



VICEROY, c.1925. A tall 9kt gold, English made pocket lighter with a checkered design. Value: \$400-500.



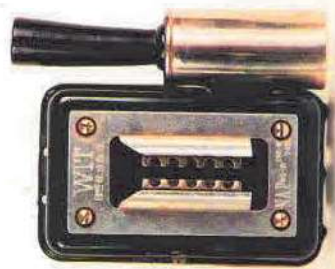
Unknown, c.1989. An attack helicopter lighter. Made in Japan. 3" tall. Value: \$25-35.



VIDRIO, c.1942. The American made Vidrio lighter/ashtray plugged into a wall socket. When the lighter was picked up, the coil on the bottom would heat up and glow. We wonder at the number of fires started by this nicely Deco designed, but poorly conceived, item. 3.5" tall. Value: \$70-95 w/box.



WINDY, c.1939. An Austrian lighter similar in style to the Ronson "Vee." It has an Art Deco styled butterfly and includes a tassel. Value: \$100-150.



ZENITH, c.1940. A German made lighter with an unusual feature—the front panel comes off to access the flint and fuel. Value: \$50-75.



WIT, c.1929. A wall mounted lighter made in France. To light it, you would pass the wand, attached to the black handle, through the metal grate which would produce the sparks. 3" tall. Value: \$125-170.

Here are a few words from the Zippo Museum Curator/archivist, Linda Meabon.

New collectors and seasoned veterans alike will find pleasure in collecting vintage lighters. Zippo lighters are like windows into time; company logos from the 1930s, WWII designs, and US Space mission commemoratives are all snapshots from different eras. Since 1933, almost 350 million Zippo lighters have been produced, recording nearly seven decades of history, one square-inch at a time. As evidenced by this book, thousands of people throughout the world find lighter collecting satisfying and fun. Some search for the elusive 1933 Zippo, while others try to piece together a comprehensive Vietnam collection. Through it all there remains a common bond between collectors. It is the thrill of the hunt, and the satisfaction of a rare find. Extraordinary lighters can be found in the strangest of places—in a garage sale, at a swap meet, perhaps even in your own basement. Once you start collecting, it may be a hard habit to break. (To learn more about Zippo products or starting a lighter collection, visit our website at www.zippo.com)

Zippo lighters almost all use the same mechanism. Zippo collectors collect social history. The lighters advertised or presented products or things, many that only existed for a short period of time. They reflect what happened during the years since the 1930s. Soldiers liked them and have used them in all the wars since the Second World War. Lighters were available in custom designs in lots as small as 50 pieces so that many groups could memorialize their achievements. Zippo was reliable and came with the best guarantee—if it breaks, Zippo will fix it for free!

One of the most beautiful models was the Town and Country made from 1949 to the 1960s with a few examples being made into the early 1970s. The Town and Country had a colorful handpainted or airbrushed design done over an etched or engraved surface. The roughed up surface helped hold the finish to the lighter. The brilliant colors were obtained using a material called Della Robba glaze. This glaze was applied one color at a time, and allowed to dry between the addition of each color/coat. Finally, the finished lighter was baked to cure and harden the glaze. Jack Clark, a Zippo Art director, should receive credit for the Town and Country idea. He was personally involved in producing the first models. The first commercial designs were animals—a mallard duck, a horse, an Irish setter, geese, a pheasant, and a trout—along with a sailing sloop and a water scene with a lily pad. A sailfish was added in the early 1950s. Not all colorful painted Zippo's are Town and Country models. Zippo made most of its colorfully decorated lighters using a silkscreen method. The silkscreen method was quick and could be applied by skilled workers while the Town and Country finish was slow and required a greater artistic skill to produce the desired effect.

The Zippo Rule

In valuing Zippo advertising lighters, the most desirable lighters advertise Zippo or mention The Zippo Company.

The next most valuable category is lighters that advertise major companies that are no longer around such as De Soto cars, some cigarette companies, or defunct airlines.

Third are lighters that advertise and/or illustrate products that are no longer made such as typewriters, old televisions, old cars, famous restaurants no longer in business, etc.

Next in value are major companies—old logos, and then newer logos.

Next are local companies and local services.

