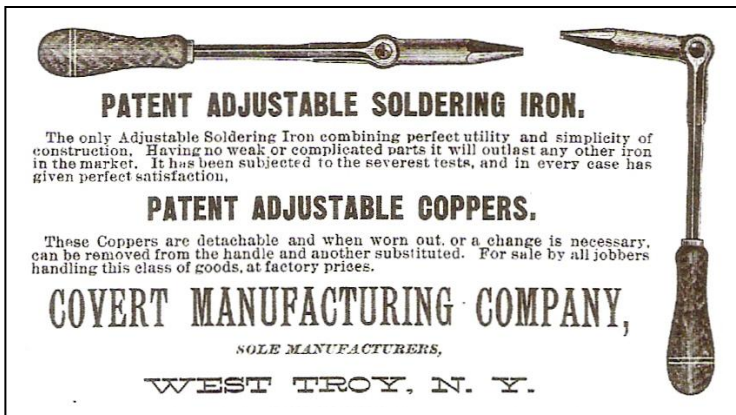
PATENT ADJUSTABLE SOLDERING IRON.

The only Adjustable Soldering Iron combining perfect utility and simplicity of construction. Having no weak or complicated parts it will outlast any other iron in the market. It has been subjected to the severest tests, and in every case has given perfect satisfaction.

PATENT ADJUSTABLE COPPERS.

These Coppers are detachable and when worn out, or a change is necessary, can be removed from the handle and another substituted. For sale by all jobbers handling this class of goods, at factory prices.

COVERT MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
SOLE MANUFACTURERS,
WEST TROY, N. Y.

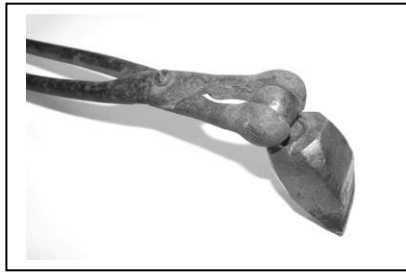


Frost's Soldering Tool (1886)

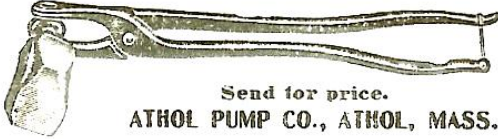
Photos by Charles Smith

William Frost of Athol, MA invented this tool to make it easy to change the copper tip, with the secondary consideration of ease of pointing the tip at any angle.

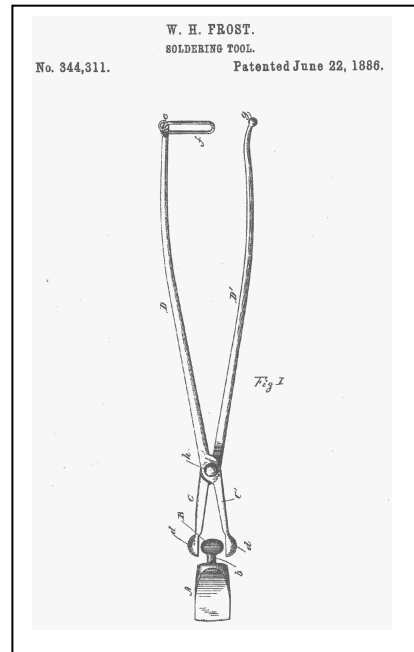




**TONGS for holding SOLDERING
COPPERS at any angle.**



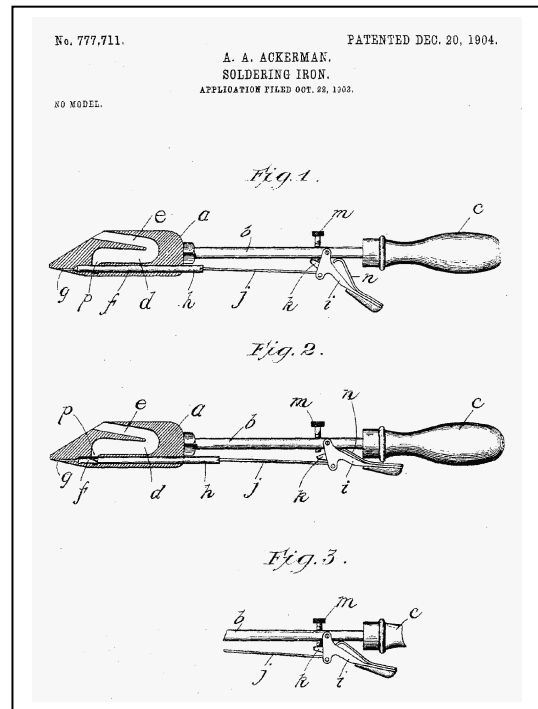
Send for price.
ATHOL PUMP CO., ATHOL, MASS.



