

2016 PDF edition

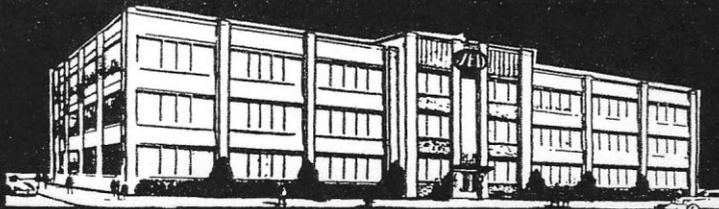
Old Familiar Strains

a newsletter for collectors of radio strain insulators and related items

Volume 7 No. 2

April 2000

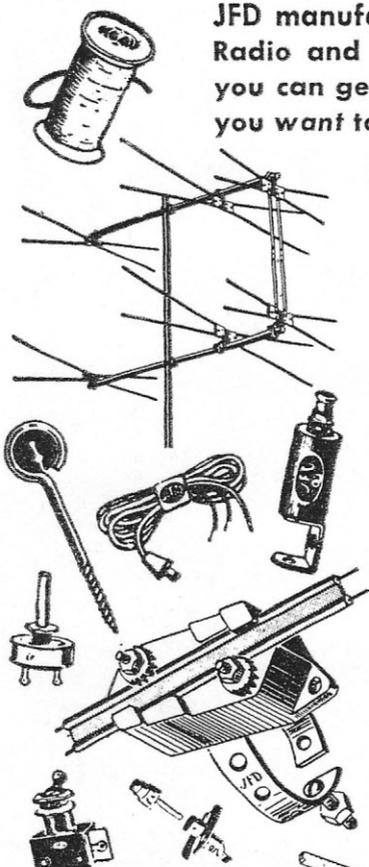
JFD



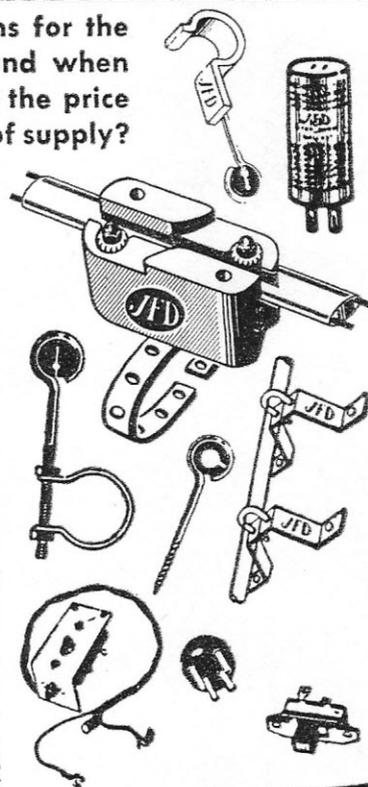
Pioneers In The Radio Parts and Antennae Industries Since 1929

Your **SINGLE** Source of Supply For Radio and Television Parts and Accessories...

JFD manufactures the world's largest selection of items for the Radio and Television servicing trade. Why shop around when you can get what you want, when you want it, and at the price you want to pay, from ONE single, dependable source of supply?



LIGHTNING ARRESTERS • DETENTS • SNAP-ON STAND-OFFS • TOGGLE SWITCHES • ANTENNA LOOPS • AUTO ANTENNAS • BATTERY PLUGS • NOISE FILTERS • DIAL POINTERS • SUPPRESSORS • RADIO WIRE • DIAL BELTS • TEST LEADS • DIAL CORD • "SOCKETTE" RADIO TUBE ADAPTERS • EXACT DUPLICATE BALLAST TUBES • SERVICEMEN'S ALIGNMENT TOOLS • TELEVISION & F-M ACCESSORIES • FLEXIBLE SHAFTING & CASING • BATTERY ADAPTER HARNESSES • STEPDOWN RESISTANCE CORDS • RESISTANCE CORD ADAPTERS • SPEAKER CEMENT & SOLVENT • TELEVISION & F-M BRACKETS • TELEVISION & F-M ANTENNAS • REMOTE-O-CABLE REPLACER • PHONO ADAPTER SWITCHES • MICROPHONE CONNECTORS • TELEVISION & F-M LEADS • STEPDOWN TRANSFORMERS • WIRE WINDING MACHINES • TELEVISION & F-M WIRE • AUTO RADIO FITTINGS • BAKELITE DIAL KNOBS • PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES • RADIO TUBE SOCKETS • NEUTRALIZING TOOLS • STEPDOWN BALLASTS • RESISTANCE CORDS



Write Today for Complete JFD Radio and Television Catalogs.

JFD

MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.

6119 16th AVENUE, BROOKLYN 4, N. Y.

FIRST IN TELEVISION ANTENNAS AND ACCESSORIES

"The 'Exclusiveness' Of JFD Is The Quality Of Its Products"

Editorial

I have received some great letters in the last couple of weeks and I really appreciate it. Most of the readers returned for 2000. This is the second extended-length issue in a row. Several readers upped their donations, helping to make possible these extra pages. Thanks again!

The spring show season is well-underway and there are several show reports in this issue. I'm looking forward to the NIA Western Regional show next month. I understand that notables from throughout the region and the county will be attending. If you can't make it, be sure to check out the shows near you. *Insulators.com* and *Crown Jewels* (see *Insulator Resources* later in this issue) both publish show calendars. Check them out.

The twin features on JFD Manufacturing Company and Marks Products profile two often seen brand names. These articles also allow me to bring in some related information on antenna lead-ins used for television. TV lightning arresters have been showing up on eBay pretty regularly. It seemed a good time to show a few and to give collectors an idea of what "mint" units look like.

I am still working on a feature on the MacBeth-Evans Glass Company. MacBeth-Evans became part of Corning in the 1930's. The loss of Dick Roller, see below, was a real set-back for me. If anyone can share information about the history of MacBeth-Evans I would appreciate it. Hopefully, the MacBeth-Evans feature, and a special update on Corning, will be presented in the June issue.

The Passing of a Collector

I am sorry to report the passing of one of the hobby's real scholars, Dick Roller of Paris, IL. Although I only recently learned of his demise, Mr. Roller passed away on June 11, 1998.

I first corresponded with Mr. Roller after his book on Indiana Glass Factories was reviewed in the October, 1995, issue of *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. In addition to his book, he edited a monthly newsletter for fruit jar collectors.

I am indebted to Mr. Roller for sharing some wonderfully in-depth information on Brilliant Glass Company and D.C. Jenkins Glass Company for articles that appeared in *Old Familiar Strains*.

Although his extensive files on U.S. glass manufacturers were donated to Ball State University for preservation, Mr. Roller's expertise and his willingness to freely share information will be sorely missed.

JFD Manufacturing Company

by Dan Howard

I've been wanting to write about JFD brand lighting arresters for a couple years. A recent letter from **Jimmy Burns** prompted me to finally put the pen to paper.

