

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 87

JUNE

2014

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society – Founded by Les Adams, August 1992



BLADON B-53 BLOWLAMP

(Photo Chris Naylor)

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APPRECIATION OF PAUL WHIDDETT

From Keith Hawkins.

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the sudden death of Paul Whiddett who collapsed and died of a brain hemorrhage on the 8th of May.

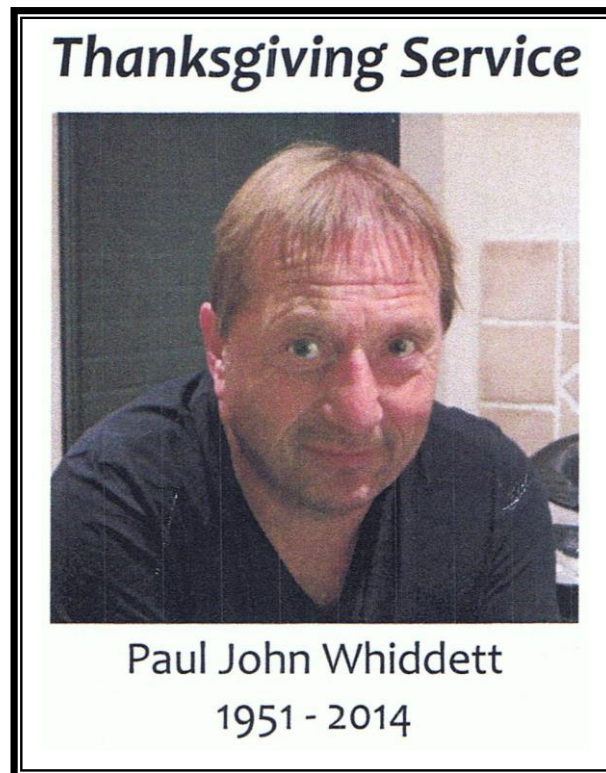
He left four children, two boys and two girls; Paul's wife had died some years ago.

He was a keen collector & had a big collection of rare lamps; he also bought and sold lamps, keeping only the best.

He worked mostly from home repairing and servicing cars.

For many years he and I used to travel together to the French and Belgian meetings and he will be sorely missed by his many friends at home and abroad.

(Keith attended the Thanksgiving Service at New Life Church, Biggin Hill, on April 23rd.)



From Dr. Charles Smith:

I'm so very sorry. Paul and I have known each other for many years, but like many European collectors, we never met personally. Still, he is regarded as one of my best friends. I'm sorry I wasn't able to say "Goodbye" and that I cared about him. He knows however.

Thanks for giving me this very sad news. We have lost a kind gentleman and enthusiastic collector.

BLADON BLOWLAMPS PART ONE

T. E. BLADON & SON LTD.**99-105 NORTHWOOD STREET, BIRMINGHAM 3**

Telephone: CENTral 4634

Telegrams : "Bladon," Birmingham

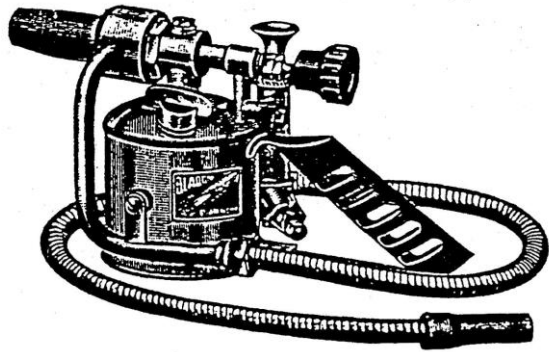


This is the first of two articles about the blowlamp products of T.E. Bladon & Son of Birmingham. In the following pages are illustrated the numbered lamps made by Bladon, together with short descriptions. Most of this material is taken from a large flyer published by Bladon.

Prior to the mid-1930s, Bladon sold a line of blowlamps under the brand name "Diamond", usually marked with a distinctive diamond-shaped logo. It was only later that lamps were marked with model numbers. "Diamond" brand lamps, generally speaking, carried no model number, but many are recognizable by size, function and shape as corresponding to specific catalog models.

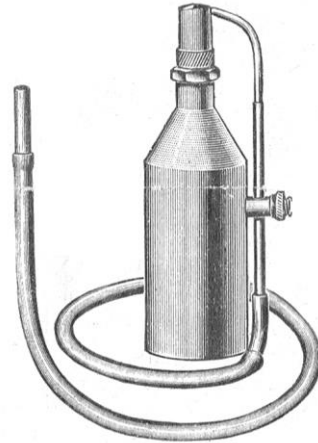
In the next issue of *Blowlamp News* the second part of this article will discuss the history of the T.E. Bladon company, early Bladon blowlamps, variations in lamp design and appearance and special models. The second part will be illustrated with more photographs of Bladon lamps owned by members. Anyone with Bladon lamps considered to be especially rare or unusual is encouraged to submit photos for inclusion.

Model Number	Notes	Model Number	Notes
B40	Refrigerant detector	B60	
B43		B60h	
B46		B61	
B47	Meth spirit (mouth)	B62	
B48		B63	
B48 2/3 pint		B64	
B49	Meth spirit	B65	
B50		B66	
B51		B68	
B53		B69	Furnace
B54		B70	Furnace
B55	Like B54, larger burner	B72	
B56		B75	Tubular SHSI
B57		B81	
B57 2/3 pint		B81 Ext.	
B58	Like B53, 2 pint	Bladinol	Similar to Britinol
B59		Bitumen heater	



DETECTOR LAMPS for Refrigerator Plants

B 40 - Methylated spirit Refrigerant Detector.