Dating Zippo Lighters

1932—First model created by George Blaisdell. It is about one quarter inch longer than later models. It may actually have been made in early 1933.

1933 to 1935—The hinge connecting the top and bottom of the lighter case is soldered onto the outside of the case. The hinge is made up of 3 barrels: one center, usually connected to the bottom hinge plate and 2 outside, connected to the top hinge plate. The bottom of the lighter case is flat and the edges are squared off. The windscreen has 16 holes and the cap pressure bar pivot pin area is a part of the windscreen.

1936—The hinge is still soldered onto the outside of the case and is made up of 4 barrels. The bottom of the lighter case is still flat and the edges are squared off.

Mid to late 1936 to 1943—The hinge is now soldered on the inside of the case and is made

rounded. 1937 is the beginning of the brass drawn case with a more rounded top and bottom. Formerly, the top was flat and soldered into place.

1943-1945—The hinge is made up of 3 barrels. The bottom of the lighter case is slightly rounded along with the edges.

1946-1950—The bottom of the lighter case is changed. It has a concave framed look; that is, there is an indented area where the imprint is located and the edges are rounded. In 1946, the windscreen is made with 14 holes. In 1947, the windscreen is made with 16 holes, and the metal supporting the wheel now connects to the top of the windscreen. The words ZIPPOMFG, on the inside unit, have no space between ZIPPO and MFG.

1951 forward—The hinge is made with 5 barrels.

1953 forward—The patent number is changed from 2032695 to 2517191.

1957 forward—There is now a code for year of manufacture on the bottom of the case (see illustration).

Charts produced by ZIPPO to aid in the identification of their lighters.

YEAR	ZIPPO LIGHTER IDENTIFICATION CODES			SLIM
	REGULAR	RIGHT	LEFT	
1932				
1937	Patent Pending			
1950	Patent 2032695*			
1957	Patent 2517191			
1958	Full stamp, no patent pending	****	****	
1959	Full stamp, no patent pending	****	****	
1960	****	****	****	
1961	****	****	****	
1962	****	****	****	
1963	****	****	****	
1964	****	****	****	
1965	*	*	*	
1966	*	III	III	III
1967	III	III	III	III
1968	III	III	III	III
1969	III	III	III	III
1970	II	II	II	II
1971	II	II	II	II
1972	I	I	I	I
1973	III	III	III	III
1974	III	III	III	III
1975	III	III	III	III
1976	II	II	II	II
1977	II	II	II	II
1978	II	II	II	II
1979	I	I	I	I

YEAR	ZIPPO LIGHTER IDENTIFICATION CODES			SLIM
	REGULAR	RIGHT	LEFT	
1960	/	/	/	/
1961	/	/	/	/
1962	WW	WW	WW	WW
1963	WW	WW	WW	WW
1964	WW	WW	WW	WW
1965	W	W	W	W
1966	W	W	W	W
1967	W	W	W	W
1968	W	W	W	W
1969	W	W	W	W
1970	W	W	W	W
1971	W	W	W	W
1972	W	W	W	W
1973	W	W	W	W
1974	W	W	W	W
1975	W	W	W	W
1976	W	W	W	W
1977	W	W	W	W
1978	W	W	W	W
1979	W	W	W	W

*For description of dating code on WWI black inside lighter, see page 5.



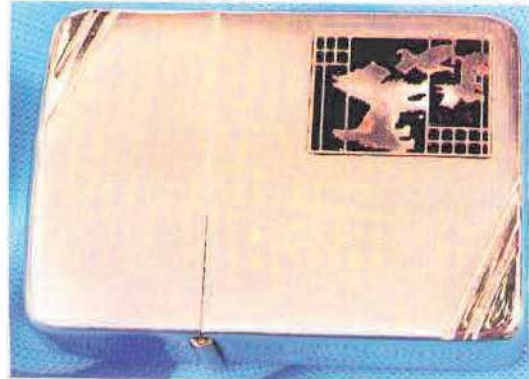
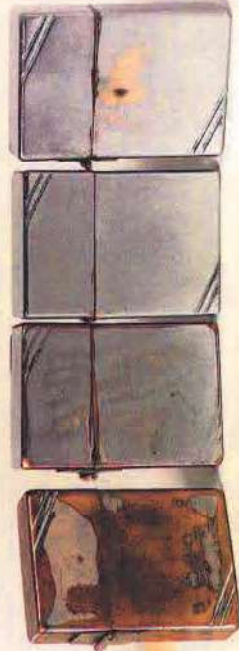
ZIPPO, c.1932. Zippo's first model. This particular model was never chrome plated. It stood 5/16 of an inch taller than the later Zippos. They were bigger because the insert were bigger. Some people feel that the first model was actually produced in 1933. Value: \$3,000-5,000.



