

WR PLUMB BOB NEWS

Information for plumb bob collectors

2008-09

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Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

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THE IMPORTANCE OF CATALOGUES TO THE PLUMB BOB COLLECTOR

Over the years, as I focused my attention on subject of plumb bobs, I started to build a file of catalogue pages representative of manufactures or distributors of this tool. The accumulation of this literature, gave me some extraordinary insights into tool manufacturing far more detailed than examination of the plumb bobs themselves could offer. In effect, these illustrations are the sole means of identifying many plumb bobs that are un-marked; they also gave direction to my purchases, for with them, I began to understand what I was looking for. I became an informed buyer.

Catalogues, are of course, advertising, a way for a business to lay out for a potential buyer why there are benefits in choosing their product. In them can be found histories of manufactures and distributors; reputation, reliability, and longevity are basic tenets of promotional material. Technical information and instructions form an educational component and data of weight, dimensions and pricing supply the essential information necessary to make a purchase without actually seeing the product. If you collect catalogues over a long period you can see when certain styles of plumb bobs first appear then, perhaps, disappear if the product ceased to be marketable.

You can compare catalogues to learn more about the relationships between distributors and manufactures. Also of interest, is to learn how bobs were packaged, frequently in containers that had utility throughout the life of the tool. In some cases "accessories" are illustrated: a hanging hook, special line or line winders, to name a few. Historically, catalogues were not disposable as they are today; they were frequently carefully preserved for years or even decades to be used for reference. Many catalogues had price lists not bound into the catalogue, thus, as prices increased (they never decrease, do they?) expensive reprinting was avoided. Only the price list would be reprinted, inserted in the old catalogue, and then sent out as a "new" issue of the publication.

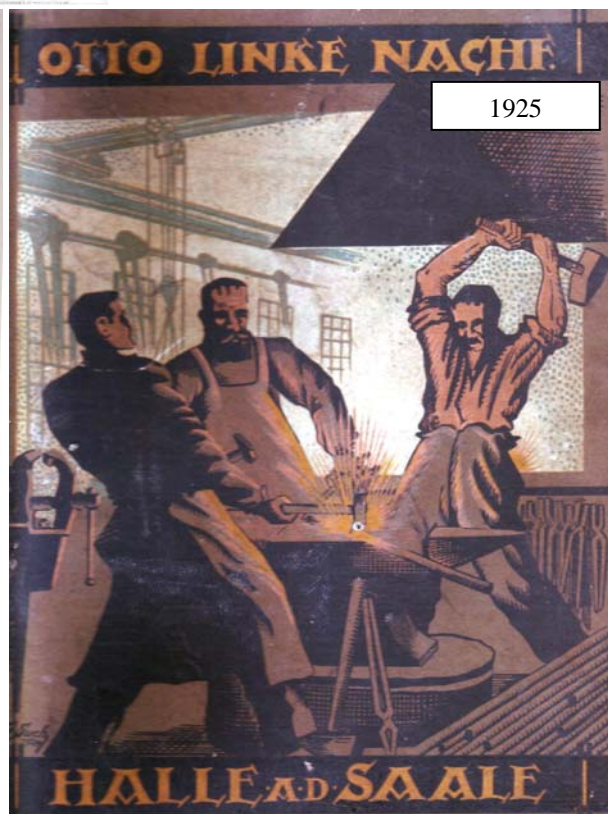
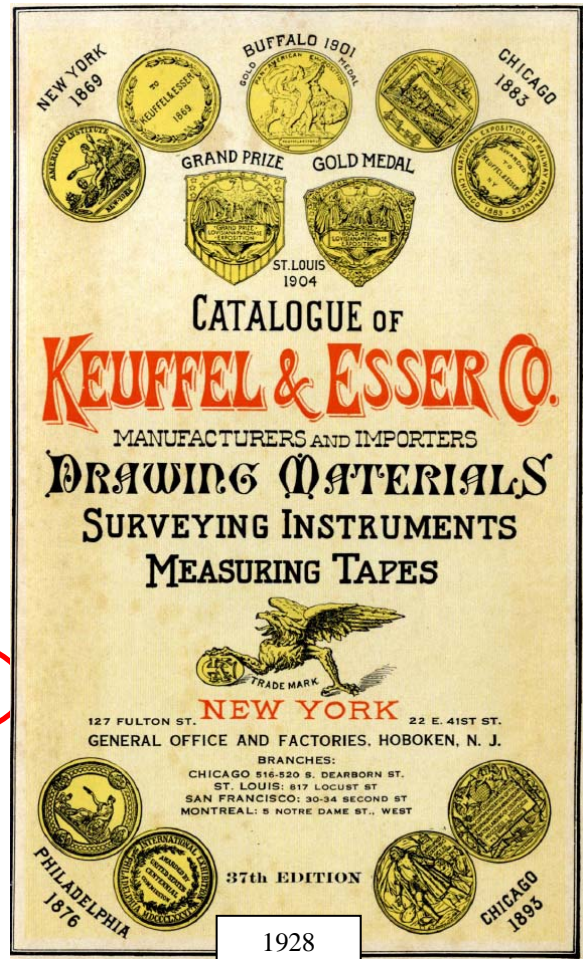


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1. COVERS

Some of the catalogues were really works of art, the covers in particular; quite contrary to the saw, "You can't tell a book by its cover."

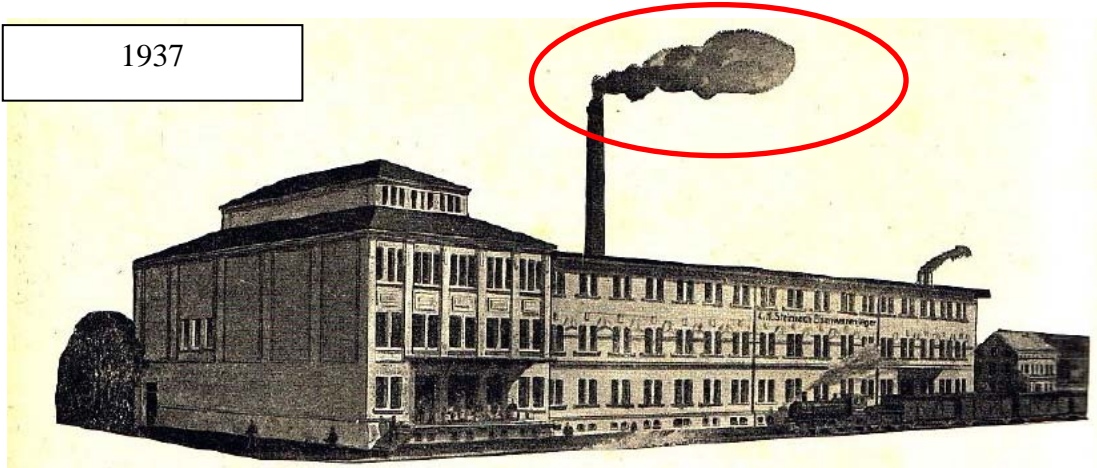
On the cover from REISS Germany 1891 (see page 1) Plumb bobs are pictured, although on only 3 of 500 pages do plumb bobs actually appear. In this example, note the depiction of a gold medallion, an award won at an international exhibition. The date on this medallion allows us to determine the earliest appearance of this publication. Manufactures and distributors did not waste the cost of publishing their catalogues; not uncommon was to alter information by blanking out the change and the inserting the new information with a rubber stamp.



2. HISTORY OF THE MANUFACTURES OR DISTRIBUTORS

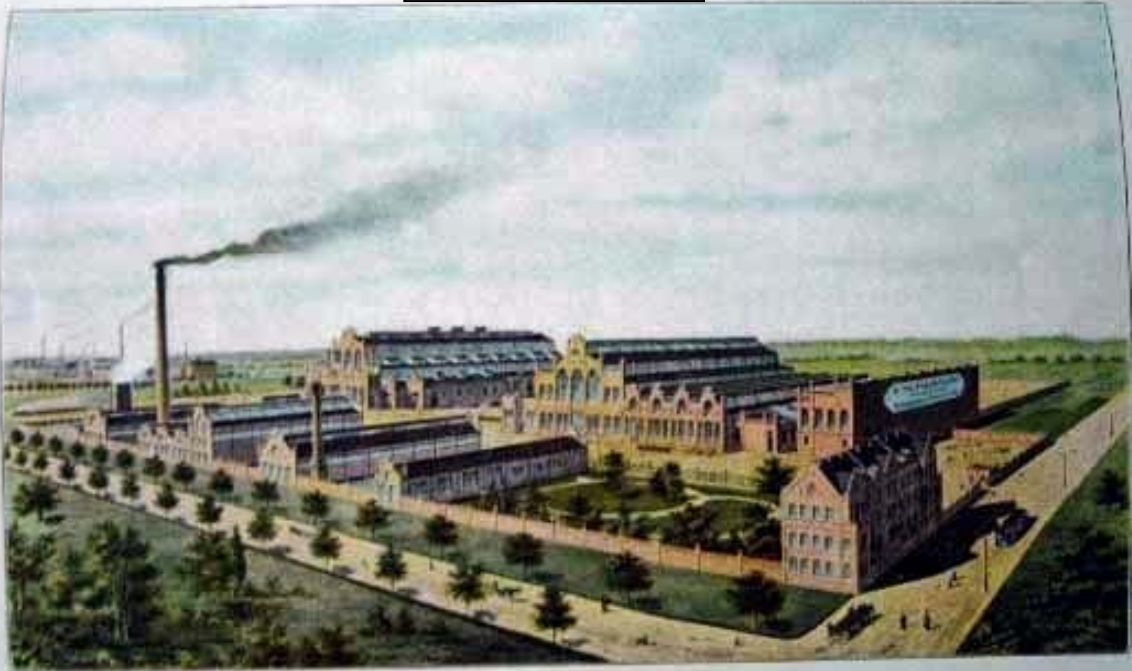
Company histories often appear as the first pages of the catalogue with pictures of the huge and impressive buildings with billowing smokestacks, symbols of power. Today this message is contrary to sound environmental policy. Times change. Today, the www. can be a useful source of company histories, too.

