

British registered design numbers (RD) thimbles

I hadn't planned to field a topic where there is a published book on the subject. This topic extends the book *British registered design thimbles* by Norma Spicer and Diane Pelham Burn in 2003. This has been brought about a few thimble designs, which they had not previously been recorded.

The 19th century (from 1850) was the most innovative era in thimble design. To protect these new designs the maker could register his new design. This registered number granted was then stamped on the band.

I thought I had sorted out the difference between a registered design on thimbles and a patented design.

The latter protects the new use or type of thimble being patented.

Charles Horner used both ways of protecting his Dorcas thimbles. Patent No. 8954 of 1884, patented his improved thimble, which was to produce a steel-cored sterling silver thimble. These thimbles were marked PAT. or PATENT. Once he began to register new designs for his Dorcas and sterling silver thimbles, the RD No. would be added as well.

I have lettered the date in blue when the registered number is included on the band. This shows the period when they were lettered.

I have included an unknown registration number at the end, in the hope that someone knows it.

The topic concludes with thimble holders with registered design numbers.

Many of these thimbles feature throughout the topics.

THIMBLES

Tho some of the photos don't show the RD No they all are part of the registered design. Some may have been made later, or I don't have a view of the RD No. I have included as many relevant photos, to try and show their rarity – or not.

RD73626

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 11 May 1887

RD73624 was the actual registration number but Horner only ever used the incorrect number as above. The presence of the RD No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his diamond design

 PAT.6 early Dorcas	 Charles Horner 1896	 Charles Horner 1897
 Charles Horner 1898 silver-gilt	 Charles Horner 1899	 Charles Horner 1899 9ct

		
<u>H J Cooper & Co Ltd (HJC)</u> 1896	<u>Deakin & Francis Ltd (D&F)</u> 1898	<u>Robert Pringle</u> 1900
		
<u>Tandy & Sons (T&S)</u> 1899	<u>John Thompson & Sons (JT&S)</u> 1900	<u>William Harrison Walker (WHW)</u> 1896

R^D73871

Registration holder and thimble maker: Alfred Taylor

Registration date: 26 November 1850



brief description of new design: Great Exhibition of All Nations (Crystal Palace) 1851



R^D75400

Registration holder and thimble maker: David & Lionel Spiers (manufacturing jewellers) (DLS or LS)

Registration date: 14 June 1887

brief description of new design: Girls' names

other names: Alice - Anne - Clara - Jane - Maude - Sarah

**R^D86699**

Registration holder and thimble maker: Alfred Taylor

Registration date: 26 November 1850



brief description of new design: Sydenham Crystal Palace 1862

thimbles not hallmarked, no maker's mark, no R^D No - some only bearing the diamond registration mark



R^D 103216

Registration holder: Samuel John Boosey

thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 7 July 1888

brief description of new design: Gripper



1887

usually their design has a wrigglework band, this is plain pre-registration



1888



1888



1891



1892



1893



1898



1901



child's metal
inscribed Anne's



yes



yes



yes

R^D108544

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 20 September 1888

brief description of new design: panelled band



base metal

REG.112123

Registration holder: Alfred Constantine & William Henry Floyd (manufacturing jewellers)

Thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 29 October 1888

brief description of new design: cross-type indentations

There is no indication why the form REG. was used instead of R^D

The presence of the R^D No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other
sponsors marks

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



Constantine & Floyd (C^E&F^D)
Chester 1888 – 1889

R^D120715

Registration holder: Clement Richard Hall

Registration date: 2 March 1889

brief description of new design: teardrop indentations



brass thimble

R^D127211Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 18 June 1889

Brief description of new design: Louise pattern

The presence of the R^D No enabled us to identify Horner as the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his Louise design

R^D139132Registration holder: George Henry Griffith

Registration date: 26 March 1861

Brief description of new design: International Exhibition 1862



R^D143397

Registration holder: George Cartwright & Horace Woodward

Registration date: 29 September 1861



brief description of new design: International Exhibition 1862

thimbles not hallmarked, no maker's mark, no R^D No - some only bearing the diamond registration mark



R^D171258

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Griffith

Registration date: 12 May 1891

brief description of new design: daisy pattern



R^D171259

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Griffith (HG&S, HG&SLtd)