Jimmy wrote *"I have several lightning arresters (all pale green) that are marked 'television arresters.' These are larger than the usual radio arresters. What's the history here and how were they used?"*

Jimmy, you are exactly right. They were used to protect homes with television antennas from lightning damage. Television arresters are often larger than lightning arresters for radio antennas because they had to accommodate widely-spaced twin lead-in wires.

Television did not become widely available in the U.S. until after World War II. In those days, a good outdoor antenna was a must. The first television signals here in Portland were received from Seattle stations about two hundred miles a way.

Since that time, the construction of local stations, improvements in TV sets, the development of efficient indoor antennas, the availability of cable TV, and satellite dishes have all reduced the demand for new outdoor antennas. Thus, although TV arresters are still available today, the bulk of arresters date from the 1950 to 1970 period.

For some reason, green must have been a popular glaze color for TV arresters (perhaps it was a "50's thing" like pink and blue pastel cars). Several brands were made in green. And, as you've found out, these are not particularly rare.

**The Largest Selling
LIGHTNING ARRESTER
At Any Price!**

NO. AT102



JUMBO

Protects Home and TV Set Against Lightning Hazards **\$2.25 LIST**

U.S. Patent No. D-4664

- Installs anywhere
- No wire stripping, cutting or splicing

(Complete with strap and ground wire.)

OVER 1,000,000 IN USE TODAY!

See Your Jobber or Write for Form No. 84

JFD MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.
6101 16th AVENUE, BROOKLYN 4, N. Y.
FIRST in Television Antennas and Accessories

JFD Manufacturing Company

One of the many companies that sold television-type lightning arresters was JFD.

Even if you've not seen JFD arresters, you probably already know the name. Among the company's many products, dial belts and ballast tubes immediately come to my mind. Radio collectors are probably familiar with the file

boxes of small manila envelopes full of JFD replacement dial belts (and of course, no matter how many you have, you never have the one that you need).

Dates differ between sources¹, but an announcement in Radio & TV news identifies the JFD's "official" founding date as February 18, 1930 (1). Accordingly, the company planned a special "25th anniversary campaign." Products produced in 1955 were purported to be marked with a commemorative symbol. I would like to hear if any of these has survived.

Records from the 1940's and 1950's list Julius Finkel as the company present. JFD was definitely a family business at the time. At least seven of Julius's sons were officers in the company in the mid-1950's not counting other family. I've never figured out what "JFD" actually stands for, but if I had to guess, I might say "Julius Finkel's Descendants" would be a good candidate.

JFD entered the TV arrester market in the early 1949 to meet the needs of the booming TV market.

Collectors like JFD products. The TV arresters were made in large and unusual styles. Glaze colors were pale green or black, not the typical brown or white of most other makers. Some JFD Bakelite arresters were bright red.

JFD made a big deal of its Underwriter's Lab approval and virtually all arresters came with a UL decal on the side. For an arrester to be considered "mint" the fragile decal must be intact. And I would insist that an item being advertised as "new-old-stock" or "mint-in-box" be accompanied by the aluminum ground wire

¹ The ad in the 1952 IRE yearbook places the start as 1925. An ad in the 1958 IRE yearbook would indicate a 1929 start date.

(with tag), mast strap, wood screws, instruction sheet, and of course the box. That's what mint means. Too often collectors settle for far less.

The company's lightning arrester production was short-lived. By the late 1950's JFD's advertising took an abrupt change in direction. Although television antennas (indoor and outdoor) continued to be advertised, the lightning arrester line was never mentioned.

I believe that JFD was instead channeling its resources toward the sales of precision components, such a trimming capacitors. Ads after this time often refer to the aerospace industry, even going so far as to picture a missile in one 1959 spread. I think you could reasonably say that the company had "taken off" in new directions.

Even before its late 1950's launch into the aerospace field, JFD had been assigned a military Manufacturer's Designated Symbol (CJD), but I don't know if the company made arresters for the military. Electronics product directories from 1942/1943 identify JFD as a manufacturer of antennas and antenna kits but not specifically of lightning arresters(2). Later they were assigned the FSCM of 73899.

An "international" division was created in 1956 with the opening of JFD Canada LTD, in Toronto, ON.

The company's became known as JFD Electronics Inc. in the late 1950's. Ultimately all attention focused on the production of its line of precision ceramic capacitors. That made it a good match for Murata Erie North America, the U.S. arm of a Japanese component manufacturer. In 1981, the JFD became a division of Murata. In 1982, it appears that the company's facilities in New York were closed and JFD became part of

Murata's operations in Marietta, GA.

Murata Electronics continues in business today and is one of the larger manufacturers of capacitors in the United States.

The following section describes to some of JFD's products and special features of JFD arresters. For even more information on JFD arresters, please refer to the companion article "Marks Products Company Inc." that appears later in this issue.

"Lips"

In the 1950's, JFD ran a series of rather racy ads referring to a special design feature of its arresters. The people who designed JFD's arresters included tabs (or "lips") to grip lead-ins and apparently someone in the advertising department seized on the feature and created an ad campaign.

While some of the ads could be considered

racy, especially for the 1950's, in reality, the lips promotion was not that big of a deal. Besides helping to grip and guide the wire, the tabs ensured that the lead-in wires would not work back-and-forth in the wind. Ads say that without the lips, movement of the lead-in wire could lead to damage where it passed under the contact screws.

The climax of the campaign was the creation of the JFD Model 105 arrester. The unit was cast in red Bakelite and was actually made in the shape of a pair of bright red lips.

Pal standoff insulator

In 1953, JFD introduced the Pal standoff insulator. Like other standoffs that we've pictured, the JFD unit is essentially a spool insulator that attached to a large screw-eye. The JFD Pal has some very special features, however. As shown in the ad on page 7, the plastic insulator insert was designed to hold virtually any configuration of television lead-in



the secret is in the LIPS!



the *only* lightning arresters with the strain relief lips are made by JFD. A patent is its proof!