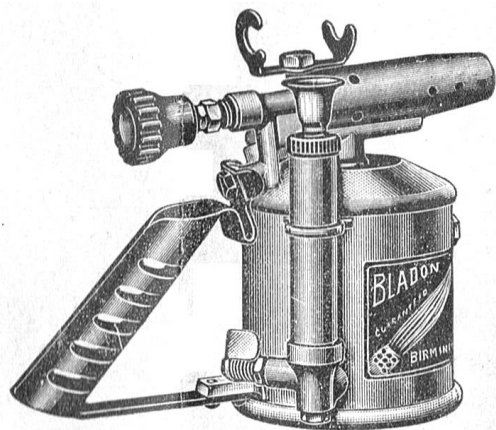
B 47 - Methylated Spirit (Mouth).

B 47—Methylated Spirit Mouth Blow Lamp. Strong make, brazed joints, plated finish. Best quality rubber tube and ebonite mouthpiece.



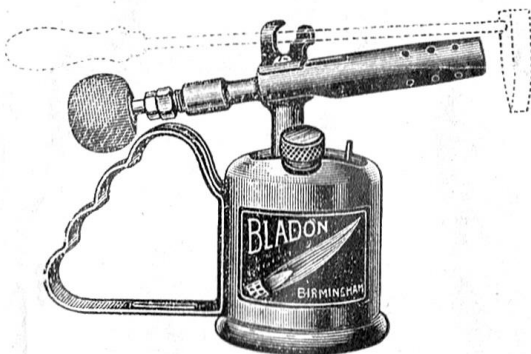
B 43 - Petrol. Capacity— $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

B 43— $\frac{1}{2}$ pint capacity. This lamp is efficient, safe and inexpensive. Ideal for the small job, suitable for the amateur home mechanic. 4in. flame, self-cleaning nipple and fitted with a bracket to carry small soldering iron.



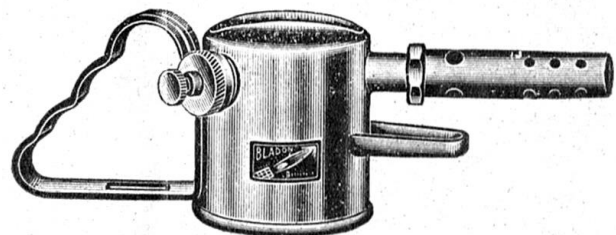
B 48 - Petrol. Capacity - 1 pint.

B 48—1 pint capacity. Fitted with improved vaporiser, same design as B64 and B68. Used by Corporation and Cable Layers. Squat construction enables jointing, etc., to be carried out in any position. Will burn outside and in unsheltered places, very useful for plumbers. Insulated handle, patent non-return pump and self-cleaning nipple device. Complete set of spares provided. When space and weight are important, this lamp can be obtained in $\frac{3}{4}$ pint capacity. Efficiency and description the same as B48. 1 pint. Specify size when ordering.



B 46 - Petrol. Capacity— $\frac{1}{4}$ pint.

B 46—New design, $\frac{1}{4}$ pint capacity, used by wireless and electrical workers. Gives a small pointed flame, 3in. long. Is fitted with bracket to carry soldering iron. Self-cleaning nipple device.



B 49 - Methylated Spirit.
Capacity - $\frac{1}{4}$ pint.

B 49— $\frac{1}{4}$ pint capacity. Small Methylated Spirit Lamp. Powerful pointed flame. Taken by H.M. Admiralty for special electrical work. Very useful for Bankers and Solicitors when sealing is required. Safe, clean, and easy to start, complete with all spares.



B 50 — Paraffin. Capacity — 1 pint.

B 50 — 1 pint capacity. This lamp is identical to B53 but without safety device in filler cap.

Models B53, B58, and B50 can also be supplied with flame tubes vertical or horizontal, prices the same.



B 54 — Paraffin. Capacity — $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

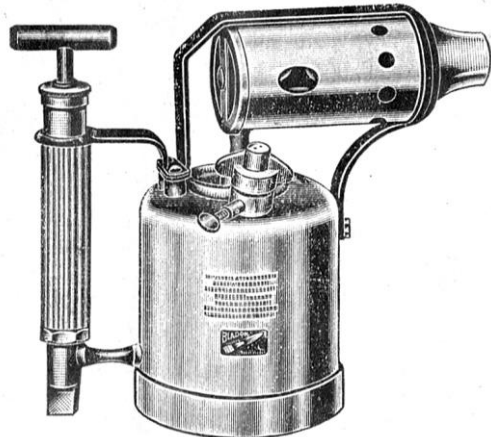
B 54 — $\frac{1}{2}$ pint capacity Paraffin Lamp. Giving a bunsen flame 3 in. \times $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Ideal for the small job or home mechanic.

B 55 — No catalogue illustration found. The B55 lamp appears to resemble the $\frac{1}{2}$ pint B54 tank and handle, with a larger burner, pump and filler similar to those on a B53 lamp.



B 51 — Paraffin. Capacity — $\frac{3}{8}$ pint.

B 51 — $\frac{3}{8}$ pint capacity Paraffin Lamp, but flame not so powerful as the B53 and B50. Designed and manufactured for the small job.



B 56 — Paraffin. Capacity — 2 pints.

