

# Justrite's Jumbo

by Len Gaska



Fig. 1 Jumbo with central burner, oval door, "Patented" stamping and holes in bail for stick.

Carbide hand lamps were primarily used by western hard rock miners. The metal miner would work in one spot for a long time and preferred to hang the lamp beside him. Light weight was not a priority, rather, it was sheer candlepower, durability, and fuel capacity that served these men best.

John Leahy relates:

"When he could afford the larger, more expensive hand lamp, the miner preferred the type with a double handle - the usual swivel bail on top plus a flat, strap-type handle on the back of the lamp housing. When walking to his work station, the miner would hold the lamp by the back handle and fold the top bail down, hook his thumb over the bail, and easily control his light, shining it in any direction he wished."<sup>1</sup>

The first hand lamps manufactured by Justrite were patterned after their own cap lamps whose water tanks were in the form of a horizontal cylinder.

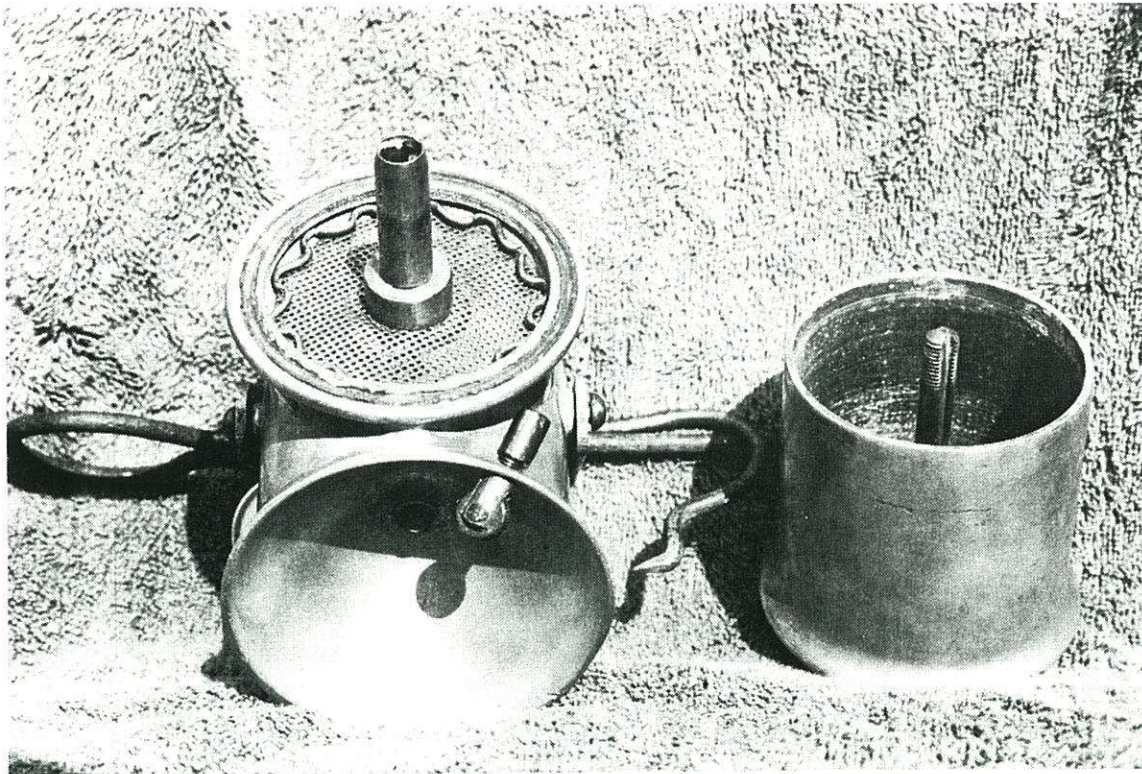
Of the cast aluminum hand lamps made by Justrite, the design patented Jumbo was their first. Introduced in Justrite's Catalog No. 2 (ca. 1915), the "Jumbo" (model 50) was very solidly built and quite attractive.

It is found in at least two variations. One model (Fig. 1 above) has the burner in the center of the reflector and has the oval water door found on the Justrite cap lamps of that era. The word "PATENTED" is cast just below the Justrite name. Its bail is somewhat rectangular and is perforated on each side for use with an accessory stick.<sup>2</sup>

The second variety appears to be a later design in that it shares some features with its successor: the Little Giant (Fig. 3, following page). Specifically, they are:

1. The burner tip emerges from the *bottom* of the reflector and points up at a slight angle.
2. A *round* water door which is secured to the inside of the lamp by a spring.
3. The bail on this model also resembles these later lamps in that it has lost its stick holes.

Also different on the later model is the location of the "PATENTED" stamping. It is on the *opposite* side from the Justrite name.

