

THE AUTO-LITE BUMPERGRIP

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On February 3, 1931, a patent was granted to James H. Horsley of Chicago, Illinois, who assigned the patent to the Universal Lamp Company. The patent was for ". . . a gripping buffer of elastic heat-insulating material enveloping the lower portion of the carbide container and constituting a hand-hold and protection for same against impacts to dislodge carbide sludge from the container."

This bumpergrip is one of the most noticeable things about the later style Auto-Lite carbide cap lamps. The bumpergrip shown on lamp boxes and in advertisements is almost always made more prominent by printing the bumpergrip in red.

Auto-Lite bumpergrips are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. They are marked on the bottom as shown in Figure 1 and are known to have been made in both red and black.



Figure 2. The stamping found on the bottoms of the Auto-Lite bumpergrip.



Figure 1. A photograph of an Auto-Lite with the patented bumpergrip. (Ted Bobrink collection)

Figure 3. The patent filed by James H. Horsley on February 10, 1930 for the Auto-Lite bumpergrip. This patent was granted on February 3, 1931, and assigned to the Universal Lamp Company.

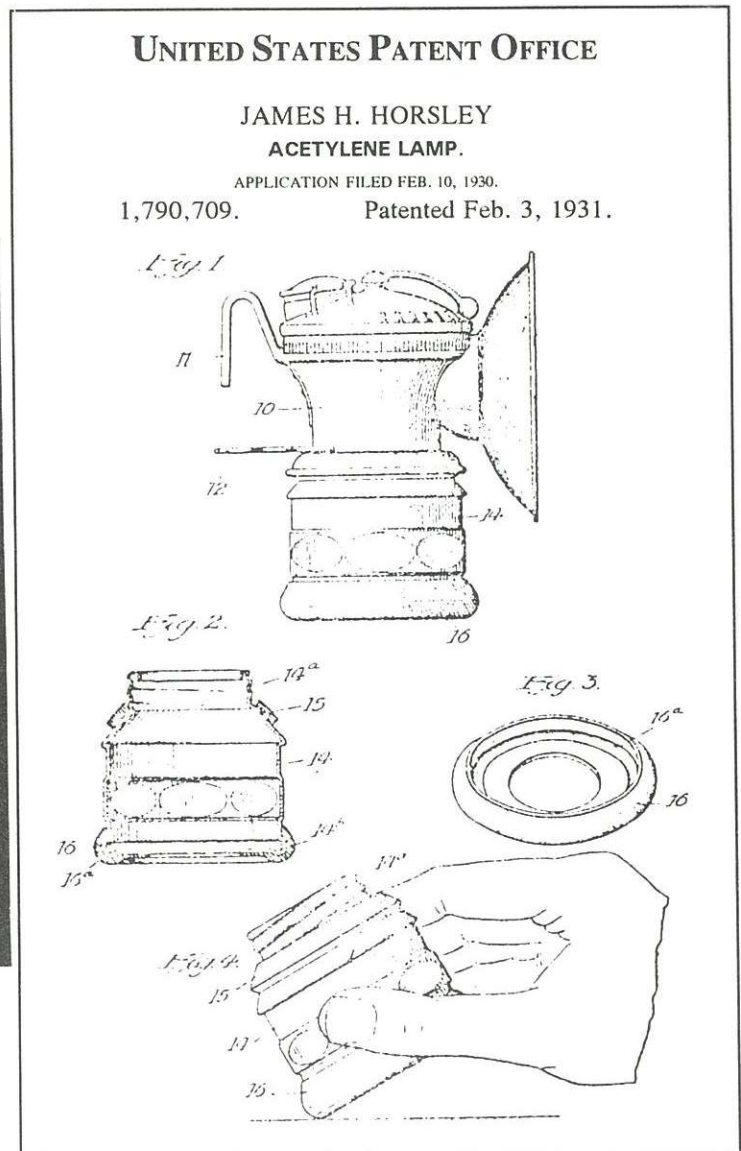




Figure 4. An 11 1/2" tall by 6 1/2" wide cardboard advertisement for the patented Auto-Lite bumpergrip. This advertisement was designed to be placed on an Auto-Lite lamp for display. The advertisement is printed in red, blue, black and yellow and white. (Brad Ross collection)