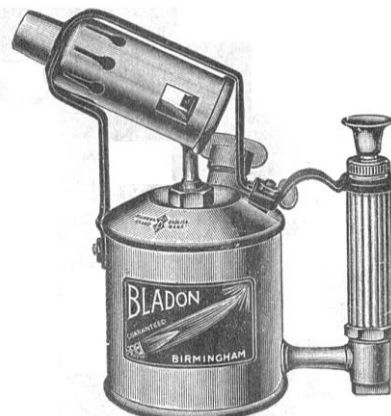
B 56 — 2 pint capacity. Strong make, very powerful flame, pressure pump in handle and improved tubular vaporiser. Useful for heavy work. Spare nipple, nipple key, necessary washers and cleaning needles supplied with each lamp.



B 53 — Paraffin. Capacity — 1 pint.

B 53 — 1 pint capacity. Automatic safety device in filler cap. Fitted with tubular vaporiser. Strong and efficient.

B 58 — as B53 but 2 pint capacity.



B 57 — Paraffin. Capacity — 1 pint.

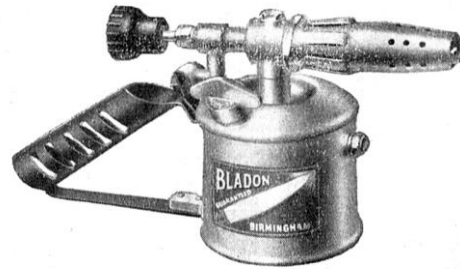
B 57 — 1 pint capacity, strong make. Brazed bottom, pressure pump in handle and improved tubular vaporiser. Used by Cable Jointers and Electricity Departments. Spare nipple, nipple key, necessary washers and cleaning needles supplied with each Lamp. When space and weight are important, this Lamp can be obtained in $\frac{2}{3}$ pint capacity. Flame not quite so powerful. Specify size when ordering.



Self-cleaning nipple. Automatic safety valve. Hurricane nozzle.
Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

No. B59 9/9 each

B 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint capacity Petrol

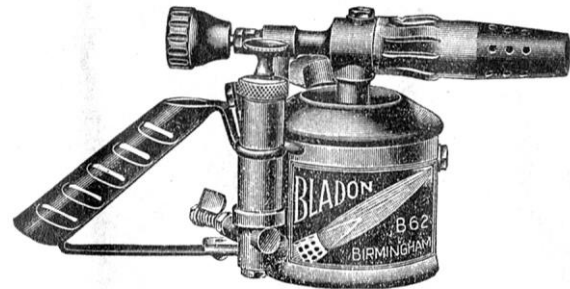


B 61 — Petrol. Capacity — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint.

B 61 — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint capacity. This model embodies all the best features of foreign made lamps and in addition it is stronger, safer and more efficient. An ideal tool for inside work. Suitable for Painters, Electricians and Mechanics. Fitted with hurricane nozzle, self-cleaning nipple device, insulated handle and automatic safety valve. Copied but not equalled.

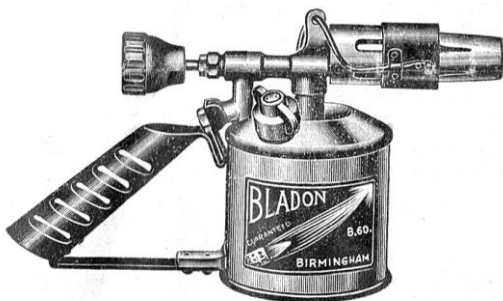


B 60 — Petrol. Capacity — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint.



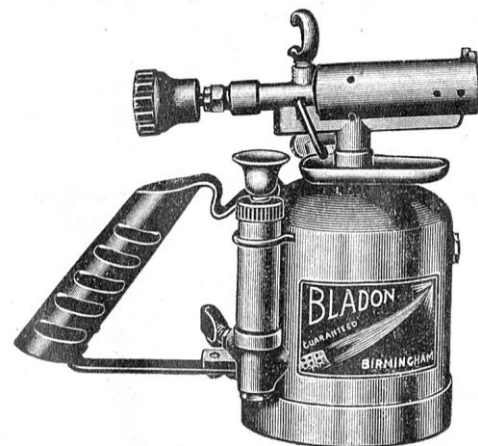
B 62 — Petrol. Capacity — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint.

B 62 — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint capacity. Very efficient lamp for Decorators and Painters. Flame not so fierce as B48. Fitted with automatic safety valve, patent non-return self-locking pump, insulated handle, and self-cleaning device. Complete set of spares provided.



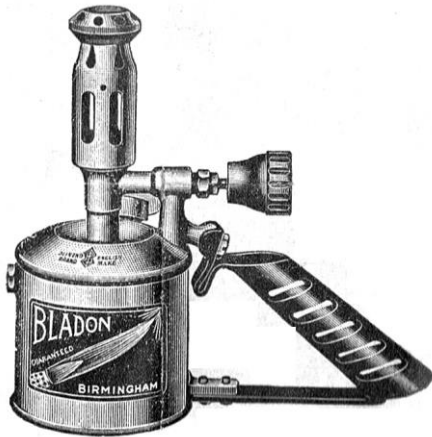
B 60 — Horizontal.

B 60 — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint capacity. This lamp is strong and easy to hold. Although old design, many improvements are incorporated. A favourite of all Painters for burning-off. Can be obtained with flame tube either inclined or horizontal. Fitted with insulated handle, safety device incorporated in filler cap and adjustable air regulator. Nipple is not self-cleaning, but three cleaning needles are supplied for this purpose.