1937



1910 Die Firma C. H. Steinbach wächst. — 1910 wird das mit Bahnanschluß versehene Lagerhaus durch einen großzügigen Anbau in Eisenbeton mit neuzeitlichen Aufzugsanlagen erweitert. Das geräumige, übersichtlich angelegte Hauptgebäude gibt in seiner klaren Gliederung neben den weit verzweigten Fabrikbetrieben Kunde von dem fortschrittlichen Geist seiner Erbauer. 1913 stirbt Kommerzienrat Hermann Steinbach im Alter von 71 Jahren, 1916 folgt allzufrüh Heinrich Steinbach, 50 jährig, seinem Onkel in den Tod.

1901



de Fries & Cie Akt.-Ges.,
Fabrik für Maschinen, Hebezeuge und Werkzeuge in Heerdt-Lörrick.

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3. YEAR / DATE

Catalogues were designed to last a long time. Graphic design and layout for printing were labor intensive and expensive, editing changes and reprinting something to be avoided. Fortunately the assortment / range of tools offered was relatively constant for most manufactures. Often the date of publication is not noted on catalogues; rather catalogue numbers were printed on the covers. For collectors this poses the problem of dating catalogues. With this “trick” of publication the buyer never had an “old” catalogue. Very often the only date that appears is the date of the founding of the company; not very useful for establishing the actual date of publication. ☹

4. Listed prices and their CURRENCY can offer some additional clues to determine dates. In some countries, Germany for instance, you can calculate with the known value of currency for a specific period, the probable publication date of catalogues. This can be very helpful to find dates of production for plumb bobs in the GDR (German Democratic Republic). (see other article).



HAUNSTEIN 1936

Nr. 614	Senklote, Eisen lackiert	12 cm	Stück RM 0.48
		14 cm	Stück RM 0.56
Nr. 615	Senklote, blank, gedreht, mit Platte, ca. 250 gr		Stück RM 1.20
Nr. 610	Senklote, blank, gedreht, ohne Platte, ca. 250 gr		Stück RM 1.—
Nr. 616	Lotschnur, la, etwa 10 m lang		Stück RM 0.28
Nr. 616b	Lotschnur, la gedreht, in 200-gr-Rollen, 6 Dr./5 L. H.	Rolle RM 2.80	
Nr. 618	Bauschnur, la gedreht, in 500-gr-Rollen, 2 Dr./6 L. H.	Rolle RM 6.80	
Nr. 617	Lotrollen von Holz		Stück RM 1.50

DE FRIES & CIE. AKT.-GES. • DÜSSELDORF

1909

Senklote.

Amerikanisches Fabrikat. (The L. S. Starrett Co.)

No. 87.

Länge mm	100	125	140	150
Durchmesser mm	12,5	16	22	25
Gewicht ca. gr	100	170	340	450
Preis pro Stück M	3.75	5.50	7.50	9.50

Dieses Senklot besteht aus einem ausgebohrten, mit Quecksilber gefülltem Stahlcylinder und ist im Verhältnis zu seiner Größe ausserordentlich schwer. Der kleine Durchmesser dieses Lotes gestattet dessen Gebrauch dicht an Ecken und Wänden. Temperatur-Einflüsse wirken auf dasselbe nicht ein und ist es dank seiner Form zum bequemen Mitführen geeignet.

Der Körper ist geschliffen und vernickelt, die Spitze gut gehärtet. Jedes Lot wird mit einer geflochtenen Seidenschnur geliefert.

No. 177.


Länge mm	100	125	140	150
Durchmesser mm	12,5	16	22	25
Gewicht ca. gr	75	140	240	400
Preis pro Stück M	3.—	3.75	5.50	7.50

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5. PROFESSIONS

In some cases plumb bobs were designed with specific trades in mind; some 40 trades can be distinguished that employ plumb bobs in their standard kit of tools. Did you know, for instance that there are documented uses of plumb bobs in the medical profession (and in medical quackery, too)? In some catalogues especially in America, France and Germany the plumb bobs are designed for masons, carpenters, architects, etc....


BERGHAUS 1913




4015/4015 1/2




4016



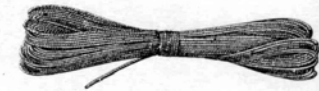
4017



4018



4019



4020


Lote.

Lotschnur.

4015	Maurerlote, eiserne, annähernd 230×25 mm, Gewicht 700 gr	S.	0,84	fr.	
4015 1/2	Maurerlote, eiserne, starke, annähernd 220×25 mm, Gewicht 1000 gr	S.	0,96	fr.	
4016	Senklote, eiserne, lackierte, runde, mit Spitze, Packung 5 Stück	Gewicht	140	160	180
			240	340	400
		S.	0,38	0,46	0,58
			200	250	400
		Gewicht			gr
4017	Senklote, eiserne, blankgedrehte, birnenförmige, Packung 5 Stück	S.	1,00	—	1,36
4018	ohne Platte mit Messingplatte	S.	—	1,44	fr.
4019	Zimmermanns-Lote, messingene, gegossene, Packung 5 Stück	Nr.	3127	3128	3128G
	ganze Länge einschl. Spitze	85	90	110	135
	Gewicht annähernd	90	155	210	400
		S.	0,90	1,32	1,74
				3,34	fr.
4020	Lotschnur, in Strängen von annähernd 17 m, I. Qual., Packung 16 Stränge			6D/6	6D/8
		S.	0,30	0,24	fr.

34 D. LATOUR & FILS — PARIS


FIL A PLOMB POUR MAÇONS
Avec plaques ajustées



Nos de fab.		300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
101	Fonte de fer tournée								
	La pièce	0.75	0.85	1	1.15	1.30	1.45	1.60	1.80
101 bis	Fonte de cuivre tournée								
	La pièce	3.20	4.20	5.20	6.20	7.20	8.30	9.30	11


LATOUR 1912

FIL A PLOMB POUR CHARPENTIERS



Nos de fab.		Prix
100 A	Fil à plomb, zinc, grand modèle La pièce	1 »
100 B	» » moyen modèle »	0.80

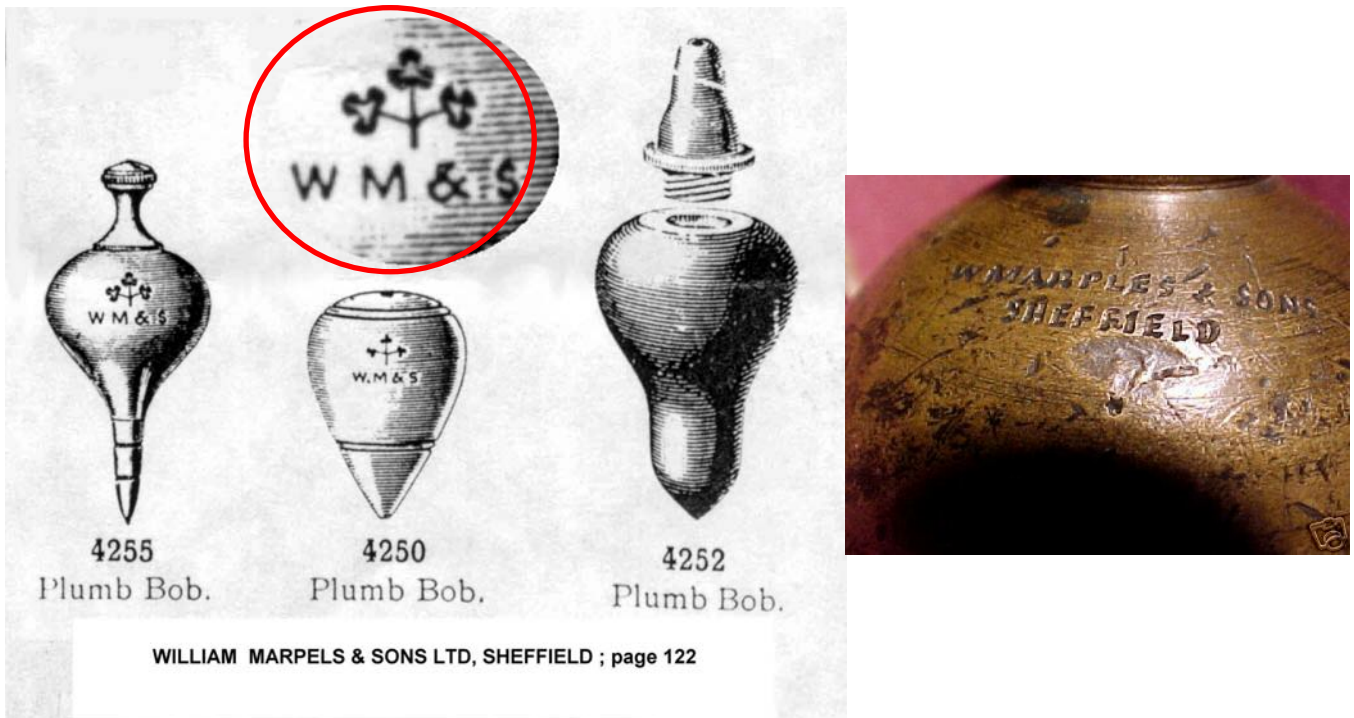
FIL A PLOMB FER POINTE acier soigné pour mécaniciens



N° de fab.	Diamètre en millimètres	25	30	35	40	50
314	Fil à plomb en fer, pointe acier, bouton cuivre La pièce	2.30	2.70	2.90	3.30	4.30

6. MARKS / NAMES / LOGOS

Some plumb bobs are marked with a manufacture or distributor mark. These marks are frequently very small and hard to distinguish; it's always a good idea to thoroughly examine your bobs with a magnifying glass. In these cases a catalogue may actually offer a better rendering of a trade mark than exists on the bob itself. Sometimes plumb bobs are marked in illustration but not on the actual plumb bob.



Here are some marks of clients from the factory GAMPPER in Germany.



„Mr R BOKER“
vor 1950 verwendet



„Hupe WEYERSBERG“
Gebr. WEYERSBERG Solingen Ohligs
Lieferte in alle Welt.
Existiert nicht mehr



„HENRY BOKER“
2 Hauptabsatzgebiete: Afrika, AUS, NZ
zw. 1950 und 1975 verwendet



„Hammer und Zange“
Robert FROHN Sohn gegr. 1776
Dazu gehören auch (ohne Marke):
Schmitt (dt?)+Ziegler als Exporteur nach Philippinen (Lote)



„Pfeil mit Kreuz“
(nie verwendet?)



