

PATENT NEWS especially for PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS

WR PATENT NEWS # 2007-39
and UPDATE of WRPATENTNEWS #2007-04

PATENTS

US Des 359245 LEE 1995 PLUMB BOB ASSEMBLY

US5426860 LEE 1995 PLUMB BOB ASSEMBLY

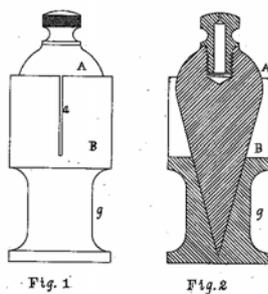
(US5426860 BERGEN 1995)

US5974676 BEAL et al. 1999 LOW PROFILE PLUMB BOB

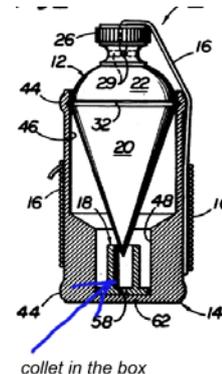
US DES 393219 BEAL et al. PLUMB BOB

Theme: LEE VALLEY and VERITAS®

Today I will write all I know about PLUMB BOBS of the inventor LEONARD G. LEE in Ottawa Canada, JERROLD R. BEALL et al. in Newark, Ohio and the company LEE VALLEY TOOLS and the mark VERITAS®



You remember that I wrote in my WR PATENT NEWS 2007-04 about the patents US266671 BERGEN 1882 PLUMB BOB and US5426860 LEE 1995 PLUMB BOB ASSEMBLY. I compared the two patents and showed pictures and catalogue pages.



At that time I asked:

- 1) *“Has anyone a photo of the 1994 “AMERICAN WOODWORKER CALENDAR” copyright 1993? I need it, because it is mentioned in the patent as REFERENCE CITEES as “other information”“.*
Unfortunately I could not find this photo till now. ☹
- 2) *“I could not find a photo of the patented plumb bob from LEE.*

Meanwhile Nelson sent me photos of his “LEE plumb bob” that was NOT MARKED as patented (so he did not know that he had a patented one) and I bought one in Germany.

Today I will update all information about the LEE patent, LEE VALLEY TOOLS and VERITAS concerning patented PLUMB BOBS. If you have additional facts, please let me know.

We know from the 1995 patent as

INVENTORS: LEONARD G: LEE, JOHN S. LYNN, and THOMAS S. GARDINER all of Ottawa Canada and as

ASSIGNEE: LEE VALLEY TOOLS Ltd. OTTAWA CANADA

Nelson told me that he had a similar plumb bob with case that looked like the patented LEE, but it was not marked with the patent number, but it came with a “CUTE LITTLE VELVET BAG THAT SAID VERITAS IN GOLD LETTERS”. He thought that the bag had nothing to do with the plumb bob, but was a bag for a perfume scent-bottle ☺

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Meanwhile I bought in Germany a VERITAS from www.fine-tools.com or www.feinwerkzeuge.de

It is really a nice little plumb bob with a lot of functions as you can see on the next pages.

(I found information in www in English and in French for this small plumb bob. These pages are protected, so I can't insert them in this document. **You will find it as attachment to this issue**).

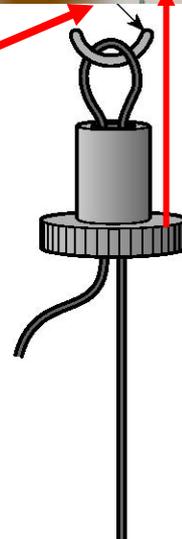
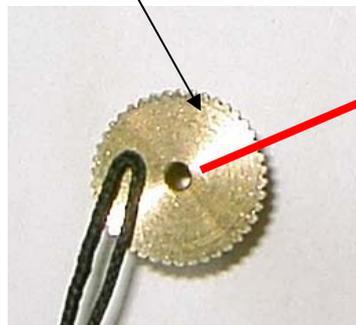
I believe that this plumb bob was not produced for using by masons or carpenters, but it is an interesting item to put it on the desk as a conversation tool.

I have had problems to get the original (double) line into the hole as shown in the AD. ☹



I also made a test using this small tool in my drill press as told in the instruction.

It works well, but I don't think that this tool is often used for this purpose.



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Let's come to the two other Plumb BOB PATENTS of LEE VALLEY: The FLAT PLUMB BOB.



US00D393219S

United States Patent [19]

[11] **Patent Number:** **Des. 393,219**

Beall et al.

[45] **Date of Patent:** ****Apr. 7, 1998**

[54] **PLUMB BOB**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[75] Inventors: **Jerrold R. Beall**, Newark, Ohio;
Michael S. McGuire, Ottawa, Canada

689069 9/1930 France .
268892 1/1938 Switzerland .