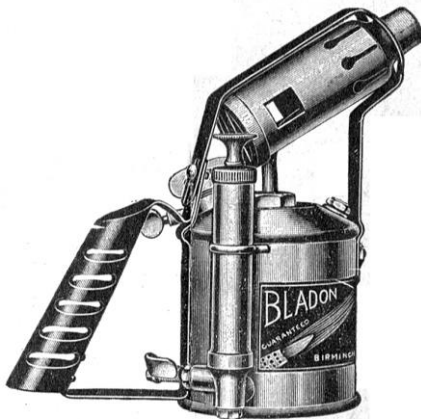
B 64 — Petrol. Capacity — 2 pints.

B 64 — 2 pint capacity. Of new design. Will burn outside when conditions are unfavourable. Very powerful flame, recommended by Electricians and Plumbers for heavy work. Fitted with automatic safety valve, patent non-return self-locking pump, insulated handle and self-cleaning nipple device. Made from heavy gauge metal, all joints brazed and steel wearing rim around base. Unrivalled for outside work in exposed positions. Complete set of spares provided.



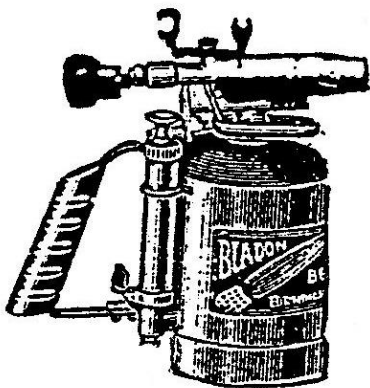
B 65 — Petrol. Capacity — $\frac{2}{3}$ pint.

B 65— $\frac{2}{3}$ pint capacity. A Petrol Blow Lamp with specially constructed nozzle. Very useful for laboratory use, dentists, mechanics, etc. Gives a perfect bunsen flame, fitted with automatic safety device and complete with necessary spares and instructions for use.



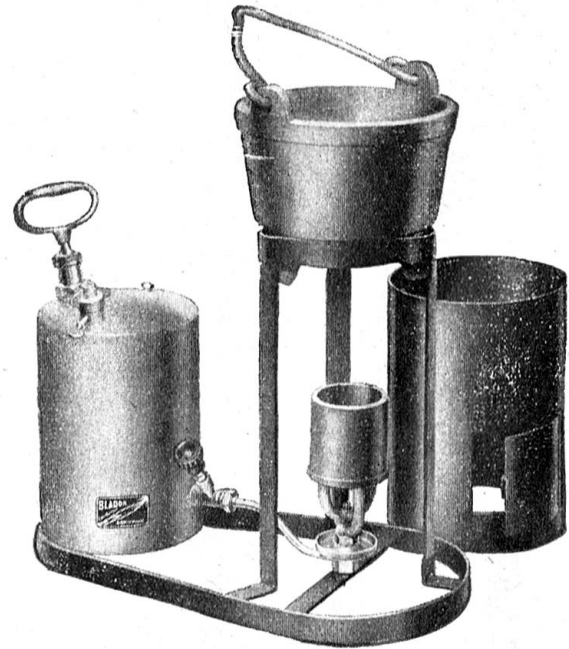
B 66 — Paraffin. Capacity — 1 pint.

B 66—1 pint capacity. Automatic safety valve in filler cap, patent non-return pressure pump which is self-locking. Recommended for use in workshops and meets the requirements of the Home Office. Spare nipple, nipple key, necessary washers and cleaning needles supplied with each lamp.



No. B.68.

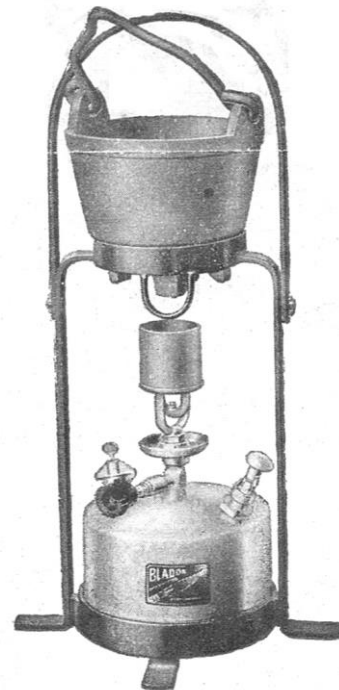
B 68 - 1 pint capacity. Automatic safety valve, non-return self-locking pump, self cleaning device, soldering iron bracket, steel rim around base and complete set of spares.



B 69 — Paraffin Capacity — 8 pints.

B 69 — Plumber's furnace, 1 gallon capacity pressure tank, 3 inch burner, cast iron lead pot. Welded steel frame 1 in. \times $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Overall dimensions 21 \times 19 \times 10 ins. Useful for heating bituminous materials, annealing pipes, etc. When used outside, detachable wind guard, as illustrated, is recommended.

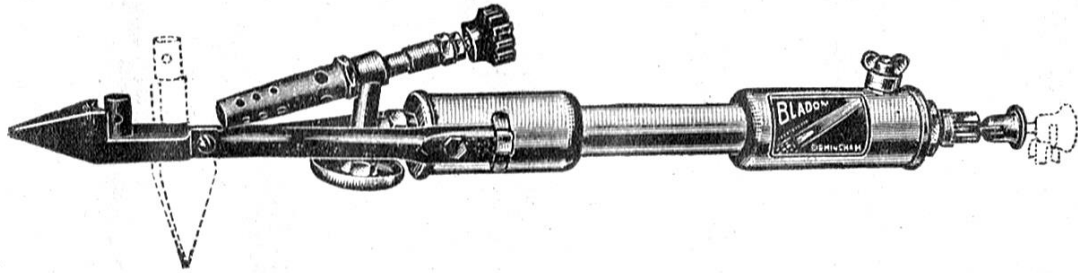
For extra heavy work a 4 in. burner can be fitted.



