

# WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2014

Issue 11 November 1, 2014

## DISPLAY OF PLUMB BOBS

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[www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info)

Dear Fellow Collector,  
Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,  
As always, I am searching for new material and information associated with plumb bobs.  
Please feel free to share new photos, catalogs, articles or stories of a personal nature.  
I welcome input from fellow collectors!  
Wolf

## DISPLAY OF PLUMB BOBS

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

This newsletter will show you the display of plumb bobs from an American collector.

To learn more how other collectors presented their beauties, please visit my website [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) and go to sub-page EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS. There you find my presentation from our meeting in Paris 2008:

**SHOWROOMS, DISPLAYS and SHOW CASES from 20+ plumb bob collectors.**

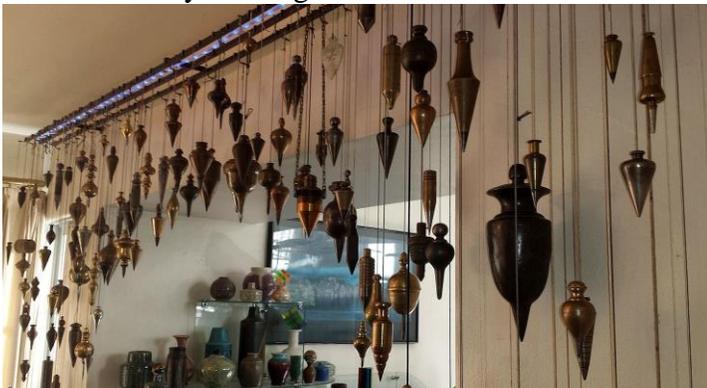
### 2. COLLECTION FROM Todd G., Seattle, U.S.A.

Since one year I have contact to a collector in the northwest of America. Recently he sent me a bunch of pictures from the display of his collection and gave them free for publication.

Some of them I selected and show them below by adding some information and

details.

Todd, I thank you for sharing these photos with the community of plumb bob collectors worldwide.





At the first view there are a lot of massive and heavy brass plumb bobs. A lot of collectors love this type of plumb bobs and the price is not at the lower end of the scale 😊. (too expensive for me)



Details of the hooks and how they are used.





Bobs 3 + 7



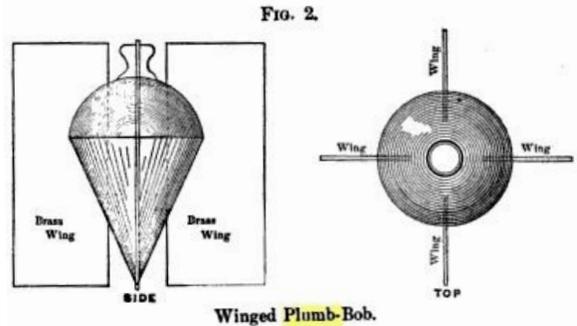
mercury filled  
claimed trench art  
bought in New  
Zealand

Bob 6

Even when this one is claimed “trench art”, it may also be a modification for mining plummets, as the next drawings show. “winged plumb bobs” are used to stabilize the plumb bob in a liquid to come quicker to rest. Especially in deep shafts for the mining surveying.

Copy from TRANSACTIONS MINING 1895:

Fig. 2 represents my “winged” plumb-bob. I think it would be highly serviceable in shafts not more than 200 or 300 feet in depth. As a final measure, I obtained from Messrs. Gurley a side telescope, which A. S. Aloe & Co., of St. Louis, attached to my transit. In order to adjust the instrument thoroughly, I suspended one of my “winged” plumb-bobs in oil, with fine piano-wire, from a high trestle, on which I adjusted the axis on the standards after having adjusted the line of collimation in the main telescope.



Other type of a winged plumb bob:

PLUMBING DOWN A SHAFT

297

and the form shown in Fig. 135 is a good one, since it prevents rotary as well as lateral oscillations. It should hang near the top of the vessel as the wire will be in a high state of tension and will stretch considerably. A mark should also be made on the wire showing how far the bob is above the bottom of the vessel.

The liquid must be a true one (not a mud or slime) and it must be neither too limpid nor too viscous; for in the former case it will not stop the oscillations within a reasonable period, and in the latter the bob may not reach the central position quickly enough. The amplitude of the vibrations of the plumb-bob decreases in a fixed ratio with equal increments of time, and the viscosity of the fluid should be such as to make each oscillation, say, about one-quarter of the preceding.