„ZIEGE“, nicht Stier
SCHMIDT + ZIEGLER (Remscheid)



„BOKER GERMANY“
seit 1975 verwendet



„Schildkröte auf Hammer“

Gustav HÜTTEBRÄUKER GmbH

Lieferte nach Italien (auch Iserlohner Kleiseisen)

Siehe:

www.deutsches-museum.de Archiv Firmenschriftensammlung



„Kaufmann“

Heinrich Kaufmann + Söhne Solingen INDIA-Werke



„K55K“

Heinrich Kaufmann + Söhne Solingen INDIA-Werke



„SCHLIEPER“

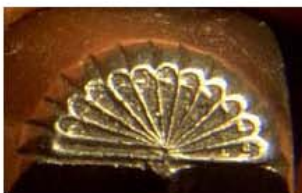
Carl SCHLIEPER Remscheid . Großer Exporteur zw. WW1 und 2
Lokomotiven nach Indonesien, eigene Niederlassung in Fernost.

Existiert nicht mehr



„Auge“

Carl SCHLIEPER Remscheid



„Fächer“

Carl SCHLIEPER Remscheid



„CoCaCo“

COUTINHO CARO & Co Niederlassung Remscheid
Stahlhandel in Hamburg



"FHP"

F.H. Prager Remscheid-Lüttringhausen
Jetzt neue Firma (Import aus Fernost)

7. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Some companies offered technical drawings of the structures of more complex plumb bobs. Good examples can be found for this type of illustration by companies specializing in mercury filled bobs, internal reel bobs, spring tipped and replaceable tipped bobs.

1883

14 W. & L. E. GURLEY, TROY, N. Y.

NEW ADJUSTABLE PLUMB BOBS.

This plummet has a concealed reel, around which the string is wound by turning the milled head on top. The friction upon the reel within will hold the bob at any desired point of the line.

No.	PRICE
350.—10 oz	\$2 50
354.—30 oz	5 00

**Consider
This
Point**

GOLDBLATT KANSAS 1925

Mercury Plumb Bobs No. 87

The improvement consists in our patented device for fastening the string without a knot to tie or untie, simply by drawing it into the peculiarly slotted neck at the top, after unwinding the required length, when the bob will hang perfectly true.

These plumb bobs are made from solid steel, bored and filled with mercury. Noteworthy features are their great weight in proportion to size, low center of gravity, small diameter, hardened and ground points, knurling on the body and the simple and effective device at top for fastening end of line after winding up. Nickel plated. Each is provided with a braided silk line.

PRICES			
4 in. long,	1/2 in. diam.	3 1/2 oz.	\$1.80
5 " "	3/4 " "	6 " "	2.40
5 1/2 " "	7/8 " "	12 " "	3.00
6 " "	1 " "	16 " "	3.60

**Steel Plumb Bobs
No. 177**

The same in design as No. 87, but made from solid steel, the mercury being omitted.

PRICES			
4 in. long,	1/2 in. diam.	2 1/2 oz.	\$1.00
5 " "	3/4 " "	5 " "	1.25
5 1/2 " "	7/8 " "	8 1/2 " "	1.75
6 " "	1 " "	14 1/2 " "	2.40

R. REISS, Fabrik technischer Artikel, LIEBENWERDA.

Feststellbare Lote neuester Konstruktion.

Nr. 6287. Neues Lot aus Messing mit Stahlspitze, Lotschnur innerhalb des Lotes. Der Gebrauch des Lotes ist sehr einfach; man braucht die Lotschnur nur in gewünschter Länge herauszuziehen und hängt das Lot dann sofort sicher fest. Durch Drehen in der Rechtsrichtung am Knopf A läßt sich nach Gebrauch die Lotschnur auf die innerhalb des Lotes angeordnete Haspel wickeln. Länge des Lotes ca. 9,5 cm, Gewicht ca. 300 gr Preis Mk. 8.—

Nr. 3004. Blitzlot (D. R. G. M.) Konstruktion des Herrn Markscheider Schulte. Dieses Lot läßt sich in jeder Höhenlage sofort sicher feststellen und wird das Wiederaurollen der Schnur selbsttätig durch Auslösung einer Feder mittels des Knopfes B bewirkt. Ausführung in Messing, mit verstellbarer Stahlspitze, Länge 12 cm, Gewicht ca. 500 gr Preis Mk. 12.—

1891

EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.

PLUMB BOBS

No. 5720-8	5720P.	5722-8.	5722P.	5724-8.	5728-10.
5720-6.	Brass Plumb Bob, 6 oz., screw cap, "removable" hardened steel point,	5720-8.	" " " 8 " " " " " " " " " "	5720-10.	" " " 10 " " " " " " " " " "
5720-12.	" " " 12 " " " " " " " " " "	5720-14.	" " " 14 " " " " " " " " " "	5720-16.	" " " 16 " " " " " " " " " "
5720-18.	" " " 18 " " " " " " " " " "	5720-24.	" " " 24 " " " " " " " " " "	5720-32.	" " " 32 " " " " " " " " " "
5720P.	Extra Steel Point, for 5720-6 to 5720-32.	The above Plumb Bobs are of extra fine quality, accurately centered and true. They have a highly polished finish and protective coats of lacquer.			
5722-6.	Brass Plumb Bob, 6 oz., screw cap, "reversible" hardened steel point,	5722-8.	" " " 8 " " " " " " " " " "	5722-10.	" " " 10 " " " " " " " " " "
5722-12.	" " " 12 " " " " " " " " " "	5722-14.	" " " 14 " " " " " " " " " "	5722-18.	" " " 18 " " " " " " " " " "
5722P.	Extra Steel Point, for 5722-6 to 5722-18.	The above Plumb Bobs are of extra fine quality, accurately centered and true. They have a highly polished finish and protective coats of lacquer.			

1941

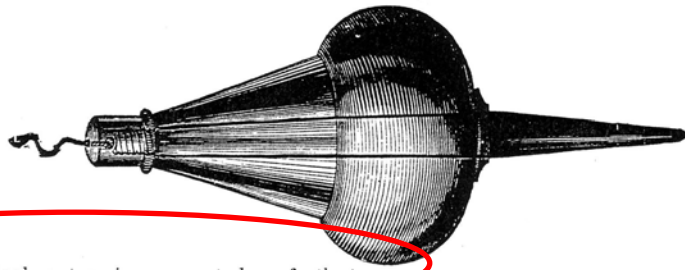
8 MATERIAL

Although drawings of plumb bobs offer no indication of the materials employed, written information in catalogues specify the material employed. Not infrequent are bobs offered in more than one material, one perhaps a higher grade than another. Lead, brass, bronze, steel, iron, aluminium or combinations of different materials are common materials. Different finishes can be offered. Surface polishing, paint in a variety of colors, japanned finishes, and plating in nickel or chrome are all common variations.

ORR & LOCKETT HARDWARE CO.. CHICAGO.

93

PLUMB BOBS.
LAMPS' MILLWRIGHTS PLUMB BOBS.



Solid brass, with taper steel centre pin, warranted perfectly true.

Nos.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Diameter at largest part, inches.....	1 1/4	2 3/8	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	3
Entire weight in pounds.....	1	2	2 1/2	2 3/4	3 1/8	3 1/2	4 1/4
Price, each.....	\$1 50	2 50	2 75	3 00	3 25	3 50	4 00

1922

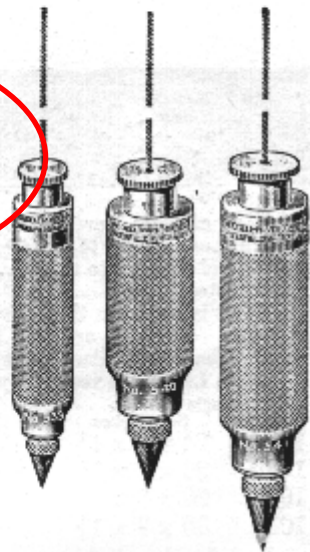
GOODELL - PRATT COMPANY

Plumb Bobs

These Plumb Bobs are made to satisfy the most particular workmen. The Bodies are brass, knurled, polished, and nickel plated, and filled with heavy metal to give the required weight. The points are steel, tempered, ground, and polished. Every one is furnished with six feet of laid twine.

		Price, Each
No. 539.	8 ounces..... (YUEWR)	\$1.25
No. 540.	12 ounces..... (YUTRE)	1.70
No. 541.	16 ounces..... (YUFUV)	1.80

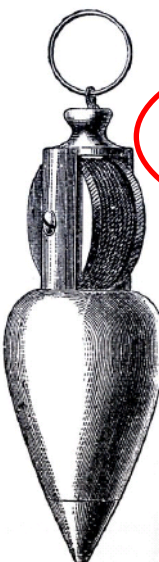
Packed one in a pasteboard box.



9. NEWS

Very interesting is the mention of news about the tools. So we can see since when and how a special technology was used. We can also find unknown shapes or sizes we didn't know before. E.g. Plumb bob with tape measure

1874

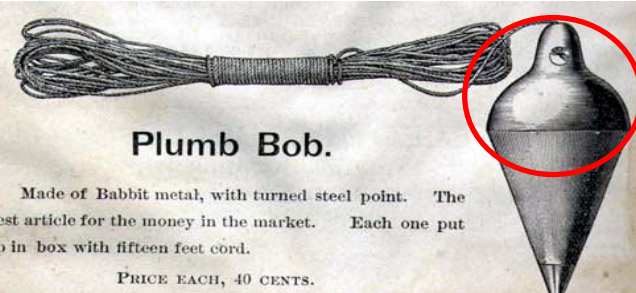


1117.

PATENT ADJUSTABLE PLUM BOBS.

These are constructed with a reel at the upper end, upon which the line may be kept, and by dropping the bob with a slight jerk, while the ring is held in the hand, any length of line may be reeled off. A spring which has a bearing on the reel, will check and hold the bob firmly at any point on the line.

No.	Price.
1114.—Small (No. 1), 8 oz.....	\$1 75
1115.—Large (No. 2), 13 oz.....	2 25



Plumb Bob.

Made of Babbit metal, with turned steel point. The best article for the money in the market. Each one put up in box with fifteen feet cord.


PRICE EACH, 40 CENTS.

GOODNOW & WIGHTMAN 1894


1919

W. F. STANLEY & CO., LTD

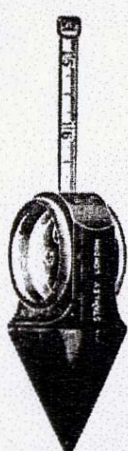
Engineers' Plummets.



