



100TH ANNIVERSARY  
BARCLAY INSULATOR PATENT  
OCTOBER 8, 1907

## CD 147 -- THE GROOVY INSULATOR

By Jim Sinsley

*CAUTION: Read this with a sense of humor. That's the way it was written*

I'm sure some of you are wondering why anyone would write an article on such a common insulator as the Spiral Groove CD 147. Some may be wondering why anyone would specialize in them. That question has been asked of me by many including my very own beloved nephew, Jeff Hargrove. My question is: Why Not? They are interesting, different looking and generally inexpensive insulator with a fair amount of variety. One can acquire the entire spectrum of variants for relatively little money. It's the Patent's 100th Anniversary and besides, they're GROOVY!

This study was started some time ago at the urging of my online friend Lee Brewer who is known by the pseudonym of King CREB. His area of specialty is CRown Embossed Brookfield insulators, mine is CD 147s, commonly called Spiral Grooves. I have been affectionately dubbed the Spiral Groove Guru by one of my favorite ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) lady friends, Mylene Edwards English, or was it Bob Scafe? (I don't remember but I think it was one of those Canucks) and they all thought it was my job. So, that is what it has become, my JOB.

The nickname Spiral Groove is not hard to figure for the CD 147 as the unique feature of these interesting insulators is the unusual shape of the wire groove which twists upward or downward as one chooses to look at it.

The initial idea of the study was to simply identify and list, for posterity, all the known embossing variants of the 147s. I started gathering up all the examples of them I could find when I was picking them off an abandoned line along the Milwaukee Road (Milwaukee, St. Paul, Chicago and everywhere else Railroad) that went from Avery, Idaho over Moon Pass down into the Taft area and into Montana through very rugged country. There were a large number of Spiral Grooves found along this line as they are a favorite insulator of many Railroad pole lines. The idea of the design is that the insulator can be changed out, removed and replaced, without having to re-tie the tie wire thus saving time and expense, very important factors for the railroad. The insulators were of special interest to me as many I found had what we now call "junk" in the glass. It is quite common to find BROOKFIELD made 147s with Amber or Olive Green swirls but not at all common for the HEMINGRAY pieces. More on this later.

Initially I was going to stop with the listing of the embossing variants such as the number and placement of periods in the embossing but Mr. Brewer just couldn't let it rest. OH NO!! (Bless his heart) He kept asking questions. So did many other people. For every question I asked on ICON and elsewhere three more questions popped up. It became apparent that I was not the only person in the world to be interested in the seemingly "dirt common" insulators and no one seemed to really know much about them. It also became apparent that there had been dozens of different molds used to produce these by at least two different companies but probably just two. What follows is what I have thus far learned about these insulators more formally known as the Barclay Improved Insulator. It's probably more than I ever thought I wanted to know, maybe you also. This is a work in progress so all the questions haven't been answered or even asked. I welcome your input. Remember, I am just trying to answer questions I have been asked or have thought up on my own..

## **WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?**

This style was the brain child of one John C. Barclay back in the early 1900s. Actually the idea first came forth in the 1880s with the patenting of what we collectors know as the CD 110.5 & 110.6, insulators nicknamed by the hobby as Cork Screws. Mr. Barclay, I believe, simply resurrected the idea, changed the basic shape somewhat, giving it a beefier profile, and was granted U.S. Patent No. 867,901 on October 8, 1907.

J. C. BARCLAY.  
INSULATOR.  
APPLICATION FILED JULY 29, 1907.

Fig. 1.

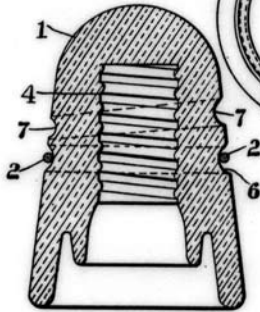
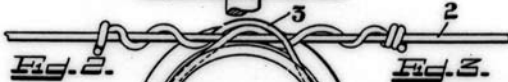
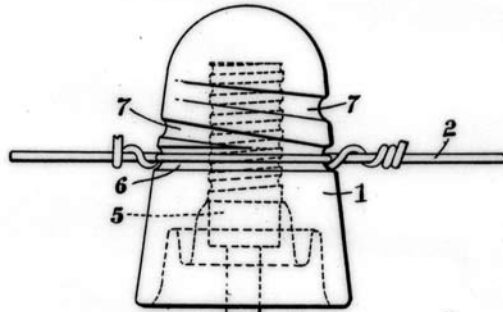
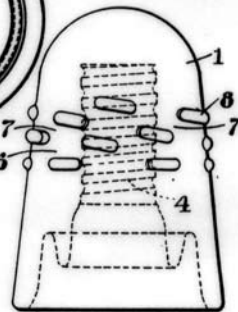


Fig. 4.