Fountain Soldering Iron (1904)

Photos by Charles Smith

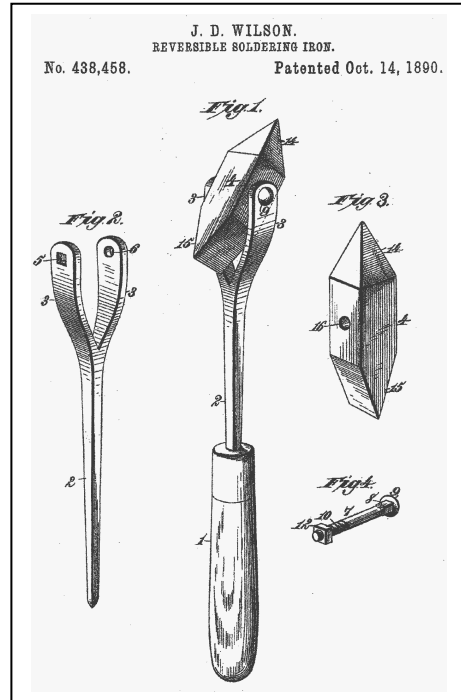
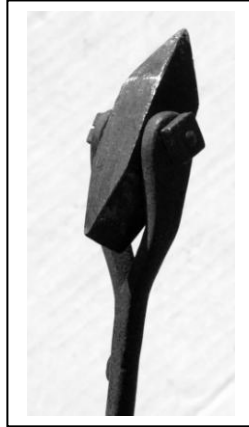
Soldering irons that included a container for molten solder were sometimes referred to as "fountain soldering irons". Albert Ackerman of Chicago, IL patented a tool with a trigger mechanism for releasing solder as required. The tool in the photographs works on the same general principle.



Wilson Reversible Soldering Iron (1890)

Photos by Graham Stubbs

John Wilson of New Bedford, MA patented this soldering iron, which permits the application of either one of two different copper tips, one pointed and the other chisel-shaped.



Your Photographs of Unusual Soldering Irons

Of the seventy or more patented improvements to soldering irons, only a few have appeared in the pages of *The Torch*. If you have a soldering iron with a "different" method of attaching the copper bit, or an intriguing mechanism, or any other unusual feature, please send it to the editor of *The Torch*. Try comparing your unusual soldering copper with the patents listed in this article by going to the referenced websites that list and show US patents. Please let us know what you have!



WHITE MFG. CO.

This is the first White Mfg. Co. Hand Brazer No. 25 that we have seen other than the illustration shown on page 435 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES. It is a torch from **Charles Smiths'** collection, and it was made by the Turner Brass Works shortly after Turner acquired the White line of torches in 1904. **Ted Maire** helped Charles out by replacing the fuel feed tube support that was broken when the torch was purchased.

The brass nameplate reads:

WHITE MFG. CO.
TRADEMARK
HOTBLAST
MFD. BY
THE TURNER BRASS WORKS

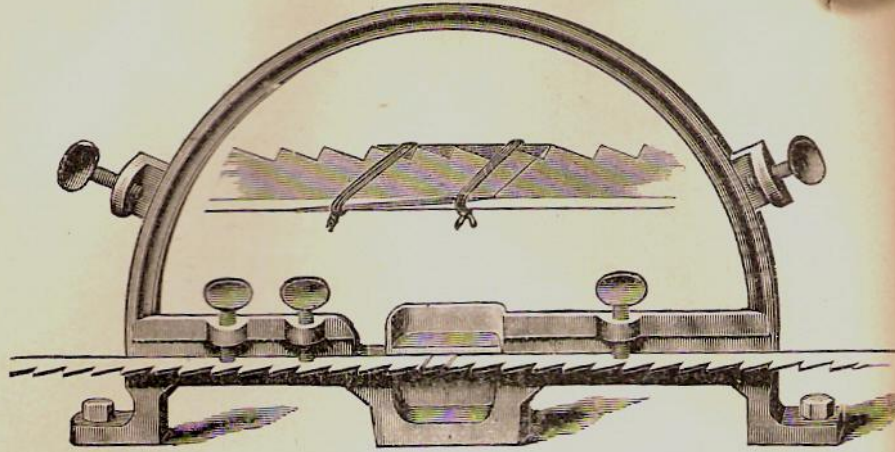


E. C. ATKINS BAND SAW BRAZER AND ALCOHOL LAMP

92

E. C. ATKINS & Co.,

BRAZING AND FILING CLAMPS. FOR BRAZING NARROW BAND SAWS.