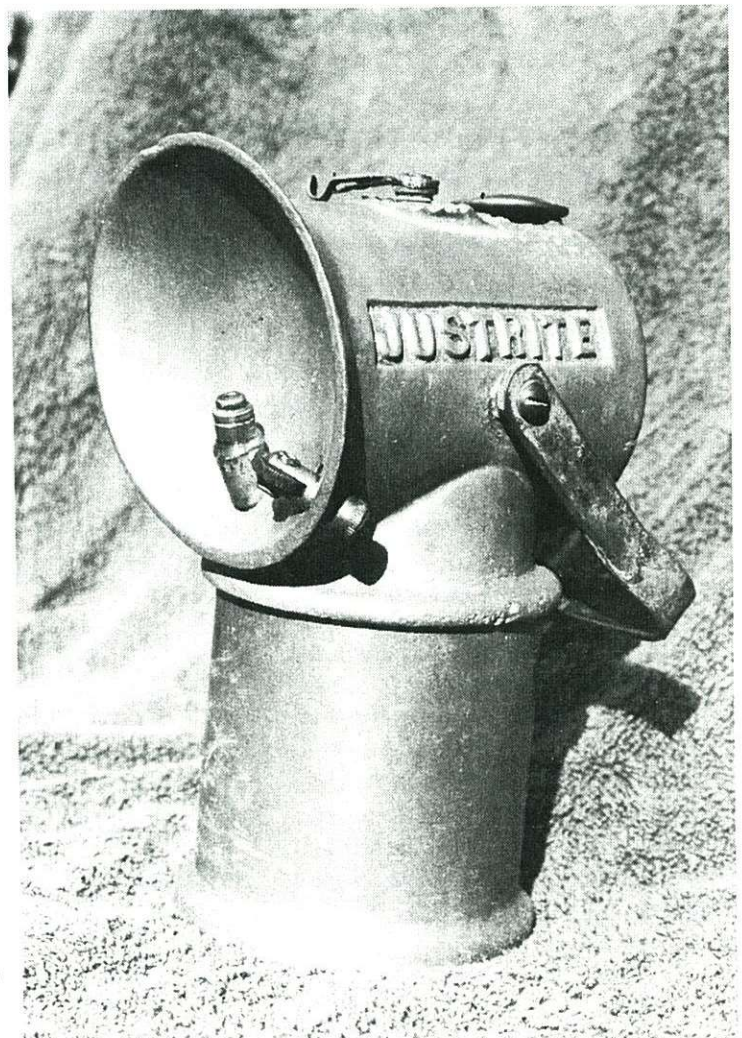


*Fig. 2  
Jumbo  
disassembled.  
Note central  
post for  
attaching  
top and  
bottom.  
The special  
candlestick  
is inserted  
through the  
bail.*

The only style of water feed I have observed on the Jumbo is what I call the "early lever feed" and is characterized by an "upturned" lever. The Jumbo is unusual among American lamps as the top and bottom were attached via a central post as shown in Fig. 2.

Justrite also made brass hand lamps during this same time period (Arizona Special, etc.) These have also been found with both central and bottom burners. I have never seen a bottom burner lamp, other than the Little Giant, advertised in any Justrite catalog or ad. This fact, along with my perception that the bottom burner lamps are more rare, suggests that these models were interim designs en route to the Little Giant.

*Fig. 3  
Jumbo  
hand lamp.  
This variety  
has the low  
mounted  
burner, a  
conventional  
bail & hook,  
patent  
stamping on  
the opposite  
side, and a  
round spring  
loaded  
water door.*



1,230,892.

A. L. HANSEN.  
ACETYLENE LAMP.  
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 30, 1914.

Patented June 26, 1917.

Fig 1

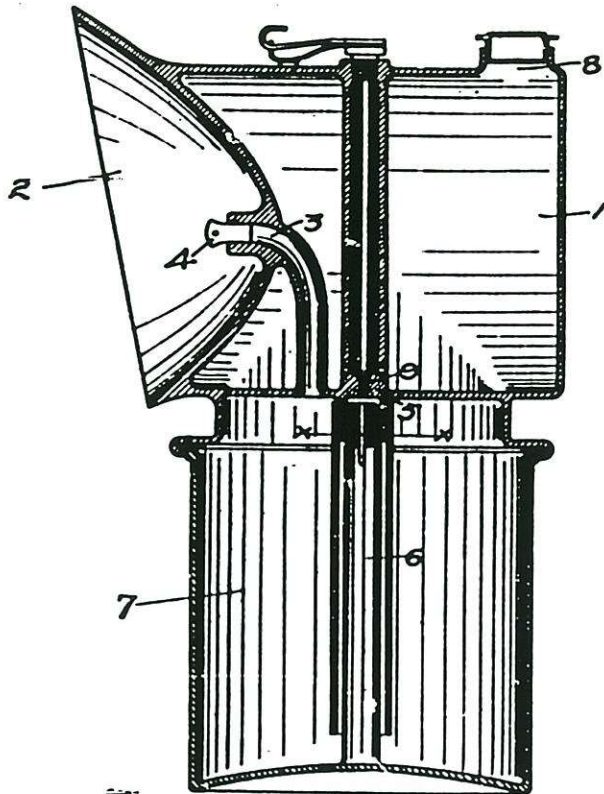


Fig 2



Fig 3



Inventor

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### References

1. Pohs, Henry, Early Underground Mine Lamps, Arizonal Historical Society, 1984.

2. Gaska, Len, Eureka!, Jan 1992, p. 9, Carbide Lamp Sticks.

Patent drawing on which the Justrite Jumbo was based.