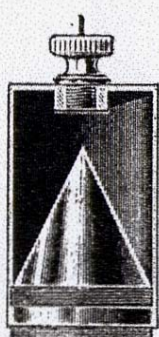
L.1261 to L.1268.



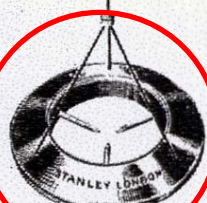
L.1271.




L.1280.



L.1278 to L.1279.



L.1281.

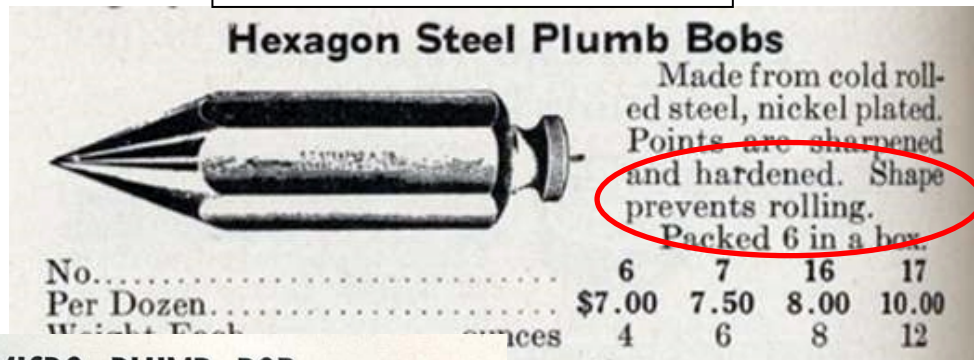


L.1280.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Catalogues often make expansive claims about the virtues of certain features of their products. STARRET claimed that their mercury filled bobs offered unusually stability in windy conditions. Makers of octagonal bobs frequently featured the benefits of the bob not rolling off tables, or their superior performance if in hung in corners. One of my favourites is this written claim for the "Handy Plumb Bob," manufactured by S.W. Wilcox, Milford, Mass., "No staging to build, no step ladder to hunt up. You can stand on the floor and plumb down from a line of shafting, whether running or stationary, directly from the center to the floor, or from any point less than 20 feet high."


TOPPING BROTHERS 1942



Hexagon Steel Plumb Bobs
 Made from cold rolled steel, nickel plated. Points are sharpened and hardened. Shape prevents rolling. Packed 6 in a box.

No.....	6	7	16	17
Per Dozen.....	\$7.00	7.50	8.00	10.00
Weight Each.....	4	6	8	12

MICRO PLUMB BOB



1949

The Micro is a quick-acting, precise plumb bob with rotatable reel and special hook on noggin. Easy to use and pays for itself in time saved. Cord is quickly reeled off to approximate length and slipped into noggin which holds bob precisely centered anywhere on cord. Bob can then be minutely adjusted up and down by simply rotating reel. When not in use noggin and reel keep cord securely in place. Simple, rugged construction, highest quality materials and workmanship of any plumb bob. Nothing to get out of order even in wettest mines. Extensively used for surveying and construction, surface and underground. Fully guaranteed. All sizes come with cord ready to go to work.



THE HANDY PLUMB BOB
 PATENTED JUNE 22, 1897.

No staging to build, no step-ladder to hunt up. You can stand on the floor and plumb down from a line of shafting, whether running or stationary, directly from the centre to the floor, or from any point less than 20 feet high.

They are a nice thing for surveying instruments, as you can raise and lower them and hold them at any point.

THE REEL HAS _____ FT. OF LINE. WEIGHT OF THE PLUMB BOB _____ OZ.

MANUFACTURED BY
S. W. WILCOX, MILFORD, MASS.

Improved Mercury Plumb Bobs

No. 87

1935

Patented

The improvement consists in our patented device for fastening the string without a knot to tie or untie, simply by drawing it into the peculiarly slotted neck at the top, after unwinding the required length, when the bob will hang perfectly true.

These plumb bobs are made from solid steel, bored and filled with mercury. Noteworthy features are their great weight in proportion to size, low center of gravity, small diameter, hardened and ground points, knurling on the body and the simple and effective device at top for fastening end of line after winding up. Nickel plated. Each is provided with a braided silk line.

PRICES

4	in. long,	1/2 in. diam.	3 1/2 oz.	\$1.80
5	" "	5/8 " "	6 " "	2.40
5 1/2	" "	7/8 " "	12 " "	3.00
6	" "	1 " "	16 " "	3.60

Steel Plumb Bobs

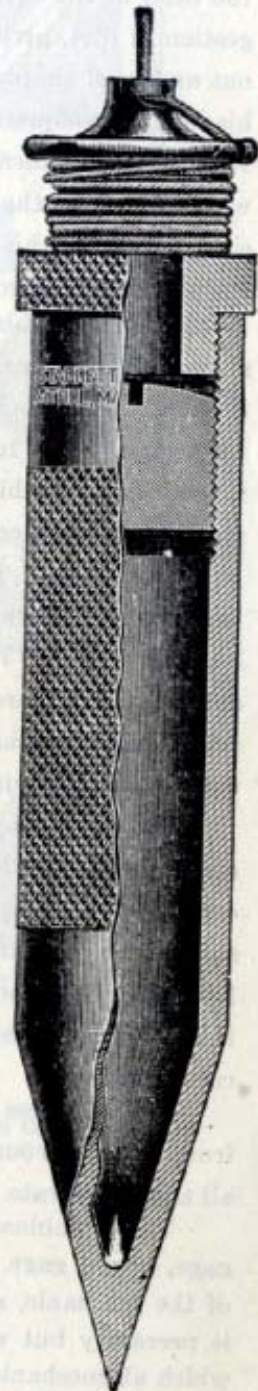
No. 177

The same in design as No. 87, but made from solid steel, the mercury being omitted.

PRICES

4	in. long,	1/2 in. diam.	2 3/4 oz.	\$1.00
5	" "	5/8 " "	5 " "	1.25
5 1/2	" "	7/8 " "	8 1/2 " "	1.75
6	" "	1 " "	14 1/2 " "	2.40

Above numbers packed 1 in a box.



11. PATENT INFORMATION


About the patent information, especially for the STANLEY, PERFECTION and STARRETT plumb bobs see WR PATENT NEWS 2007 (available on CD). In the catalogues the tools are marked patented, pat appl. or the patent number and patent date with additional drawings and descriptions.

12. DIFFERENT QUALITY

In the PRESTON England 1901 we find an offer for "BEST QUALITY" and "SECOND QUALITY" with an explanation what second quality means.

7E

EDWARD PRESTON & SONS, L^{TD.}



BRASS PLUMB BOBS.

BEST QUALITY.


These Plumb Bobs are made with removable screwed tops for inserting the line. They are accurately turned and have steel points.


The weights given are approximate.

	1½oz.	2½oz.	3½oz.	4½oz.	6oz.	8oz.	10oz.	13oz.
No. 1403.	00	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6/6	8/-	10/-	12/-	14/-	16/-	20/-	25/- per dozen.
	1lb.	1¼lbs.	1½lbs.	2lb.	2½lb.	3lb.	4lb.	
	6½	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	29/-	34/-	44/-	56/-	70/-	85/-	104/-	per dozen.

Larger sizes can be supplied to order.

TRADE MARK





BRASS PLUMB BOBS.

SECOND QUALITY.

These Plumb Bobs differ slightly from our well known No. 1403 Best Quality Pattern above, and are introduced as a cheaper article. While not being quite so well finished as our No. 1403, they may be accepted as reliable tools.

The weights given are approximate.

	1½oz.	2½oz.	3oz.	4oz.	6oz.	8oz.	10oz.	13oz.
No. 1405.	00	0	01	2	3	4	5	6
	4/9	6/-	7/6	9/-	11/3	14/-	16/9	21/- per dozen.
	1lb.	1¼lbs.	1½lbs.	2lbs.	2½lbs.	3lbs.		
	6½	7	8	9	10	11		
	26/-	32/-	40/-	52/-	64/-	70/-		per dozen.

Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

13. ACCESSORIES

Pictured are not only the plumb bobs, but also the accessories. We find tape rulers for depth measuring, lines and cords, sheaths, rolls, hooks, spads etc.

HAUNSTEIN 1936

Nr. 614 Senklote, Eisen lackiert
12 cm Stück RM 0.40
14 cm Stück RM 0.50

Nr. 615 Senklote, blank, gedreht, mit Platte, ca. 250 gr Stück RM 1.20

Nr. 610 Senklote, blank, gedreht, ohne Platte, ca. 250 gr Stück RM 1.-

Nr. 616 Lotschnur, Ia, etwa 10 m lang Stück RM 0.20

Nr. 616b Lotschnur, Ia gedreht, in 200-gr-Rollen, 6 Dr., 5 L. H. Rolle RM 2.80

Nr. 618 Bauschnur, Ia gedreht, in 500-gr-Rollen, 2 Dr., 6 L. H. Rolle RM 4.-

Nr. 617 Lotrollen von Holz

BAKER 1893

FIG. 2.—METHODS OF ADJUSTING LENGTH OF PLUMB-LINE.

1931

— 474 —

KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. NEW YORK.

SHEATHS FOR PLUMB BOBS.

No. 6491.

6491 A. Sewed Leather Sheath, with belt loop, for Plumb Bobs,
6 to 8 oz. each \$ 35
6491 B. do. 12 to 14 oz. " 45
6491 C. do. 18 to 24 oz. " 55
6491 D. do. 32 to 48 oz. " 75

PLUMB BOB CORD.

6496. Plumb Bob Cord, best linen, thin, medium or thick. . per yard \$ 02
6497. do. best braided silk " " 06

STAKE TACKS. SPADS.

No. 6494. No. 6498.

6494. Stake Tacks, galvanized, tin box of 50 \$ 10
6495. do. do. " " 100. 15
6495B. do. do. " in bulk (5 lb. or over). per lb. 30

These tacks have an indentation in the surface of the head, to guide the point of the plumb bob in exactly indicating location.

6498. Surveying Spads, Montgomery's, steel, for suspending plumb bob from fingers in mines, tin box of 50. 75
6498M. do. do. in bulk, per lot of 1000. 11 00

EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.

Plumb Bob Attachments
For Steel Tapes

No. 5178. 5178A. 5179. 5179A.

