

Bernz Pump Knobs

Sometimes you can look at something for years and not really see it. I have been collecting blowtorches for over 40 years and have probably seen thousands of Bernz torches. They are readily recognizable by their distinct pump knobs. I always look for the model number stamped on the knob. Sometimes it's there and sometimes it isn't. I never thought much about it. It recently became an issue when I realized that I have never seen a Bernz auto torch that predates 1916 with a "6" stamped on the pump knob. For Bernz auto torches, model 6 torches with soldering iron hooks are stamped with a "6" on the knob and model 5 torches are not stamped. When I looked at the early Bernz auto torches (pre 1916), I realized that there was no room for the stamping. The early knob had six holes and the later version had five holes with one hole filled in the shape of a shield to accommodate the stamping. Based on the versions of torches I have and other canister style torches, I believe the change to add the model number to the pump knob came about somewhere between 1916 and 1918.

