

The California Crimper

by Mark Bohannon

The California cap crimper sold by the California Cap Company of San Francisco, is one of the most sought after cap crimpers, especially for collectors in the western states.

Although the California Cap Company was probably the largest manufacturer of blasting caps in the west, the cap crimper sold by them is one of the hardest to find.

The main reason is that the California Cap Company sold most of their caps to powder company distributors and direct sales to mines or miners was very limited. These distributors usually offered cap crimpers with their own powder company name on them, and not those sold by the California Cap Company. Therefore, the California crimpers had to be ordered directly from the California Cap Company.

At this time, there are only four California crimpers known to the author and all four, as seen below, are different. Left to right, from the collections of Don & Dave White, Ted Bobrink, John Johnson, and Don & Dave White.

