

Carbide Repair Kit Boxes

by Len Gaska

Of all items within the category of mining artifacts, carbides offer the widest variety of related items to collect including parts boxes, lamp boxes, repair kit boxes, cleaners, advertising, carbide carriers, carbide flasks, and carbide cans. Repair kit boxes are one of the author's favorite items related to carbide miners' lamps.

Repair kit boxes were simply boxes with dividers and contained an assortment of parts necessary to repair malfunctioning lamps. Kits always contained a good supply of flints, gaskets, felts, and tips which were replaced on a regular basis, particularly if a lamp was being used every day. Other parts that were present in some kits were felt retainers, water doors, water feed assemblies, lighter assemblies, and tip cleaners. A manufacturer that did not provide distributors with readily available spare parts was not likely to sell many lamps. If prominently displayed, a repair kit was good advertising as it proved that a particular manufacturer provided readily available spare parts. Repair kits were typically sold to hardware stores and other businesses that sold carbide lamps.

Most repair kit boxes were made of heavy cardboard, although Justrite manufactured two styles of metal and glass repair kits. As might be expected, Justrite produced the widest variety of repair kits in style and variation. Other repair kits known to the author are Auto-Lite, Guy's Dropper, Grier, Hansen, and Dry-Lite.

All of the cardboard repair kit boxes have labels under the lid so that when the lid was upright, an attractive display resulted. Many of the repair kit boxes had little or no labeling on the outside. Justrite was the exception with an attractive label on the top of the box lid.

The Justrite metal repair kits are prized items as they are very attractive display pieces and would probably be coveted by a collector of advertising displays. The Justrite no. 3 kit functioned merely as a repair kit whereas the no. 4 also served as a display for lamps and was supplied with an assortment of lamps along with the parts.

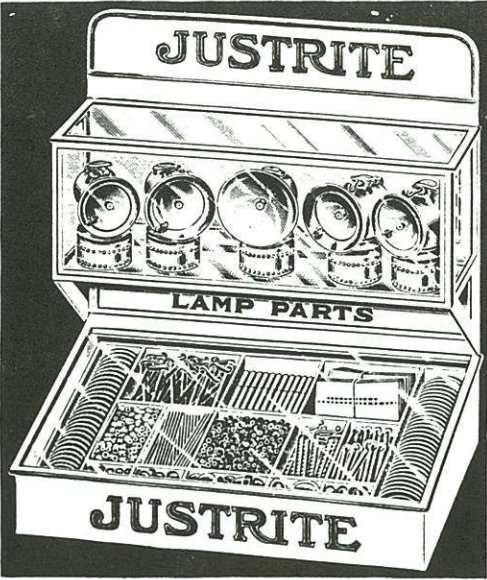
REPAIR OUTFIT AND SAMPLE CASE

Description

A handsome metal case finished in white enamel. Sliding drawer opening from the back. Glass cover and glass enclosed show case with hinged door at back. Room for 5 sample Lamps. Made of steel, 15 inches wide, 10½ inches deep, 13 inches high. Strongly durable and convenient. **SOLD ONLY WITH ASSORTMENT OF LAMPS.**

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|---------|----------------|
| 100 | No. 60 | Gaskets |
| 100 | No. 62 | Felts |
| 12 | No. 64 | Felt Holders |
| 144 | No. 66 | Tips |
| 144 | No. 28 | Tips |
| 24 | No. 22 | Tip Cleaners |
| 48 | No. 37 | Tip Cleaners |
| 72 | No. 16 | Wires |
| 6 | Valve | Stems |
| 36 | No. 145 | Reamers |
| 24 | No. 177 | Lighters |
| 48 | No. 172 | Flints |
| 24 | No. 173 | Springs |
| 24 | No. 174 | Screw Caps |
| 12 | No. 175 | Wheels |
| 12 | No. 176 | Forks and Nuts |
| 6 | No. 181 | Water Caps |
| 24 | No. 182 | Hexagon Nuts |



For the hard core collector of repair kits, variations do exist in the labeling for at least two manufacturers: Justrite and Auto-Lite. Justrite made two sizes of the cardboard repair kit called No. 1 and No. 2, which is smaller.

