

Vest-Pocket Safety Lamp

Dave Johnson



When pictured alone, it looks like a standard Davy-style safety lamp, but it is actually a vest-pocket safety lamp. When sitting next to a Hughes Bros. vest-pocket safety lamp and a Baby Wolf safety lamp you can see just how small this lamp really is. It measures 5 1/8" tall, excluding the hook, and has a base that is 1 1/4" in diameter.

This is not a toy or miniature copy of a working lamp, it is a working lamp. It has a standard two-piece steel gauze, a working wick raiser, a windshield or flame guard, the top is hinged exactly like the larger Davy lamps, as is the latch that holds the top tightly on the gauze, and everything is perfectly proportioned. The gauze top is blackened from the lamp being used and the fuel vessel and wick still retain some residual of the old fuel with its' distinctive odor and greenish color that I have seen in so many other safety lamps over the years. The lamp has some light wear to it, it was obviously used but not abused.

The horizontal rings that hold the gauze at the top and bottom are knurled. The windshield is decoratively scalloped along its' top edge, with each scallop being holed, and bottom has a serrated edge. The bottom is copper with the rest of the lamp being brass except for the steel gauze and wick raiser.

This lamp was reportedly found about 25 years ago in the cellar of an old home in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. I was able to add it my collection recently when the previous owner decided to sell his collection and offered it on Ebay, along with some other safety lamps. I think it is one of the neatest safety lamps I have seen, it is definitely unusual.