JFD MANUFACTURING CO., INC. BROOKLYN 4, N.Y.
World's largest manufacturer of TV antennas and accessories

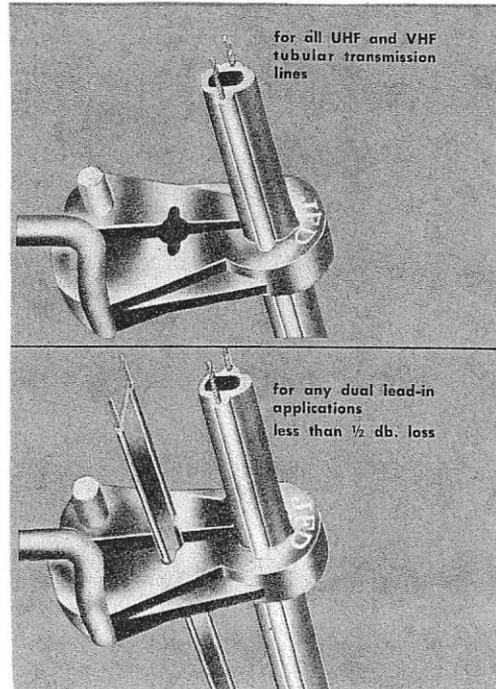
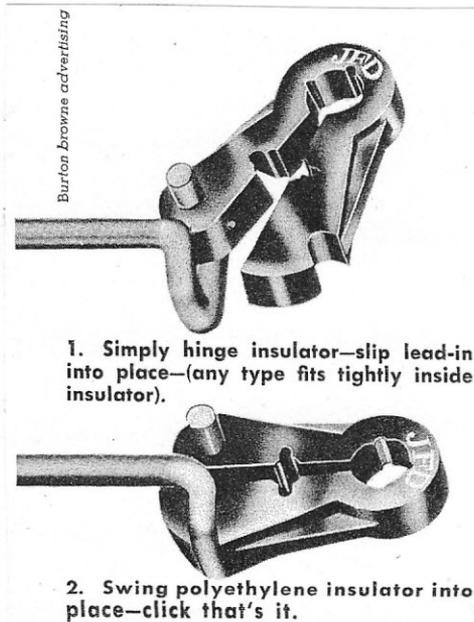


"Little Giant" LIGHTNING ARRESTER

for flat and oval jumbo twin lead
No. AT105 (with hardware for wall or window sill mounting) \$1.25 list
No. AT105S (with stainless steel strap for universal mounting) \$1.50 list

wire.

Note the illustration showing the Pal insulator being used to hold two leads simultaneously. This would allow it to hold multiple lines or a lead-in and an antenna rotor cable.

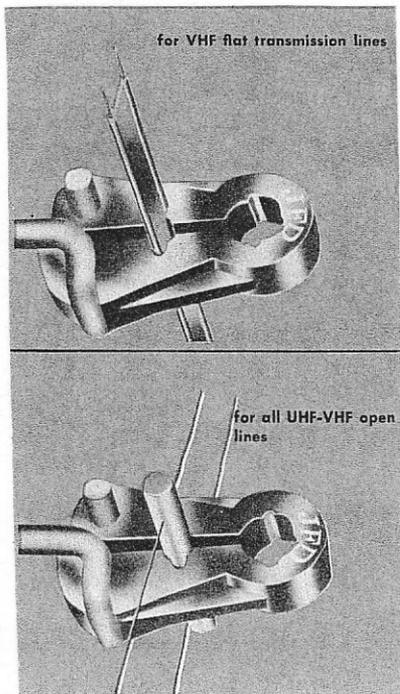


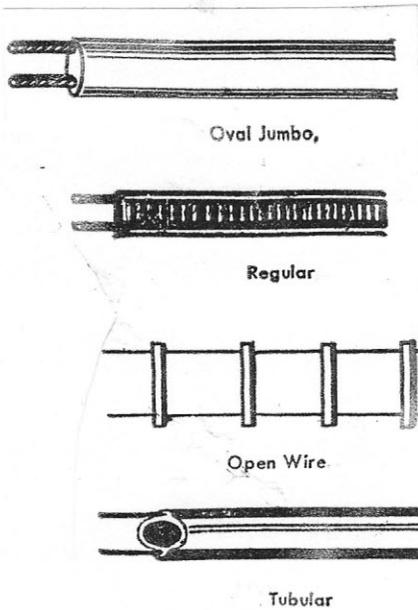
These illustrations of the Pal insulator and those on the next page show different styles of lead-ins.

You are probably familiar with the rubber-covered coaxial cable that is popular today for both cable and outdoor antennas. Before coax became popular, two conductor "twin-lead" lines were used. Resembling ribbons, ladders, or hoses, they are all essentially two wires held parallel to one another.

In two conductor lines the spacing is critical for performance, and the spacing between the wires on different types of lines can be quite different.

Successful arrester manufacturers had to consider this in their designs. The best arresters could be easily inserted in the line (without cutting it). And they were designed so that they would not affect the electrical properties of the line.





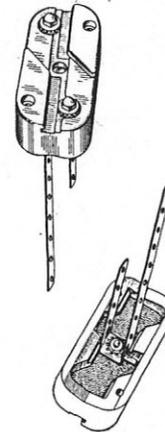
JFD lightning arresters

Most radio lightning arresters were designed with two terminals. The antenna lead-in wire connects to one terminal. The ground connects to the other. Other arresters (called "doublets") have three terminals and were designed for antenna systems that have twin lead lines. Televisions use two-conductor lines (and doublet arresters) almost exclusively.

In 1949, Julius Finkel, the president of JFD, received a design patent for a new style of lightning arrester created especially for TV lead-ins. The patent (D-159,330) was occasionally referred to in early ads by the application # "D-4664."

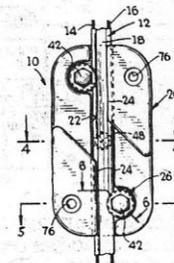
In 1953, a letters patent (no. 2,654,857) was granted for Mr. Finkel's arrester. The patent referred specifically to the arrester's "non-overlapping overhanging ledges" (or "lips" - see above).

159,330
LIGHTNING ARRESTER
 Julius Finkel, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Application August 23, 1949, Serial No. 4,664
 Term of patent 14 years
 (Cl. D26-1)



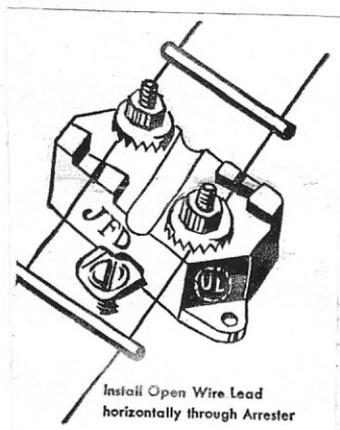
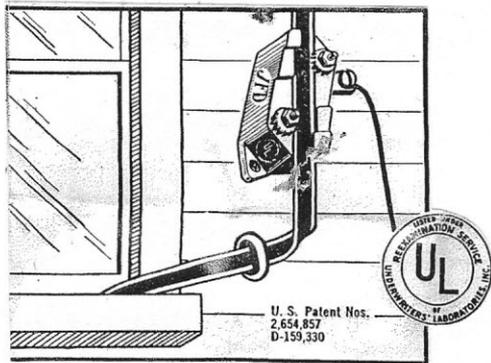
The ornamental design for a lightning arrester, substantially as shown.