FIG. 135. TYPE OF PLUMB-BOB USED IN PLUMBING MERIDIAN DOWN A SHAFT.

from PRINCIPLES OF SURVEYING 1907



Bob 8 + 24



Bob 14



Bob 23



Bob 24



Bob 19



Bob 27



Bob 28



Bob 30



Bob 32



Bob 35



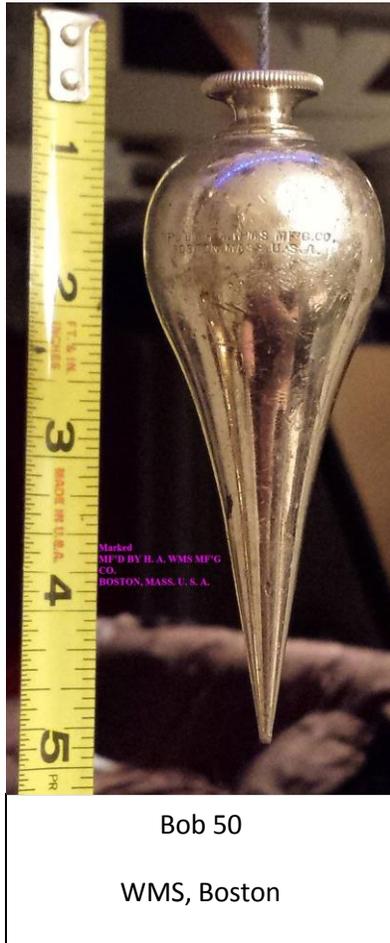
Bob 34



Bobs 43, 44, 45, 46



Bob 31



Bob 50  
WMS, Boston



Bob 42



Bob 53



Bob 54



Bob 56



Bob 74

This was just a selection of the quantity of nice and huge brass plumb bobs from the collection of Todd G.

I also saw on the pictures some other plumb bobs of interest:

This one is marked: THE BOSS BOB PAT PEND



Since I have published in 2007 50 newsletters with patented plumb bobs, I know the patent of this plumb bob.

The BOSS bob is patented by Alfred E. BOSSERDET May 3, 1927 patent number US 1,626,717

You can find the full patent letter by searching on GOOGLE or in the American Patent Office.

Patented May 3, 1927.

1,626,717

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED E. BOSSERDET, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO EDWARD HUNTER, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

PLUMB BOB.

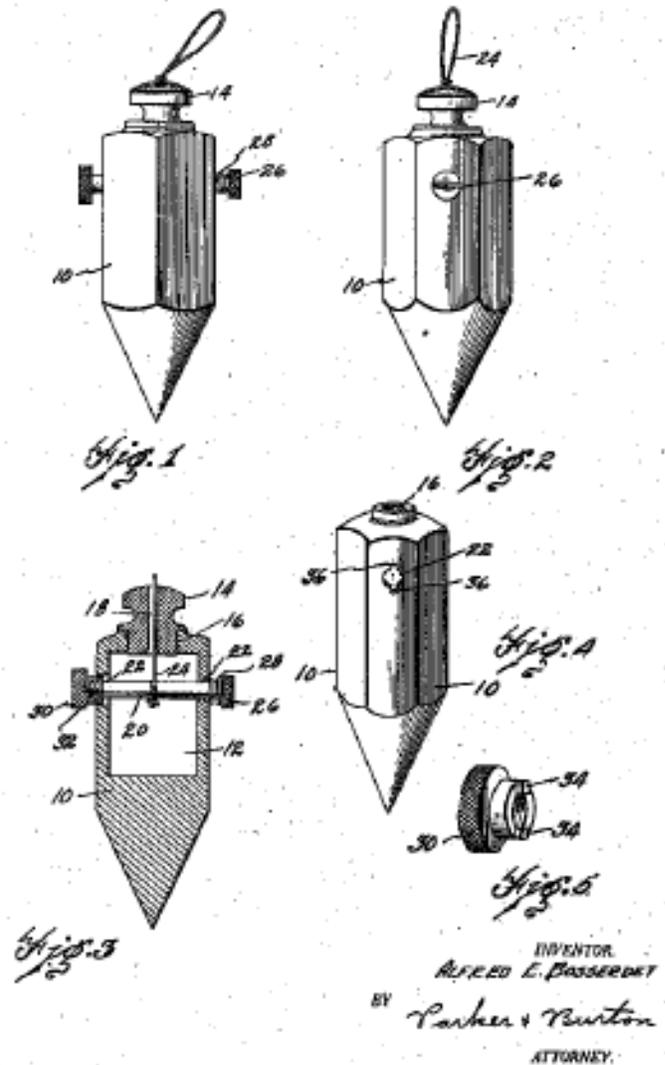
May 3, 1927.

