For questions, contact show host Cole King:

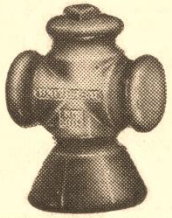
cole@indianainsulators.com

(765) 278-8226

P.O. Box 134, Sullivan, IN 47882

PRICE GUIDE
for
UNIVERSAL SPECIALTY
"FIRE PLUG" INSULATORS

USE UNIVERSAL INSULATORS



FOR SUPPORTING DROP WIRES
Neat, Easy to Use and Practical
WRITE FOR FREE SAMPLE
Universal Specialty Co.
116 So. 7th St. TERRE HAUTE, IND.

by Cole King

A. L. STADERMANN.

INSULATOR.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 19, 1907.

954,596. Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

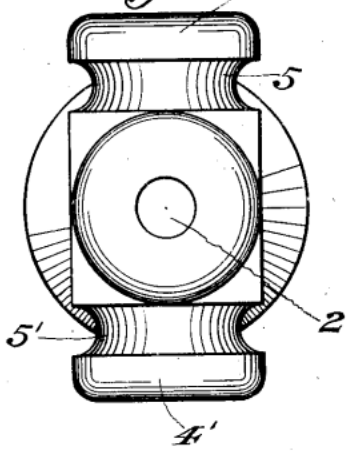


Fig. 2.

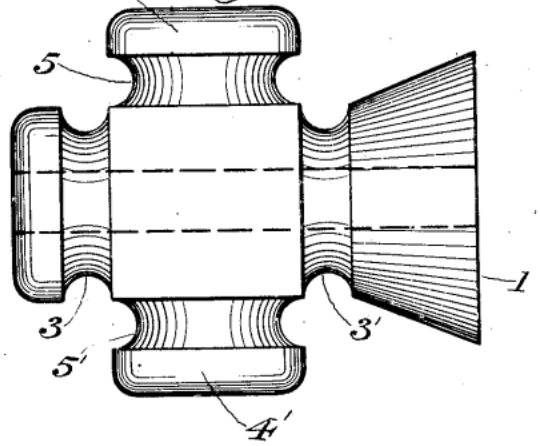


Fig. 3.

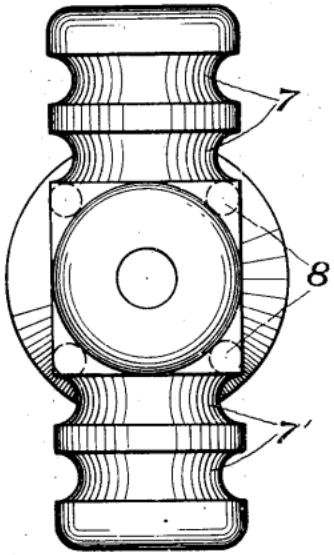
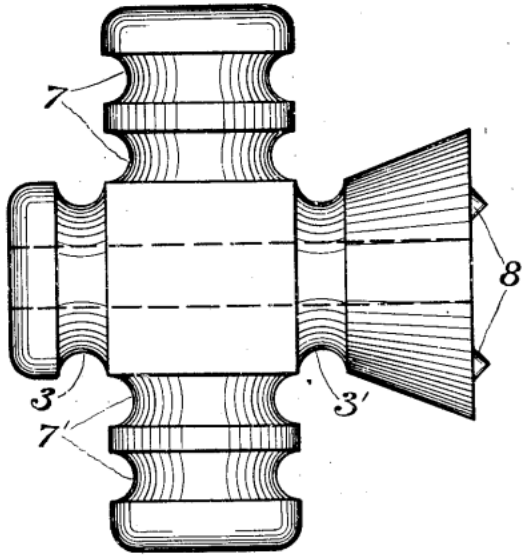


Fig. 4.



Find this publication online at:

www.indianainsulators.com

Special Thanks

to fellow fireplug collectors

Tim Pritchett, J Van Brown, Rick Soller,

Jason Townsend, and Elton Gish.

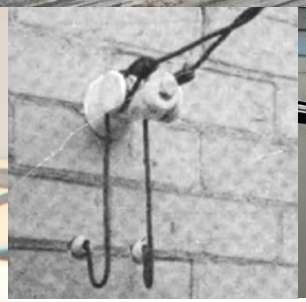
Printed by VR Custom Graphics, Sullivan, IN.

A common question I often hear about fireplugs is:
“What about the blue and green ones?”

While theories range from salesman samples to paperweights for company executives, research by Rick Soller shows that these slip-cast fireplugs are most likely reproductions made for insulator collectors.

The mold from which they were made comes from a No. 1001 fireplug, the smallest of the three sizes. Due to a combination of the molding and glazing processes, they appear unmarked.

Although highly unlikely to be legitimate or affiliated with the Universal Specialty Company, these colorful trinkets often bring between $20-30 at shows and online.



Introduction

Albert L. Stadermann was born February 20, 1878, to German immigrants Adoloph and Magdeline Stadermann in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was there in the Queen City he began his career in the telephone industry at the young age of 15. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in electrical engineering in the year 1900.

He continued work in Cincinnati until October of 1905, when he went West to St. Louis with the Kinloch Long Distance Telephone Co., being appointed their Chief Engineer less than a year later. In December of 1906, his work sent him to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life.

While working for the Citizens Independent Telephone Company of Terre Haute, Stadermann submitted the patent application for what we now call the “fireplug” insulator on August 19, 1907. He was granted patent #954,596 on April 12, 1910, and sold his “Universal Insulators” under the name Universal Specialty Co.