Attest:  
*[Signature]*  
Gross Koffman

Inventor:  
J. C. Barclay  
by *[Signature]*  
H. M. Maiba  
Atty

There are two other insulators that share the same idea and patent date, pieces the hobby knows as CD 110, the Baby Spiral Groove & CD 150 the Deep Groove Spiral. Shown left to right in the advertisement on the next page are: CD 110, CD 147 & CD 150.

CD 110 & CD 150 insulators will be touched on briefly in this article but since they do not have many known variants, the bulk of the story will deal with the CD 147, the W.U. (Western Union) Double Petticoat Pattern.



TRADE MARK  
**BROOKFIELD**  
 REGISTERED  
 GLASS INSULATORS

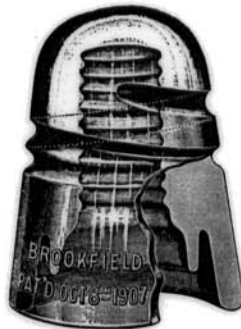
BULLETIN 9777

1-1-11-40

THE BARCLAY IMPROVED INSULATOR.



No. 102489.



No. 102490.



No. 102491.

The spiral groove on the outer surface of the Barclay Improved Insulator is so threaded that when unscrewed from its pin the tie holding the wire is also unscrewed or removed from the insulator. The reverse operation screws the insulator on the pin and at the same time puts the tie wire back in its original position on the insulator. The object of this insulator is to save labor and expense in renewing glasses when broken or otherwise defective, and in the transfer of wires from one position on a pole to another, all of which is accomplished without untying and re-tying the wire. It is well known that the removal of a tie and the retying of the wire to an insulator is not only expensive, but damaging to the wire itself, which, if copper, is certain to be seriously injured in the operation.

List No.		Std. Bbl. Quantity	Approx. Wt. per 1000 packed
102489	Pony Pattern, 1/4 inch Groove, Standard Thread . . . . .	350	800 lbs.
102490	W. U. Double Petticoat Pattern, 1/4 inch Groove, Standard Thread . . . . .	200	1700 "
102491	Deep Groove Double Petticoat Pattern, 1/2 inch Groove, Standard Thread . . . . .	175	1890 "

The following is a chart or list of all known, to me, embossing variants of the Barclay Improved Insulator.

# CD 147 – SPIRAL GROOVE VARIATIONS

## IMPORTANT

Exact period placement and spelling shown.

BROOKFIELD products have TH after the 8 in the date.

HEMINGRAY products do not have the TH.

All variants have skirt only (if any) embossing, but some have dome numbers also.

All are Smooth Base.

**(B)** = BROOKFIELD MADE PRODUCT    **(H)** = HEMINGRAY MADE PRODUCT

**(D)** = Dome embossed    **(F)** = Front skirt embossed    **(R)** = Rear skirt embossed

1. (F) HEMINGRAY (R) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 (No periods)
2. (F) HEMINGRAY (R) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907 (One period)
3. (F) HEMINGRAY (R) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907. (Two periods)
4. (F) HEMINGRAY (R) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907\_\_ (Underscore in place of period)
5. (F) HEMINGRAY (R) PATENT3D OCT 8 1907 (Backward “E” in PATENTED)
6. NO EMBOSSING – Extremely **RARE** ( FEWER THAN 5 VARIFIED) **(H)**
7. PAT. APPL'D. FOR – **Scarce to Rare** (Probably fewer than 25 pieces known) **(B)**
8. (D) [#] (F) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 (No Periods) **(H)**
9. (D) [#] (F) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907. (Two Periods) **(H)**
10. (D) [28] (F) PATENT'D OCT 8 1907(Apostrophe in place of “E”)(No Periods) **(H)**
- 10.5 (F) PATENT'D OCT 8 1907(Apostrophe in place of “E”, No dome # or Periods) **(H)**
11. (F) PATENTED (NO DATE on rear) **Scarce to Rare** **(B)**
12. (F) PATENTED (R) OCT 8TH 1907 (No Periods) **(B)**
13. (F) PATENTED (R) OCT. 8TH 1907 (One period) **(B)**
14. (F) PATENTED (R) OCT. 8TH 1907. (Two Periods) **(B)**
15. (D) [0] (F) PATENTED (R) OCT. 8TH 1907. (All dome #s are 0)(Two Periods) **(B)**
16. (F) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 (No Periods) **(H)**
17. (F) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907. (Two Periods) **(H)**
- 17a. (F) PATENTED OCT. 8 1907\_ (“FAST” period in place of 2nd period) **(H)**
- 17.5 (F) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 \_\_ (Underscore in place period) **(H)** (*NEW FIND*)
18. (F) PATNTED OCT. 8 1907. (Misspelled PATENTED – missing “E”) **(H)**