A. E. BOSSERDET

1,626,717

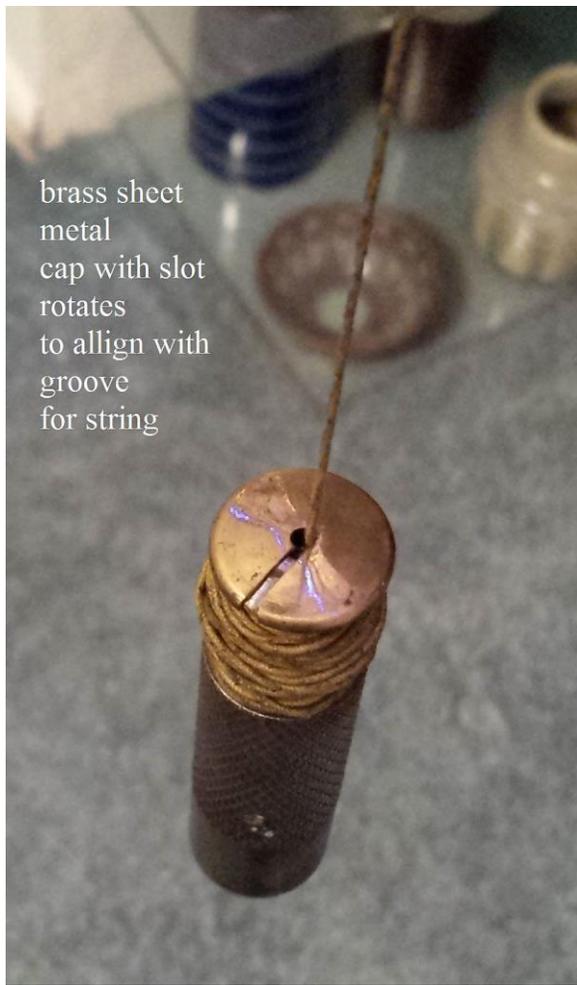
PLUMB BOB

Filed April 7, 1926





Bob 62



brass sheet metal cap with slot rotates to align with groove for string



Bob 63

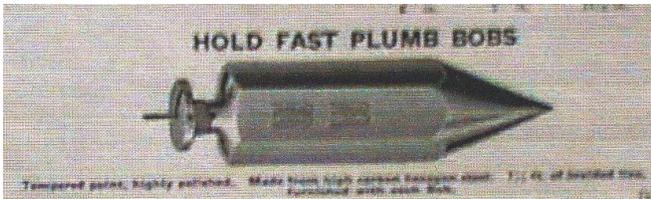
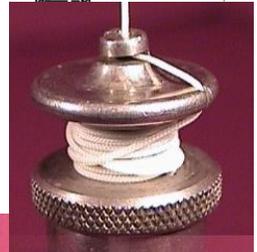
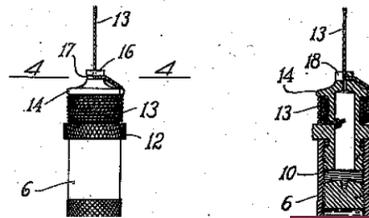
The details of these two plumb bobs remember me to the special system of the BERGMANN TOOL Buffalo N Y cap ...

...and to the well-known fixing point of the line of mercury-filled patented STARRETT bobs:



No. 833,699. PATENTED OCT. 16, 1906.

L. S. STARRETT.  
PLUMB BOB.  
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1906.



The bobs 70 and 71 are the well-known speed bob design patent US des. pat 198470 Joseph PRUTCH 1964 with the special "squeeze brake" with two half "peanuts".



Bobs 70+71



Bob 5

**"SPEED BOB"**

**Eliminates Plumb Bob Problems!**

- The "SPEED BOB" can save all trades and carpenters time and money
- Line is stored within the "SPEED BOB" instead of the exterior as on conventional Bobs
- No time consuming slip knots to tie
- Can be used while wearing gloves
- Pre-attached line and hook
- Case hardened, replaceable tip, machine made
- 18' braided line, 20lb. test
- Steel neck, machine made
- Die cast zinc - chrome finish

**18 OZ.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Loosen adjusting cap to withdraw line
- Tighten cap firmly to prevent slippage
- When withdrawing line, keep slight finger pressure on spool to prevent backlash
- To rewind quickly, point cap slightly downward and strike spool with a striking motion

- Plumb Bob body
- "H" shaped spool for line storage
- Steel Tip
- Steel Neck
- Adjusting cap
- Line Grippers
- Braided line
- Hook
- 3/16" x 1-1/4" pin

**PRICE \$19.75**  
Includes Shipping and Handling.  
In Calif. Add \$1.49 Sales Tax.

DISTRIBUTED BY  
**GLASCO CONCRETE ACCESSORIES**  
322 E. Ashline Way  
Gardena, CA 90248  
(310) 515-1896

More information about the patented KNAUS AUTO-BOB (bob 5) and the PTI remake from China (see fig. below right) that is on the market since a short time I will give soon in my newsletter.