B 70

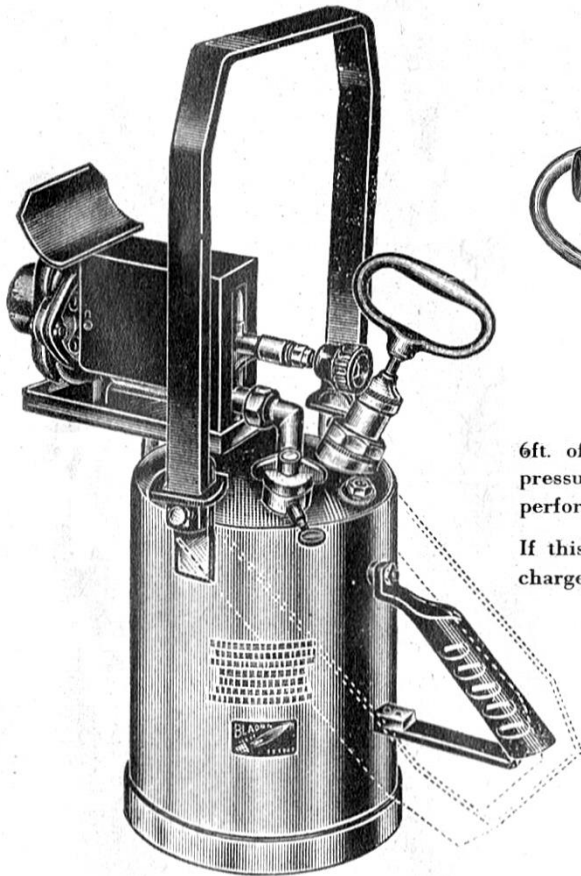
Paraffin.
Capacity — 2 pints.

B 70—Plumber's small furnace, 1 quart capacity, 2 in. burner, overall size 20 ins. weight 20 lbs.



B 75 — Combined Blow Lamp & Soldering Iron.

B 75 — New design combined Blow Lamp and Soldering Iron. Well balanced, easy to hold. Self-cleaning nipple device, soldering iron detachable, fitted with patent pump.

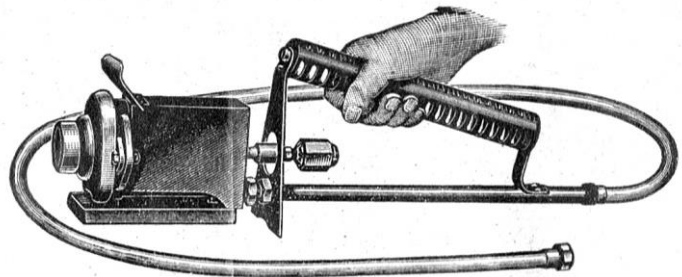


B 81 — Paraffin. Capacity — 8 pints.

B 81 — A paraffin Brazing Lamp that we designed for H.M. Government. It is not — as all other makes — top heavy. Can be used with or without extension tube.

Fitted with control valve, self-cleaning nipple device and automatic safety valve.

Capacity is 8 pints, heat temperature 2,370° F. Construction of lamp is very strong.

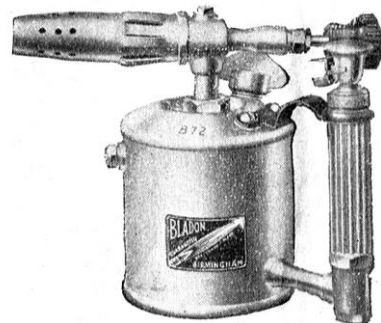


B 81 — Extension.

EXTENSION

6ft. of special hose, designed to stand up to paraffin under pressure, enables operator to work in restricted positions. All steel perforated handle.

If this lamp is required with a pressure gauge there is an extra charge.



B 72 — Petrol. Capacity — $\frac{2}{3}$ & 1 pint.

B 72 — A new production, pump in handle combined with patent locking device, at an angle, made in two sizes, $\frac{2}{3}$ pint and 1 pint. Hurricane nozzle, self-cleaning nipple device and automatic safety valve, each lamp provided with a complete set of spares for maintenance.

MOX SELF HEATING SOLDERING IRONS **By Michel Duval**

You all know these strange soldering irons with an enormous copper tip fastened to a wooden handle. This copper tip is hollow and receives a capsule (cap) which has to be set on fire.

I have four different soldering irons of this type :

- MOX, the most common one. There is a small plate with :
L'OXHYDRIQUE FRANCAISE PARIS FER A SOUDER MOX N°3063
It weighs about 2 pounds and measures 11 inches long.
- ALOX, about the same as the MOX, but the brand-name is different.
- MERX SEVENOAKS, about 1 ½ pound and 10 ½ inches.
SEVENOAKS MERX LTD is stamped on the copper tip. Maybe this tool came from U.K. ?
- SILEX, the smaller, about 1 pound and 9 ½ inches.
SILEX SOLDER HEAT TOOL is stamped on the copper tip. Like the SEVENOAKS one, I don't know the country of origin.



Do you have any information about these SEVENOAKS and SILEX soldering irons ?
These four tools are not really « flame tools », but they are unusual and nice, what is your opinion ?



