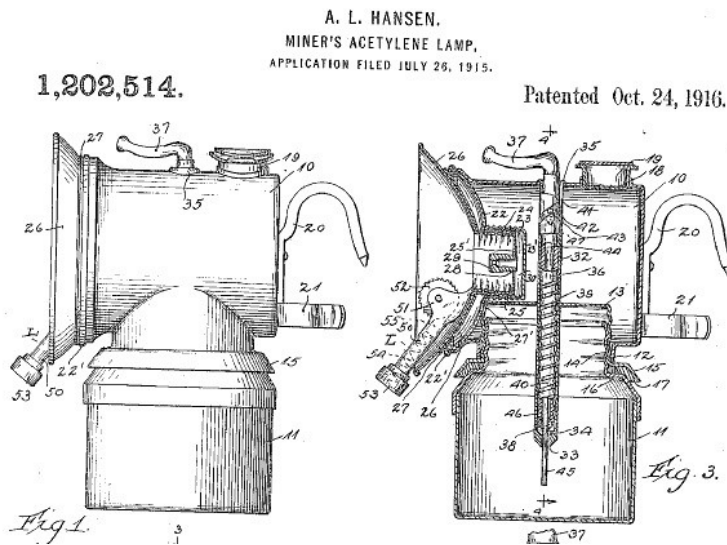


Justrite's Screw-on Reflector

by Dave Thorpe

Justrite's patent designer Augie Hansen frequently combined inventions in his patent drawings. The 1916 patent for the spiral feed lamp includes another interesting feature — a screw-in reflector for a horizontal style cap lamp. Justrite's The Buddy lamp embodied such a reflector, but the lamp itself was vertically oriented and short-lived. Neal Tysver recently found two unfired examples of horizontal Justrites with coined-edge reflectors. These were clearly screw in reflectors, but what lay behind them was far different from the patent drawing.



A thin red gasket was visible between the reflector and the lamp body.

With the reflector removed, a machine threaded stud lay in the socket of the lamp and a short brass tube was attached to the rear of the reflector. The tube was threaded with four holes perforating it to admit gas.



The entire area behind the reflector was a gas chamber. This expansion area was thought to yield a steadier flame. Similar claims had been made for the square-topped Anton lamp which was the subject of a patent dispute with Justrite's The Buddy lamp.

A neatly shaped felt filter sits in the inner recess of the gas chamber. It is trimmed flat on the bottom where it abuts a hole that communicates with the carbide below. There is no need for a felt filter or felt retainer below and neither of these lamps were so equipped.

Only one of the two lamps still retained its disc-shaped red rubber gasket. The drawings below show how I was able to fashion a replacement gasket. I believe these two lamps were prototypes and would be surprised if another example is ever found.



Above: complete lamp with new red gasket, 3/32" thickness.

Right: One reflector was found with a gasket disc, the other without.

Below: Red rubber replacement disc.