They were offered in three sizes, numbered 1001, 1002, and 1003; All of which are desirable collectibles today. This small booklet is an attempt to document the different stamp/embossing variations among the three sizes of fireplugs. Please note that not all colors may be mentioned, and the prices listed are an approximation only, based solely on the author’s observations. There is no doubt in my mind that there are many color variations not listed here, and that real-world pricing may vary from the estimates shown within.

This booklet is intended to be distributed at the Mid-Ohio Insulator Show in November of 2025, and may be re-printed elsewhere subsequently. Please contact me with any concerns or unlisted variants, so that they may be added to this list for later reference.

Thank you,

Cole King

(765) 278-8226

1001

[010] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

1001

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR. 12, 1910

Mottled Brown..... 20-25
Creamy Brown..... 20-25

[020] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR. 12, 1910

Creamy Brown..... 20-30

[021] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No.
1001

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR. 12, 1910

Creamy Brown..... 25-30

[030] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

1001

(R-Face)

PAT. PEND.

Reddish Brown..... 40-50

1003

[050] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL
NO. 1003

(R-Face)
[Macomb logo off-center]

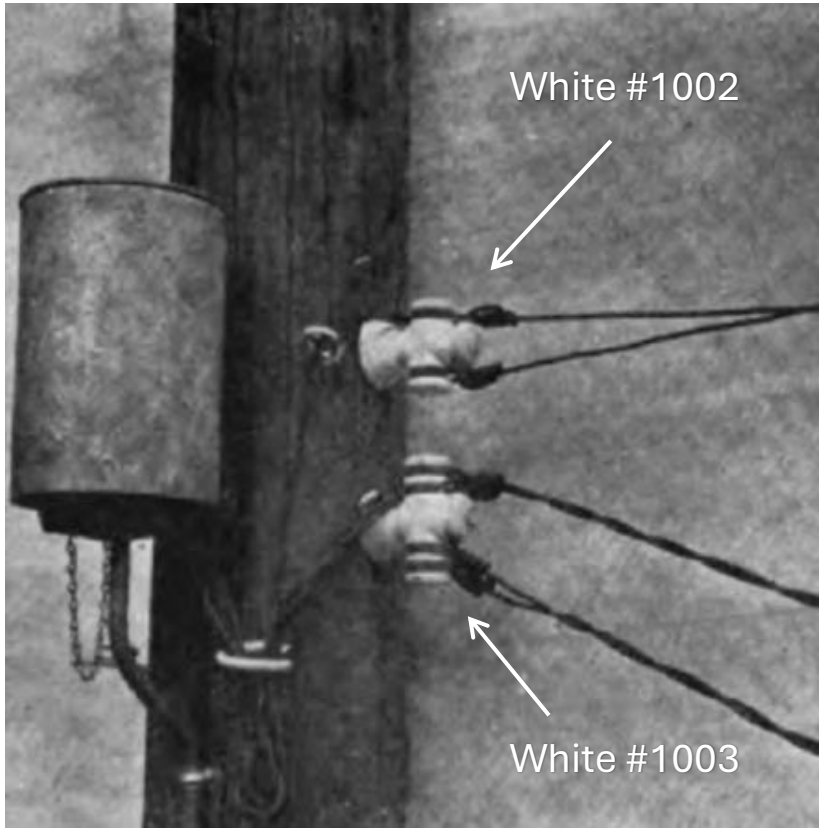
M

PATENTED
APR. 12. 1910.

Chocolate 15-20

*****AUTHOR'S NOTE*****

Period advertisements from the Universal Specialty Co. include photos of a white No. 1003. No specimens of a white 1003 are known to exist in the hobby. This author suspects the embossing would reflect that of the 1002 [020].



1003

[010] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No. 1003

(R-Face)

PAT. PEND

Reddish Brown..... 50-75

[020] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No. 1003

(R-Face)

PAT. APR. 12 1910

Brown..... 25-30

[030] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No. 1003

(R-Face)

"PATENTED"
APR. 12, 1910

Metallic Brown..... 30-40
Mottled Brown 30-40
Dark Carmel 40-50

[040] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

(R-Face)

1003

Mottled Brown..... 40-50

[041] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

(R-Face)

[Note orientation of Macomb logo]

1003

Creamy Brown..... 40-50

1001

[040] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

1001

(R-Face)

PAT. APR. 12

1910

Metallic Brown..... 20-30

[050] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL
NO 1001

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR. 12 1910

Light Brown..... 10-15

[060] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL
NO. 1001.

(R-Face)

PAT.
APR. 12, 1910.

Chocolate Brown..... 5-10

Light Chocolate 5-10

[070] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL
NO. 1001.

(R-Face)

PAT.
APR. 12, 1910.

(R-Skirt)

Chocolate Brown..... 20-25

1002

[010] (F-Face)

No Markings

(R-Face)

No Markings

Mottled Brown..... 40-50
Reddish Brown 40-50
Light Reddish Brown..... 40-50

[020] (F-Face)

No Markings

(F-Skirt)

PAT. APPLD. FOR

(R-Face)

No Markings

White..... 300-400
Carmel..... 150-250

[030] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

(F-Skirt)

PAT. APPLD. FOR

(R-Face)

No Markings

Dark Brown..... 200-250

[040] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No. 1002

(R-Face)

PAT. PEND

Reddish Brown..... 50-75
White 600-800
(Only 1 known!)

1002

[050] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL

No. 1002

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR 12 1910

Brown 5-10
Reddish Brown..... 10-15
Mottled Brown 20-25
Carmel 40-50

[060] (F-Face)

UNIVERSAL
NO. 1002

(R-Face)

PATENTED
APR 12 1910

Brown 5-10

[070] (F-Face)

(R-Face)

1002

Brown 10-15
Dark Reddish Brown..... 10-15
Dark Brown 10-15
Light Brown 20-30