As in all collectibles, condition is important although legibility of the labels and other writing is paramount. Repair kits often saw many years of use in a store, so labels are often faded and in the case of cardboard kits, corners may be separated and internal dividers missing or torn. With patience and care, structural damage can often be repaired.

Readers are invited to send the author illustrations or photos of the repair kits in their collections, particularly if they have one from a manufacturer or variety not mentioned in this article.



The Justrite No. 4 repair outfit and sample case. This repair kit is the highlight of any collection of carbide lamp related items and is a superb example of carbide lamp related advertising. It is likely that only large hardware stores and mine supply houses with a large local mining clientele would order such an item. Thus only a few examples are known to exist. The case is white painted steel with gold letters with red outlining. The parts are contained in a drawer that slides out the back of the case.

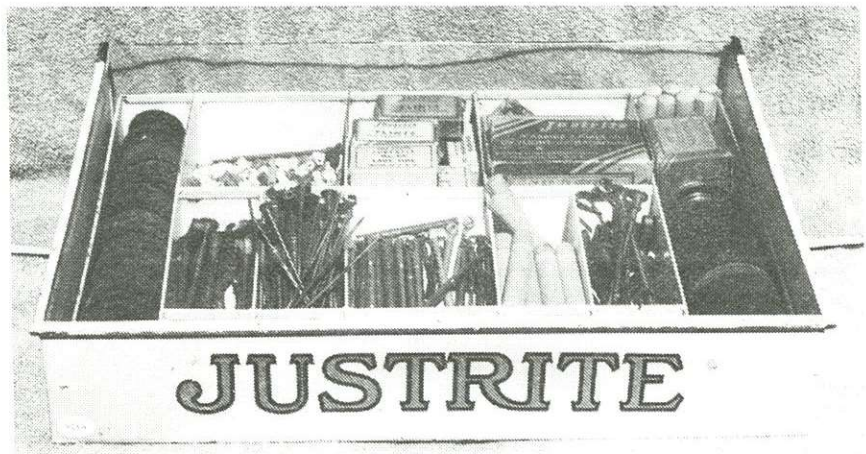
No. 3

CONTENTS No. 3

- 100 No. 60 Gaskets
- 100 No. 62 Felts
- 12 No. 64 Felt Holders
- 144 No. 66 Tips
- 100 No. 28 Tips
- 24 No. 22 Tip Cleaners
- 48 No. 37 Tip Cleaners
- 72 No. 16 Wires
- 9 No. 78 Valve Stems
- 36 No. 145 Reamers
- 12 No. 177 Lighters
- 24 No. 172 Flints
- 12 No. 173 Springs
- 12 No. 174 Screw Caps
- 12 No. 176 Forks and Nuts
- 12 No. 181 Water Caps
- 12 No. 182 Hexagon Nuts
- 4 No. 113 Valve Stems

Handsome Metal Show Case with Glass Cover—Sliding Drawer Opening from Back. White Enamel Finish.

The Justrite No. 3 repair kit. Similar to the no. 4 repair outfit, but without the lamp display shelf. This case is also white painted steel with gold letters with red outlining. The parts are contained in a drawer that slides out the back of the case. Dimensions are 15" x 10.5" x 4" (at the rear, excluding the sign).