These Plumb Bob Attachments for steel tapes afford a practical and efficient means for measuring oil in tanks and are widely used throughout the oil industry.

Bob No. 5178 is attached directly to Oil Gaugers' Tapes Nos. 5162B and 5162C, and its length is included in the measurement of the tape.

Bobs Nos. 5178A, 5179 and 5179A are furnished with a connecting link to be used with the Oil Gaugers' Tapes Nos. 5172B and 5172C. The length of the bob and link is included in the measurement of the tape.

THE L. S. STARRETT COMPANY, ATHOL, MASS., U.S.A.

Plumb Bobs for Steel Tapes
No. 515

No. 515 A. No. 515 B. No. 515 C.

Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

14. CONTAINERS /BOXES

Here we get information about plumb bob boxes, and the number of bobs packed in larger boxes for wholesale distribution. This information we don't find very often.

GENERAL 1925



No. 800 BRASS PLUMB BOBS

- PRECISION MADE
- PERFECT BALANCE
- REPLACEABLE TEMPERED STEEL POINTS
- HIGHLY POLISHED AND LACQUERED

These Plumb Bobs are carefully machined of brass, polished and lacquered, for long and satisfactory service. They are streamlined for easy and accurate spotting. Removable screw cap permits staple cord attachment. The points are made of the finest tempered steel and are replaceable. Extra points are available. Complete accuracy of construction assures perfect balance. There is no finer Plumb Bob made.

Made in 6 sizes

No. 800-6 oz. . . . Length 4 1/2"
 No. 800-8 oz. . . . Length 4 3/4"
 No. 800-10 oz. . . . Length 4 3/4"
 No. 800-12 oz. . . . Length 5"
 No. 800-16 oz. . . . Length 5 1/2"
 No. 800-24 oz. . . . Length 6 1/2"

Each Plumb Bob is individually packed in a strong metal end, screw cap, tubular container for utmost protection, as well as convenient carrying.

No. 801 SOLID LEATHER SHEATHS FOR PLUMB BOBS

- FINEST LEATHER AVAILABLE
made of heavy cowhide
- STRONG CONSTRUCTION
- CAREFULLY DESIGNED

These Sheaths afford the utmost of protection and portability while on the job. Made of heavy cowhide with convenient strap to hook on belt and full flap to hold Bob in place. These sheaths are a must with all Plumb Bob users.

Available in 3 sizes:
801-A for 6 and 8 oz. Plumb Bobs
801-B for 10 and 12 oz. Plumb Bobs
801-C for 16 and 24 oz. Plumb Bobs





GENERAL HARDWARE MFG. CO., Inc. • NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

Each Plumb Bob, with its cord attached, is packed in a solid wood box fitted to its size, a neat, substantial, and permanent receptacle.

The Perfection Plumb Bobs are finished in Brass highly polished, or Nickel Plated as preferred.

PRICES

No.	Weight	Brass	Nickel Plated
No. 11.	Weight 8 ounces	Each, \$ 75	Each, \$1 00
" 12.	" 14 "	" 1 00	" 1 25
" 13.	" 1 1/2 lbs.	" 1 25	" 1 60
" 14.	" 2 1/4 "	" 1 50	" 1 85
" 15.	" 3 1/2 "	" 2 00	" 2 50

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Seite 15/25

E WR PLUMB BOB NEWS 2008-09 IMPORTANCE OF CATALOGUES

15. SELLING ABROAD

Comparing catalogues from all over the world we can see what trade connections were made during a certain period of time. In a catalogue from St. Petersburg / Russia 1894 we find German plumb bobs and American STANLEY plumb bobs, side by side. Very seldom do we find European shapes in American catalogues, but in the colonies of England (NZ, AUS....) we find a lot of European tools. Makers who shipped to all over the world like GAMPPER Germany had a very wide range of shapes to realize the wishes of the clients in these countries. See presentation "Plumb Bobs of the World" Especially for this reason Riccardo Chetoni wrote a „plumb bob dictionary“ in English, Italian, French and German).



№ в 206. **ОТВѢСЫ** бронзовые, со стальнымъ наконечникомъ.
 Весьма аккуратной работы.
 Вся длина 95 м/м. Диаметръ 30 м/м.
 Съ катушкой наверху Съ веревкою, наматывающей внутри отвѣса.

За дюжину.	За штуку.	За дюжину.	За штуку.
Руб. 19.20	Руб. 2.—	Руб. 22.80	Руб. 2.40

№ в 206.

ЭДУАРДЪ КЕРБЕРЪ.

Послѣдняя техническая принадлежность для фабрикъ, заводовъ, строительныхъ работъ и подобныхъ работъ.

С.-Петербургъ,
 Уг. Елагинск. кан. и В. Итальянск. № 67.
 Телефонъ № 1156.
 Телеграммы Керберъ-Петербургъ.

1894.

EDUARD KERBER.

Lieferungsgeschäft technischer Fabrikartikel für Fabriken, Eisenbahnen und Schiffswerfte.

St. Petersburg,
 Ecke Katharin.-Kanal und Gr. Italienskaja, № 67.
 Telefon № 1156.
 Telegramme Kerber-Petersburg.

DE FRIES & CIE. AKT.-GES. • DÜSSELDORF. 59

Senklot.
 Amerikanisches Fabrikat. (The L. S. Starrett Co.)
 No. 87.

Länge mm	100	125	140	150
Durchmesser mm	12,5	16	22	25
Gewicht ca. gr	100	170	340	450
Preis pro Stück ₰	3.75	5.50	7.50	9.50

Dieses Senklot besteht aus einem ausgebohrten, mit Quecksilber gefüllten Stahlcylinder und ist im Verhältnis zu seiner Größe ausserordentlich schwer. Der kleine Durchmesser dieses Lotes gestattet dessen Gebrauch dicht an Ecken und Wänden. Temperatur-Einflüsse wirken auf dasselbe nicht ein und ist es dank seiner Form zum bequemen Mitführen geeignet.

Der Körper ist geschliffen und vernickelt, die Spitze gut gehärtet. Jedes Lot wird mit einer geflochtenen Seidenschnur geliefert.

No. 177.

Länge mm	100	125	140	150
Durchmesser mm	12,5	16	22	25
Gewicht ca. gr	75	140	240	400
Preis pro Stück ₰	3.—	3.75	5.50	7.50

DE FRIES & CIE. AKT.-GES.

Amerikanische mit Quecksilber gefüllte Senklothe
 (Fabrikat der Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co.)

Diese Senklothe bestehen aus ausgebohrten mit Quecksilber gefüllten Stahl-Cylindern und sind im Verhältnis zu ihrer Größe ausserordentlich schwer. Der kleine Durchmesser dieser Lothe gestattet deren Gebrauch dicht an Ecken und Wänden. Temperatur-Einflüsse wirken auf dieselben nicht nachteilig ein und sind sie dank ihrer Form zum bequemen Mitnehmen geeignet. Der Körper ist geschliffen und vernickelt, die Spitze gut gehärtet. Jedes Lot wird mit einer geflochtenen Seidenschnur geliefert.

Figur A.

Länge mm	100	115	135	150
Durchmesser mm	12 1/4	15	22	25
Gewicht ca. Gramm	100	170	340	450
pro Stück ₰	4.75	7.25	9.50	12.90

DE FRIES 1909

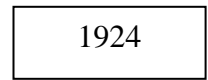
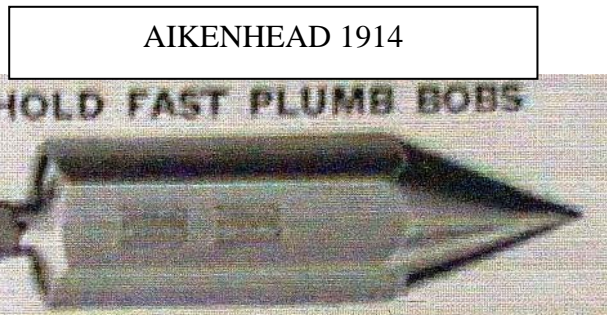
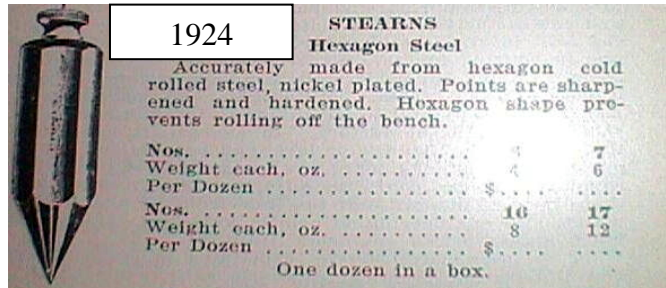
16. PERIOD OF PRODUCTION

If you compare the different catalogues you can find when a special plumb bob or shape was produced and offered on the market. This search shows that some items had a very short life and others lasted as long as 60 years or more.

a) e.g. you can find that **six sided** (pencil shaped) plumb bobs were offered the first time 1914 in the catalogue of AIKENHEAD as HOLD FAST from BERGMAN TOOLS. This plumb bob was produced with a special slit/slash in the cap to fix the line.

They wrote about it „Hexagon shape prevents rolling off the bench“. Bergman Tools showed this bob in a cat Bergmantool & Pexto 1924 and also Stears offered 1924 a six sided plumb bob. In Germany we find the first in Gampper ca. 1970.

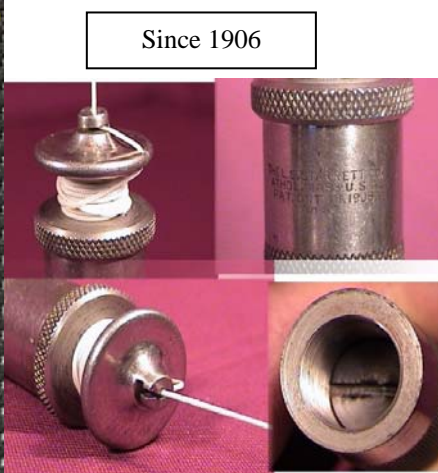
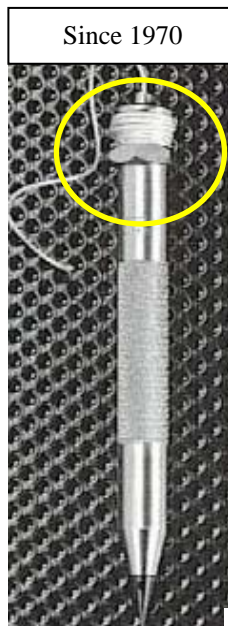
In the momentary online catalogue from Starrett they offer a PB 6 to PB 14 as six sided.