I now have every variation shown. Please report any variations not described above.  
The following is a more thorough description of each variant

IHS = Individually Hand Stamped

VP = Vertical Placement, above base mold seam, bottom of skirt embossing

# 1 All HEMINGRAY made CD 147s have the same style and size of embossed figures (Letters and Numbers). I call the style **IHS** with a slight Prism appearance and they are all 7/32” tall. This #1 is a relatively scarce variant at this time as I have acquired only 5 or 6. The **VP** of the embossing on all I’ve seen is 1 inch above the skirt mold seam, the highest measurement.

# 2 is also considered Scarce to Rare at this time as I have seen very few examples. The pieces I've examined all have a VP of 1/2", the next to lowest measurement. Other than the fact that it has only one period, it is a typical looking piece.

# 3 has the same style & size embossing typical to the HEMIs but has a wide range of VP, from a low of 5/8" to a high of 15/16". All appear to have SLIGHTLY "Fast" periods. So called "FAST" periods, as well as other letters and numbers, occur when a mold twists or turns slightly while an insulator is still in the mold being formed thus slurring or blurring the figures (Letters and Numbers) appearance. (See a description and picture below with variant 17a)

# 4 is once again very typical of the other HEMINGRAY embossed pieces but the one feature that sets it apart from the others is the underscore line in place of the last period in the date.



Yes the 7 is sort of "fast" but much different than the underscore

Some collectors see this feature as simply a slurred or "FAST" period but its size and shape leads to another conclusion. For one thing, the line is consistently the same thickness from start to finish, is the same thickness as the other embossing and goes completely to the side mold seam and STOPS there. On various examples, the lines are various lengths, from 3/16" to 1/2" to 11/32" to 3/8" (6/32" to 12/32") indicating several molds were made this way and are visually quite noticeable. Also, this feature is not always accompanied with other "FAST" letters or numbers as shown in the picture above. I consider these a separate variant for purposes of this study. These were made in different molds as evidenced by the fact that the VP varies from 3/4" to 1".

#5 has typical HEMINGRAY style, size and Vertical Placement of embossing but is an unusual variant in several ways. First, it has a backwards E in PATENTED, one of three variants with embossing "errors".



Another feature realized just recently is that while it is definitely HEMINGRAY made, as embossed on the Front (?) skirt, it has more rounded features similar

to the Straight sided BROOKFIELD made pieces. It is also a bit taller than other HEMINGRAY 147s but has the same angular taper difference to the overall shape. (See discussion on BASIC SHAPES below)

One other feature that sets it apart from its HEMINGRAY brothers is the color. While still not as colorful as most BROOKIES these are a bit different shade of blue aqua than most HEMIs. This difference can not be shown well in a picture here, only during side by side comparison. All these features become apparent when the HEMIs are all lined up side by side.

# 6, the NO EMBOSSING, is identified as a HEMINGRAY made piece by color and overall appearance. It looks identical to most other HEMI 147s except for the lack of embossing. These are quite scarce, perhaps even RARE, as there are fewer than 5 in collections that I know about. It is reported that a few were offered for sale some time back but I never got any follow up on inquiries. **Please let me know if you own one or know someone who does. This information will be kept in strict confidence if requested.** Beware of possible altered examples, these could have the embossing ground and polished off.



This picture was taken looking at the side mold seam.  
No embossing visible.

# 7 is the oddest and most desirable of all 147s, in my humble opinion, as it is a little unevenly embossed " PAT. APPL'D. FOR" in 1/4 inch letters, VP = 5/8" and is a lot chunkier than all other 147s. It is taller and fatter than the others and from the color and overall appearance is definitely a BROOKFIELD made product. In a line up of Spiral Grooves it is quite noticeable and I have yet to find a collector that didn't think it was a neat piece.