2,654,857
ANTENNA ACCESSORY
 Julius Finkel, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Application October 27, 1949, Serial No. 123,948
 2 Claims. (Cl. 317-62)



1. A lightning arrester for a twin lead transmission line constituting a ribbon of flexible electrically non-conductive material having conductors embedded in its opposite longitudinal edges, said arrester comprising a body of hard electrically non-conductive material adapted to be mounted on a supporting surface and having a wireway groove extending across a face thereof remote from said supporting surface, said groove being dimensioned to receive said line lying flat therein, said body having two non-overlapping overhanging ledges formed in one piece therewith, one ledge being on one side and at one end of said groove and the other ledge being on the other side and at the other end of said groove and each ledge projecting over said groove, a pair of electrically conductive washers having saw-tooth upstanding rims, a pair of electrically conductive terminal posts carried by said body, said terminal posts being adjacent the ends of the wireway groove and on sides thereof opposite from the ledges, said washers being mounted on said posts with the teeth of the washers facing toward the groove, the axis of each of said posts being closer to the wireway than the radius of the washers, an element engaging each terminal post and cooperating therewith upon rotation of the element to force the teeth of the washer into an edge of a transmission line disposed within said wireway, an electrically conductive grounding post carried by said body, a pair of negative-glow discharge tubes whose break-down voltage is between 70 and 500 volts, said tubes being mounted within the interior of the insulating body, and circuit means connecting each tube in series between a different terminal post and the grounding post.

Rather than designing separate arresters for each spacing, JFD criss-crossed the top of several of its arresters with different channels (a longitudinal channel might accommodate 5/8" wire spacing, a transverse channel might fit 7/8" spacing, and a diagonal channel might accommodate some other spacing). By choosing the channel with the correct angle, the binding posts would grip virtually any of the popular lines. For most of the arresters in the chart below, I've listed the various sizes that could be used.



According to the patent, JFD used neon-tube gaps (like the Brach Vis-O-Glows). Even though the arresters have only two posts on top, they are equipped with a separate ground screw *underneath*. Thus they incorporate two complete gaps, and are considered doublet arresters. Placing the ground connection underneath keeps it out of the way and allows the lead-in to cross at different angles as described above.

Most porcelain models came in two versions; with and without a grounding strap. Both versions were packed with a "four foot length of ductile aluminum" ground wire. The ground connection is made to a bolt with a star washer under the center of the arrester.

The same bolt is used to attach the ground strap. The end of the bolt is sharpened so that it will "dig in" to the mast as the strap is cinched. All of the larger arresters have v-shaped notches in the ends so that they will "snuggle up" to round masts.

JFD used pale green glaze and black glaze, apparently to the exclusion of the more mundane brown and white glazes. All porcelain insulators used embossed (raised) markings.

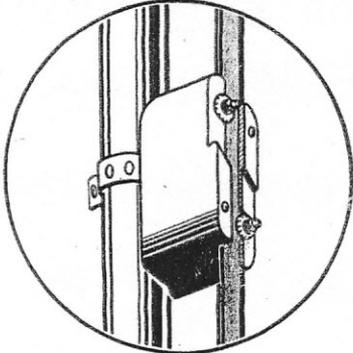
ADMIRAL

RIBBON TWIN LEAD

LIGHTNING ARRESTER

Low Loss, High Frequency Lightning Arrester for Television and FM





JUMBO

- Protects TV set and home from lightning hazards
- Attaches easily and quickly indoors or outdoors
- Complete with 4 ft. aluminum ground wire and hanger strap for universal mounting.

No. 94A27-108

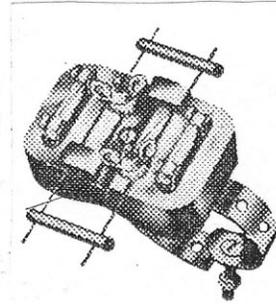
In addition to being sold separately, the red Bakelite AT105, was incorporated into the company's lightning-protected multiple set couplers. These couplers allowed up to four TV sets to share a common antenna without a significant loss in signal. The AT105 arrester was adapted to this new use with none but the most minimal modifications.

Many of JFD's "over one million sold" porcelain arresters must have survived because a fair number of readers have reported finding them. It is much harder to find an intact bakelite unit.

Perhaps because of ultraviolet radiation, JFD Bakelite arresters that have been used outdoors have deteriorated badly. I have a couple of very sad specimens in my collection. The plastic fades, cracks, flakes, and deforms badly. I have one of the red units new-in-box and it is a bright, bright red. Too bad that the used ones fared so badly.

One of JFD's most eye-catching products is their fuse-equipped AT120 arresters. Fuses on lightning arresters provide added protection from strong surges of power. The AT120 is protected by a pair of little 1/8 amp buss fuses. Other companies also incorporated visible fuses into their products, but not many. These little "extras" help add interest for the collector.

There are at least two versions of the AT120 arrester. I have what I believe is the earlier version of the two. With it, you have to cut the line during installation. Of course, cutting the line and running the signal through the arrester could adversely impact the signal. Most arresters (including the other JFDs) don't require cutting the line. In this one, you insert a cut end on each side of the arrester. This places a fuse in series with each side of the line.



This 1955 ad shows a reengineered AT 120 in which the fuses have been moved from the sides to the ends, and the line crosses the arrester (uncut) in the traditional manner. I am at a loss to explain the purpose of the fuses in this "improved" version.

You may have seen JFD look-alikes sporting other brand names. Like the radio antenna kits from the 1930's, many television arresters were sold with "private labels." If you selected an Admiral brand television from the local dealer, you could buy a lightning arrester of the same name.

Regardless of brand name, if you see arresters similar to those shown in the following pages, they were most likely manufactured by J.F.D. Manufacturing Company, Inc.

JFD Hands You Another TV Profit-Maker!
NEW "Little Giant" TWIN LEAD LIGHTNING ARRESTER
 PROTECTS Television Receivers Against Lightning and Static Charges!

SEEING IS BELIEVING!

SPECIAL, DIELECTRIC, FLAME-RETARDING PLASTIC
 ASSURES maximum signal transfer . . . no varying of line impedance. INSTANT and EASY mounting anywhere, inside or out. NO WIRE STRIPPING or spreading of line necessary. CARRY one with you on every service call and make the EXTRA Profit!

MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!
 With TV production curtailed . . . with component shortages developing . . . it is more important than ever to protect a TV receiver! This "Little Giant" will do the job! 3-color Counter Display Free.

ONLY JFD Lightning Arresters offer you these exclusive patented features . . .

1. Note the exclusive patented strain-relief Retaining Lip which prevents pulling or straining against contact points.
2. You actually see positive contact made with lead-in wire.
3. Lead-in contact remains fully visible at all times.
4. No Guesswork!
5. No Arrester Cover to Hide Poor Contacts!