[73] Assignee: **Lee Valley Tools Ltd.**, Ontario, Canada

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[**] Term: **14 Years**

Photograph of plumb bobs from The 1994 American Woodworker Calendar, ©1993.

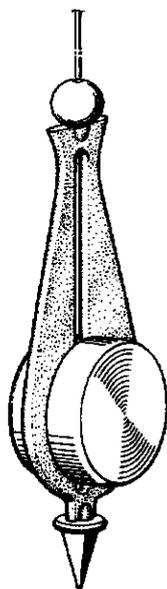


FIG 1

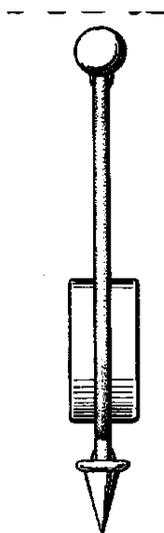


FIG 2

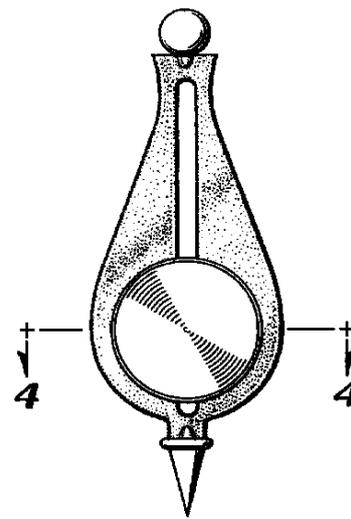


FIG 3

Besides this DESIGN PATENT exists a normal PATENT:



US005974676A

United States Patent [19]

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,974,676**

Beall et al.

[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 2, 1999**

[54] **LOW PROFILE PLUMB BOB ASSEMBLY**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[75] Inventors: **Jerrold R. Beall**, Newark, Ohio; **John S. McGuire**, Ottawa, Canada

689069 9/1930 France 33/393
268892 1/1951 Switzerland .
783813 10/1957 United Kingdom 33/392

[73] Assignee: **Lee Valley Tools Ltd.**, Ottawa, Canada

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[21] Appl. No.: **08/854,980**

Photograph of plumb bobs from The 1994 American Woodworker Calendar, ©1993.

[22] Filed: **May 13, 1997**

Primary Examiner—Christopher W. Fulton

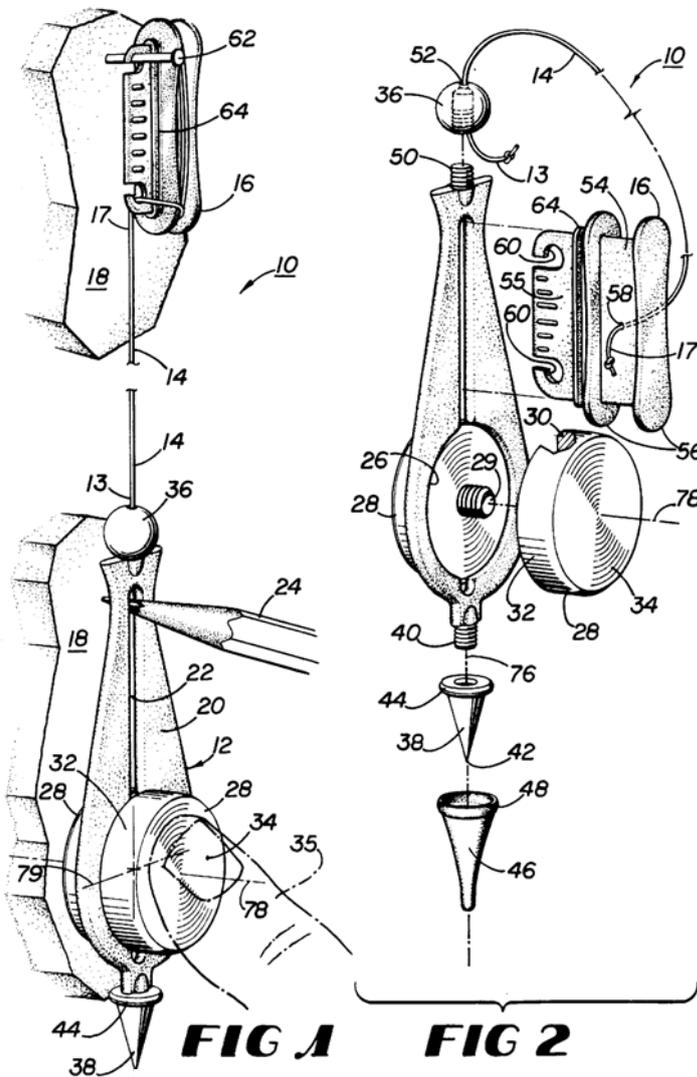
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—John S. Pratt; Kilpatrick Stockton