Big Boy BROOKIE and his little Brother

Without any proof, I firmly believe that after the Spiral Groove design was authorized for production and the patent applied for, BROOKFIELD went into production with this variant even though it looks a little different than the drawing on the patent papers. (See picture above) Shortly after production commenced and perhaps before the patent papers were submitted, I think it was decided that the design did not need to be so heavy and use so much glass (my example weighs 1 pound 10.3 ounces compared to the average BROOKIE at 1 lb. 6.3 oz.) so the full line production units were reduced in size. The patent papers seem to reflect the reduced size.

# 8 & # 9 both HEMINGRAY made are variants by virtue of the number / placement of the periods AND the fact that they have shop numbers embossed on the dome. These are very similar to the previous HEMINGRAY embossed pieces but without the name HEMINGRAY on the skirt. They have varying VP with a range of from 7/16" to 9/16".



One example was so unevenly stamped that some letters are 1/16" out of line. (Notice the first T and the 7)



# 10 is once again typical looking compared to other HEMI pieces but the figures have a more distinct Prism appearance. However, they are quite interesting in that they carry misspelled embossing.



Notice the apostrophe in place of the second E. # 10.5 appears identical

All # 10 variants have the number 28 clearly embossed on the dome. Figures are 7/32" tall and VP is at 5/8".

# 10.5 is exactly the same as variant # 10 with one exception. Until Christian Willis noticed that an example he acquired did not have the usual #28 embossed on the dome, my #10.5 did not exist. All of the # 10 variants that I had seen were the same with number 28 embossed on the dome and I had made a lot of assumptions about it. Since Christian's discovery I have acquired two examples of # 10.5 from Bob Roehrig (thanks again Bob) and expanded my list, thus the .5 designation.

I agonized for a long time about whether or not these were actually different or just had weak dome embossing. Very close scrutiny of all 4 examples I am aware of reveals no sign of a dome number, thus it was assigned a separate number. From comparing other aspects of all # 10s and # 10.5s, I do believe it was made in the same mold as the # 10s but it is my opinion that the dome number was either added or removed later, probably added as no mold alteration is seen.

**It would be quite interesting to document where any more of these are uncovered so please keep me informed.** At this time, the # 10.5 is considered a Scarce to Rare variant.

# 11 (I refer to it as the "NO DATE") is a tough one to notice and get a handle on rarity. Because it looks identical to many of the BROOKFIELD made variants it is possible that some are overlooked while handling them or even just sitting on sales tables. There is nothing to set them apart or make them stand out. They simply don't have embossing, NO DATE, on one side of the skirt. I believe that these were the production pieces between the PAT. APPL'D. FOR and those with the date. I suspect that BROOKFIELD made the mold sets without dates, started production before the patent was issued and then added the date when the patent was actually issued. These are Scarce to Rare and have 1/4" letters with a 15/32" VP.

I would like to offer a word of caution here as with # 6. While the vast majority of insulator collectors / sellers are honest and honorable, if you are thinking about paying some BIG BUCKS for a NO DATE or NO EMBOSSING CD 147, check it closely for ground and polished off embossing. This could be done and I thought that might be the case with the first ones I saw. I am convinced that there

are legitimate examples out there, I have had a few and mine are authentic, but BEWARE.

# 12, BROOKFIELD made, is not that unusual, it has no periods, but it is a little tougher to acquire than #13 & #14. In all my looking I run across fewer of these than others but they are not scarce. However, if you are trying for all the variants don't pass one of these up if it's priced reasonably. Among the examples I have studied I found some with 1/4" and some with 9/32" figures but all have a 1/2" VP. The figures are shaped like most BROOKIES which are almost Prism in appearance, mostly straight lined, evenly spaced as if made by a machine. (See pictures and discussion in EMBOSSING STYLES below) Many examples of this variant have good color, some inclusions with crudeness and character in the glass.

# 13 is by far the most common style I have found. It also has the most variety of all variants. The style and size of embossing, color, etc. all vary considerably. Most # 13s have the same style embossing (straight line, evenly spaced, Prism in appearance) on both sides. However, one style of # 13 has two different styles of embossing, Prism and Freehand in two different sizes. Another one even has two different sizes of letters in the same word. PAT is 1/4" and ENTED is only 7/32". Not a lot of variance but visually noticeable. (Check out the pictures and discussion below) # 13s along with # 12s seem to be the most prevalent variant with "JUNK", Swirls and "STUFF". The VP varies only from 7/16" to 1/2".