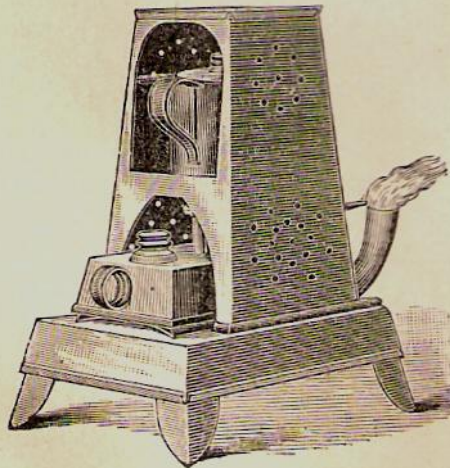


Price, each.....\$2 50

DIRECTIONS FOR BRAZING.

Bevel the ends of saw about one-half inch, and bind firmly together with two or three strands of very fine wire. Fasten the saw in position with the set screws in clamp; place a small piece of silver solder on the lap, and cover with powdered borax. The braze can then be made either with our alcohol lamp with automatic blower, or with the common brazing tongs. When the lamp is used, a piece of charcoal placed in the recess in the clamp, above and below the saw, assists in holding the heat, and insures a perfect weld. Use the half circle of clamp when filing the bevel and in finishing up the braze.

DIRECTIONS FOR USING LAMP.



Use alcohol in the lamps, having the upper one, or blower, about half full. Light both wicks in the lower lamps and place the heating lamp in position under the blower. See that the blow-pipe is directed against the base of the blaze, and in a moment, as the alcohol becomes heated, the flame can be sent in any direction, and the weld quickly made. As the solder melts, spread it evenly over the surface of the saw with the point of a file.

Price, each\$3 50

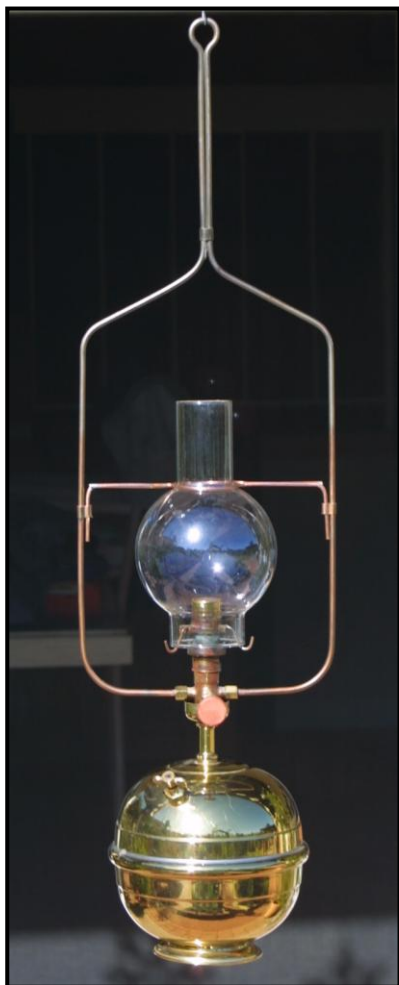
This is a page from an 1895 E.C. Atkins Co. catalog for saws and tools. The E.C. Atkins Co. was America's most renowned manufacturers of saw blades. The entire catalog was presented to **Graham Stubbs** from **Charles Smith**.

Turner Brass Works "Little Wonder" Pressurized Lamp

By Graham Stubbs

For a number of years I had been searching for an example of the "Little Wonder" lamp that was manufactured by the Turner Brass works circa 1900-1905. A couple of years ago, I found one that was reasonably complete, but absent the glass chimney with which it had originally been equipped. On the base is an applied brass label with the inscription:

THE TURNER LITTLE WONDER LIGHT
MF'D BY
THE TURNER BRASS WORKS
CHICAGO
PAT APL'D FOR



"The entire lamp is thirty-three inches high; the globe-shaped fuel tank is six and a half inches in diameter. This lamp used a mantle, now no longer available. The lamp was pressurized by means of a pump pressed against the outside of the fuel cap, much like some Coleman lamps. The Turner advertising literature seems to indicate that there were several models, some with and some without the glass chimney. The advertisement shown here illustrates the use of the Turner lamps in barber shops, pool halls, and in business offices."

"Recently I selected, from an eBay supplier, a globe-shaped glass chimney that would serve the same purpose as the chimneys shown in the illustrations. I fabricated the support strap to hold it in place. While it is not a blowtorch, it is a fine example of the craftsmanship of an early blowtorch maker."