**FACTORY SERVICE:**  
Skilled factory servicing is available for the Auto-Bob. A charge of \$1.25 will be made for servicing a damaged or non-functioning instrument. This fee covers the repair or replacement of damaged parts but does not include postage. Package well and mail prepaid to:

**Brand & Knaus, Inc.**  
49 Kasky's Ave.  
Columbus 14, Ohio  
AW 33627

**RE-THREADING YOUR Auto-Bob.**

Remove screw-in cap by turning counter-clockwise (A). Hold so small button (B) is on underside. Loosen button one and one-half turns. Depress with thumb and insert new string (cut on a diagonal) (C) through small hole (D) in cap. Feed through until several inches protrude from inside of cap. Tie knot in end of string, then secure around take-up spool (E). Tighten button (B) one and one-half turns. Tension on take-up spring (F) may be regulated by releasing ratchet (G) and turning spring housing clockwise two or three notches. Reset ratchet to maintain tension. Depress button (B) to rewind string. Repeat operation of tension setting until all string has been rewound.



Now some series of mechanical plumb bobs:  
SUVERKROP.



On the left side you see two BUFF&BUFF  
plumb bobs.



These tiny plumb bobs exist as ear rings or they



STARRETT mercury filled:



are fixed to a  
business card  
that BUFF sent  
to his clients.



Some PBs with internal reel.



And some very tiny plumb bobs:





J O HEIMBACH  
MARKED ON STEM

Bob 12



For more information about these excellent plumb bobs visit my website on subpage "LEISTNER and HEIMBACH" to read the story:

**The German Art of Metalwork"**  
St. Louis and St. Charles Missouri.  
By Nelson Denny and Mike Urness

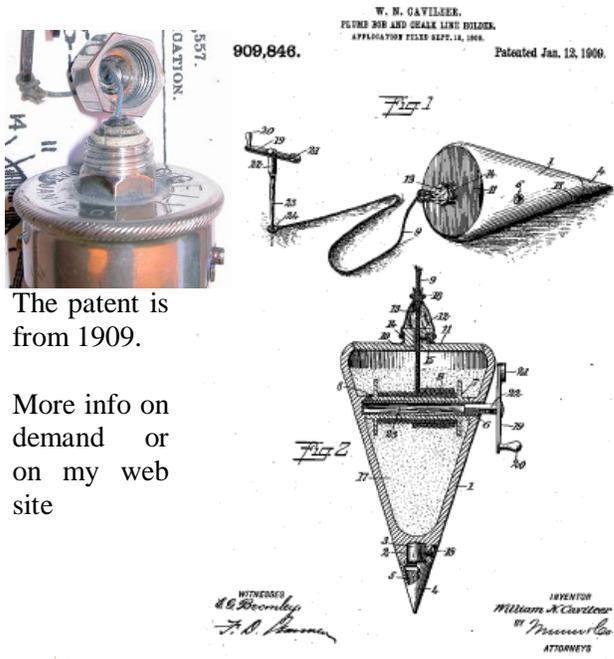


Bob 49

This RIDELY combination tool (chalk line and plumb bob) has a very special handle that is also used as NAIL to fix the chalk line at the beginning. So it can't get lost.



Also the wiper and stopper system is very special.



The patent is from 1909.

More info on demand or on my web site

RIDGELY CATALOGUE 1912 page 15 detail

**COMBINATION Plumb Bob and Chalk Line**

No. 522—Self-chalking chalk line and plumb bob combined—made of steel and brass, highly nickeled and beautifully finished throughout. Cut No. 1 shows it in use. No. 2 shows detail. Line is attached to winder "A," which can be pulled out of bob and pushed into wall. "B" is set screw controlling dogs which hold line anywhere wanted. "C" is reservoir for chalk, which is filled in a second but cannot leak.

Size 3 in. long, 1¼ in. diam., wgt. 12 oz. 20 feet of line attached and shipped full of chalk ready for use. Price per doz., \$20.00.

