

RESTORATION of ANTIQUE KEROSENE & ELECTRIC LIGHTING HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION & FORWARD:

Many of the techniques/solutions given in this book were originally used to respond to lighting questions (Almost like “Stump the Chump”) that were asked by readers to our lighting web site. This book was written to capture and share the knowledge gained from over 35 years of experience in lamp repair/restoration.

References to the name Aladdin is an aid to readers. The name is associated with products or parts manufactured by the Mantle Lamp Co. of Clarksville TN. Aladdin & Lox-on are registered trademarks of Aladdin Industries, LLC.

Thanks: The author wishes to gratefully thank the behind the scene, other lamp doctor, my wife, Barbara, for her invaluable assistance with this project.

The book is dedicated to my son, Alan, who created our web site. He also helped immensely in the development of this book. He has expressed an interest in lamp restoration, and may his knowledge of this topic increase.

Our interest has always been parallel to **Psalms 119: 105. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

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CHAPTER 11: INSTALLATION OF WICKS

The following instructions pertain to the Aladdin models 7-11

1. First remove the outer wick tube, and then the old wick. It may have to be partially cut out to remove it. Next, clean the inner wick tube and associated areas. Polish the wick tube if necessary for the wick to move easily. After

this, you will take the new wick and feed it from the bottom ears through the top section of the burner. It may have to be pulled by a pair of needle nose pliers from the bottom. Install the wick riser. Carefully allow it to be threaded up through the burner. Attach the w/r to the ears of the wick. Carefully ease the outer wick tube onto the burner over the wick and fasten it. Use the wick knob to raise and lower the wick to determine if it works smoothly. If not, redo the installation as necessary.

2. INSTALLATION OF #6 ALADDIN WICK

The Aladdin #6 wick & riser has not been made in over 50-60 years. The #6 mounted wick New Old Stock (NOS) can cost around \$35-45 plus shipping and insurance, when you can find them. This wick consists of the metal carrier/riser with gear strip and cloth wick “mounted” and factory assembled together. As an alternative, many collectors use their existing metal wick riser and install a modern Aladdin #23 wick in the riser. This is a little less expensive as you can use a \$10.00 approx. cost wick. First, take the #23 Wick and carefully remove the metal mounting ears and inside reinforcing cloth, gently slide it into the old riser past the sharp teeth and allow about 1&1/2” wick above the top of the riser. TIP: Use a plastic sleeve (maybe a cut portion of a thick zip lock bag) formed inside the wick riser to allow the wick to be inserted inside the sharp teeth. Once the wick is installed remove the plastic sleeve. Sometimes the wick needs to be stretched to thin it a bit. Just pull on the wick incrementally; a little bit at time, and try the fit in the lamp of the wick between tries. Next, insert the “mounted” wick into the lamp burner. Pour K1 kerosene in the font and soak the wick overnight. Light in the usual manner, being careful not to raise the flame too high, too quickly. Allow to warm-up slowly, then slowly raise the wick to increase the light output from the mantle. Other measures you will need to take to have the wick operate properly include: cleaning and polishing of the inner wick tube on the font and lubrication of the carrier gear and strip.

35.

3. INSTALLATION OF MANHATTAN STUDENT LAMP WICKS, PICTURE 7



The small round cylinder with a raised spike is essential to operation of the wick. (the replacement wick is often too long & needs to be cut in half before installation, the uncut end should go to the top.) Save the other half for another lamp or this one for later use.

Remove the old wick by turning the upper moveable burner/gallery Counter Clock Wise (CCW), until the wick and wick riser (W/R) are at the top of the grooved burner base or actually in the slotted part of the moveable burner part. Take the old wick and untie it from the W/R (thimble size part) tie the new one to the W/R with the long uncut end to the top.(pic.7) It will be a bit tough getting the wick over the W/R prong, but carefully work it over the thimble and the prong.(pic. 7) Next, put the W/R & Wick into the grooved burner base and start the little nipple on the W/R into the groove of the burner base see(pic 7.).



Slide the slotted tube of the movable burner over the wick and wick riser making sure the slotted tube slides over the W/R prong (pic. 8). Move the burner assembly Clock Wise (CW), until the wick and wick riser (W/R) are fully in the grooved font. The wick will then have moved down almost flush with the top of the inner draft tube,(pic.8) To raise/adjust the wick turn the burner CCW. CW will move the wick down and CCW moves the wick up. Probably about 1/8" of wick showing, more or less, is a good length for lighting. Before lighting allow about 3-4 hours for the wick to be fully saturated by capillary action after filling the tank with kerosene. The shade holder/tripod/shade ring just slides over the chimney holder and is a friction fit.

4. INSTALLATION OF KLEEMANN STUDENT LAMP WICKS

The Klemann/Heinrichs/German Student lamp wicks are installed as follows:

- a. Remove the large slotted (3&1/2") burner tube from the lamp font and pull loose from the burner/gallery assemble.
- b. Next, remove the smaller inner (1&1/2") burner tube from the slotted tube; untie and remove the old wick; scrape loose any residue from tube.
- c. Clean the two burner tubes and the inner wick tube in the fount. (wire brush & lightly lubricate the parts)
- d. Next, attach the new wick by sliding onto the inner burner tube (tab is to the bottom and wick slides all the way to the tab.) and then firmly tie a string around the wick.
- e. Slide the small inner tube tab into the slotted part of the large tube. Push the large burner tube into the burner/gallery assembly (there are three slotted grooves on the inside of the burner/gallery assembly that will accept the three ridges on the tube).
- f. Next, & lastly gently push the large tube with the burner/gallery assembly attached onto the font inner wick tube. Make sure to push down onto the inner burner tube until it engages while turning the burner/gallery assembly CCW. The wick should move down into the fount. The wick will probably be too long; so trim it to the proper length by cutting with a new single edge razor blade. Note: Prior to cutting make sure the wick is down into the fount as far as possible.

Installing CD or Rayo wicks

To properly install your wick, just fold the wick in half, then put the wick in the wick riser with teeth, unfold the wick and make it round with your finger. It should now fit around the inner wick tube. The wick should stick out above the burner tube about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, as long as the wick retracts to extinguish the lamp.

Charring Aladdin wicks

5. Empty the oil font of kerosene, let the wick dry somewhat and then raise the wick to the top of the draft tube (on Aladdin Lamps) and trim the rough edges of the top by cutting a thin slice from the wick top with a “Brand New” single edge razor blade. Then briefly dip the top of the wick, about ½” in kerosene. The wick is then burned to create the charring. Next “lightly” and carefully apply the wick trimmer to finish the job. The wick should now burn evenly and heat the mantle properly. Note: In all cases, inspect the inner wick tube and remove any residue from the old wick, make sure it is perfectly smooth. Polish and lightly oil if necessary.

6 .Wick rejuvenation: **A tip from Rev. Bill Dugat Jr.**

For a wick that is: dark, stained and dirty, soak in a solution of 50% Clorox & 50% water. Brush it lightly occasionally- and possibly add detergent soap, and it will brighten up and burn much better. When it has dried completely, install it in the burner making sure it is level with the inner wick tube. If not level carefully cut the wick with a new single edge razor blade or a new pair of manicure cutters. This is particularly important for lamps that use a mantle. Then carefully char the wick as described above.

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