2012 BTCA East Coast Convention

Wendel Fritz and his son **Bob Fritz** have graciously offered to host an east coast BTCA convention in 2012 at Wendel's facility in Joppa, MD. Those of us that attended the 2008 convention at Wendel's nursery will remember the great layout that was available for our displays as well as the awesome meal that Wendel and his family provided. Here is an opportunity for many of us to get together in 2012; however, we will require sufficient attendance to proceed. Over the past year we have heard from numerous members asking about another convention....here is your chance to attend. The three dates available to us are September 8th, 15th, or the 22nd. **Please, contact BTCA if you plan to attend this event, we need your participation to make it happen!**



Group photo from the 2008 BTCA Convention



CLAYTON & LAMBERT NO. 5 FIREPOT

This is an earlier version of a C&L No. 5 firepot as shown on page 109 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES. A later version circa 1930s from the **Dave Kolb** collection is shown on page 70 of MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES.

This firepot is from the collection of **Dave Schulte** and represents the earlier method that C&L used to mark their firepots, and before they utilized brass nameplates.

Stenciled in black lettering on the fuel tank:

CLAYTON & LAMBERT
MFG CO.
NO 5
DETROIT MICH



5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The following members are celebrating their 5th anniversary as BTCA members. Congratulations on your first five years, and thank you for your continued support of our organization.

Guy Gerard

Les Layton

Jean-Pierre Menard

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A special thank you goes out to the following seven members that joined BTCA ten years ago! Many thanks for your long term support of our organization!

Alan Black
Ken Hartman
John Jaress

Christian Jensen
Jim Minton
Peter Schmiedeberg

Don Steininger

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We congratulate the following seven members that joined BTCA in its second year of publication. Many thanks for your long term dedication to our organization!

Dick Bernard
Gary Fye
Jerry Godin

Ron Johnson Jr.
Bill Link
Charles Monthy

Suezy Proctor



UNLISTED GEO. DIENER TORCHES

We continue to discover torches not listed in our two torch reference books. And it is always interesting to hear how the discoveries unraveled.

Ted Maire recently acquired a Geo. Diener No. 033 torch →→→, and after looking through the two torch reference books he realized that he had a torch that had not been seen before. He sent in photos to Charles, Graham, and Ron to announce his discovery. From Ted's initial photos the No. 033 torch appeared nearly identical to the No. 09 torch shown on page 106 of MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES; however, Ted's quart-size torch is clearly marked No. 033.

As a gesture of friendship, Ted gave Charles his No. 033 torch. There was much discussion between the two gentlemen on the torch, and for some unknown reason, Charles decided to search through his collection. That is when Charles discovered that he has a near duplicate of the No. 033 torch; however Charles' torch is stamped No. 0.





What is really ironic is that Charles also has second No. 0 torch that is listed on page 105 in MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES. While he owns two No. 0 torches, they are different since one has a horizontal burner and one has an up slanted burner.

For some unknown reason the Geo. Diener Co. had an unusual way of identifying their torches with model numbers...in many cases adding zeros in front of numbers and actually having a No. 0 torch. They also did not seem to differentiate between torches with soldering iron hooks and no hooks as they did with the No. 9 torch.....both can be seen on page 106.

Another oddity with Diener torches is that in most cases they provided a cast iron soldering hook rather than what appears to be an industry standard; made from brass.



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE...John Zilinkas has approximately twenty five torches that he would like to sell. See enclosed member listing for contact details.

WANTED...There are numerous members seeking a skilled machinist that can fabricate missing torch/lamp parts. Anyone interested in making some extra cash please contact BTCA. **Dave Kolb** just acquired a near mint condition very rare Lyon Conklin & Co. NEW MARVELL torch that is missing the burner tube (see front page photo). Dave is very interested in finding a replacement burner tube, or a machinist to reproduce one for him.

FOR SALE...Mark Pedersen has decided to sell his torch collection, a total of 692 pieces....some very rare torches. It is uncertain at this time if he will sell individual torches or try for one buyer for the entire lot. You may contact Mark if you have any questions; see the member listing for his contact information.

LENK NO. 105A TORCH

This is the first that we have seen of a Lenk No. 105A torch. We make reference only to the No. 105A on page 275 of VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES.

Charles Smith recently added this torch to his collection. During his restoration process he realized that the fuel tank was made from copper! Charles searched his personal library of Lenk catalogs, and copies of sheets from hardware catalogs showing Lenk torches, and NONE list a copper-tank. This particular torch has an aluminum drip cup which has been observed on other 105A torches.

Charles' search did show that from 1934-1939 the Lenk tanks were of nickel-plated brass, and from 1940-1948 the tanks were of unplated brass. One Lenk catalog, published in 1941, lists both the 104A and 105A torches as having steel tanks.



THE TORCH

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Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs
Dr. Charles Smith

THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

Membership in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Blow Torch Collectors Association, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131-0119, email to: BTCA@cox.net, or by phone: 702 395-3114.

THE TORCH encourages contributions from anyone interested in our purpose. Articles can be submitted in any format and should include supportive literature whenever possible. All submittals should be sent to BTCA at the above address.

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