Online catalogue



b) Also you can find that **Starrett** his 1906 patented mercury plumb bob sold with a **round cap** and changed this round cap 1965 into a **six sided**. The body is still round. Starrett wrote „New No-Roll Hex Head prevents rolling when the Plumb Bob is set down, a great convenience“. A special edition of this shape I found on ebay 2006 with a six sided body. Perhaps this item was home made.



Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

c) The well known PERFECTION (patented 1905, application filed Dec. 1903) can be found also in the TOWER & LYON catalogue 1904. But this is the only place where I found this type. The extreme softness of Perfection's lead core, and the extremely light gauge of its brass jacket, made them extremely vulnerable to damage. This propensity to distort in shape, no doubt, showed how ridiculous was their claim of perfect symmetry. They dropped quickly out of site, a patented failure.

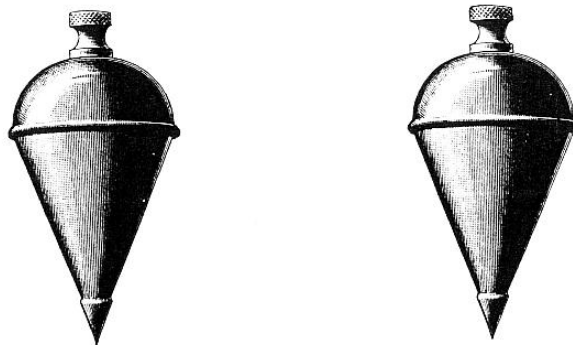
No. 12
 ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE
TOWER & LYON CO.
 No. 95 Chambers St. and
 No. 77 Reade Street
 NEW YORK U. S. A.

TOWER & LYON 1904

THE PERFECTION PLUMB BOBS

PATENT APPLIED FOR

Made by a new process with Steel Spindle, centered to secure an exact even balance of weight, the suspending line and the hardened point of the stem always settling to a line exactly perpendicular, (impossible without an exact even balance of weight) securing, we are disposed to claim, **the only really accurate and reliable Plumb Bob** at a price within the reach of the large body of mechanics who have need of such a tool.



The form and distribution of weight, as in the Standard Plumb Bob, shown on the next page, is that calculated to bring it to rest most quickly when in use.

The Projecting Rim or Bead at its largest circumference, with the corresponding enlargement of the stem below the bulb, form bearing points which serve to protect it from bruising or disfigurement from contact with other bodies or rough surfaces. All the points are hardened.

Each Plumb Bob, with its cord attached, is packed in a solid wood box fitted to its size, a neat, substantial, and permanent receptacle.

The **Perfection Plumb Bobs** are finished in Brass highly polished, or Nickel Plated as preferred.

PRICES

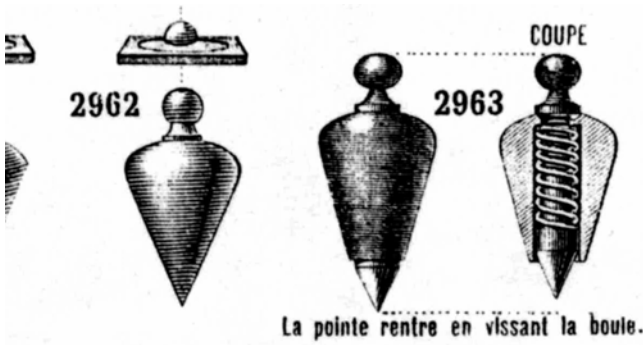
			Brass	Nickel Plated
No. 11.	Weight 8 ounces	Each,	\$ 75	\$1 00
" 12.	" 14 "	"	1 00	1 25
" 13.	" 1 1/4 lbs.	"	1 25	1 60
" 14.	" 2 1/4 "	"	1 50	1 85
" 15.	" 3 1/2 "	"	2 00	2 50

d) An example of an extraordinary patent success is the adjustable STANLEY (patented 1874), the famous Traut Patent. This bob, very simply, works very well in many applications, and was used by carpenters and surveyors with equal ease. It was produced by Stanley for over 60 years up to 1935/37. More about Stanley plumb bobs in a later edition.

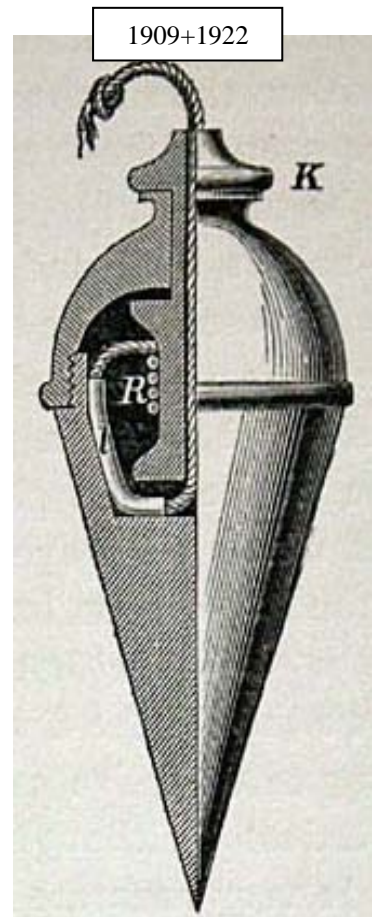
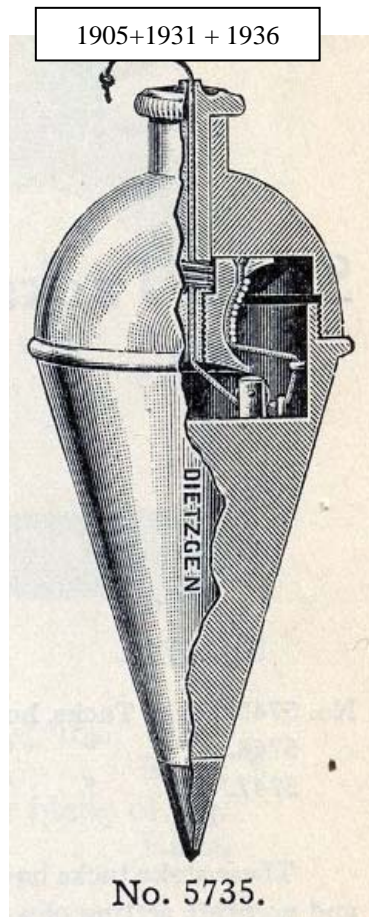
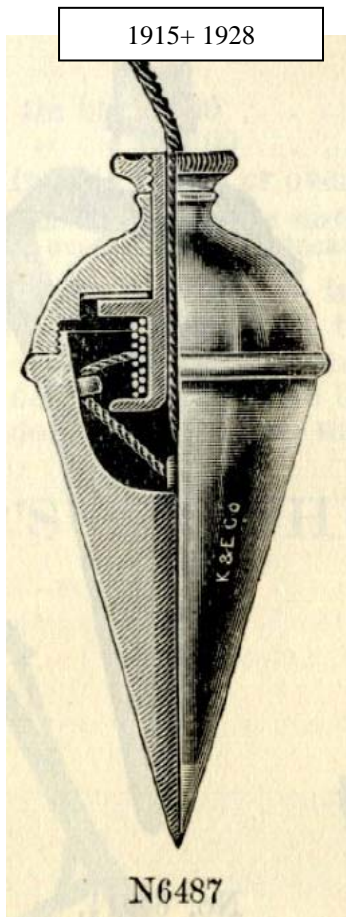


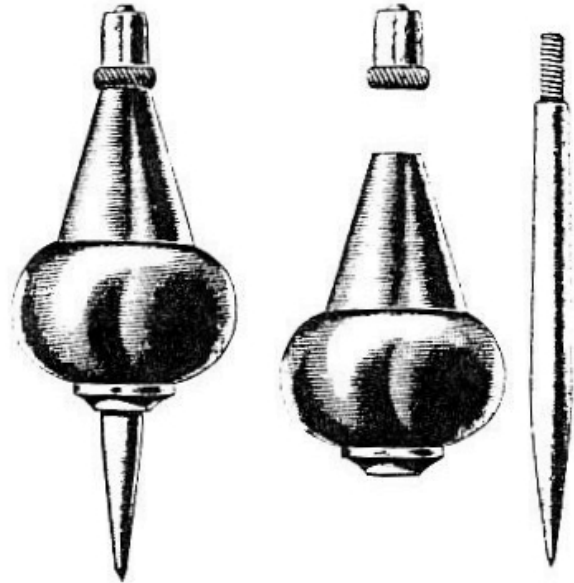
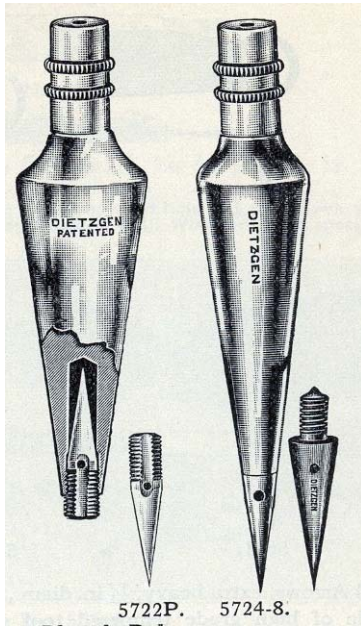
17. PARTS OF PLUMB BOBS

From "take apart bobs" we find sometimes drawings with the different parts. So you can see if this plumb bob is made from 1, 2 3 or more parts.



CAMION FRERES Katalog 1912



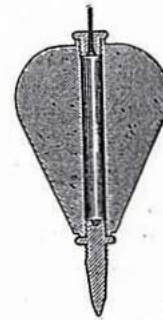


MONTGOMERY & CO., NEW YORK.

21



**VAJEN'S
PATENT
REVERSIBLE
PLUMB BOB.**

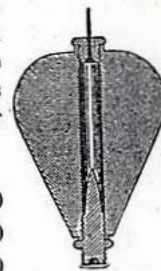


This new and perfect Plumb Bob, designed to overcome all the disadvantages of other plumb bobs, is capable of being adjusted to any and all the forms required by the Millwright, Mechanic and Civil Engineer, has no equal and cannot be improved upon. It has the only proper shape for a Bob, having a hole extending entirely through it, with a reversible, well tempered Steel Point and Screw Cap, which, being interchangeable, enables the Bob to be suspended in the several positions as shown in cuts. The hole in the center of the Bob affording protection for the point when not in use. By filing the shoulder the Bob can always be adjusted and made true. The Plumb Bob is made of brass and nickel plated, furnishing as pretty and as valuable a tool as there is in the market.