Individually Boxed With Hardware for Mounting

\$1.25

UL Underwriters' Laboratories Approved

No. AT105

For Regular Twin Lead

For Oval Jumbo Twin Lead

JFD MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.
 6109B, 16th AVENUE, BUCONUTN 4, N. Y.
 FIRST in Television Antennas and Accessories

Order From Your Distributor or
 Write Direct for Data Sheet No. 71R

List of JFD Arresters

AT102 "Safe TV Guard"

pale green glazed porcelain
 3-1/2" long, 1-3/4" wide, 1-9/16" high
 embossing: JFD TELEVISION LIGHTNING
 ARRESTER AT-102 JFD MFG CO BKLYN,
 NY
 accepts: regular twin lead

AT103 "UHF-VHF"

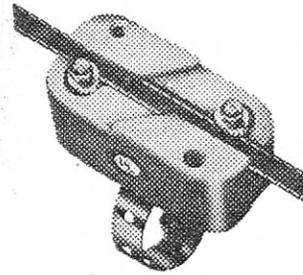
Black glazed porcelain
 3-1/2" long, 1-3/4" wide, 1-9-16" high
 embossing: JFD Television Lightning Arrester
 AT-102 JFD MFG CO BKLYN, NY
 accepts: oval heavy & tubular twin lead

AT104

for antenna rotor cable

AT104s

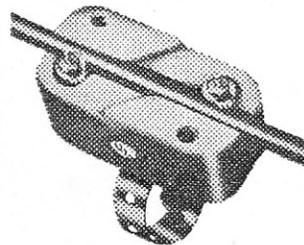
w/ grounding strap



"JUMBO"

(For ribbon type
 twin lead) with
 4" aluminum
 ground wire and
 stainless steel
 strap for univer-
 sal mounting.

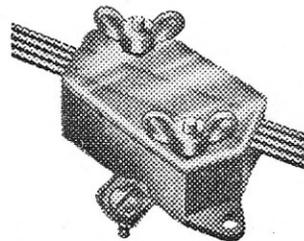
JFD No. AT102List \$2.25



"JUMBO"

(For oval jumbo
 and tubular lead)
 UHF and VHF.
 With 4" alumi-
 num ground wire
 and stainless
 steel mounting
 strap.

JFD No. AT103List \$2.25



4-WIRE 8-CONTACT

(For Rotator
 lead-ins)

JFD No. AT104List \$1.50

Universal Mounting

JFD No. AT104SList \$1.75

(Same with stainless steel strap)

AT105 "Little Giant"

red Bakelite
about 2" long, 1-1/8" wide
embossing: AT105 Lightning Arrester
accepts: open wire, flat twin lead
misc.: shape and color resembles a pair of
bright red lips

AT105s "Little Giant"

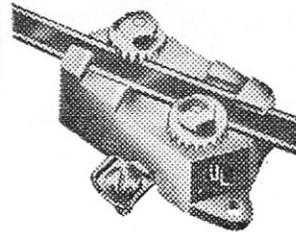
w/ ground strap

AT107 "Jumbo"

AT110 "3-in-1"

AT110s "3-in-1"

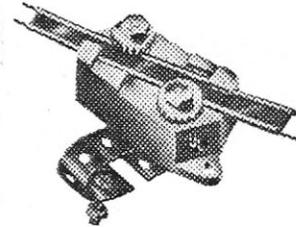
w/ ground strap



**"LITTLE
GIANT"**

(For ribbon and
oval jumbo lead)
with ground lug
and hardware for
wall or window-
sill mounting.

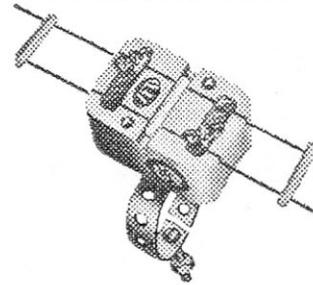
JFD No. AT105List \$1.25



**"LITTLE
GIANT"**

(With Stainless
Steel Universal
Mounting strap,
and 4 ft. alu-
minum ground
wire. For ribbon
and oval jumbo
lead).

JFD No. AT105SList \$1.50

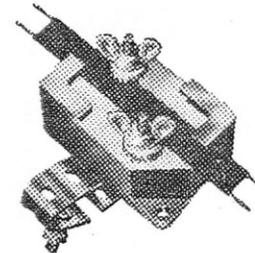


"JUMBO"

(For open wire)
with 4" aluminum
ground wire and
stainless steel
strap. JFD open
wires Nos. OL100
and FOL100 rec-

ommended.

JFD No. AT107.....List \$3.50



3-IN-1

(For UHF or VHF
Tubular, Ribbon,
open-wire or oval
twin-lead) with
ground lug and
hardware for wall or
window-sill mount-
ing.

JFD No. AT110List \$1.75

JFD No. AT110SList \$2.00

(With stainless steel hanger Universal
mounting strap and 4 ft. aluminum
ground wire.)

AT120 "Combination"

pale green glazed porcelain
3-1/2" long, 2-1/8" wide
embossing: JFD VHF-UHF TV LIGHTING
ARRESTER (yes, it says lighting instead of
lightning) JFD MFG. CO INC. B'KLYN NY.
accepts: open wire, flat twin lead, tubular line
misc.: fuses on sides
uses 2 1/8 amp 250 volt buss fuses
have to cut the line to install

AT120 "Combination"

misc.: fuses on ends
install without cutting line

TC2L-300 "Teleplex"

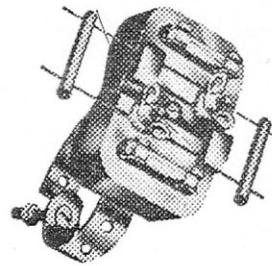
accepts: 300 ohm flat twin lead and open wire
misc.: 2-set coupler
similar to TCL-300

TC4L-72 "Teleplex"

accepts: 72 ohm line
misc.: 4-set coupler
similar to TCL-300

TC4L-300 "Teleplex"

brown Bakelite box, screen printed aluminum
top
5-7/8" long, 3-1/8" wide, 2-1/8" high
screen printed top - JFD MANUFACTURING
CO., INC. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
U.S.A. JFD TELE-PLEX 4 SET TV
COUPLER WITH LIGHTNING ARRESTER
MODEL NO. TC4L-300.
accepts: 300 ohm flat twin-lead and open wire
misc.: 4-set coupler
incorporates an AT105 red Bakelite
arrester



**COMBINA-
TION TWIN
LEAD AND
OPEN WIRE**

Static Discharger and Lightning Arrester.
With aluminum ground wire and stainless
steel Universal mounting strap.