ZIPPO, 1930s. A group of 1930s Zippos. Notice that the outside hinges have been replaced. The original outside hinges would have had a chrome finish. These have a nickel finish. The lighter on the right is a 1936 square model and was also repaired. It originally had a 4 barrel hinge but now has a 3 barrel hinge. In the second photo, you can see that the first, second, and fourth lighters are 1934 models and the third

lighter is an inside hinge 1936 model.

Values with the repairs are \$400-\$700 for the 1934 models and \$150-250 for the 1936 model.



ZIPPO, 1937. An unusual Scottie dog design on an early Zippo. The lighter has a 4 barrel hinge and a brushed chrome finish. The Scottie dog design is a "Metalique" applied by Zippo. Value: \$750-1,000.



ZIPPO, c.1938. An early Zippo lighter in its original "Windy" box. Value: \$500-800 (lighter w/ original box).

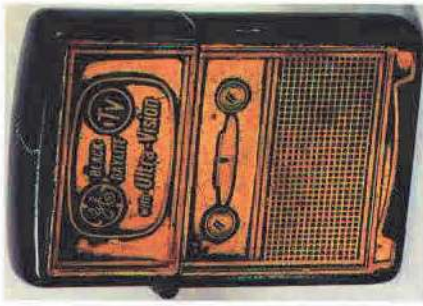


ZIPPO, c.1938. Early Zippo lighter "Windy" boxes. The box can be found in two color variations: silver & black and gold & black. Value: \$150-175 (w/ original box).



ZIPPO, 1938-1941. This was the first model Zippo "Barcroft" table model lighter. It has an unusual 4 barrel hinge with a large insert and a single stepped base. 5" tall. Value: \$800-1,000.

ZIPPO, 1950/51. A lighter with a brown leather wrap. This has a 2032695 patent with a 5 barrel hinge. Value: \$250-350.



ZIPPO, c.1950. A fantastic GE TV with Ultra-Vision advertiser. Unusual because the body is lacquered front and back and decorated to look like a 1950 television console. Value: \$300-400.



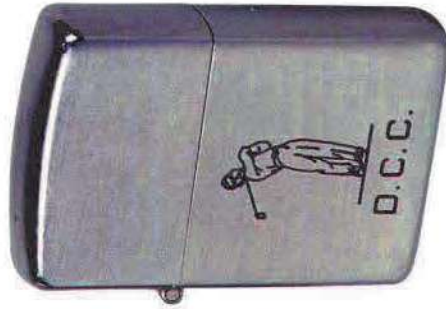
ZIPPO, c.1950. Two very rare Zippo lighters that used to belong to employees. Some employees would take the old design room lighters that the company no longer needed. Some of the familiar designs were the Reveler, also called the Drunk On A Lamppost, and the elephant from the early Sports series. Value: \$200-800, depending on the images.



ZIPPO, 1950s. Zippo lighter blue and white striped box. Value: \$20-30.



ZIPPO, 1943. A war time steel lighter with the owner's name, location, and date engraved upon it. Paul Foyres, Sicily, 1943. Value: \$75-125.



ZIPPO, c.1948. An early 3 barrel hinge Sports lighter with a golfer and engraved with his country club's initials. Value: \$100-175.



ZIPPO, 1940s. Early Zippo lighter boxes. The box on the right is harder to find. Value: (L-R) \$50, \$95.



ZIPPO, Mid-1940s. Zippo lighter boxes available during the War that would have held the black crackle finish lighters. Value: \$250-450 (w/ lighter).



ZIPPO, c.1946. A group of 1940s Zippo lighters as mementoes of different places or events. While most Zippo lighters were chrome plating over brass, these 3 barrel hinge lighters were made of nickel silver. Value: \$100-150 ea. (if all original).