**Plumb Bobs**

No. 520, malleable iron, nickeled, wgt. 5 oz. per doz., \$2.00. No. 521—Steel turned lathe and absolutely perfect. Polished and nickeled—the best bob made, wgt. 6 oz. per doz., \$2.40.

And now a pair of very huge MINING PLUMMETS.

Details about mining plummets you will find in my newsletter 2009-03.



And then there are a lot of boxes with other plumb bobs (perhaps in these boxes are also some plumb bobs of interest, but I found not the time to check them all ....).

Only mentioned a few: Perfection, Goodell-Pratt, Stanley, English onion-shaped plumb bobs, six-sided (can't roll), colored, depth measuring bobs etc.

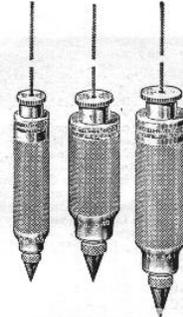
**GOODELL-PRATT COMPANY**

**Plumb Bobs**

These Plumb Bobs are made to satisfy the most particular workmen. The Bodies are brass, knurled, polished, and nickel plated, and filled with heavy metal to give the required weight. The points are steel, tempered, ground, and polished. Every one is furnished with six feet of laid twine.

	Price, Each
No. 539. 8 ounces . . . . (YUEWK)	\$1.25
No. 540. 12 ounces . . . . (YUTRE)	1.70
No. 541. 16 ounces . . . . (XUFUV)	1.80

Packed one in a pasteboard box.





I think every collector has such boxes. ☺

[plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)



If you would send me some photos of your collection, I would be happy to give my comments.

### 3. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Sometimes are offered (for a lot of money) “patented plumb bobs” with maker names like **AIRCO** U.S.A or **BOC** PAT. No. 6606-1910 ACETYLENE 1/32 from England. See figures below.

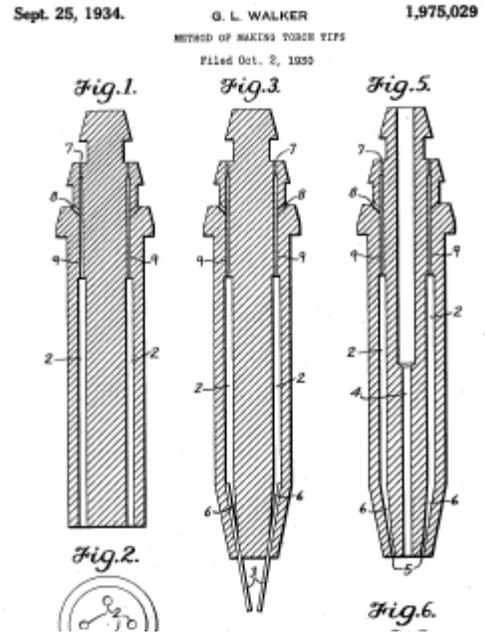


They are looking nice, but they are



“upgraded” with some screws or tips from simple **TORCH TIPS** (that you can buy for \$1.00 each) to (expensive) **PATENTED PLUMB BOBS** 😊

This is a patent page of such a tip:



No problem to buy them, but remember where they come from .....

Good hunting

### 4. REMARK

DEAR READER OF THE PLUMB BOB NEWS,  
DEAR FELLOW COLLECTOR,

This is an article of the monthly published **WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS** that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE.

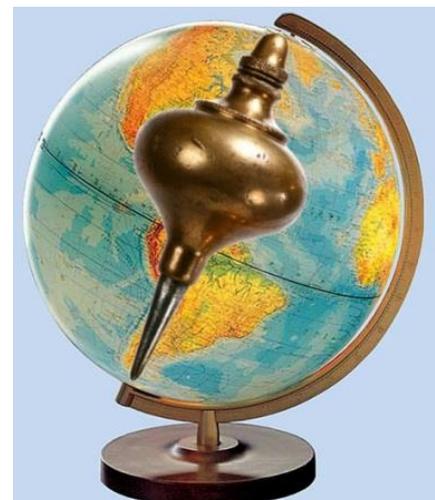
You can see all former publications on the website [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) on sub page “download publications”.

Remarks and contact by email: [plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

Enjoy it

Wolf Ruecker

*PS. This NEWSLETTER is also available in GERMAN.*



Logo of the IPBCA INTERNATIONAL  
PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS  
ASSOCIATION.  
For us THE WORLD TURNS AROUND  
THE PLUMB BOB