

# A CARBIDE CAP LAMP HOLDER FROM BUTTE, MONTANA

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Jerry Darrell from Butte, Montana, sent us a nice photograph of a carbide lamp holder that he had recently picked up. He wanted to know if we could tell him anything about it.

Over the years I have owned, or seen in private collections, several of these unique holders. Every one of these holders were found in or around Butte. Most of the collectors are familiar with the standard Justrite and Shanklin carbide stick holders (sometimes called carbide candlesticks). The Butte carbide holder is by far the nicest of them all. So far, all of the Butte holders I have had a chance to examine have been identical, which suggests that they were manufactured as opposed to being made one at a time by a local blacksmith.

The most unique feature about the Butte carbide holder is the finely made holder itself, that being the part that holds the carbide lamp. The outside of the loop is flat and .375 inches wide. The inside has a very smooth reverse bevel, so as to allow the lamp to slide in and out of the holder without damaging the lamp. Another unique feature is the candleholder style thumb tab that opens the diameter of the holder to allow the bottom of the lamp to be easily inserted into the holder and when released, causing the lamp to be held nice and firmly.

I have also seen a larger version of this holder that would accommodate a carbide hand lamp, so you will want to keep your eyes open for both types of these Butte holders.