U.S. Patent

Nov. 2, 1999

Sheet 1 of 2

5,974,676



[57]

FIG 1

FIG 2

ABSTRACT

A plumb bob assembly including a plumb bob for use adjacent to a wall or other vertical surface, a cord, cord spool attachable to the plumb bob for storage and a tip cover. A pencil may be inserted through a vertical slot in the plumb bob body to mark the position of the plumb bob relative to an adjacent wall. The plumb bob has a relatively flat, tear-drop shaped plastic body, to which two disk-shaped brass weights, a brass cord attachment ball and a conical brass tip are attached. A plastic spool has a cord receiving region defined by two walls and a plate that protrudes beyond one of the walls. Opposed hooks on the plate provide a means for tying-off the cord and hanging the plumb bob assembly from a nail during use. A collar on the plate locks the spool on the plumb bob during storage by inserting the plate into the slot in the plumb bob body.



15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

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Here are some ADs from the German seller and from the www:
www.fine-tools.com/winkzim.htm

Flat Bob

Made by **Veritas**

Some concepts are embarrassingly obvious once you see them in practice. So it is with the Flat-Bob.

The most common use of plumb bobs is next to a wall, yet round plumb bobs roll around endlessly, making it nearly impossible to get an accurate line. The Flat-Bob doesn't roll and, because it has a very low center of gravity, it stabilizes rapidly. Because it is thin, the point is easily visible from above, again not the case with a regular bob. The body design also makes accurate marking much easier. You can press it against the wall as you mark a line dead center through the body slot.



Whether you use this in construction, for plumbing cabinetry or for wallpaper jobs, it can easily pay for itself the first day. All brass fittings on a precision-molded nylon body.
85 mm (3-3/4 in.) long overall.
Weight 70 g

Order nr. [307958](#)
Price €18.90

Plumb Bob and Case

Made by **Veritas**

Whether you need it for plumbing a set-up in your drill press, for base alignment work, or just to park on your desk to play with, a finely made plumb bob is a tool that can be enjoyed in many ways. This Veritas Plumb Bob is not only beautiful but very functional; the bob fits into a case that is a tip protector and a cord spool; the case also holds a special collet so that the bob can readily be used for drill-press alignment work.

The bob is 50 mm (2 in.) long and is held in the 25 mm (1 in.) diameter case. Compact, functional, and well designed.

Solid brass. Cord and drawstring bag included.
Weight 150 g

Order nr. [307957](#)
Price €25.50



Plumb Bob 05K95.01

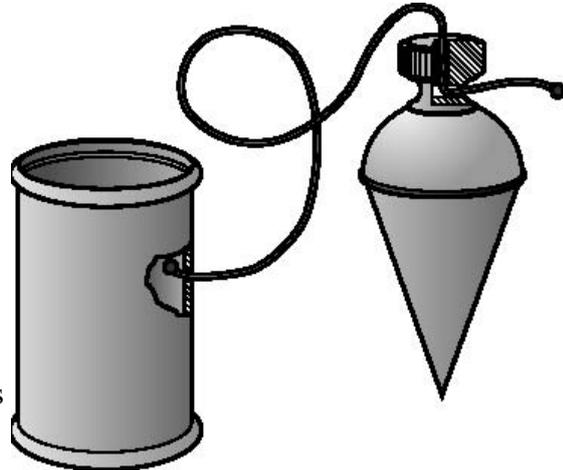
veritas®

U.S. Patent No. 5,426,860 and U.S. Design Patent No. D359,245

This plumb bob is machined from solid brass and is perfectly balanced. The method of cord attachment maintains this balance and the case protects the accuracy of the plumb bob point.

Attaching the Cord

To attach the cord to the plumb bob, thread it through the center hole until it projects into the cross channels. Using a pin or toothpick, bring the cord out of one of the cross channels and hold the tip of the cord near a flame until a small molten bulb forms at the end. When this has cooled, it can be pulled back through the cross channel, but the cord will now be trapped in the top of the plumb bob.

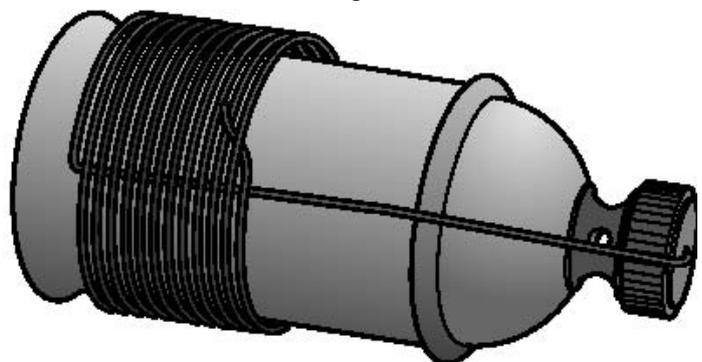


If you have trouble threading the cord through the top of the plumb bob initially, heat the tip of the cord momentarily until it softens and then draw it through a bit of paper or cloth held between your thumb and forefinger. This will create a needle-like tip on the cord, which will make it easier for threading.