# 14 is the NARROW or STRAIGHT style. The amount of taper (differences in diameter at Skirt & Crown) is only .500 or 1/2 inch. The typical BROOKIE is .643 or about 5/8 inch. The typical HEMI is .825 or approximately 13/16 inch. Again, may not sound like much but look at the difference to the eye. (See pictures and discussion of BASIC SHAPES below) Also, different pieces have two different sizes of embossing, 7/32" & 1/4", but never mixed on the same piece and the VP is always 7/16".

# 15 is also the more STRAIGHT shape but not quite as severe as #14 & another one that is not all that common and often overlooked. Other than the small difference in shape, it is virtually identical to the # 14s but has a prominent 0 on the dome, the ONLY Brookfield 147 so embossed. While this may not make it more valuable to the average collector, it is definitely one that should be in any comprehensive CD 147 collection and may be a bit tough to find. The average taper is .518" or slightly over 1/2 inch. Most have the same size figures on both sides but I found one piece that has different sizes of embossing on it. The PATENTED is 9/32" tall and the date is 1/4" tall. All of these variants appear to be Dark Aqua in color and the VP is 7/8".

# 16 is HEMINGRAY made with typical features. This and the following variants do not have the name OR dome numbers embossed. There were many different #16 molds made with a large number of variations in characteristics. As with all HEMI pieces, the figures appear to have been Individually Hand Stamped, one at a time, and thus can be very uneven. (See pictures and discussion of Embossing Style below) The figures appear to be both rounded or almost Prism in shape and the VP range is from 7/16" to 5/8" (10/16")

# 17 is almost identical to # 16 in all respects except it has two (2) periods instead of none. VP range was found to be 7/16" to 1/2".

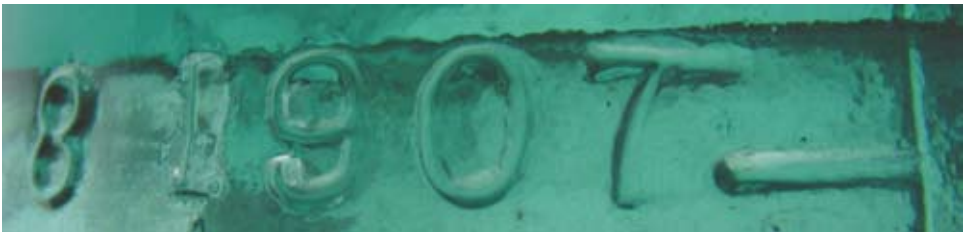
# 17a is not a separate listing as it is unclear as to whether the period after 1907 is just a slurred or "FAST" period or engraved as a period with a tail appearing similar to a comet or sideways apostrophe.



Notice the 7 as well as the period / comet

It is identical to one of the # 17 molds with that one exception. The comet shaped period is quite noticeable however and that is why it is separated and described here. At first it was treated like a separate variant but further study indicated it was simply an anomaly, something that just occurred randomly.

# 17.5 is a *NEW FIND* that just popped up when I was preparing this article. I had thought it was one of the # 4 examples until I started to sort all the insulators into their variants to look for similarities / differences and noticed it didn't have HEMINGRAY embossed on the skirt. It is virtually identical to either # 17 or # 17a except the last "period" is an underscore like the # 4s. The example I have, the only one I've seen or noticed, is 9/32 inches long. The 7 is sort of "FAST" but the underline appears to be too intentional.



# 18 is another of the HEMINGRAY misspelled variants.



Simply forgot to put in the first E

As far as I can determine there was only one mold made like this as there are no differences noticed on all examples I examined. All other characteristics are the typical HEMINGRAY features. All the VP is the same, 1/2 inch.

# TECHNICAL FEATURES

*The features that got the study started*

I hope I don't lose a lot of you here but this is really why this article is being written and why I get paid the Big Bucks. Some of you might even say that this information is worth what I'm getting paid: \$00,000.00. The chart above lists all the known embossing variants I am aware of after searching for about 8 - 10 years and a thorough description of each follows. When I started, McDougald's Price Guide listed period placement in a very haphazard manner. No offense meant to them, it was simply the way things were reported and John (he told me) placed periods where they seemed logical. It turned out that some of the listings in the early volumes do not exist exactly as listed (with regard to period placement). No one before me cared so it was never brought to his attention. With the 2003 edition John made notes that "Comes in various period patterns" in some Embossing Identification Numbers. (EIN) This is, in my opinion, the best way to handle this situation for the Price Guide. In most cases number and placement of periods does not affect the value or desirability of a piece. If it does, separate listings are important.

