



This is another type of valve. The pins on it, instead of being as thick as the lead in a pencil, are as thin as an ordinary pin. It plugged into a different sort of a socket, but it does the same job.



This hubcap belongs to a mid-1920 Buick, so it's about 80 years old. The hubcaps fitted on the front and rear wheels of the car, but the ones on the front were packed with grease to lubricate the bearing, but the ones at the back didn't have any grease in them because the back wheels were fixed to the axle and it was the axle that turned together with the wheel.



Here's another wheel cap, probably from the 1930s.



This is a five valve 1960 Kreisher radio. It worked on valves and is powered by an AC cord.



One of these boxes contains old Mixmaster parts. I haven't taken it down for ten years or so. The other two up the top are marked "Pots" and they have nothing to do with the pots you cook in. They are potentiometers which were used to control the voltage that you were picking off from a range of voltages.

The first one there is called a Slide Pot. They came out about the 1970s. Prior to that they were all rotary potentiometers. They would have been used on the volume control of radios round about the 70s and 80s.







These are soldering irons. In the old days, you'd take an oil drum and punch some holes in the bottom of it, and put in some wood chips and set fire to it. Then you had a little hole where you could put your soldering iron in, and when the iron was hot enough you were able to work for the next five minutes or so till it got too cold, then you had to put it back and heat it up again. These days of course we have electric ones, like the one below.



These are two sash rollers. You see these in old houses where they have window sashes controlled by a sash cord which is a piece of rope which went from each side of the window up over these rollers and down inside the window frame. There they were attached to two cast iron weights which were used to balance the weight of the glass window and allowed the window to be slid up and down and to stay open at the right height.



I made this gadget for lifting the battery out of the battery holder in the car. The two big pieces fit over the terminals, after you have removed the leads with the other tool I made. With this you could carry the battery around easily.



Here is a spout from a canvas water bag. These used to be hung on the front of a car, between the headlights. A cork would be put in the top of the spout, and the breeze on the damp canvas bag kept the water cool, so you could always have a cool drink of water.



This is a stone aboriginal axe – I am not sure where I picked it up. They used the axes to take the bark off trees for making canoes and things like that. They often had a handle made with a forked stick, and stuck on with beeswax or grass tree resin.



This is a boomerang-shaped stone, and I am pretty sure it is aboriginal, as is the one below.





No-one would know what this is – before the time of spring head nails, you used ordinary galvanised nails with a flat head to fix corrugated roofing iron. But then you had to seal the hole where the nail punctured the corrugated iron you were nailing. This leaden pellet was tapped on to the top of the nail to seal where the nail went through the gal, to stop leaks.



These dry rings were for my Falcon pipe, back when I smoked a pipe. The pipes had a wooden bowl and a metal stem, and the rings fitted at the bottom of the bowl to absorb moisture.





This is a grease cap for putting grease into moveable joints. The nipples are used in a gun, and the grease is forced out under pressure, but with this one, the cup is filled with grease and screwed down so the grease is forced through the part to be lubricated.



An angled grease nipple for greasing shackles and other moving parts of a car.



Another sort of grease nipple, with a bayonet on the end to hold the hose from the grease gun to the nipple.





Here is a nest egg. These porcelain eggs would be placed in the nest to fool the chooks and encourage them to lay more eggs.



I doubt many people would have seen one of these. It sat in the pendulum box of the striking clock my parents were given as a wedding present back in 1913 – the clock cost 17/6. I never got the full story, and now wish I had asked my parents more about it, but it was said to be one of the nuts which held down the lid of a coffin. I don't know whose coffin – probably one of Dad's uncles or something. They always took the nuts off before lowering the coffin into the grave, and people kept them as mementos.

*This has been a very brief tour, just peeking in a few of the many boxes and containers Dad has in his shed. Some of the items were stored high in the ceiling part of his shed, but undaunted, Dad was quite willing to climb up his wooden ladder – home-made of course - and bring the boxes down to show me his treasures. There were a few things he could not immediately lay his hand on – like the crystal radio set he made when he was 12 or 14, and which he assures me still works. I am sure it will turn up as soon as we print the book. As you can imagine, this book could have been much longer, but we had to stop somewhere. Dad’s collection will, however, continue to wax and wane as it has done all his life.*

*Thanks, Dad for showing us around a few of the treasures in your shed. Thanks also to Jean for the comments, support and afternoon teas we enjoyed during the making of this book, and lastly thanks to my partner Bill for the taping, transcribing, layout and design.*

*Lorraine*









