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## Identify Zinsco & GTE Sylvania-Zinsco

### Magnetrip & Other Zinsco Electrical Panels & Circuit Breakers

- [POST a QUESTION or COMMENT](#) about the identification of Zinsco, Sylvania-Zinsco, and Kearney Electrical Panels - Zinsco look alike Electrical Panels and Circuit Breakers

Zinsco circuit breaker & electrical panel identification guide:

How to Identify Zinsco & Zinsco-Sylvania & GTE-Sylvania-Zinsco Electrical Panels and Circuit Breakers. Identify Zinsco-like Sylvania Electrical Panels and Circuit Breakers. Magnetrip circuit breakers, including the earlier T-type; and later Zinsco breakers using colored toggle switches, with photographs and other details for identification.

We include photos of Zinsco breaker labels and other markings that identify Zinsco and Kearney electrical equipment.

Here we provide text, labels, and equipment photographs used to help identify Zinsco and GTE-Sylvania-Zinsco electrical panels and circuit breakers, and we include photographs of a Zinsco look alike marketed by Kearney.

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- Daniel Friedman, Publisher/Editor/Author - See [WHO ARE WE?](#)

## 5 Ways to Identify Zinsco, Zinsco-Sylvania, GTE-Sylvania-Zinsco, Kearney Electrical Panels & Breakers



To identify a Zinsco or Zinsco Sylvania or Kearney electrical panel look for the following:

1. The word **Zinsco** on the panel door tag,

on panel labels or data tags (Zinsco panel label photo above). *[Click to enlarge any image]*

2. The word **Magnetrip** embossed

in the steel electrical panel cover or on data tags in the Zinsco electrical panel. (Zinsco electrical panel photo below)



3. The characteristic colored Zinsco red, green, blue, gray & white toggle switches

on the circuit breakers in the Zinsco electrical panel. (Photos below)



Shown above in a very crowded collection of circuit breakers, we see two-pole Zinsco RC half-sized breakers in three different amperages. It looks as if some, but not all of these Zinsco RC38 breakers have their toggles tied together.

These Zinsco circuit breaker toggle or "handle" colors identify the ampacity of the individual circuit breakers as follows

- 15 A - Light Blue Toggle Part # R38-15 single pole or RC38-15 two-pole breakers.
- 20 A - Red Toggle Part # R38-20 or RC38-20 double pole
- 30 A - Light Green Toggle Part # R38-30 single pole or RC38-30 two-pole half-width breakers in a closer view in the photo just below.
- 40 A - Light Gray Toggle Handle Part # RC38-40



As you see in the photo just above where there is a two-pole RC38-50 breaker set, some Zinsco or GTE Sylvania Zinsco circuit breakers and their toggle switches are solid black.

**Watch out:** you will also find some 30A - Black toggle Zinsco breakers and 20A black-toggled GFCI breakers that, as you'll see illustrated below on this page.

So don't assume that all-black breakers can be excluded from this unsafe Zinsco circuit breaker group.

- 50A - Black Toggles, Part # RC38-50 - shown above
- 60A - White Toggle or handle, Part # RC38-60 (not shown in the photo above)
- 100A double pole - Black - shown above

ZINSCO R3815 TANDEM "CHEATER" CIRCUIT BREAKER



Above is an example, a Zinsco R38 Tandem circuit breaker sporting light blue toggle switches. I saw this listed as 50A but am doubtful. It's probably a 15A Zinsco tandem circuit breaker.

- Tandem 15A, 20A, 30A, and occasionally larger amperage "cheater" circuit breakers by Zinsco were sold in the same colors as above.

These Zinsco breakers squeeze two toggles and two circuit breakers into a single traditional circuit breaker width.

Zinsco tandem circuit breakers included two breakers of the same amperage (above) but were also manufactured and sold providing two circuit breakers of different ampacity within the same case, like the Zinsco-Sylvania RC381520 circuit breaker shown below.

These Zinsco tandem circuit breakers can also be readily identified out of the panel by the characteristic dee bus bar slot in the breaker side.

#### **Zinsco-Sylvania RC381520 circuit breaker**



- Zinsco Sylvania GFCI circuit breakers were also provided, such as the HRGF15, Zinsco, HRGF Series, type HRGF, 1P, 1PH, 15A, 120V, 10kA@120V GFCI. (Obsolete, not recommended)

Shown below, Zinsco HRGF30 circuit breaker recently (6/22) observed for sale by an online vendor, described as "refurbished". This 30A Zinsco shows a red toggle switch color.

#### **ZINSCO GFCI BREAKER HRGF30**



Some Zinsco / Zinsco-Sylvania GFCIs follow the color conventions we show above, But others do not. Below is a Zinsco HQGF20 GFCI circuit breaker with a black toggle switch.

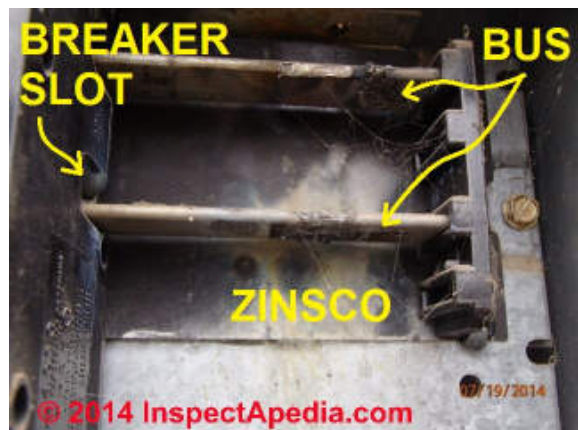
#### **ZINSCO 20A GFCI, BLACK TOGGLE**



#### **4. The unique vertical thin-edged bus bars**

(aluminum, plated aluminum, or in older Zinsco panels copper bus bars (inside the panel accessed by a licensed electrician).