During the attempt to sort all this out I discovered, with the help of many, many others, some features that ARE important, not just to me but to others. That's why I was asked to pursue this and write it down as best as I can. We discovered a couple of truly new variants and got some things in the Price Guide changed. My chart above is different from the price guide as I have separated the different variants to show what is actually embossed on each one. My listing order follows the Price Guide for a more clear comparison between it and this study. Hopefully, this will be used as a guide for others who wish to acquire a complete group of these fascinating insulators. For the most part they can be acquired very easily and inexpensively. Aside from tougher colors or those with outstanding inclusions or perhaps a #10.5, there are only three (# 6, # 7 & # 11) that will cost over about \$10.

## PERIOD PLACEMENT

*Does it really matter?*

Yes, it matters to a specialist and it seems to matter to a lot of people. On **ICON** hardly a week goes by that someone, usually a newer collector, doesn't report an "unlisted" variant because their example has punctuation, most often in the form of PERIODS, that doesn't show up in the Price Guide. Yes, it's explained in the important information in the front of the book that these things vary and not all such variations are included because of publication restraints (the size) and these things don't affect value. But the simple fact that they are looking and ask the questions proves that a lot of collectors care.

It seems logical to me that, aside from PAT. APPL'D FOR, there should be only **ONE** period on these pieces and that would be the one after the ABBREVIATED word OCT. Having no periods seems incorrect but so does having two. However, a look at the Patent papers shows: **PATENTED OCT. 8, 1907. That's TWO (2) periods AND a COMMA.** No TH. Based on that, I now have to un-arch my back

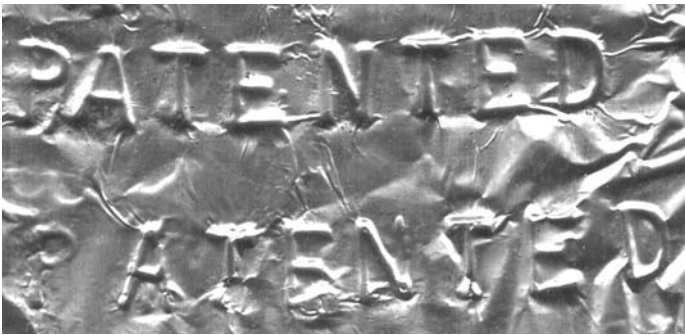
and say: "The patent papers are correct". I suppose there is room for disagreement but unless you have a degree in English Composition I don't want to fight. Discuss, O.K.

## EMBOSSING STYLE

*HEMINGRAYs are all about the same, BROOKFIELDs offers some interest.*

There are several different embossing styles on CD 147s. We'll inspect the HEMINGRAY made pieces first.

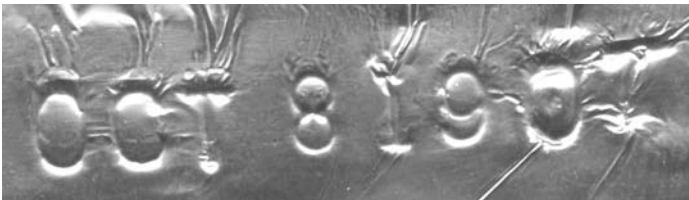
HEMIs are all quite similar but there are some differences. The first style is INDIVIDUAL HAND STAMPED (IHS) with figures 7/32" tall. They can be almost Prism or Rounded in appearance. These appear to be created by the mold maker using an individual stamp for each letter or number. The placement of the figures varies drastically with few, if any, resembling a straight line. It would appear that a beginning engraver or mold maker did most of them or the stamper just didn't care. They are also sometimes bunched close together or spread too far apart.



