



CD 147 -- THE GROOVY INSULATOR
PART II

By Jim Sinsley

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

WHO MADE THE SPIRAL GROOVES?

How do we know?

It should be stated here that most folks in the hobby agree that based on the characteristics of the pieces themselves and advertising that has been viewed BROOKFIELD and HEMINGRAY both produced CD 147s. We don't know which company was the first, perhaps it was simultaneous. We believe with almost certainty that the BROOKFIELD made CD 147s can be identified by the TH after the 8 in the date while the HEMINGRAY made pieces don't have this feature (No TH). Also, comparing the general shape and appearance & color of the glass with insulators **known** to be produced by these two companies gives us tips as to their manufacturer and of course, some examples have the HEMINGRAY name embossed on the skirt. From comparing these features we can accurately theorize who the manufacturer of each individual insulator was. No other manufacturer has ever been suspected of producing any of these fascinating insulators.

As a side note, none of the BROOKFIELD 147s has the name embossed but the CD 110 and CD 150 made by BROOKFIELD do. However, it is strange that the date on the CD 110 & BROOKFIELD CD 150 do not have the TH behind the 8. (See page 20, October issue) One other note: The CD 150 with the BARCLAY embossing (only one example known to exist) was undoubtedly made by HEMINGRAY as it has the same glass characteristics as other known HEMINGRAY pieces and has sharp drip points. It does not have TH after the 8. (The BROOKFIELD CD 150s do not have drip points) As far as we know, HEMINGRAY did not make a CD 110.

BASIC SHAPE

Telling the difference

While the CD 147 generally has a familiar "Bee Hive" shape, the Spiral Groove sets it apart from others with similar shapes, such as the CD143 and CD 145. Upon examination of numerous examples set in close proximity to one another one realizes that there are differences in profiles that are interesting.



Typical BROOKFIELD, Straight BROOKIE, typical HEMINGRAY

The angle of taper from base to crown in BROOKFIELD 147s varies considerably in appearance if not in actual dimensions. Some have an almost straight up and

down look (some style # 13 and all style #s 14 & 15) (see chart above) while others are much more angled. My measurements show the BROOKFIELD diameter differences range from .500" for the STRAIGHT style to .643" for the TYPICAL style. That doesn't sound like a lot but it is visually apparent as seen above. The measurements were taken at the widest part of the skirt and at the mold seam around the crown, just above the top of the Spiral groove. All of the HEMINGRAY 147s are about the same except for an oddball example which looks almost like BROOKFIELD pieces.



Typical BROOKFIELD, HEMINGRAY Type #5, typical HEMI
Note the BROOKFIELD like rounded features, height and the color of the middle HEMI #5s while retaining the HEMINGRAY style taper.

Another feature that is different between manufacturers is the feel of the wire grooves. The HEMI pieces are much more angular or sharper and the BROOKIES are rounder and softer. Please pardon the analogy but to me the HEMIs are male and the BROOKIES are female in feel and appearance.

COLOR

Two basic colors but lots of shade differences

Unfortunately, the Spiral Grooves are not blessed with a great deal of color variation. We don't find Cobalt Blue, Sapphire, Purple, Amber, etc. The color ranges are shades of AQUA and GREEN. Even the green pieces are probably the result of well mixed iron impurities in the aqua so as not to show streaks or swirls. Once again, the colors can lead to manufacture identification. The HEMIs are mostly a pale to medium Blue Aqua. There is very little variation in color (in this era of manufacture) which is a familiar story to HEMINGRAY specialists. The BROOKIES are a little different in that the color shades run from rather light Blue Aqua to darker shades of Aqua to true Blue to Tealish to almost Turquoise and from Light Green to Green to Yellow Green to almost Emerald Green.



HEMINGRAY Typical aqua, BROOKFIELD Dark Green
& BROOKFIELD true Blue



BROOKFIELDs -Teal Aqua & Toughest Color: Dark Yellow Green



More BROOKFIELD Greens & 2 shape variations. Which is Front?

To me there is enough variation of color as to be quite pleasing and interesting but not enough to specialize for color alone as in say Bee Hives (CD 145) or HEMINGRAY and H.G. signals (CD 162). The true joy in Spiral Grooves comes with the abundance of "JUNK" and factory malformed pieces. These features add interest and eye appeal. As stated earlier, the BROOKFIELD produced pieces often contain some amount of Amber or Olive Green streaking or swirling, sometime in copious amounts. This makes these pieces stand out in ANY color or "Junk" collection. I have seldom viewed a general collection that didn't contain at least one or two outstanding examples.