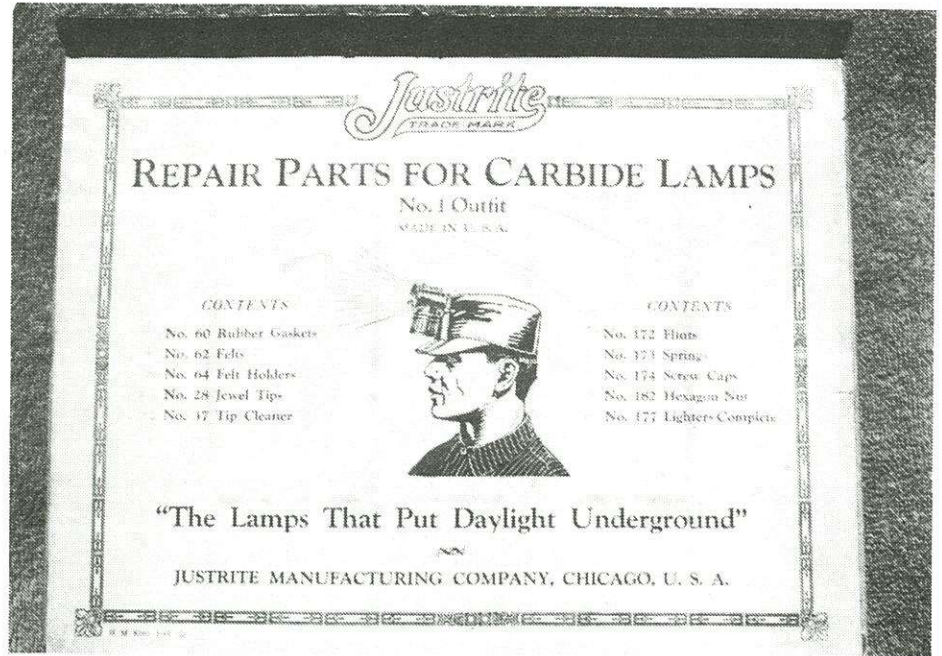


No. 1



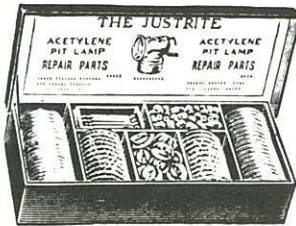
CONTENTS
No. 1

- 6 doz. No. 60 Gaskets
- 6 " No. 62 Felts
- 1 " No. 64 Felt Holders
- 3 " No. 66 Lava Tips
- 3 " No. 28 Metal Tips
- 3 " No. 172 Flints
- 1 " No. 173 Springs
- 1 " No. 174 Screw Caps
- 1 " No. 182 Hex. Nuts
- 1/2 " No. 177 Lighters, complete
- 2 " No. 37 Tip Cleaners



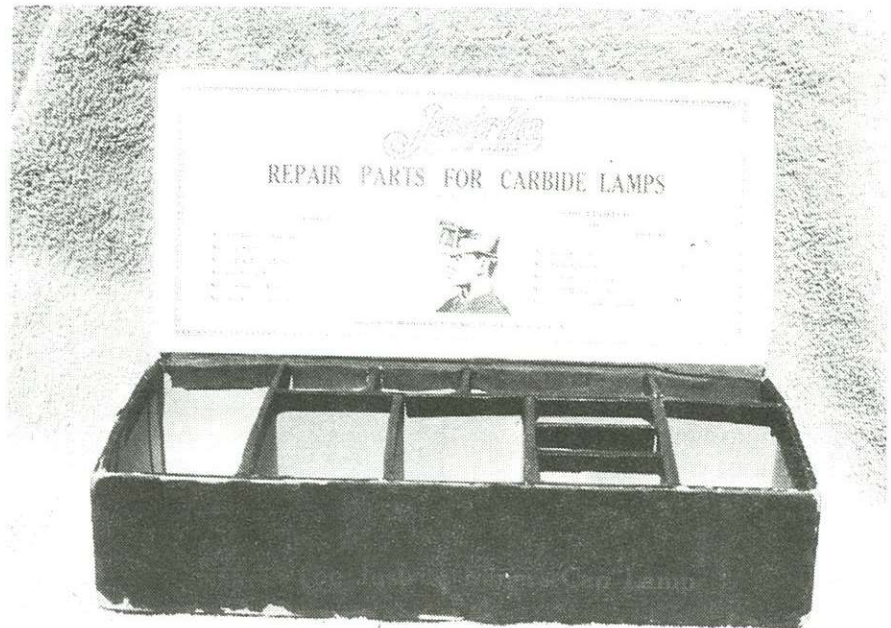
The Justrite No. 1 and No. 2 repair kits. These cardboard repair kits are found with variations in the labeling, including different lamps illustrated. The no. 2 kit is the most common carbide repair kit found. The dimensions of the No. 1 kit are 10" x 8" x 2". It is green with identical labels on the inside and outside of the lid. The No. 2 kit is a black box measuring 9.75" x 4.5" x 2". It also has identical labels on the inside and outside of the lid.