ZIPPO, 1950s. A gift box that includes flint, fuel, and lighter.



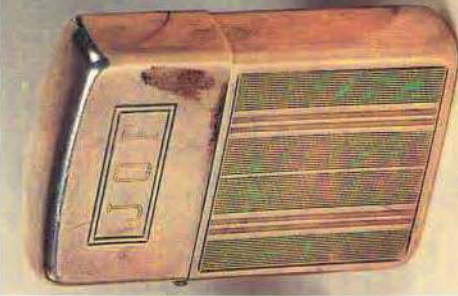
ZIPPO, c. 1952. A rectangular Zippo gift box that includes a lighter, flints, and fluid.



ZIPPO, c. 1952. Here is an example of a great Zippo. Desi Arnez and Lucille Ball were America's sweethearts that appeared on Television in TV's early days. Assigning a value is difficult, but this lighter sold for \$1,200 at auction. Value: \$1,000-1,200.



ZIPPO, 1952. A Zippo advertiser with Happy Hotpoint. Happy was the Hotpoint Appliance company's cartoon figure for many years. Value: \$60-90.



ZIPPO, 1950s. A group of Sterling silver models from the 1950s. Value: \$100-225.



ZIPPO-TIFFANY, 1953. A rare slim size lighter made of Sterling silver, marked "Tiffany & Co.," and sporting an Indian Head penny. Value: \$150-300.

ZIPPO, c. 1953. A wonderful Zippo that belonged to a fellow named Rene. Sterling silver in a hard green box. Value: \$125-200.



ZIPPO, c. 1955 & 1965. Zippo lighter boxes. The striped box on the right is the earlier of the two. Value: (L-R) \$25, \$35 (including a standard lighter).

ZIPPO, 1957. A 50th anniversary advertiser for Spring City Knitting with a unique custom printed box. Value: \$150-250.



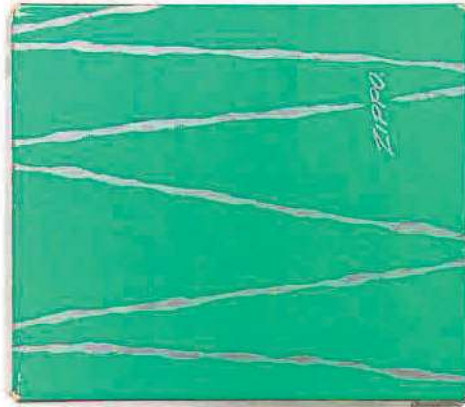
ZIPPO, c. 1957. A pair of lighters advertising Esso Gasoline. Value: \$75-125.



ZIPPO, c.1958. A wonderful advertiser for the Sports News out of Chicago, Illinois. Three sporting images on one lighter. Value: \$40-70.

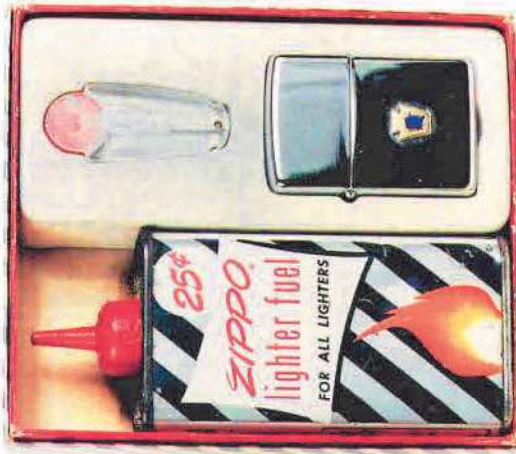


ZIPPO, c.1958. The Zippo "Gift Set" included the lighter, flints, and fuel. Value: \$150-225.



ZIPPO, c. 1959. A green Zippo gift box that includes a lighter, flints, and fluid.

ZIPPO, c.1960. The Zippo "Gift Set" included the lighter, flints, and fuel. Value: \$150-225.