INCLUSIONS

And bubbles and under pours & ????

Now we get to the really fun stuff. I mean STUFF----- JUNK-----GOOP. The HEMINGRAY factory must have really tightened up the ship by the time CD 147s were produced. I have many, many examples of HEMINGRAY made Spiral Grooves in the collection but only 7 that are there because of "JUNK".

Squiggly lines made from stings of glass left in the mold.
Thanks Paul Greaves.



The most profuse amount of stuff (carbon) I've found in a HEMI 147. Picked myself.



Another is BUBBLES. The largest bubble I have seen in a 147, a gift from Dave Elliott. Thanks Dave.



Another inclusion feature is what is commonly called (please pardon the expression) "SNOT". Well, that's what it looks like. The right-hand, HEMINGRAY doesn't have a lot compared to the BROOKIE! They must have had healthier employees!



A waterfall of steamy bubbles

Even these pale in comparison with the BROOKIEs but that makes it all the more exciting when one is found and added to the collection.



Still another is ROCKS

This one with a nickel size rock in just the right place is from my friend, Chris Magnus.

Some of the BROOKFIELD made insulators are simply amazing in the "JUNK" category. I am sad to say that I do not own the very best examples I have seen but I am very happy to own some truly fine examples. Amber and / or Olive Green swirls are not uncommon in 147s.



These are a few of my favorites from my collection.
The third is another piece from my friend
Chris Magnus that has very nice contrast.

UNDER POURS.

The under pours are among my favorites too



All I want for Christmas
is my two front teeth!

Was BROOKFIELD trying
to save \$\$\$ on glass?

A hole in one. Anyone
for golf?

All together these pieces make a pretty impressive display.
I hope you enjoy viewing them as much as I do.

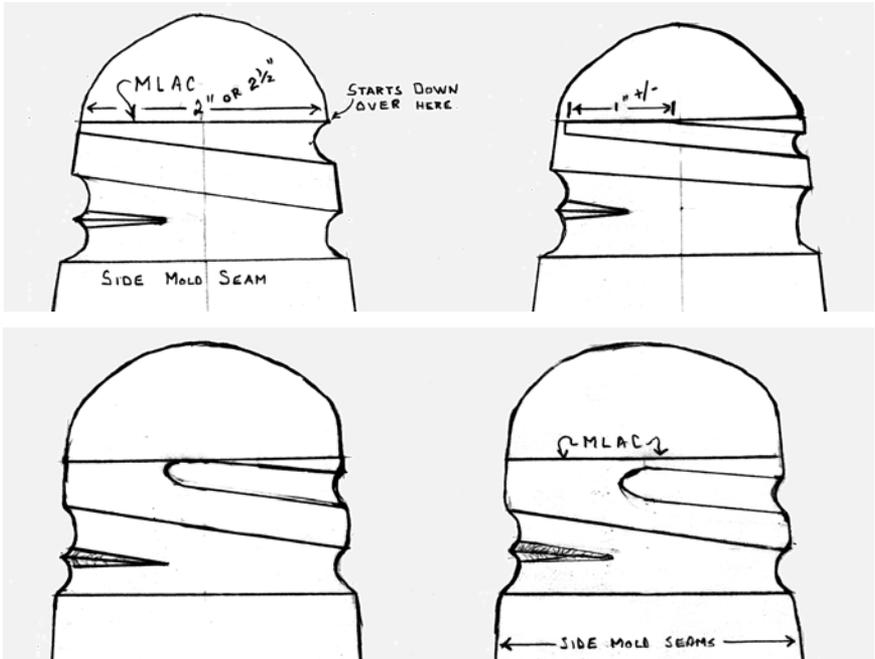
SPIRAL GROOVE START

We all have to start somewhere

Another feature that I believe is important and should be discussed is the Spiral Groove Start. This is important because there have been 4 variations noted.

While looking at the insulators head on, place the top starting point of the downward spiral of the Wire Groove directly in the middle. You will notice that on BROOKFIELD pieces this point is always, or should be, equidistance between the side mold seam and the start / stop points are in a vertical line. On HEMINGRAY pieces the start is SOMETIMES equidistant but more often closer to the right side mold seam. The ending point is basically one revolution below the starting point but not in a straight vertical line, it ends somewhat to the right. The differences discussed here are where the downward spiral actually starts downward.

It has been observed (first by Stanley Klein) that the top of the wire groove of some HEMINGRAY pieces start downward after following the Mold Line Around the Crown (MLAC) about 2 to 2 1/2 inches. Another group of HEMIs follows the MLAC only about 1 inch. A few HEMI wire grooves do not actually touch the MLAC. With the BROOKFIELDs, some slant down almost immediately while others never actually join the MLAC and also start down immediately. There is some overlap found here as molds get worn and characteristics change. For a little clearer idea of what I am talking about see my drawing below.



