

THE BRAUN CORPORATION MINERAL TEST SET

by **Jim Steinberg**
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The observant eye will occasionally spot unusual laboratory looking kits at shops and flea markets. This test set is just such a case. For me, this was my first encounter with a mineral test kit. I saw it sitting opened on a table from a distance. While I could not tell what it was, it was something that I could not ignore. Close examination showed that it was indeed a mining related item. There were a substantial number of mineral samples in the kit.

This kit was distributed by the Braun Corporation, a company specializing in laboratory instruments and supplies. The company had offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. I have found an advertisement for this kit in the 1940 edition of a Braun catalog.

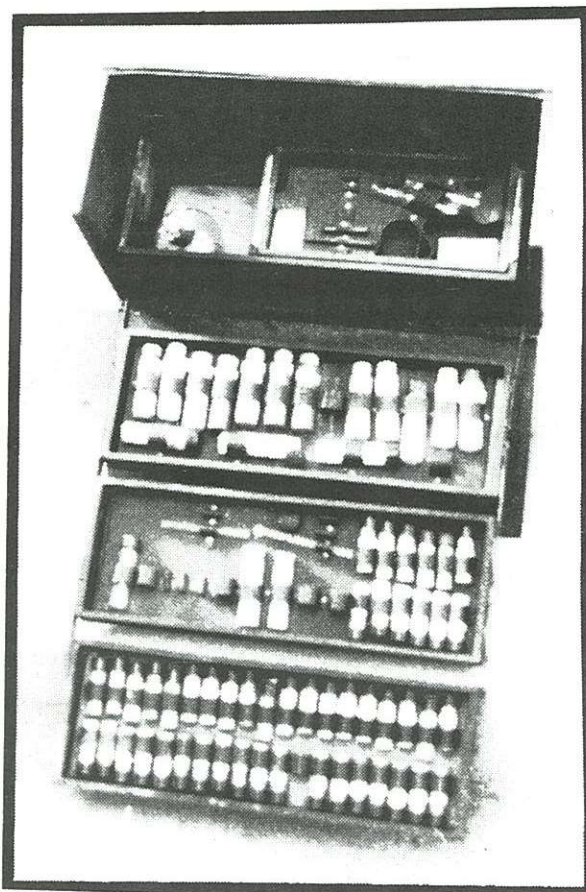
One of the neatest things about the ad is that it lists all of the items included in a complete kit. That is useful information since many kits are not complete, and this one is no exception.

The Braun mineral test set comes in a case covered with a wrinkled black plastic lamination. It measures 16 inches wide by 6 inches deep by 7 ³/₄ inches tall when closed. When the single front latch is released, the top flips back and the front flops down revealing insides much like a fishing tackle box. This kit does include the mineral samples of the Braun #39760 ad.

The three trays in the front of the set hold their contents in removable flaps. One of the flaps is devoted strictly to the mineral samples, one to mineral samples and glassware, and one to chemicals.

The main body of the kit includes a small removable tray with chemicals and glassware. The remaining spaces in the kit lack their original contents, but fortunately it still displays well.

Since the set is so compact and portable, it seems reasonable that miners and prospectors might have been likely to find a kit like this useful in the field. I have not seen other examples of this kit (either version) in collections, but expect that more of these are out there to be found.



A photograph of a mineral test kit distributed by the Braun Corporation in the opened position showing three removable trays. (Author's collection)



Shown to the left is a photograph of a mineral test kit distributed by the Braun Corporation in the closed position.

Shown below is a 1940 advertisement for two types of mineral test kit sold by the Braun Corporation. The mineral test kit in the author's collection and shown in this article is #39760 in the advertisement.

BRAUN CORPORATION **LOS ANGELES, CALIF.**

Mixers



39750-39760

39750 MINERAL TEST SET, Braun—A compact portable set containing the essential equipment and reagents. Forty-seven articles are included; packed in a neat carrying case, with lock and key. The liquid chemicals are in glass stoppered bottles with labels and in separate wooden boxes. Dry chemicals are in screw cap vials, each properly labeled. All other pieces, tools, etc., are in partitioned trays, packed to prevent breakage. Case measures about 16 inches long, 8 inches high and 6 inches wide. Weight about 12 pounds.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anvil, polished steel 2. Plattner's Blowpipe 3. Porcelain Mortar and Pestle 4. Alcohol Lamp 5. Beaker 6. Charcoal Block 7. Evaporating Dish 8. Porcelain Crucibles 9. Forceps, 5-inch 10. Forceps, Nichrome Tips 11. Hammer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Horseshoe Magnet 13. Pipette 14. Platinum Wire Holder 15. 3 Pieces Platinum Wire 16. Scissors 17. Horn Spoon 18. Test Lead Measure 19. 3 Open Glass Tubes 20. 3 Closed Glass Tubes 21. Magnifier, 1-inch 22. Blue Litmus Paper
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Red Litmus Paper 24. Turmeric Paper 25. Brazil Wood Paper 26. Borax Glass 27. Borax Powder 28. Bone Ash 29. Antimony Oxide 30. Arsenous Acid 31. Salt Phosphorous 32. Soda Carbonate 33. Soda Nitrate 34. Alcohol 35. Ammonia Hydroxide 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Hydrochloric Acid 37. Copper Oxide 38. Iron Oxide 39. Lead Oxide 40. Manganese Oxide 41. Mercury Oxide 42. Potash Bisulphate 43. Test Lead 44. Tin Oxide 45. Cobalt Nitrate Sol. 46. Nitric Acid 47. Sulphuric Acid
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Each **35.00**

39760 MINERAL TEST SET, Braun—This is the No. 39750 set listed above, with the addition of fifty mineral samples for comparison, in screw-cap vials, neatly labeled:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graphite 2. Sulphur 3. Stibnite 4. Chalcopyrite 5. Galenite 6. Rutile 7. Pyrrhotite 8. Pyrite 9. Hematite 10. Magnetite 11. Chromite 12. Limonite 13. Siderite 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Pyrolusite 15. Rhodonite 16. Sphalerite 17. Willemite 18. Corundum 19. Cryolite 20. Fluorite 21. Calcite 22. Apatite 23. Gypsum 24. Dolomite 25. Barite 26. Magnesite 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Celestite 28. Strontianite 29. Halite 30. Quartz 31. Orthoclase 32. Witherite 33. Albite 34. Spodumene 35. Hornblende 36. Wollastonite 37. Beryl 38. Garnet 39. Mica
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40. Lepidolite 41. Chrysolite 42. Scapolite 43. Tourmaline 44. Cyanite 45. Pyrophyllite 46. Taic 47. Datolite 48. Prehnite 49. Pectolite 50. Stilbite

Each **40.00**