**Watch out:** do NOT try to open up your panel nor to remove circuit breakers yourself. There is live voltage in the panel interior - you could be shocked or killed. Never insert any tool nor your fingers into the interior of an electrical panel.

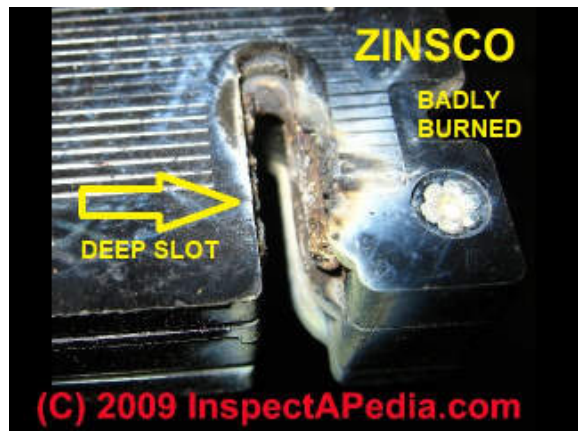


Electrical panel interior access should be by a licensed and trained electrician. Photo courtesy Tim Hemm cited at references at the end of these articles.

#### 5. The unique deep slotted circuit breaker connector openings

that press over the bus bars (inside the panel accessed by a licensed electrician)

Below is an enlargement of the the bus-connection section of a classic Zinsco circuit breaker - showing the difference between these devices.



Just below, the photo of a recent GTE Sylvania Zinsco circuit breaker burn-up is shown here courtesy of [Jeff Weissman](#) and observed, he reports, in a GTE-Sylvania electrical panel.







This gray circuit breaker may have been installed in a GTE-Sylvania electrical panel but is breaker did *not* use the Zinsco-design circuit breakers and/or may be of a different brand or manufacture.


Zinsco electrical panels were distributed in the United States, primarily in the Western states.


Some Zinsco electrical panels include an embossed "Magnetrip" label in the panel cover (photo, above left). Other Zinsco electrical panel identification and information labels are included in this article.


*[Click to enlarge any image]*


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[Zinsco Main Panel](#), note the embossed "Magnetrip" label at the top of the panel face
- 


["Magnetrip"](#) closer view of this embossed label
- 

[Zinsco blue/silver label](#) in the panel, and the characteristic green, white, red circuit breaker toggles
- 

[Underwriter's Laboratory Label](#), closeup of this yellow on black UL label in a Zinsco electric panel
- 

[A Zinsco Electrical Panel](#), cover off: note the red and blue breaker toggles and the breaker removed to show evidence of arcing in this Zinsco electrical panel.
- 

[Zinsco circuit breaker labels-1](#)
- 

[Zinsco circuit breaker labels-2](#)
- 

[Zinsco Main Panel Label](#), closeup of the red print on black "Zinsco Los Angeles label"

## IDENTIFY Zinsco HD - 4032 400 Amp, 2 pole, 240V AC Electrical Panel



Above and below, courtesy of [Richard Sims](#), we include photographs of a 400A 240V Zinsco Electrical Panel that was property of the Georgia (USA) Power Company, including identifying Zinsco labeling.

The Zinsco panel exterior is shown above and in close-up below.



The photo above shows the distinctive operating handle on the door of this Zinsco electrical panel.



Here (above and below) we show external and internal identification labels for this 400-Amp Zinsco electrical pane. The electrical panel is also tagged with the electrician's card, Jim Wise, owner, Wise Electric.



Below we show the interior of this 400Amp Zinsco electrical panel.



[CONTACT Us](#) with field reports and photos. We are pleased to credit and link-to contributors.



## Zinsco 400A 120/240VAC DS-4564 DS-4564 Panel ID Photos

### Question:

I'm looking for information on a Zinsco single-phase 400A, 240VAC panelboard with a DS-4564 designation. I'm looking for the AIC rating of the big double throw AC cutoff switch on the front. Can anyone help me? - Anonymous by private email 2019/01/30





## Reply:

I cannot see anything of the main breaker in your Zinsco panel so it's ampacity could differ, but the panel label describes a 400Amp panel single phase, 120/240VAC unit.

Actually that top component labeled "Main" looks like it could even be a fuse pull-out. *[Click to enlarge any image]*



**Watch out:** the panel looks corroded, rusty, unreliable as a brand-independent hazard, and of course Zinsco breakers and panels are unsafe in any event.

Please see details at [ZINSCO SYLVANIA ELECTRICAL PANELS](#)

## Other Sylvania or Sylvania-Zinsco Electrical Panels & Circuit Breakers

At [IDENTIFY SYLVANIA ELECTRICAL PANELS](#) we describe other Sylvania brand electrical panels that do not use the Zinsco electrical panel bus and breaker design.

## Frank Adam Electrical Panels - Frank Electrical Panels

Frank Adams Electrical panels were installed in buildings in the U.S. roughly between 1900 and 1970. Research is underway. Contact us if you have photos of a Frank Adams electrical panel or other details.

Identification photos of Frank Adam electrical panels are

at [FRANK ADAM ELECTRICAL PANELS](#)

and at [HISTORY of ZINSCO ELECTRICAL PANELS](#)

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