JFD No. AT120.....List \$5.00



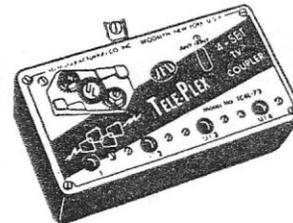
**TELE-PLEX
2-SET COUPLER**

for 300-ohm antenna
and 2 sets

- Operates 2 300-ohm sets from one 300-ohm antenna

- For 2-set owners, duplexes and 2-family homes
- Includes UL JFD "Built-in" Lightning Arrester
- Complete with twin-lead connectors

JFD No. TC2L-300.....List \$11.95



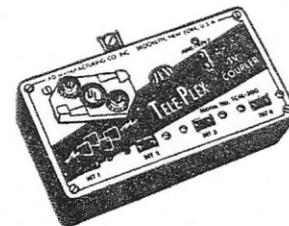
**TELE-PLEX
4-SET COUPLER**

for 300-ohm antenna
and 4 72-ohm sets

- Operates 3 or 4 72-ohm sets from 300-ohm antenna
- Includes UL JFD "Built-in" Lightning Arrester

- Complete with twin lead and coaxial cable connectors

JFD No. TC4L-72List \$12.95



**TELE-PLEX
4-SET COUPLER**

for 300-ohm antenna
and 4 sets

- Operates 3 or 4 300-ohm sets from one 300-ohm antenna

- Includes UL JFD "Built-in" Lightning Arrester
- Minimizes I. F. Interference
- Complete with twin-lead connectors

JFD No. TC4L-300List \$12.95

403

glazed porcelain

4-3/4" x 1-5/16"

misc.: (for radio & TV)
doublet style

Other names

Admiral 94A27-108

pale green glazed porcelain

3-1/2" long, 1-3/4" wide, 1-9/16" high

embossing: Admiral Television Lightning
arrester 94A27-108 Admiral Corp. Chicago,
ILL.

accepts: open wire, flat twin lead, tubular line

misc.: same as JFD AT103

Mark's Products Co. Inc.

blue glazed porcelain

4-3/4" long

misc.: Same as JFD #403

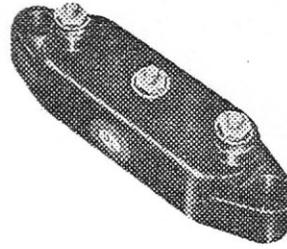
Montgomery Wards 63-2985

pale green glazed porcelain

3-1/2" long 1-3/4" wide 1-9/16" high

accepts: open wire, flat twin lead, tubular line

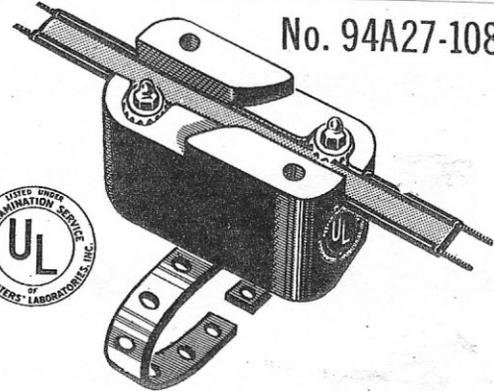
misc.: same as JFD AT103



**FOR RADIO
AND TV**

Protects either
radio or TV an-
tenna installa-
tions. Takes either
twin lead or radio
wire.

JFD No. 403 List \$.75



No. 94A27-108



Photo Credits:

- Front cover - IRE 1950 Directory pg. 182A
Pg. 4 "Service" 4/51 pg. 56
Pg. 6 PhotoFact Index July/Aug 1953 pg. 111
Pg. 7 PhotoFact Index 2/54 pg 4
Pg. 8 JFD AT105 installation instructions
Pg. 9 JFD AT 105 installation instructions
"Service" 2/51 pg 64
Pg. 10 "Radio Master" 1953-1954 pg S-101.
Admiral installation instructions
Pg. 11 "Radio Master" 1953-1954 pg S-101.
Pg. 12 "Radio Master" 1953-1954 pg S-101.
Pg. 13 "Radio Master" 1953-1954 pg S-100,
101.
Pg. 14 "Radio Master" 1953-1954 pg S-101,
Admiral instruction sheet.
Pg. 15 AT105 instructions.

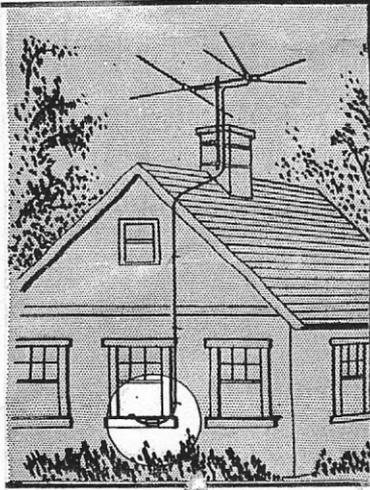
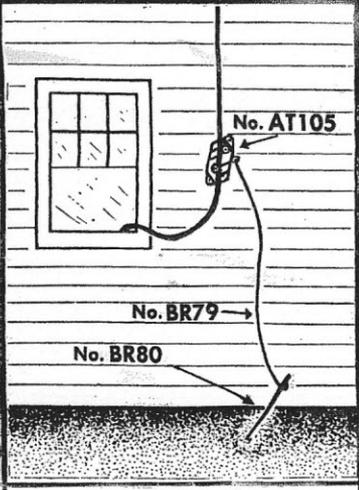
End Notes:

1. "Radio TV News" 2/55 pg. 177.
2. *Electronic Industries* .3/43, pg. D-10.

Sources:

1. IRE 1950 Directory
2. Radio's Master 1950
3. IRE 1952 Directory
4. IRE 1958 Directory
5. Radio's Master 1953-1954
6. *Electronic Industries* 3/43 pg. D-10
7. Chesson, F W "Electronic Military Equipment - Naval Equipment Manufacturers" *AWA Review* Volume 7, 1991.
8. Robert Puttre 12/99 lightning arrester list.
9. "Technician" May, 1950 pg. 130.
10. *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers* 1981.
11. *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers* 1982.

INSTALL IT YOURSELF IN MINUTES... OUTDOORS OR INDOORS!

OUTDOOR		INDOOR	
			
On Window Sills	On Walls	On Window Sills	On Cold Water Pipes

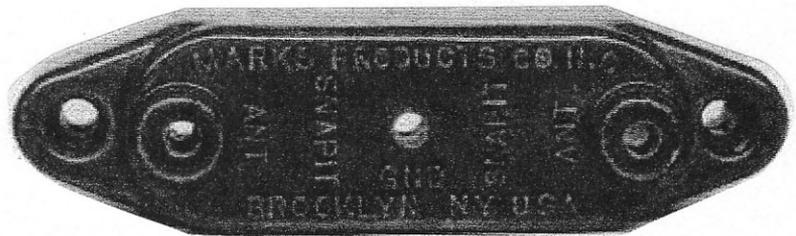
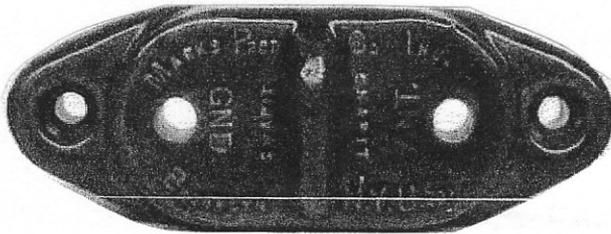
Marks Products Company Inc.

By Dan Howard

Besides JFD Manufacturing Company, which was profiled in the preceding article, another Brooklyn "manufacturer" was Marks Products Company Inc. Two styles of blue-glazed lightning arresters featuring the company's embossing show up regularly.