Top word is quite bunched while lower word is spread at the beginning



(Check out the first "T". It's a good 1/32" taller)

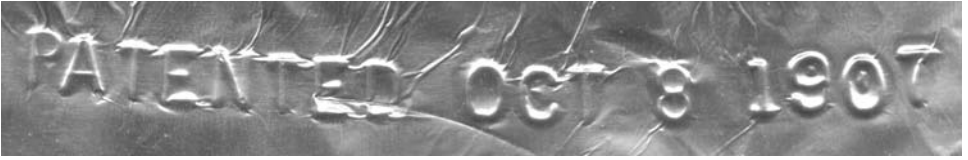


(Scrunched up numbers)

When one considers the difficulty of the task of stamping letters on a curved surface and spelling the words backward it is understandable that it would look

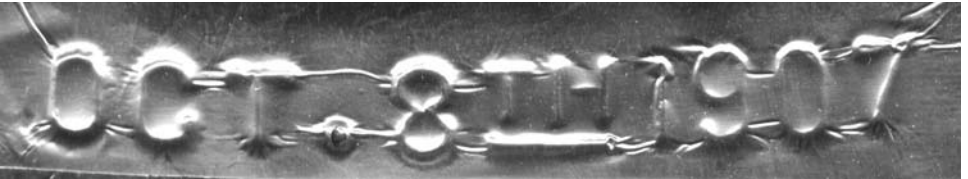
that way. The letters and numbers themselves are quite uniform in size (7/32") (with the exception of the "T" above) so it is obvious that a factory made stamp was used.

Although the figures themselves are the same as the first style, the second HEMINGRAY style is much more uniform as though the entire word(s) were made into a stamp and then stamped into the mold. These are more straight line in form but the shapes of the figures themselves appear to be somewhat different from insulator to insulator. If these were engraved, rather than stamped, they would have had to use both a sharp pointed and rounded gouge. I am not at all convinced as to whether all the stamps or punches were actually the same and they just got worn with use or if two different styles were used or if the molds features just softened with use.



A relatively straight, evenly spaced line for a HEMI but still IHS

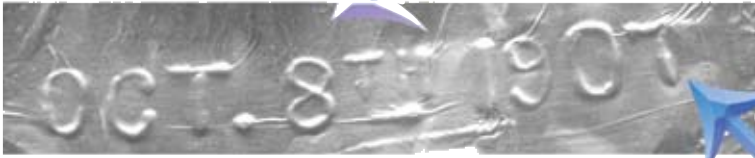
The BROOKFIELD made pieces are perhaps less interesting to study. Maybe ENGRAVED in the molds, the words are generally created neater, more evenly spaced and in more of a straight line. However, the style varies considerably in appearance and some are fun to look at. The most precise style is what a HEMINGRAY specialist would call a PRISMATIC style figure. They have the same pointed ridges on the top or surface of the figure and appear to have straight sides. In other words, they come up from the surface and then angle inward to a point.



Distinctly PRISMATIC in appearance

Another style is what I would call FREE HAND. Even though they are typically straight and evenly spaced, some of the figures are crude and script in appearance

while others appear as if made on a typewriter.  
(Remember those?)



The freehand is most noticeable in the eights (8) & sevens (7) and I have noted at least 5 different ones. The style of embossing on both sides of some of these examples is the same while on others it is quite different. On Variant # 15 the word PATENTED is much neater and a different size and style than the date on the opposite skirt.

## EMBOSSING POSITION – FRONT or REAR

*Who's on first? No! He plays third base. (or something like that)*

This portion of the study will probably be of real interest to only the most serious student of the CD 147 story but it includes a most challenging, fun question that could apply to other CDs also. I include it here simply to stir up a controversy.

It is obvious from a quick look at a few of the common examples of 147s that there are 2 basic skirt embossing locations. The "front" skirt **only** and **both** "front" and "rear". The HEMIs have front **AND** rear and front **only** embossing while the BROOKIEs have only "front" and "rear" embossing. (This excludes the rare variants NO DATE, NO EMBOSSING and PAT. APPL'D FOR). Now, the fun question is: which is the "front" and which is the "rear" of the insulator? Seems like a stupid question at first but think about it.



BROOKFIELD - with date facing out on both pieces, LEFT: spiral begins and ends in the middle, RIGHT: spiral is half way around

Is CD 147 embossing oriented by the position of the Spiral Groove or by the logical way of reading the words? If one looks at any group of 147s, whether

HEMINGRAY or BROOKFIELD made, it seems logical to read them Patented Oct. 8 (TH) 1907. In the case of the HEMINGRAY embossed units the name would logically come first. However, and here comes the fun part, if you orient all the **Spirals** the same direction, the beginning at the top, the embossing varies. The same words are sometimes on the "front" and sometimes on the rear: Some have the date on the "front", some have PATENTED or HEMINGRAY or blank on the "front". The picture(s) should make this explanation less confusing.