You place a MOX capsule inside the copper tip then you close the cover. You have to push a match into the central hole of the lid, the sulphur end inside. This match pierces the capsule. Then you have to ignite the wood of the match with a lighter or an other match (see photos). When the flame reaches the sulphur of the match, it sets fire to the capsule combustible (it's called an aluminothermic reaction).

The temperature will reach 3000°C and will heat the copper tip in less than one minute. The copper tip will keep hot for 6 to 7 minutes.

These MOX capsules were used for pre-heating stationary engines, lead melting, saw blades soldering, vulcanization, pipe bending... but also in the flat irons, stoves and, of course, soldering irons.

The manufacturers cited several advantages:

- standalone,
- no liquid (petrol, paraffin, alcohol),
- no explosion risk,
- no danger in case of contact with a fire,
- no problem with the wind...
-

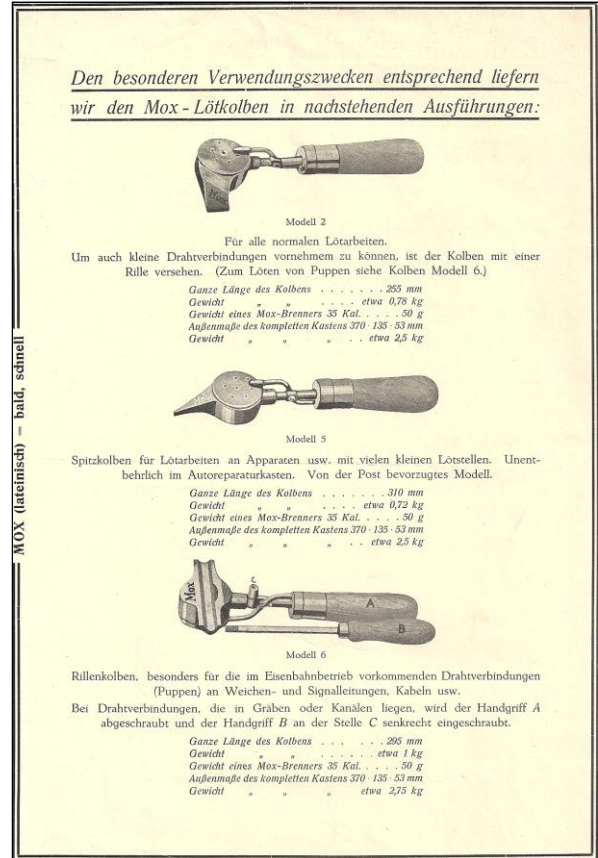
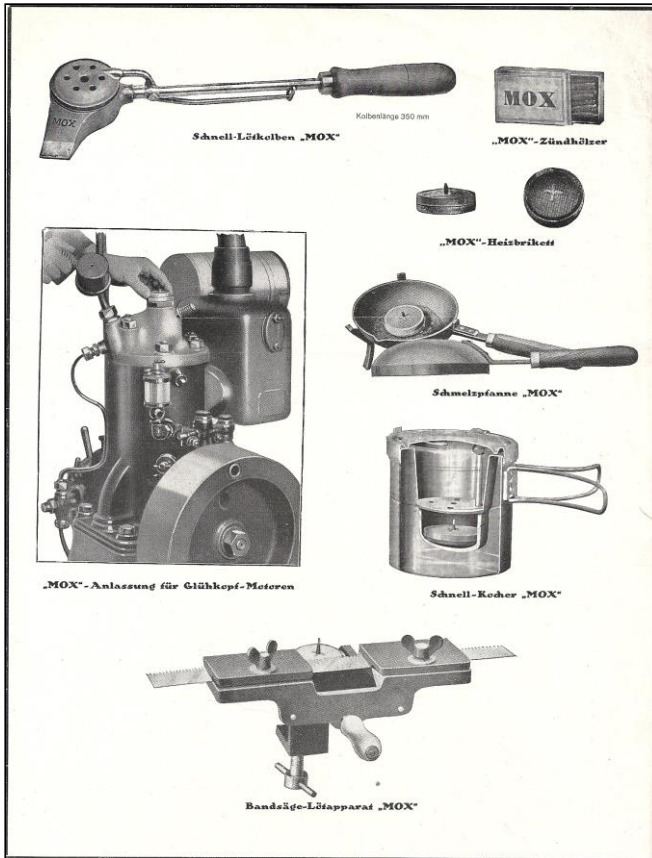
But, in my opinion, there were maybe some inconveniences, otherwise these tools would have supplanted our usual SHSI... They were used in the 1950s ;at this time, gas soldering irons (LPG) came into use and all other ones were forgotten.



These two illustrations, from a German catalogue, show some of the applications of MOX capsules and related products.

The page at left shows, from top left clockwise, the well-known MOX soldering iron, MOX matches, the MOX capsule, melting pan, quick-cooker, band-saw brazing, glowplug heater for an engine.

The right-hand page shows three versions of the soldering iron: No.2 a copper tip for seam soldering: No. 5 a pointed tip for fine work: No.6 a tip for soldering electric cables.



From Ray Gubb

By coincidence, Blowlamp Society member Ray Gubb of Cullompton, Devon, sent in photographs of his MERX Sevenoaks soldering iron.



Ray also submitted two queries with photos. Can anyone help with identification?

This blowlamp has steel reservoir/tank which has welded seams. It also has a rivet at the base which could be attached to something inside. Additionally, it has a combined filler safety valve. Sourced from Malta.



