

A Field Guide to Unmarked and/or Repainted U.S. Coleman Camp Stoves of the 1920's through 1940's

by John Stendahl

Many of the camp stoves of the 30's and 40's have either lost their identifying badge or decals or have been repainted over the years, obliterating any original markings. The earliest stove models had a badge with the model stamped on it and are usually easy to identify. They are included here in the off chance that one is found without that badge. Coleman stove models changed frequently during this era and with only subtle differences between them, many are difficult to identify solely by comparing them to photos.

Of the two-burner camp stoves, there were three basic sizes available - small, medium, and large. Even this determination can be a challenge without another to compare it to. This Field Guide assumes no original paint colors are present, either in the stove case or the fuel tank, and no nickel plating remains on the legs. Once a positive identification has been made, the ICC's Guide to Vintage Coleman Products book can be used to determine the rest of the features each model should have.

Always start at step one - do not skip to the middle.

I. Two-burner stoves: (for three-burner stoves, see Part II at the bottom of page 2)

1. Sheet metal stove-top with cast iron burner inserts - go to step 8
2. Removable wire grate (8 parallel wires across) - go to step 9
3. Hinged grate formed from a single continuous folded wire - go to step 10
4. Hinged grate with 9 parallel grate wires, each a single wire welded to two cross wires - go to step 11
5. Hinged grate with 10 parallel grate wires, most or all bent double - go to step 12
6. Hinged grate with 10 parallel grate wires, each a single wire welded to two cross wires - go to step 13
7. Cast iron grate, stove with attached oven - model 2C
8. Sheet metal stovetop with cast iron burner inserts (should have a riveted identification badge above the handle)

If not:

- a. Burner unit pulls out diagonally via a flat bar, with or without oven - Model 1
- b. Burner unit pulls straight out the front of the case via a flat bar, stove with attached oven:
 1. Stove case with wire legs, lid held with two folding tabs - early Model 2
 2. Stove case with strap steel legs that also secure the lid - later Model 2
9. Removable grate (8 parallel wires across)
 - a. Fuel cap three piece (lantern style)
 1. Auxiliary burner control: a Bakelite knob extending out left side of case; wire legs - Model 4F
 2. Auxiliary burner control: a Bakelite knob extending out left side of case; strap legs - late Model 412B
 3. Auxiliary burner control: a metal "key" extending out left side of case - Model 417B
 - b. Winged, male-threaded fuel cap:
 1. Burner caps one piece "toothed" cast iron - early Model 6F (brown case)
 2. Burner caps "slotted" three-piece cast iron:
 - a. Fuel tank doesn't attract a magnet (Everdur)
 1. Pump with pinned stem, no positive shut-off (keeps spinning) - later Model 6F (green)
 2. Pump without pinned stem, positive shut-off - Model 6B (Note: pumps can be changed!)
 - b. Fuel tank attracts a magnet (Solodur) - early Model 412B
10. Hinged grate formed from a single continuous folded wire:
 - a. Front of case below handle embossed with "Coleman Lamp Co. WICHITA KANSAS USA"
- Model 9
 - b. Front of case not stamped as above, should have instructions on left side - Model 9C

11. Hinged grate with 9 parallel grate wires, each a single wire welded to two cross wires:
 - a. Band-a-Blu burners (thin corrugated burner rings):
 1. Stove with oven - Model 2G
 2. Stove without oven - Model 9G
 - b. Cast iron “slotted” three-piece burners (one heavy cast iron burner cap and two cast burner rings):
 1. Winged fuel cap:
 - a. Pump with pinned stem and keyhole cap, no positive shut-off: (may have been replaced!)
 1. Stove with oven - Model 2H *These two models would have had nickel plated legs*
 2. Stove without oven - Model 9H *These two models *could* have had nickel plated legs but probably didn't.*
 - b. Pump without pinned stem and keyhole cap, has a positive shut-off:
 1. Stove with oven - Model 2B *These two models *could* have had nickel plated legs but probably didn't.*
 2. Stove without oven - Model 9B (brown case – Model 9A) *These two models *could* have had nickel plated legs but probably didn't.*
 2. Three-piece fuel cap:
 - a. Stove without oven - Model 415C
 - b. Stove with oven:
 1. Auxiliary burner a Bakelite knob extending out the front of the case - Model 416B
 2. Auxiliary burner a metal “key” extending out the front of the case - Model 416C
12. Hinged grate with 10 parallel grate wires, most or all bent double:
 - a. Wires bent at front of grate, gap in front right section to accommodate fuel tank bracket - Model 2D
 - b. Wires bent at rear of grate, no gap in front right section:
 1. Grate with wider gap in middle section - Model 9D
 2. Grate without wider gap in middle section; fuel control knob bent upward at fuel tank with a separate regulating valve/tip cleaner on the generator:
 - a. Fuel tank attracts a magnet:
 1. Stove with oven - Model 2E
 2. Stove without oven - Model 9E
 - b. Fuel tank doesn't attract a magnet: (Everdur metal)
 1. Stove with oven - Model 2F
 2. Stove without oven - Model 9F
13. Hinged grate with 10 parallel grate wires, each a single wire welded to two cross wires:
 - a. Cast iron “toothed” one-piece burner cap - Model 10 Gypsy
 - b. Band-a-Blu burners (thin corrugated burner rings)*:
 1. Case with square corners, legs swing around to secure the lid - Model 3F
 2. Case with rounded corners, retractable legs do not secure the lid - Model 419
 - c. Cast iron “slotted” three-piece burners:
 1. Top edge of wind wings a straight line all the way to the lid - Model 3H
 2. Top edge of wind wings flattened a few inches before meeting the lid - Model 413B

*Late 413B's have Band-a-Blu burners, often with a brown fuel tank.

II. Three-burner stoves

1. Case with squared corners, strap steel legs fold over lid - go to step 3
2. Case with rounded corners, retractable legs - Model 420
3. Case with squared corners
 - a. Fuel tank with “Everdur” stencil or if blank, doesn't attract a magnet, all burners three-piece cast iron, winged, male-threaded fuel cap - Model 418
 - b. Fuel tank with “Solodur” stencil or if blank attracts a magnet, may have a winged, male-threaded or three-piece fuel cap - Model 418B