Containers for Blasting Caps

by Mark Bohannan

In 1923, the DuPont company developed a container for miners to carry up to ten blasting caps safely (Fig. 1). Up to this time, the most common method of carrying small quantities of caps was either loosely in pockets or in the tin boxes in which they were sold.

The body of the container is made of vulcanized rubber. Drilled at regular intervals are ten holes, each just large enough to accommodate a blasting cap. The top cannot be removed, but can be rotated around a pin which firmly secures it to the base. The top is designed to prevent accidental turning. A hole in the top exposes the ten compartments one at a time. After the container is filled, the top can be positioned so the access hole is over a solid part of the base. In the early models, the top is made of polished brass. In later models, the top is made of the same material as the base.

Containers were made to accomodate No. 6 and No. 8 caps. The color of the base is red with the legend - **Blasting Caps - Dangerous - Handle Carefully** -. Embossed in white letters on the back of the containers were the following safety rules.

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Do not remove caps with wire or nail.
Don't tap or otherwise investigate them.
Don't carry caps loose in pockets.
Don't store in residence.
Don't smoke near caps.
Don't shoot into caps.
Attach caps to fuse with cap crimper, not with
knife or teath.
Keep in a dry place.
Keep open lights away.
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About this same time, it appears that the Giant Powder Company and the Atlas Powder Company began advertising a moisture proof blasting cap carrying case. The **Giant** case (Fig. 2) held seven No. 6 or No. 8 blasting caps and appears to have been stamped with the Giant name. The material used in the construction of this carrying case is unknown, but was probably some type of non-sparking material.

The **Atlas** case (Fig. 3) also held seven No. 6 or No. 8 blasting caps. The case was made of aluminum and measures 7/8 " by 2 1/8 ". It is currently unknown if this case was actually marked.

The waterproofing in these two cap carrying cases is accomplished by means of a tight rubber sleeve that fits over the seam when the case is closed. Cap carrying cases do not appear to have gained popular acceptance among miners. Very few cap carrying cases of any brand are known to exist.

Fig. 1, Dupont

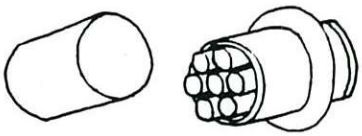

Fig. 2, Atlas

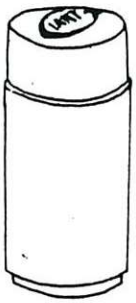

Fig. 3, Giant