No. 2



CONTENTS
No. 2

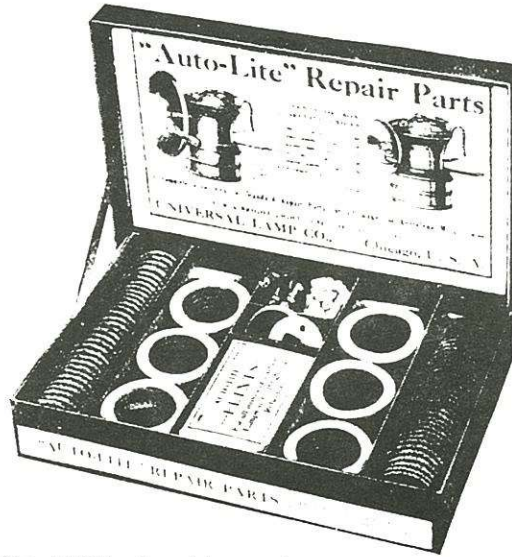
- 3 doz. No. 60 Gaskets
- 3 " No. 62 Felts
- 1/2 " No. 64 Felt Holders
- 2 " No. 66 Lava Tips
- 2 " No. 28 Metal Tips
- 2 " No. 172 Flints
- 1 " No. 173 Springs
- 1 " No. 174 Screw Caps
- 1 " No. 182 Hex. Nuts
- 1/4 " No. 177 Lighters, complete
- 1 " No. 37 Tip Cleaners



(right and below right) **The Auto-Lite (Universal Lamp Co.) repair kit.** This repair kit is found in several different varieties. The variations have minor differences in the labels. The dimensions are 8" x 6.5" x 2". From the *Witte Hardware Co. Catalog No. 26 (1926).*

(below left) **The Guy's Dropper (Shanklin Manufacturing Co.) repair kit.** The author has not seen an example of this repair kit and does not know of any examples in collections. From the *Keystone Catalog, 1924.*

EXTRA PARTS FOR MINERS' LAMPS



Auto-Lite
A complete assortment of standard repair parts for all makes of acetylene miners lamps.

Contents of Box
72 felts.
72 rubber gaskets.
24 sparking flints.
36 lava tips.
6 complete lighters.
6 felt holders.

No. ALRB—Auto-Lite repair assortment; weight each 1¹/₄ lbs. **\$6.00**
One assortment in a carton

Supply Kit

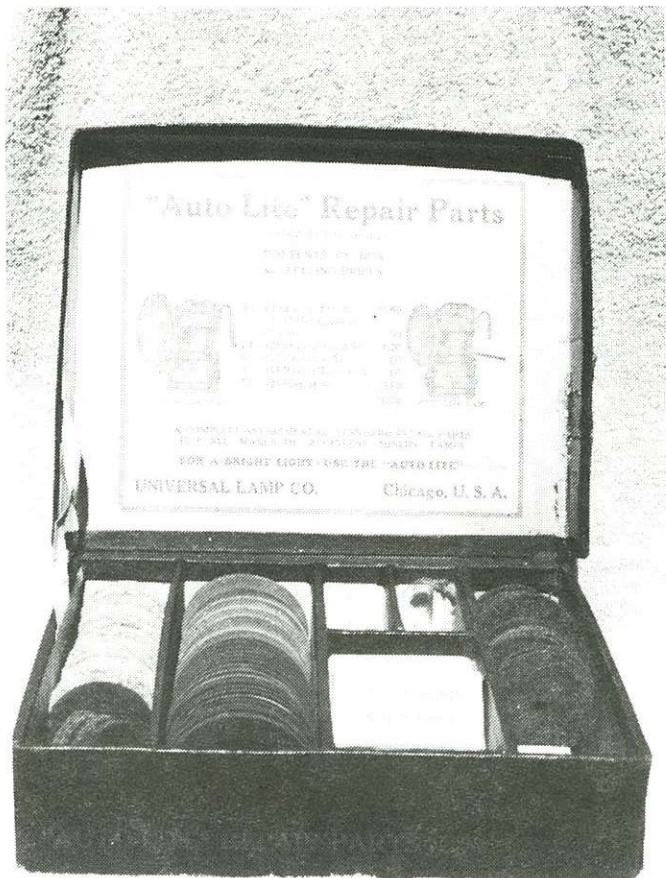
Contains an assortment of lamp supplies most frequently called for by the miner; also, the repair parts most likely to become lost or worn out, and which require replacement.