[Chris Naylor comments – “The steel tanked blowlamp, is by the **Kitson-Empire Lighting Co Ltd (Kelite)**, and in fact I had one just the same. Don’t know if mine had the rivet in the underside of the tank (I think it might have done). Mine had what I believe is the correct filler cap, as similar caps appear in a Kelite leaflet. Ray’s filler cap looks to be non-standard, and as is suggested, a combined filler / safety valve.]

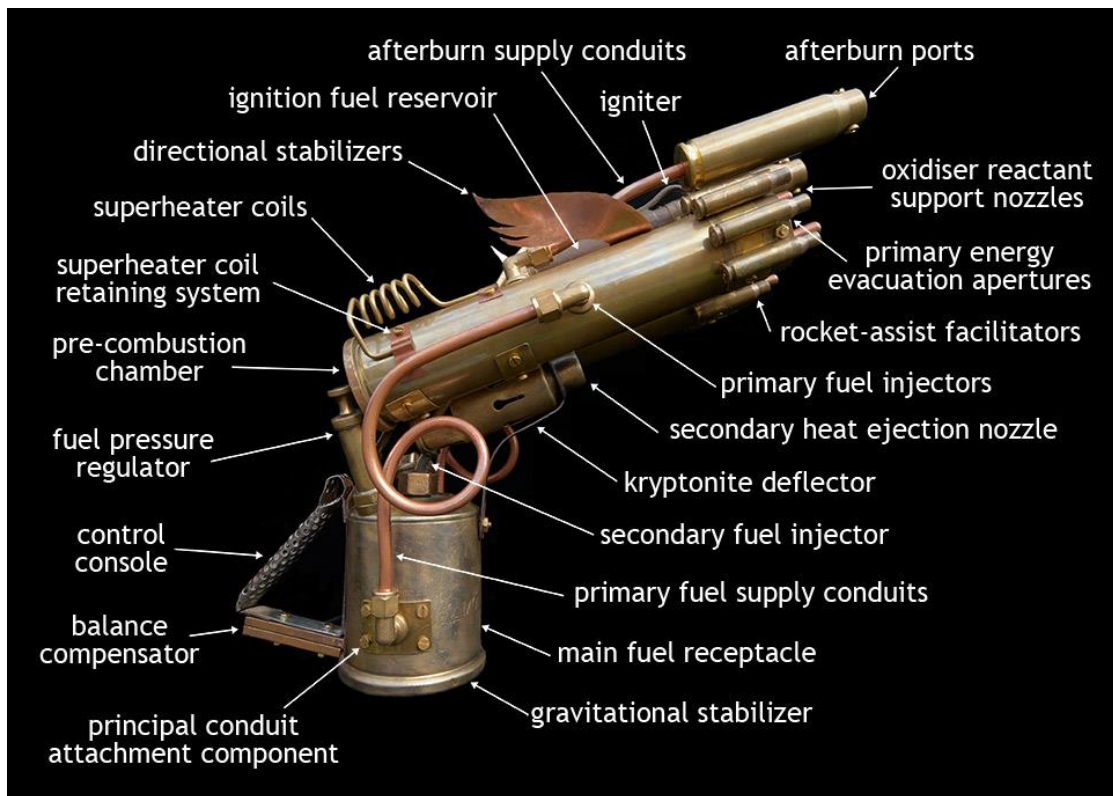
The second item looks like a Primus build but superficially like part of an old Tilly lamp. Any ideas?



BLOWLAMP SCULPTURE



“SUPERHERO’S BLOWTORCH”



“OPERATIONS MANUAL”

The creator of this incredible artwork, **Nigel Williams**, generates sculpture from sheet metal, (copper, steel, brass, aluminium) and other materials, mostly recycled from their previous diverse applications. He writes of this sculpture: "I've admired the classic 'Monitor' blowlamp forever, but always thought it could do with a bit of embellishment..... ;-)

"We've all seen the amazing exploits of the superheroes, in the comics and in the movies: rescuing people, fighting evil, saving the planet, etc, etc - but what's it like for these folks at home? We've seen the Batcave and Wayne Manor, but what about the less wealthy superheroes? How do they cope with a leaky radiator or a broken bicycle frame?

Well, this piece offers one answer to some of these little annoyances: it takes a superhero to lift it, but once fired up, it could probably fix all the radiators in the house at once, and mend every broken bike-frame in the entire street all at the same time!"



This sculpture is provided with a custom-built crate, complete with copper detailing.

Materials: brass, copper, shell cases, "Monitor" No.26 paraffin blowlamp

Dimensions: 16" x 14" x 7" (40cm x 36cm x 18cm) Weight: 18lb (8kg)"

