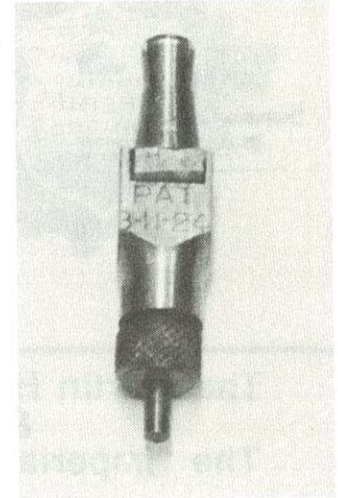
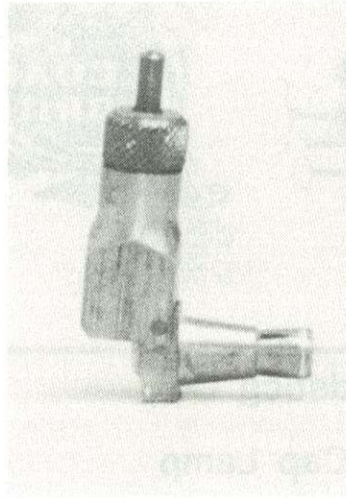


The Shanko Tip Cleaner

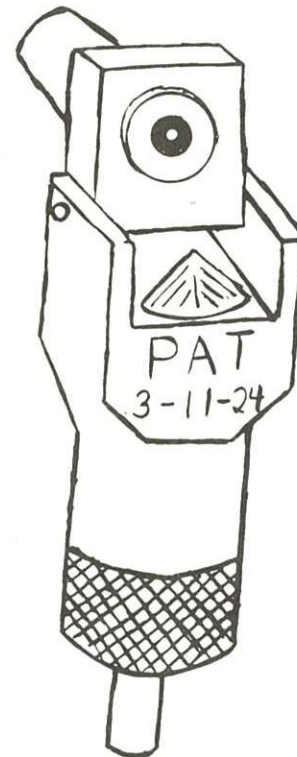
by Jim Van Fleet

The Shanko tip cleaner, patented March 11, 1924 and sold by Shanklin Manufacturing Company (makers of the Guy's Dropper lamp), occupies a unique position among carbide tip cleaners. Many carbide lamp manufacturers made or sold the tip reamers and cleaners familiar to caving enthusiasts. And most collectors are very familiar with the Grier and Gee-Bee cap lamps that featured a built-in tip cleaner (MAC No. 7, Spring 1990, pages 7-9). The Shanko tip cleaner is the only device I know of that was an add-on device that is affixed to the lamp in a semi-permanent fashion.

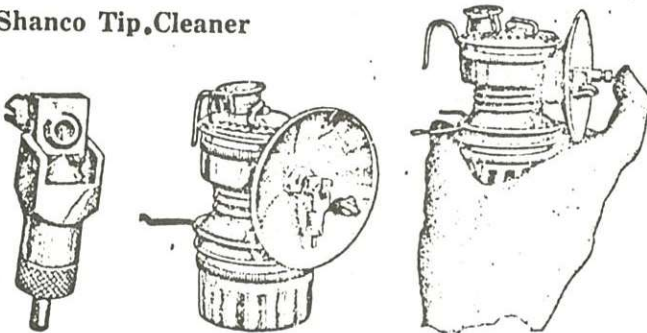


The Shanko Device fits in the lamp's burner tube and the tip is fit into the cleaner. The cleaning action is as follows. The knurled nut and plunger is spring-loaded and pulled out as the device is swung into horizontal position. When released, the illustrated cone fits into the depression at the center of the burner tip. Inside the cone is a fine wire which is pushed into the burner hole when the plunger is depressed.

The Shanko tip cleaner was advertised in the 1925 Keystone mining catalog. To my knowledge, it was not advertised anywhere else. The Shanko tip cleaner is quite rare and an example was not known to many in the collecting community until recently. If you have any further information on this item, please let us know.



Shanco Tip Cleaner



The Shanco Tip Cleaner has been patented by a practical miner who has seen the need. Miners frequently find their lamp clogged when alone underground without light or when they are without a reamer. This cleaner can be used in the dark or by miner with poor eye-sight, for the cleaner is fastened to a tip that replaces the one in the lamp and is in the right position to enter the hole of the tip. A trial will convince you. Ea. 25c.

Patented Mar. 11, 1924.

1,486,464

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK SMELIK, OF NOKOMIS, ILLINOIS.

BURNER CLEANER.

Application filed April 19, 1923. serial No. 633,164.

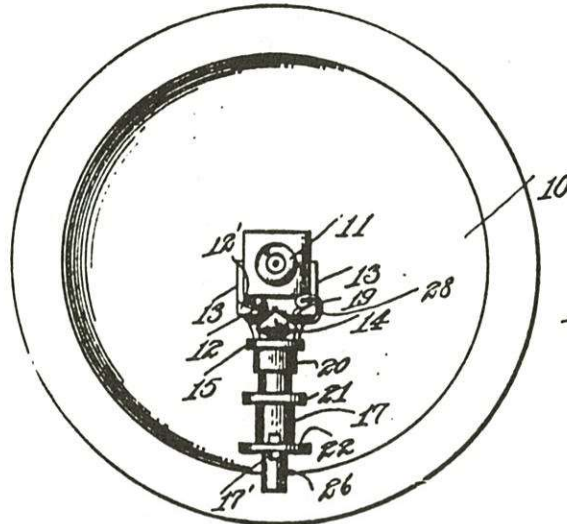


Fig. 1.

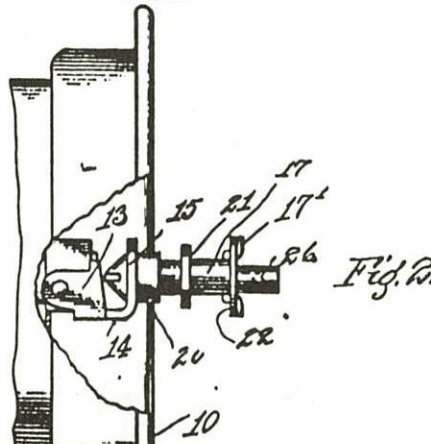


Fig. 2.

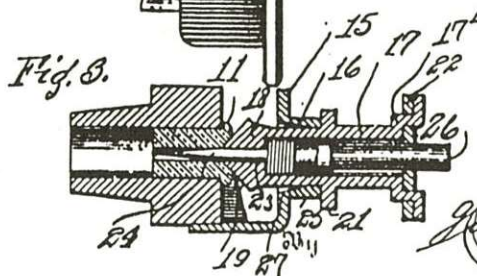


Fig. 3.

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Graco C. Smith

Attorney