Style 1 - the Marks two post arrester

One style is a traditional oval-shaped two post arrester. The top is separated by a ridge down the center with the word "Snapit" embossed on either side. The arrester measures 3-3/4" x 1-5/8" overall. It resembles arresters made by Birnbach (*OFS* 10/97 pg. 14 & 10/96 pg. 11 top left corner, fig. 4).



Style 2 - the Marks doublet arrester

The second Marks Products arrester was likely made by JFD. Also marked SNAPIT, the 4-3/4" arrester is a copy of the JFD model 403 arrester (page 14).

Many doublet-style arresters have three identical connectors across the top- two for the antenna and one for the ground. On this arrester, the two antenna connections sit on small risers which help insulate them in dirty or wet atmospheres. The ground connection (in the center of the arrester) has no riser and looks quite out of place. In fact the first time that I saw one of these arresters, I wondered if it had been modified. This design gaff gives the arrester a substandard appearance. Although pictured here in black-and-white, the arrester was pictured in color in *OFS* 10/96 pg. 11 (left column, 5th from the top, fig. 4).

I believe that Marks Products was an electrical jobber in the New York area. The Snapit trade name has been widely used on other consumer electrical products as well.

Note: Both of these views of Marks Products arresters were picked off the internet (thanks to John McDougald). Unfortunately they show incomplete units without their hardware. I'm still looking for original ads for the items.

Show Reports

Emerald City Insulator Show February 12, 2000 Seattle, WA reported by Dan Howard

This year Jack and Olga Hare hosted the Emerald City Insulator Show in the basement of their home overlooking Lake Washington. The view from their lovely hill top house is breath taking.

Among the crowd of about 40 collectors, I especially enjoyed seeing *OFS* readers **Gil Hedges-Blanquez, Robin Harrison, and Don Hardesty**. Robin brought a huge surprise for show-and-tell. In the last issue we looked at Lapp products including the company's porcelain water coils (see *OFS* 2/00 pg. 8). Robin was kind enough to cart one of the coils to the show to show me and Gil. He says that he found it at the local Goodwill thrift store a number of years ago. I didn't measure it but I suppose that it stood about 2' tall. A very impressive piece of porcelain.

Gil and Don both brought a few strains to sell. But that was about it. As always, the show focused around the pin insulators.

The conversations that I overheard generally took one of two tracks. eBay continues to be a hot topic. Everyone seems to be watching the prices. One dealer said that prices are getting softer for pin insulators.

The other thing that people were talking about is the upcoming NIA Western Regional Show (May 5-7). The show will be held at the fairgrounds in Enumclaw, WA (not far from Seattle). Just about everyone who came to Jack's will have a table and or a display at Enumclaw. Violet Brown, the show host, said that table sales were brisk.

I'm pleased to add **Jack Hare** to our list of readers. Jack's collection is beautifully displayed throughout his house in lighted show cases. The insulators are often interspersed with candlesticks and other antique glass in complimentary colors.

Between his hosting duties, Jack and I spent some time looking at porcelain strains in his collection. The February *OFS* helped us identify a large unmarked Lapp insulator. I enjoy putting the newsletters together. But I really enjoy hearing how people have *used* the information to help them with their collecting.

Chuck Irwin, Steve Nickoloff, and I shared the ride up to Seattle again this year. A quick walk-through of the Centralia Bottle Show on the way up was fun. An open side door provided access during the "dealers-only" set-up time (oops). However, aside from a few glares, the visit netted us very little. But, you know if we hadn't stopped....

Salem Hamfair February 19, 2000 Rickreall, OR reported by Dan Howard

The Salem Hamfair has turned out to be a pleasant annual outing with my father. This year was no exception.

I talked insulators with a number of people, but didn't run into any other *OFS* readers.

Almost no strains showed up. However, I am in the "pink" again! Two years ago I reported finding a bright pink glazed porcelain standoff at this show. This year pink struck again. Touring just before the doors opened to the public, I spotted a little

1-3/8" porcelain egg insulator with bright pink glaze on a nearby table. Not asking any questions, I just plunked down the asking price (50 cents) and dropped the goodie in my waiting pocket. That makes two pink porcelains in different years at the same show. Does anyone else know of pink-glazed strain insulators?

**19th Annual Mike and Key Show
March 11, 2000 Puyallup, WA
reported by Dan Howard**

After reading these reports you are probably asking yourself "So where are all the insulators this year?" Well, my third show this spring was not much of an improvement. All of the shows that I've attended this year have been pretty quiet insulator-wise. In the past, Fridays in Puyallup have usually generated a fair number of strains for me. Near the end of the set-up day this year, I did snag a half-a-dozen insulators. They weren't cheap and, although they appeared to be new ones for my collection, they weren't super pieces. I did get examples of some military insulators that were new (see military update).

Dad and I took turns watching our table and shopping. Right after I returned to our table with my meager finds, Dad visited the same dealer, unbeknownst to me, and picked up several items that I had left. I only picked up the sure things, leaving the others as probable duplicates. When we got home, I found that two of the three that Dad had picked up were in fact new ones. Once again he proved himself the better shopper.

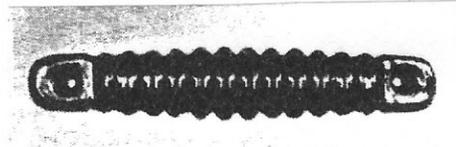
I did see a couple of interesting items that were too pricey to bring home. A few tables down, a lady had a nice-sized tower base insulator similar to those shown in the last issue. This one, however, would have been for a smaller three or four-legged tower. Although I spent a

fair amount of time admiring it, I couldn't justify the price. The same dealer had several longer rod-style strains. One white-glazed 18" rod marked Lapp caught my eye. As did a smaller-diameter unmarked strain about 20" long. These were also priced high-enough to make my think twice (and then keep my hands in my pockets).

Although I enjoyed seeing all of my radio buddies, no other strain collectors showed up at the show. Probably just as well since there was so little available.

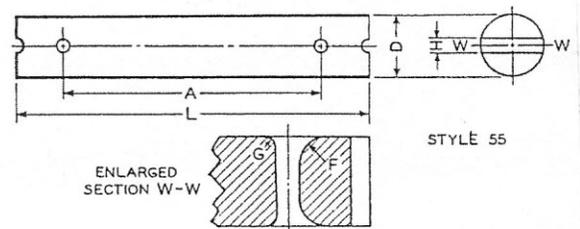
Lapp Update

Rick Soller recently reported a new Lapp strain. Rick's insulator is 12-1/2" long and has 12 ribs. It is glazed white and has an ink marking of NP2W380 Lapp. This is both a new Lapp item and an additional item for our list of military strains. The NP marking would date it to the World War II period. I see lots more brown strains of this type than white.



Military Update

I found two new military insulators at Puyallup. Both are examples of style 55 strain/spreader insulators. The first is 5" long and is marked CBU-61047. Its JAN number might be NP*W5524. The second is 3" long and is marked CPP-61046A. Its JAN number might be NP*B5540.



Pyrex Update

I recently had the chance to compare a number of examples of the small Pyrex 67056 feed-through bowls.