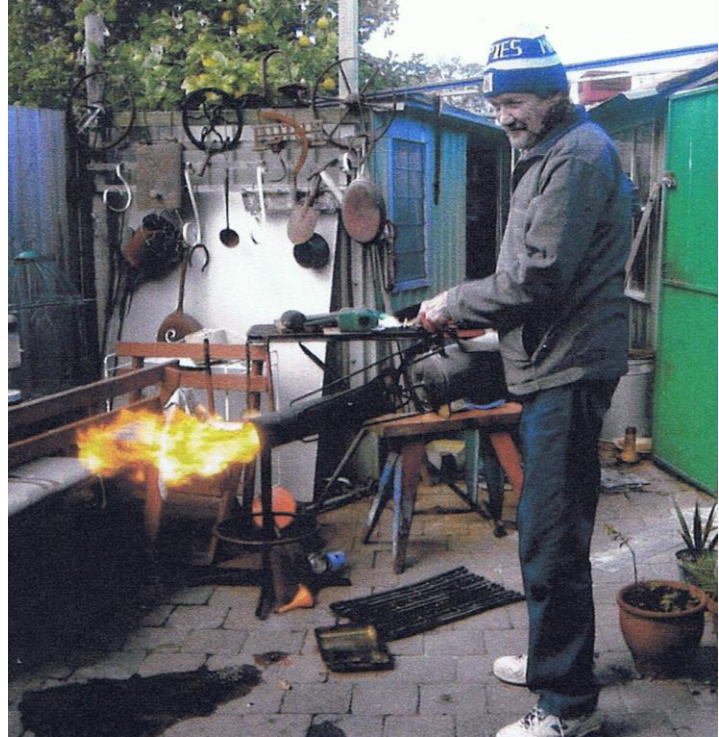
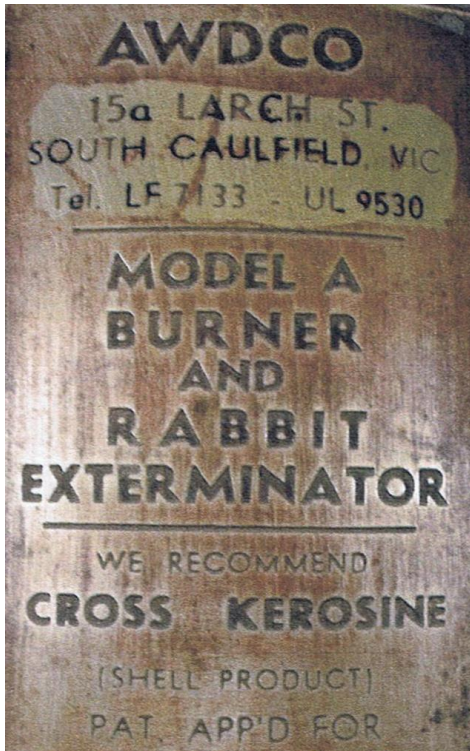
Nigel's work can be seen at his website <http://www.orlogikbooks.com/060-000sculpture.shtml>

He can be contacted at NigelWilliams@orlogikstudio.com telephone 01488 608669

(Thank you to Ray Everett and Max Rhodes for bringing the sculptures to your editor's attention)

AUSTRALIAN RABBIT EXTERMINATOR

Bert Wolde of Keysborough, Victoria, Australia sent in these pictures of his AWDCO "Model A" Burner & Rabbit Exterminator.



In November 1951, The ADVOCATE newspaper, published in the Australian Island State of Tasmania, carried the following account of the AWDCO product in a discussion of the Devonport agricultural Show:

One section of the display was devoted to the **Awdco** burner and **rabbit** exterminator. This was something new to those attending the show. and retained the interest of farmers generally throughout the day. **Awdco** guarantees that any **rabbit** warren which can be sealed up, can be successfully treated. It is easily portable, being carried by shoulder strap, and can be used anywhere. It requires only one man for the job, weighs only 30 lbs. fully loaded, is precision built of high grade materials and will run 11 hours on one filling at high Pressure burning, on power kerosene. Only one drop per second of **exterminator** mixture is required. Extermination with the **Awdco** is most hygienic, as the **rabbits** are gassed underground, which means there are no carcasses to gather and dispose of, risk of diseases, or pollution of water storages.

From this description it would appear that drops of a special "exterminator mixture" were added to the kerosene fuel.

2014 STEAM FAIRS

Come and say "Hello" to Blowlamp Society member Max Rhodes at one of the Steam Fairs this summer.

Max will be attending steam fairs in the following list. Look for the two Saint George flags flying above his trade stand selling hardware and camping gear.

Location	Dates
Ashby Magna	14 th – 15 th June
1000 Engine	21 st – 22 nd June
Sheffield Steam	28 th – 29 th June
Elvaston	5 th – 6 th July
Rempstone	12 th – 13 th July
Weeting	19 th – 20 th July
Welland	26 th – 27 th July
Cromford	2 nd – 3 rd Aug.
Driffield	9 th – 10 th Aug.
Lincoln	16 th – 17 th Aug.
Onslow Park	23 rd – 24 th Aug.
Boston Steam	30 th – 31 st Aug.
Shackerstone	6 th – 7 th Sept.
Bedford	13 th – 14 th Sept.
Kettering	20 th – 21 st Sept.



Max Rhodes at St Albans May 2014

REMINDER – NEXT BLOWLAMP SOCIETY MEETING SATURDAY OCTOBER 25TH, 2014

The hall at Toddington, Beds. has been booked again for the next meeting of the Blowlamp Society. Mark your calendar and contact Keith Hawkins (see contact information below) for details and to let him know that you'll be there; your pre-payment of ten pounds towards the catering cost will be appreciated.

(I plan to travel from San Diego to attend; it can't be too far for anyone else!)

INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Bladon Blowlamps -Part Two

Sievert History

More Blowlamp Sculpture

Australian Blowlamp Patents

Your contributions of stories from steam fairs, unusual lamps, and photos of collections.

BLOWLAMP NEWS is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion should be with the editors at least four weeks before the issue date.

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The editors' thanks go to Michel Duval, Ray Everett, Ray Gubb, Keith Hawkins, Chris Naylor, Max Rhodes, Nigel Williams and Bert Wolde for contributions to this issue of BLOWLAMP NEWS.