HEMINGRAY - LEFT spiral half way around, RIGHT: spiral just beginning

With HEMINGRAY embossed on the "Front" of some pieces and the date on the "Rear", then these without the name embossed have the ONLY embossing on the rear. RIGHT?

So, how is the front and rear determined? By the way the Spiral is oriented or by the way the embossing reads? I know, some of you are asking "who cares?" Well, I do and perhaps others do also. At the least it's fun to discuss / argue. According to the Price Guide, Front & Rear are determined by how the embossing reads most logically. I guess we'll leave it at that for now.

Another issue with regard to Embossing Position is its Vertical Placement (VP) on the skirt. Some are placed quite LOW on the skirt and some quite HIGH.





(Left = VP of 1/2" above skirt mold seam, Right = VP of 1")

Measured to the nearest 1/32", I have noted 12 VP positions on HEMINGGRAYS and 4 on BROOKFIELDS. Because the amount of glass on the very bottom of the skirt varies, I have taken all measurements from the mold seam that goes around the base at the bottom of the skirt to the bottom of the embossing. I realize that many molds were made and probably many different mold makers made them so it really isn't a question of why this occurs but it is interesting to make note of the differences. It is certainly noticeable visually and people kept reporting the differences they found.

## **EMBOSSING SIZE**

*Is SIZE important?*

Another feature I find interesting is the variation in embossing size. (See pictures above) While differences of this type are not unique to CD 147s, their differences may be the most of any CD. I have noted only 1 for HEMIs (7/32") but 3 (7/32", 1/4" & 9/32") for BROOKIES, not a large difference but visually noticeable. These are measured to the nearest 1/32". Again, there is no mystery as to why there are variations but when a study of this type is undertaken it's difficult to stop analyzing everything. Especially when someone asks a question,,,,, right Mr. Brewer. There are other areas that could be, need to be, explored but I got too far into this before some questions were asked so I will leave those inquiries until another time.

## **DOMES NUMBERS**

*Few variants have these shop numbers*

A short discussion needs to be made and it concerns one of those partially answered questions. There are DOME NUMBERS on some variants (Primarily the HEMINGGRAYS which is somewhat unusual in itself, this is a feature most often associated with BROOKFIELD) and the list I have here are the numbers that I have seen or that have been reported to me and verified by me. I did not start out to note which variant has which numbers on the dome except for my variants # 10 & # 15. As already stated, the numbers found on these are 28 & 0 respectively. It would be of great interest to me and the hobby in general if anyone reports any numbers not on this list. I will need verification in some form as that has been the standard we have followed from the beginning. The following numbers are known on variants #8 and #9: 1 thru 6, 8 thru 35 and 49. A lot of the shop numbers are illegible so it is important to report only numbers clear enough to be certain what they are. No outright guessing please.

## **HEIGHT and WEIGHT**

*A feature nobody ever asked me about but here it is anyway*

Well, we can go on and on with technical stuff and we will. The relative height of all CD 147s is about the same: 4-1/4". There are some variations but usually within plus or minus 1/8 inch. Weights vary and I guess it is conjecture as to whether it varies a lot or not. I have not weighed every CD 147 I have ever come across but according to the examples I have on hand (about 300) the variance range is: BROOKFIELD from 1 lb. 4.3 oz. to 1 lb. 8.3 oz. – HEMINGGRAY from 1 lb 2.2 oz.

to 1 lb. 7.5 oz. The heaviest HEMINGRAY piece was the heaviest HEMI by over almost an ounce. Most were well under 1 pound 7 ounces. I guess that is not a lot of differences but is interesting none the less.

*Editor's Note: Part two of Jim Sinsley's article on Spiral Grooves will be printed in the November issue of Crown Jewels. Here's a list of topics Jim will cover:*

## **WHO MADE THE SPIRAL GROOVES?**

*How do we know?*

## **BASIC SHAPE**

*Telling the difference*

## **COLOR**

*Two basic colors but lots of shade differences*

## **INCLUSIONS**

*And bubbles and under pours and ????*

## **UNDER POURS.**

*The under pours are among my favorites too*

## **SPIRAL GROOVE START**

*We all have to start somewhere*

## **GHOST EMBOSSING**

*You're not afraid of Ghosts are you?*

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