Conveniently arranged in a strong, durable cardboard box with hinged cover.

No. 1—\$8.00; No. 2—\$4.50.



Supply Kit



(right) A Grier Bros. repair kit. These are somewhat rare. The dimensions are 10.5" x 5.5" x 2.125". It is a black box with no labeling on the outside lid. From the author's collection.




(below) Drylite and Hansen (Hansen Manufacturing Co.) repair kits. It is remarkable that repair kits were produced for these lamps when the lamps themselves are quite rare. It does, however, show a commitment by the manufacturer to provide extra parts for their lamps. Perhaps more remarkable is the fact that several examples of each are known when repair kits for Guy's Dropper and Grier Bros. appear to be more rare. The dimensions of these repair kits are unknown to the author.

No. 74

SUPPLY OUTFIT

FOR THE

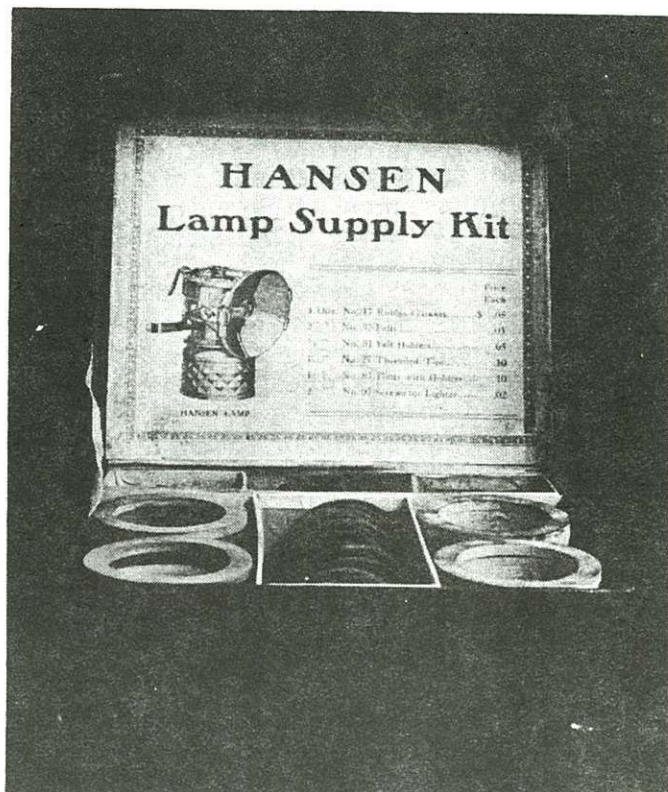
TRADE
DRYLITE
MARK



MINERS CARBIDE LAMP

| CONTENTS | | Price Each |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Doz. | No. 17 Rubber Gaskets..... | \$.05 |
| 3 " | No. 37 Felts | .05 |
| 1/2 " | No. 47 Felt Holders..... | .05 |
| 1/2 " | No. 57 Felt Plates..... | .05 |
| 1 " | No. 27 "Peerless" Tips..... | .10 |
| 1/3 " | No. 67 Rubber Collars..... | .10 |
| 2 " | No. 71 Feed Wicks..... | .05 |
| 1 " | No. 87 Flints | .05 |
| 2 " | No. 97 Screws for Lighter..... | .02 |

Drylite kit label (courtesy John Podgurski)



Hansen repair kit (Rick Finch collection)