(HEMINGRAY at the top, BROOKFIELD at the bottom)

GHOST EMBOSSING

You're not afraid of Ghosts are you?

Actually, Ghost Letters / Numbers on insulators are another of my sub-specialties and a real favorite. I began this collection when I noticed them for the first time on more than one Spiral Groove. It turns out that it is not a real uncommon feature on these but most times it is quite subtle. Since the first several 147s I set aside because of this feature I have expanded the collection to include any CD. Below are pictures of just a few of the more prominent 147 examples.



Somewhat subtle GHOST on an Under Pour piece



This one is almost as distinct as the original embossing

Ghost letters occur when the pliable glass in the mold touches the lettering part of the mold a second time, perhaps during the extraction process. It is most common to find Ghost Letters / Numbers above the intended figures but only rarely do they somehow appear below. This is understandable as insulators are created upside down and the second contact would logically come as the finished insulator was removed from the mold and something shifts. You might have another explanation for this phenomenon but this one satisfies me. Once in awhile we get a bonus and find ghost embossing on both sides of a piece.

WHAT'S LEFT TO BE DONE

You mean that's not all?

(Here Jim refers to his chart on page 21 of the October issue.) I believe we need to gather as many examples of #s 3 & 4 together and scrutinize them closely to determine if there is at least one mold in common between them. (I really haven't done this) The goal would be to determine, without a doubt, IF the "underscore" is intentional or mere chance. Same for #s 17 & 17.5

There needs to be a compilation of dome embossed numbers on #s 8 & 9 to determine which numbers goes with which variant. There may be overlap and that would be alright, we just NEED to know.

Who made this style first and how did two competitors come to make the same basic style? Were they produced simultaneously by both Companies?

Who was John C. Barclay and what was his back ground in insulators? In other endeavors?

Create a list documenting all the different molds used in each and every variant.

What are the years of production for Spiral Grooves?

Anything anyone else wants / needs to know needs to be studied. Are you up to it?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I couldn't or wouldn't have done it without you

This is always a dangerous task as someone deserving is often left out. This is certainly not my intent but it has been 10 years (1997) since I actually started thinking and asking questions about these things and I may have misplaced some of my correspondence. If you helped out at any time, especially early, and are not mentioned I am sincerely sorry.

As already mentioned, Lee Brewer is most to blame. ;>) Also participating early on were: (in no particular order) Lee Conte, Paul Greaves, Bob Stahr, Marvin Holland, Alby Allen, Stanley Klein, Heath & Heather Volmer, Bill Meier, John McDougald, Pat Scott, Keith Roloson, Dwayne Anothony, Ken Roberts, Bob Roehrig, Elton Gish & Pat Howard.

In addition, I have received very special pieces from Dave Elliott, Keith Roloson, Chris Magnus, Bob Roehrig, Mike Doyle, John Scherzinger, Kim Borgman & Paul Greaves and of course my best buddy, Bill Reid. Thank you all.

New Stuff & Additional Thoughts

(After part one was published in October)

A "NEW FIND" (reported by Bill Meier), is the Price Guide EIN [015] but the PATENT'D should be PATENTED, and have TWO PERIODS. It is actually a variant of PATENT - OTHER EIN [005]. This will be item 9.5 on the list of variations (page 21 in the October issue).

(Dome) 21 (F-Skirt) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 ('0' is engraved over a '9') SB



(Dome) 25 (F-Skirt) PATENTED OCT 8 1907 ('9' is engraved over a '0') SB



Another “NEW FIND” (also reported by Bill Meier) is shown above. It is now 8.5 on my list of variations. It has a 9 over 0 and no periods.

I believe a CD 147 embossing style in the price guide is in error. PATENT - OTHER (003) is a BROOKFIELD product rather than a HEMINGRAY product. I believe that is important. (In my opinion it should be PATENT - OTHER EIN (035).

CONCLUSION

It was bound to end sometime

I'm sure some of you who have gotten this far are saying “FINALLY”. If you think this study is far too comprehensive / involved you are welcome to blame Lee Brewer. :-). I sincerely hope that you have gleaned something from this study, it has been a love / hate relationship for me. I have enjoyed looking at and studying the insulators but not being an astute researcher or writer it has been laborious. I didn't find some of the information I was looking for, maybe that will come later. I always welcome your input and additional information.

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