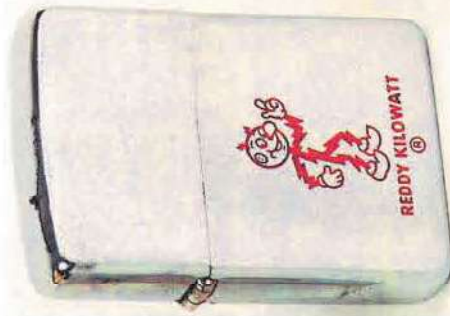
ZIPPO, 1960. A nice Zippo advertising piece—a penny on a chain. Value: \$20-30.



ZIPPO, c. 1962. A Zippo gift package box that includes a lighter, flints, and fluid.

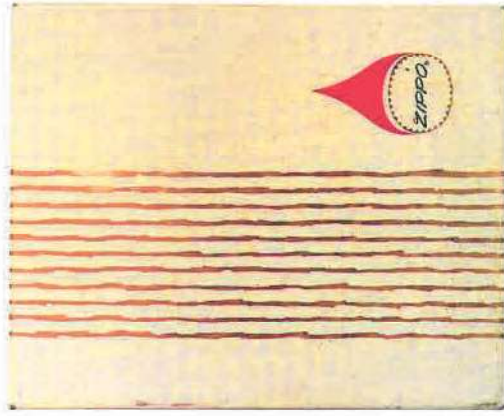


ZIPPO, c.1962 & 1958. A nice comparison illustration showing two different sizes of Zippo lighters with Reddy Kilowatt advertising. The model on the left is a slim size and the right one is full size. 3" tall. Value: (L-R) \$80-100, \$125-175 (w/Reddy Kilowatt advertising).



ZIPPO, c.1965. The Zippo "Barcroft" fourth model, gold plated table lighter with a nice running horse design. Value: \$100-150.

ZIPPO, 1961. A "Moderne" table lighter. Chrome with a black enamel. The inscription on the lid says "Go Go." This model was produced from 1960 to 1966. Value: \$150-200.



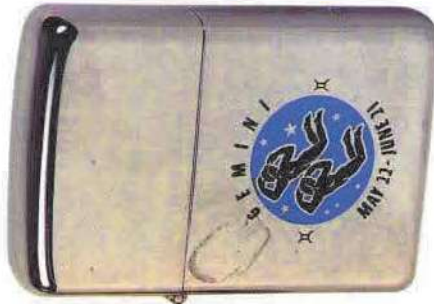
ZIPPO, c.1962. A "Town & Country" table lighter with a flying mallard duck. Zippo's Town & Country line is considered by some to be their most beautiful lighter line. "Handi-Lite" model. Value: \$400-800.



ZIPPO, 1969. A pocket lighter commemorating the first men on the moon. Value: \$100-150.



ZIPPO, 1971. A Zippo Slim lighter with an orange Smile face. Value: \$40-75.



ZIPPO, c.1972. This is a prototype of the Zippo Gemini. This horoscope series was introduced on the slim size in the early 1970s. This full size Gemini was an experimental lighter that was never released. Value: \$500-900.



ZIPPO, c. 1972. Zippo Sports series lighters. Here a bowler and a hunter. Value: \$40-80.



ZIPPO, c.1970s. A salesman's sample Zippo in a slim size and made with different colored panels of acrylic. This was Zippo's Ultra-Lite line and this sample enabled customers to see the different colors being offered. Value: \$100-200.



ZIPPO, 1977. Livengrin Foundation advertiser with a picture of a clown. Value: \$50-80.



ZIPPO, 1979 & 1980. Two colorful lighters made to commemorate the Republican and Democratic parties. Value: \$75-150 ea.



ZIPPO, c.1953. Two small pocket lighters (center lighter is a standard model for comparison) that were never commercially made. They are 50% and 75% smaller than regular size models. On the rightmost lighter, a Zippo employee took two lids and made a shortened body to fit into what in effect is a double lid model. Value: \$300-500.



ZIPPO, 1970s. These two Zippo lighters with green and purple designs were never commercially released. The Horoscope series was produced during the 1970s and made with blue or black designs. The company tried out different colors in test areas and after the results came back decided to produce the lighter in only two colors. Value: \$125-200.



ZIPPO, 1973. A Zippo golfer from the Sports series. Value: \$75-150.



ZIPPO, c.1975. A pair of lighters advertising Zippo. Zippo salesmen were given some of these and they would bestow them upon good customers. Value: \$75-150.