We recommend it in preference to all other combination bobs, and guarantee it to give perfect satisfaction. This Plumb Bob is made in four sizes :

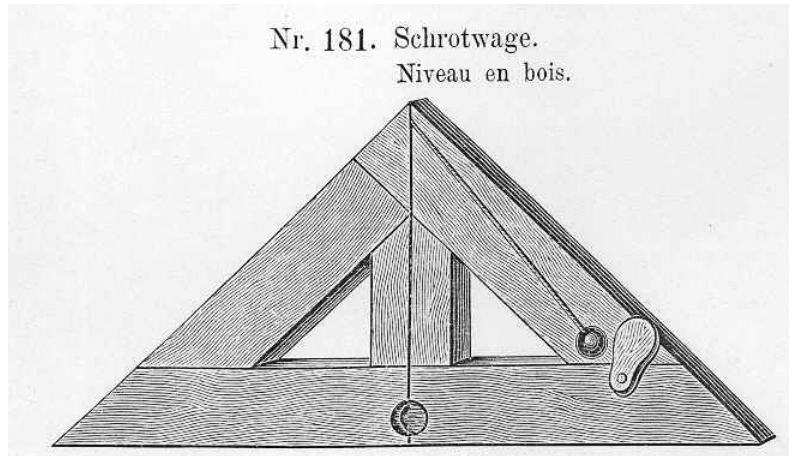
1 pound.....	\$2 00
2 pounds.....	2 50
3 "	3 00
4 "	4 00



AT REST.

18. OTHER MEASURING TOOLS

I know of one catalogue only, GAMPPER, entirely devoted to plumb bobs. In the others we find general assortments of tools, such as might be offered in a hardware store. Manufactures of surveying equipment, invariably offer an assortment of bobs, different sizes and shapes, and often some mechanized examples, at a higher price.



MELHUISE 1912

38 Rd. MELHUISE, Ltd., Fetter Lane, Holborn Circus, London, E.C.

Japanned Iron Plumb Bob.		Lead Plumb Bob.		Brass Plumb Bob.	
No. 267w.		No. 268w. Turned.		With Screw Top. No. 269w.	
Weight.	Price.	No.	Price.	Weight.	Price.
1/4 lb.	... /7 each.	1 lb.	... /6 each.	3 1/2 oz.	... 1/- each.
1/2 "	... /8 "	1 1/2 "	... /9 "	4 1/2 "	... 1/2 "
3/4 "	... /9 "	2 "	... 1/- "	6 "	... 1/4 "
1 "	... /10 "	2 1/2 "	... 1/6 "	8 "	... 1/6 "
1 1/4 "	... /11 "			10 "	... 1/9 "
1 1/2 "	... 1/- "			13 "	... 2/- "
1 3/4 "	... 1/1 "			16 "	... 2/6 "
2 "	... 1/2 "			20 "	... 3/6 "

Patent Adjustable Plumb and Level. No. 270w.
In Mahogany.
Length 3 ft. 6 in.
Width 3 1/4 in.
Price 7/- each.

Adjustable Plumb Bob. No. 271w.
Constructed with a Reel at upper end on which the line is wound. The power of the Spring may be increased or decreased by means of the Screw which passes through the Reel. A suitable length of line is sent out reeled on each Bob.
Length 3 1/2 in. Brass #. ... Price 5/6 each.
" 4 1/2 in. Nickel (iron)... " 3/6 "

Combination Level, Plumb, Inclinometer, and Bevel Protractor. No. 273w.
This tool will be found very handy for many purposes, it can be applied to a square, straight edge, or boring bit. Nicely finished.
Price ... 3/9 each.

Plumb and Level. No. 272w.
Brass arch top plate, side views, polished mahogany stock, with one rounded end.
May be used with Plumb Bob and Line.
Length 42 in.
Price 7/6 each.

Bronze Medal, 1884.—Gold Medal, 1890.

No. 272w.
Plumb and Level.
Brass arch top plate, side views, polished mahogany stock, with one rounded end.

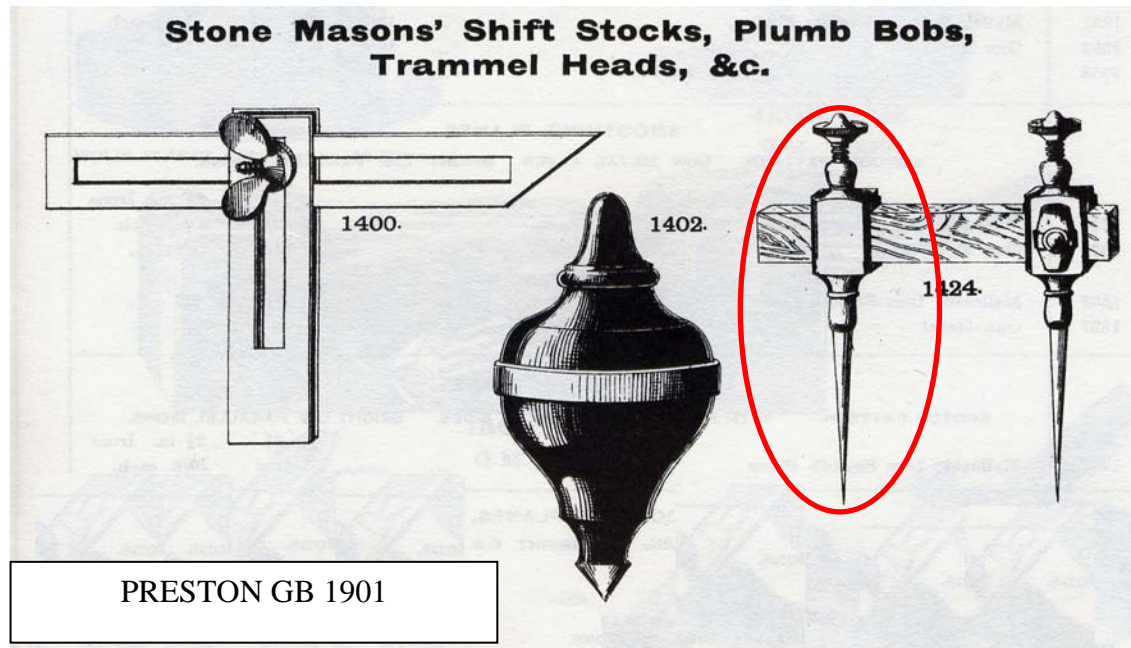
May be used with Plumb Bob and Line.

Length 42 in.

Price 7/6 each.

20. OTHER TOOLS, NO PLUMB BOBS

On ebay some items are offered as plumb bobs that are in fact something far different. TRAMMEL POINTS are one of those items. Pairs of these devices are actually used to draw large diameter circles; just because they have points, don't mistake them for plumb bobs.



Dear Fellow collectors.

It would be a great contribution to the cause of the collection and dissemination of information about plumb bobs to take a close look at your tool and hardware catalogues in order to identify information on this subject.

We would be very grateful for copies sent to wolfg.ruecker@t-online.de as DOC-file, WORD-file, JPG or Picture-file, Adobe PDF-file; or as mailed paper copies.

Ideally these contributions would include images of the cover and/or title page (that might indicate the issue number or date of publication) and pages illustrating plumb bobs, however, everything or anything would be of great interest. Many images that we have already collected could be improved with better images.

Our objective is to accumulate an archive in the next year that will be made available in the form of a searchable CD

Special considerations will be extended to contributors; receipt of a CD for the cost of the CD itself plus the cost of shipping.

Remark:

For this issue of the WR PLUMB BOB NEWS I used only my archive and the archive from Riccardo Chetoni in Pisa.

A very informative article from Elton W. Hall about the development of the illustrated tool catalogue in the USA is printed in THE CHRONICLE march 2008 (newspaper of the Early American Industries Association EAIA <http://www.eaiainfo.org>)

From THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM (available on a CD from Nelson Denny ndenny01@comcast.net) you find on the next pages the list of "names of possible and / or known plumb bob manufactures and / or distributors.

WR PLUMB BOB NEWS *Information for plumb bob collectors*

2008-09 July 31, 2008

Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

The Plumb Line

Page 163

Names of *Possible* Plumb Bob Manufactures and/or Distributors

The following list is the final version of the list I've printed several times. This list includes: Bob manufacturers and/or distributors known to exist (i.e. I've held one in my hand that has this name on the bob); companies that I've heard about from other collectors but that I can't verify from a second source; company names that I have come across in my research but that I can't verify or even say for certain that they put their name on their bobs.

A & B SMITH CO, PGH
A M (English, Air Ministry
probably unmarked Marples
ABEL
ACCURACY WARNER TOOLS
MADE IN U.S.A.
Aero Tool Co.
ALCO UNIVERSAL
ALFRED SHIRLEY LTD
AMBLUCO
AMERICAN PLUMBERS SUPPLY CO
ASTRUP HARDWARE
BDS (West Germany)
B M Co BRAUNSDORF-MUELLER CO
of Elizabeth, NJ)
BEAVEN
BERGER, C. L. & SON
BERGER, C. L. & SONS BOSTON
BERGMAN (Bergman Tool Co.,
Buffalo?)
Bernz, Otto
Bell, Theodore & Co.
BLUE GRASS
Bogart & Hopper, Inc.
BRANDIS & SONS, F.E.
BROOKLYN N.Y.
Brown & Sharpe
(see also D.B.S.)
BRASSTURN
BRAUNSDORF-MUELLER CO
BRIDGEPORT PLUMBRITE
Bruning
BRUNSON INSTR. CO
BUFF & BUFF
CAL-HAWK
Catranis, Inc.
CHESTERMAN JC (English)
(or CHESTRMAN RABONE?)
Cole Mfg.
Common Sense
Craftsman
Crescent Novelty Mfg. Co.
(Crown Shape)
Identified as English Military
CST (Chicago Steel Tape)

D. B. S. (Darling, Brown & Sharp)
Darling was an early partner
DIEPPO (DIETrich POst ?)
DIETZGEN
THE DIKEMAN MFG CO
SO. NORWALK CONN
Disston & Sons, Henry
DOWNIE
DOUGHERTY FC35
DUNLAP/MADE IN U.S.A.
E.D.Co. (Eugene Dietzgen)
also ED Chicago/NY
EFFIE
ELLERBUSCH
ELLIOTT CO., B.K.
EMPIRE
(old ones made in USA, name
now used on China made bobs)
E P (Edward Preston?)
Ennis Mfg. Co.
EXACT
EXTRAPOINT (Made by Suverkrop
F. P. Co, Chicago (Frederick
Post Co.)
F.W.&Co.
FIFIELD, F. G.
FORD (Automotive Logo)
FRESE
(A gauging bob)
FRIENDSHIP PLUMB BOB
FROST & ADAMS CO.
FULLER WALLPAPER
(chrome hex)
Fulton
GAFFNEY
Garrick Co.
GENERAL
(same as below?)
General Hardware
GLOBE
Goodell Pratt Tool
Great Neck Mfg. Co.
GRIFFIN IND.
Gurley, W & L. E.
H. L. Sliver Los Angeles
H.S.&Co. RY.N.Y.