I've found four distinct styles so far.

All seem to have been poured from the "top"; that is they have a ground-off area surrounding the small hole. However, the width of the ground-off area can be narrow or quite wide.

Here are the variations that I've seen:

1) Navy version:

Top embossing: PYREX SHELL TYPE SE
2555

skirt embossing: none

base embossing: none

2) Navy version:

Top embossing: PYREX SHELL TYPE SE
2555

skirt embossing: none

base embossing: PYREX MADE IN U.S.A.
PAT. 1,700,066

3) Commercial version:

Top embossing: none

skirt embossing: none

base embossing: PYREX MADE IN U.S.A.
PAT. 1,700,066

4) Commercial version:

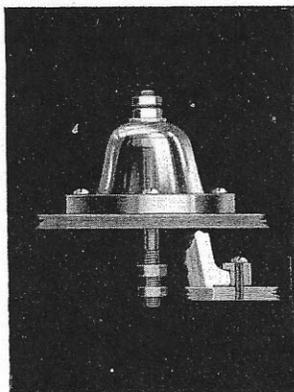
Top embossing: none

skirt embossing: mold number - I've seen the
following mold numbers:

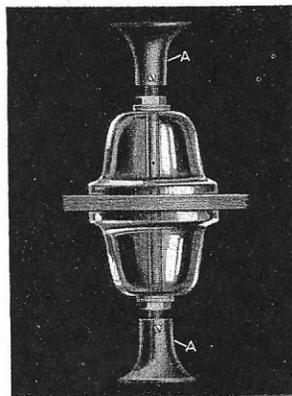
1, 3, 7, 15, 21

base embossing: PYREX MADE IN U.S.A.
PAT. 1,700,066

PYREX ENTERING INSULATORS—AIRPLANE TYPES



57080



67079

	67056	67080	67079	67075
Number	67056	67080	67079	67075
Navy Type	SE-2555	SE-2556	SE-2558	SE-2557
Description	(PYREX shell only)	(67056 shell with brass fittings)	(Two 67056 shells with brass fittings)	(Same as 67079 but without guides A)
Outside diameter	2½ in.	3¼ in.	2½ in.	2½ in.
Overall length	1⅝ in.	4 in.	6⅝ in.	5¼ in.
Weight	3 oz.	12 oz.	9 oz.	14 oz.
Price, each	\$0.90	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$2.80
Hollow center rod on No. 67079; solid rod with jamb nuts on No. 67075.				

Insulator Resources

Although many *OFS* readers are already familiar with the National Insulator Association and *Crown Jewels* magazine, I was recently reminded that others may know very little about them.

The *National Insulator Association* (NIA) is an association of (pin) insulator collectors, although they open their ranks to collectors of other types of insulators (such as your editor). They publish a quarterly newsletter called *Drip Points* and sponsor three large shows each year. Official shows are held in each of the "Western" "Central" and "Eastern" regions of the United States. One of these shows is designated as "The National" on a rotating basis. The Central regional show in Bloomington, MN will be the NIA 2000 National. It will be held July 27-30.

This year's Western regional show will be held in Enumclaw, Washington May 6-7. I'll be there with a competitive display of strain insulators, and I plan to have an insulator sales/*OFS* table as well.

The NIA Eastern regional show will be held at the Corning Museum of Glass this year on September 16-17. After the fun we had last year, I wish like crazy that I could make it back there again.

Membership in the National Insulator Association is only \$10.00 per year and covers the whole family. Besides the *Drip Points* newsletter, membership entitles you to early admission to the NIA shows. For more information on NIA membership or show information, contact the NIA at <http://www.nia.org> or
Joe J. Beres, Membership Chair
1315 Old Mill Path
Broadview Hts, OH 44147-3276.

Crown Jewels of the Wire is edited by *OFS* reader **Carol McDougald**. *Crown Jewels* has been the insulator hobby's leading monthly publication for a lot of years. A first class subscription is \$31.50. I get mine second class for \$23.50 per year. (Sample copies are free). Carol has quite a stable of authors including **Elton Gish**, Porcelain Insulator News editor, **Kevin Lawless**, Insulator Go-Withs editor, and **Bob Stahr**, Advertising through the Ages editor. Carol and her husband John have a huge presence on the internet with their **crownjewelsofthewire.com** web site. You can write to Carol at 5N941 Ravine Dr. St., Charles, IL 60175-8272.

If you have access to the Internet, the other site that is a must-visit is **Insulators.com**. Bill Meyer has concentrated a tremendous number of resources for the insulator hobbyist here. Bill has a fantastic show calendar program that can help you locate shows anywhere that you're planning to be. And he provides links to insulator clubs and collectors everywhere. And, of course, the information is all free....

Great Website

Last fall I had the pleasure of meeting **Bill Shaw** during my visit to Rochester, NY. Bill has a wonderful collection of lightning arresters, antenna insulators, and pin insulators.

Although the pictures that I took might not be reproducible in *OFS*, you can see Bill's own pictures of his collectibles at his web site. The address is:
<http://msnhomepags.talkcity.com/yosemitedr/w2hyn/W2HYN.html>

There are several shots on the site that show his unusual columnar Sensory lightning arrester. Bill's collection includes many other unusual insulators including the Tantalum arrester that was pictured in the October issue.

A Letter From a Fellow Oregonian

A good friend recently reminded me of a fellow down at the Oregon Coast with a special connection to the Lapp Insulator Company. While I didn't have the opportunity to share this information in the last issue, here is a letter that makes an excellent follow-up to last month's Lapp article.

2/5/2000

Hello Dan

I want to thank you for the copy of *Old Familiar Strains*. It brought back many memories. I sat in my computer room last night reading the newsletter and felt as if I was back at Lapp. I only worked at Lapp for a few years and my father worked there from 1939 to 1966. Dad is gone now, but I do remember him telling me of all the insulators he made and how some sailors on ships in WWII found his name or stamp on insulators.

I worked in the test lab as a laborer and watched many tests conducted behind the glass windows. From the lab I then worked across Gilbert Street working on condensers, sanding the plates that went inside and assembled the condensers and helped with the testing.

I also worked on the pug mills. First keeping the hoppers full of the wet clay and helping to remove the pugs.

I must have worked on most everything from base insulators (my job was to coat the insides with silicone grease) to water static testing of room size insulators of the TVA.

I can remember my father bringing home many different types of insulators when I was young. I had at one time hundreds of small insulators, most of the ones on pages 24 and 25 of your newsletter.

I have been back to LeRoy to visit my Mother once in twenty years. Easier to fly Mom to Oregon than to take my family back home. My wife is also from LeRoy and also remembers her brothers working there. Summer jobs for the college kids who came home. My two older brothers also worked there. Two years ago I received a big Lapp crate that had a 100 pound insulator as a Christmas gift. Someone from LeRoy thought I would like it. Too big for my display around my living room.

I want to thank you again for this trip into my past.

Dave