Attaching the Cord to the Case

A case is provided primarily to serve as a spool for the cord as well as to prevent the tip of the plumb bob from being accidentally deformed. The cord can be attached to the case using the method just described for attaching the plumb bob. Alternatively, you may wish to leave the end of the cord free. In this case, when you are finishing using the plumb bob, you would first insert the plumb bob in the case, draw a portion of the cord down the edge of the case and then overwrap that portion with the remaining cord, finishing off by slipping the end of the cord under the last coil your wrapping. This will stop the cord from unwinding.

There are many uses for a plumb bob in woodworking, but we will explain only a couple of the most common.

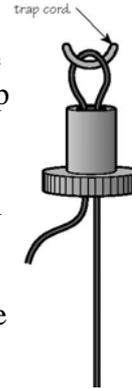


Using the Plumb Bob

Veritas® Tools Inc.

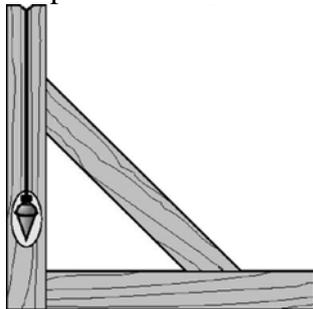
Centering Device

In the bottom of the plumb bob case you will find a small brass collet that is used to solve a common shop problem. When you are faced with the problem of getting a perfect axial alignment on your drill press when drilling the end of something long (such as a table leg), you can use the plumb bob to find the point on your support table that is exactly under the chuck. Obviously your drill press column should be perfectly erect for this to work well, but that will be dealt with in a moment. To use the collet, take just a bit less cord than you need to reach from the tip of the drill chuck to the support table, form a loop in it, put the loop through the collet putting a small piece of bent wire (or similar) in the loop to lock it in position and then tighten the collet into the drill chuck. The plumb bob should now hang just short of your support table. You can use the travel of the drill press quill to bring it down to a point where it touches the support table so that you can mark the table as you wish.



A Plumb Bob as a Level

The very earliest form of level was a plumb bob. It can be extremely accurate. Used in a simple A-frame as shown, you can use it as a level as well as ensuring that vertical members are plumb. You would use such a frame to ensure that the column of your drill press was plumb before using the plumb bob as a centering device.



Other Uses

Many people would not think of using a plumb bob for drill press alignment. Some may not have been aware of how to use a plumb bob for accurate levelling. If you have a particularly cunning way of using a plumb bob, we would like to hear about it.

814 Proctor Avenue
Ogdensburg, New York
13669-2205 USA
1-800-267-8735

1090 Morrison Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K2H 1C2 Canada
1-800-267-8761

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The history of LEE VALLEY:

Veritas® Tools Inc., based in Ottawa, Canada, is a world leader in woodworking tool design innovation and is the manufacturing arm of Lee Valley Tools Ltd., a leading North American retailer of fine tools. Lee Valley Tools, established in Canada in 1978, began designing and manufacturing its own woodworking tools in 1982. Lee Valley Manufacturing Ltd. incorporated in 1985 and later became Veritas® Tools Inc.

Today, with 200 products, and 80 patents, and another 40 pending, in lines that include woodworking planes, sharpening equipment, marking and measuring tools, router tables, drilling accessories, and more, we have become a leader in product development to meet the needs of discerning woodworkers.

Our research and development team of engineers, industrial designers, and graphic designers, along with a modern manufacturing and packaging facility, provide dealers, distributors, and retailers around the world with Veritas® products.

Manufacturer's Warranty

Our products are manufactured and designed to exacting standards, and we guarantee they will not let you down. Veritas® Tools warrants all its products to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for 12 months from the date of sale to the end user. If necessary, defective products will be replaced by the retailer, dealer, or distributor.

**Veritas® Tools welcomes comments or suggestions on products.
Please contact us at:**

LEE VALLEY is teaching us that a plumb bob must not hang plumb/vertically.



Curiosities

Among the endless things you can do is make a plumb bob that will not hang plumb. (Put a magnet in the plumb bob with the North pole facing down and one in the base with the North pole facing up.)

A standard plumb bob and one of the rigged ones are shown. Great for teaching principles of magnetism.

See

<http://www.leevalley.com/hardware/page.aspx?c=2&cat=3,42363&p=40077>

<http://www.leevalley.com/wood/page.aspx?c=1&p=32584&cat=1,43513>