The Plumb Line

Page 164

Hanley Frame (script)
Hanson, Einar B.
HANSON (sold by IRWIN)
HANSEN
Haven, Jas. L. Co.
HEIMBACH, J. O.
HEINRICH
Heller & Brightly PHILAD
HERCULES
Hibbard, Spencer & Bartlett
Hardware Co. O.V.B. Also,
HSB&CO.
HOLD FAST
Hughes - Owens
ISZARD-WARREN CO.
J. C. SALA
J. C. Ulmer & Co
J. H. MELANSON
J. S. R.
Jennings, C.E.& Co.
Joseph King
KEUFFEL & ESSLER CO.
K+E, K&E
KEEN KUTTER
Kruse & Son, M. S.
Kuker-Ranken, Inc.
KUKER, O.J.
KUKER-RANKEN, INC
LALLIE
LEACH, G & W
LEISTNER, P. (Paul)
LIETZ
Lietz, A. Co.
LIGHTNING
LS CO (also L&S)
Lufkin
LUTZ
McN&H MFG O.N.Y.
MF CO (MILLERS FALLS)
MAC (MAC Tool Co.)
MAISON DE LA RADIESTHESIE
(French for House of Radiesthesie)
William Marples
William Martin
MASTER MECHANIC (Taiwan)
MARWEDEL, C. F.
MERIT TOOL
MILLERS FALLS
Monument Brand
MOHAVE
Monteath, J. H. Co.
MOORE & WRIGHT (English)
MUNSON, C. M.
N.S. Hdw. Co
(NORVILLE SHAPLEIGH ?)
NATIONAL B/P CP.
NATIONAL
NEELY BLUE PRINT
OAK LEAF (inside Oak leaf outline)

OMC
OTIS
OVB (OUR VERY BEST)
See Hibbard, Spencer etc.
P & C (#1602 USA 2 1/2 OZ)
PACIFIC
PERFECTION
made by Union Hardware Co., Conn.
Palmer Instrument Co.
Peck, Snow & Wilcox Co.
PEEBLES'
PETE'S BRASS PLUMB BOB
PETE'S MASTER MECHANIC'
(Made in Taiwan, same as above?)
Phoenix Hardware Mfg. Co.
The PRECISION TOOL CO.
BRIDGEPORT, CONN
POST also POSTS
PROTO
Osborne, C. S. & Co.
QUEEN & CO., INC.
RABONE CHESTERMAN (English)
(or reverse)
R.L.M.C. CO.
R S CO TULSA,OKLA
Refinery Supply Co.
Reade
Reading Hardware Co.
RECORD (English)
RETRACTO BOB
RIDGELY
RITTER DENTAL MFG. CO., THE
ROCHESTER, NY
RIVAL COMPANY
RUEHLE, E.G. & CO.
Ruleta Co
Russel & Erwin Mfg. Co.
Sargent
S (inside a Shield)
S & L CO, The SP'GFLD,MASS
SCHRELL & BROCK 29 E 31 St N.Y.
Seltmann, E. G.
SERVCO**
SESCO INC
SHAPLEIGH HARDWARE CO'
(DIAMOND EDGE) ST. LOUIS
SMETHWICHKS (English)
Standard
STANDFORD**
(from Taiwan)
STANLEY
STANLEY LONDON
Star (picture of)
Starrett, L. S.
STERNS, E. C. & CO.
SYRACUSE, NY USA
Stevens, J. Arms & Tool Co.
SUVERKROP
SURVEYORS SERVICE Co.

HOMPSON, A.L.
 HORPE SMITH
 erner & Lyon Co.
 ROUGHTON & SIMMS Ltd
 RUPER PC2
 lmer, J. C. & CO
 ajen
 AJEN'S PATENT REVERSIBLE
 PLUMB BOBS
 Willis C. Vajen son of Indianapolis
 hardware dealer, J. H. Vajen (1857-1866)
 'MS, H.A. MF'CO.

BOSTON, MASS.
 WARREN-KNIGHT
 Welch, T. F. & Co.
 WENTWORTH MFG. Co, BOSTON
 WILCOX, S. W.
 Woods
 Wright Machine Co.
 Wrightsville Hardware Co.
 YOUNG & SONS
 Zalewski

Names Of *Known* Manufacturers And/Or Distributors

The following list is from my personal collection. As opposed to the previous list, all of these do actually exist, and are listed as spelled out on the bob. Here we see what might be assumed are replicate "company" listings for example: K. & E.; K+E; K&E; obviously KEUFFEL & ESSER Co. it three different "names" on the product. This raises a number of questions, is BERGER the same as C. L. BERGER & SONS? Is MF CO. the same as MILLERS FALLS? MF CO. is a brass carrot tape and the MILLERS FALLS bobs are all steel cylinders. What about POST and POSTS? Or ajen and VAJEN'S? SHAPLEIGH and SHAPLEIGH HARDWARE CO.? The big 'winner' is Marples, from whom I have at least 4 different name presentations.

A & B SMITH CO PGH
 A M also AM (Air Ministry, British)
 A. L. THOMPSON
 A. LIETZ
 A.J. WILKINSON & CO
 AERO TOOL CO.
 ALCO UNIVERSAL
 ALFRED SHIRLEY LTD
 AMBLUCO
 AMERICAN PLUMBERS SUPPLY CO.
 ASTRUP
 B. K. ELLIOTT
 BDS
 Beaven
 BERGER
 BERGMAN
 BERGMAN TOOL CO.
 BLUE GRASS
 BMC
 BRASSTURN
 BRAUNSDORF
 BRAUNSDORF-MUELLER CO.
 BRIDGEPORT PLUMBRITE
 BRUNING
 BRUNSON INSTR. CO.

BUFF & BUFF
 C. L. BERGER & SONS
 C.M.MUNSON
 CHESTERMAN
 Common Sense* (a.k.a. Lamps, Smith, Smith's)
 CRAFTSMAN
 CROWN (Symbol, see A M)
 CST
 DIETZGEN
 Dikeman Mfg
 DOWNIE
 DUNLAP
 E D CO.
 E.C. STERNS & CO.
 E.G.RUEHLE & CO.
 EASTMAN'S
 EDWARD PRESTON
 EFFIE
 ELLERBUSCH
 EXACT
 F. B. BRANDIS
 F. G. FIFIELD

* While the Editor has never seen a Common Sense, Lamps, Smith, or Smith's bob with any name other than the owner's it is listed as a "named" bob because it is so identifiable as a shape, and so frequently seen in distributor's catalogs. Distinguishing between these common names may never be possible. A numbered size system is marked on some examples.

F. P. Co.
 F.W.&Co.
 FORD
 FRIENDSHIP
 FROST & ADAMS CO.
 G & W LEACH
 GDS
 GENERAL HARDWARE
 GLOBE
 GOODELL-PRATT
 GREAT NECK
 GRIFFIN IND
 H.A. W'MS MF'G CO.
 H.S.&Co.
 Hanley Frame
 HANSON
 HEINRICH
 HELLER & BRIGHTLY
 HERCULES
 J. C. ULMER
 J. H. MELANSON
 J. O. HEIMBACH
 J. STEVENS A.&T. Co.
 J.A. GAFFNEY
 J.C.SALA
 J.S.R.
 K. & E.
 K&E
 K+E
 KEEN KUTTER
 KNAUS (*no mfg name, but a commercially made bob, patented by KNAUS*)
 KUKER-RANKEN, INC.
 L. S. STARRET
 LALLIE
 LIETZ
 LIGHTNING
 LUFKIN
 LUFKIN RULE Co.
 LUTZ
 MAC
 MAISON DE LA RADIESTHESIE
 MASTER MECHANIC
 McN&H MFG O.N.Y.
 MERIT TOOL
 MF CO.
 M I C R O (trademark of Suverkrop)
 Millers Falls
 MONUMENT BRAND
 MOORE & WRIGHT
 NATIONAL

NATIONAL B/P CO
 NEELY BLUE PRINT
 O. J. KUKER
 OAK LEAF (Symbol)
 OTIS
 OVB
 P. LEISTNER
 Palmer Instrument Co.
 PEEBLES'
 PERFECTION
 POST
 POSTS
 PROTO
 PRUTCH
 R.L.M.C.CO
 RABONE CHESTERMAN
 RECORD
 REFINERY SUPPLY
 Refinery Supply Company
 RETRACTO BOB
 RIDGELY
 Ridgways
 Ruleta Co
 S
 S. W. WILCOX
 SCHRELL & BROCK
 SERVCO
 SESCO
 SHAPLEIGH
 SHAPLEIGH HARDWARE CO.
 SMETHWICKS
 STANDARD
 STANLEY
 STANLEY, LONDON
 STAR (Symbol)
 Surveyors Service Co.
 SUVERKROP
 TAJIMA PLUMB-RITE
 THE PRECISION TOOL CO.
 Theodor Bell & Co.
 THORPE SMITH
 TROUGHTON & SIMMS Ltd.
 Vajen
 VAJEN'S
 W MARPLES & SON
 W. & L. E. GURLEY
 WARREN-KNIGHT CO
 WENTWORTH MFG.
 WILLIAM MARPLES
 William Martin
 Wm. Marples
 Wm. Marples & Sons
 Woods
 Zalewski