Registration date: 12 May 1891

brief description of new design: daisy and blocks design, known as his Dorothy



Henry Griffith & Son Ltd
Birmingham 1900 #16



Henry Griffith & Son
Chester 1902 #14



Henry Griffith & Son Ltd
Chester 1902 #15



Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&Co)
Chester 1900 #14

R^D173502

Registration holder and thimble maker: Bent and Parker (B&P)

Registration date: August 1893

brief description of new design: girls' names

originally PP14988 – pre-registration number

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



1893



EDITH
PP14988



MAGGIE
PP14988



POLLY
PP14988

R^D178362

Registration holder and thimble maker: James Swann

Registration date: 11 September 1891

brief description of new design: diamond Gripper



yes



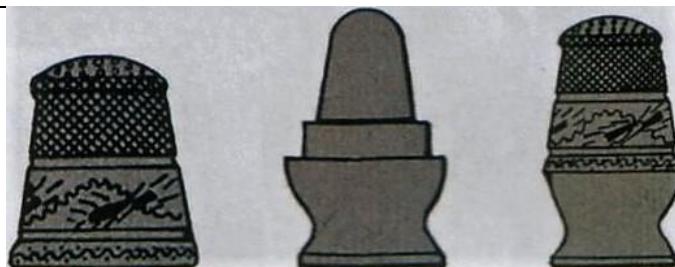
1891

R^D201557

Registration holder: Frederick Keller (druggist's assistant)

Registration date: 28 October 1892

brief description of new design: thimble over a base



this illustration features in the Spicer and Pelham Burn book – it is the only image we have

R^D202312

Registration holder: Alan Edward Elkington

thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 9 November 1892

brief description of new design: multi-stone Scottish pebbles band



yes



1892

hallmarked in apex

variety of band patterns behind the stones



salt cellar

R^D202533

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 14 November 1892

Brief description of new design: shamrock and harp band



1902

stone tops - Connemara marble [right](#)

R^D206738

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 23 November 1892

Brief description of new design: salt cellar

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing



James Fenton
1892

R^D210799

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 18 April 1893

brief description of new design: shell design

The presence of the R^D No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his shell design



[PAT.8](#)
early Dorcas



[Charles Horner](#)
1897



[Charles Horner](#)
1901
9ct



Charles Horner
1915



John Thompson & Sons (JT&S)
1893

R^D210800

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 18 April 1893

brief description of new design: Princess May design

The presence of the R^D No enabled us to identify Horner as the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his Princess May design



PAT.8
early Dorcas



Charles Horner
1894



Charles Horner
1896



Charles Horner
1898



Charles Horner
9ct



Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C^o)
1893



Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C^o)
1896



Carrington & Co (C&C^o)
1900



Constantine & Floyd (C^E&F^D)
1897



Deakin & Francis Ltd (D&F)
1898



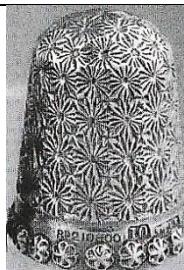
Walter & George Matthews
(WGM)
1893



Isaac Silverstone & Co (IS&C^o)
1897



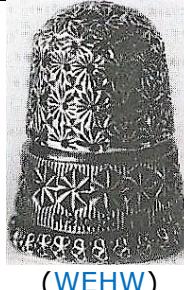
John Thompson & Son (JT&S)
1898



John Thompson & Son (JT&S)
1892



W Wilkinson Ltd (WWLtd)



(WEHW)

R^D212114

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington

thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 13 May 1893

brief description of new design: holly leaves band



1893

with enamelling

R^D222443

Registration holder: Hermann Poths & Co (merchants)

thimble maker: John William Kirwin

Registration date: 16 November 1893

brief description of new design: Scottish thistle shape



1893



1893



1893
9ct gold

R^D227060

Registration holder: Turnbull Bros (jewellers)

Thimble Maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 2 February 1894

brief description of new design: bell-shape

all assayed in Chester



R^D230818

Registration holder and thimble maker: Saunders & Shepherd

Registration date: 17 April 1894

brief description of new design: glass Just a Thimble Full

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing



R^D265923

Registration holder and thimble maker: Samuel Foskett

Registration date: 19 September 1895

brief description of new design: panelled, faceted, diamond shapes with daisy at each intersection



1892



Robert Pringle (RP)
1901

R^D272185

Registration holder: Thomas E Peckett (manufacturer and merchant)

thimble maker: James Swann

Registration date: 6 March 1896

brief description of new design: rebus slogan for 'stick to me'
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



1911



yes



RD280564

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington

thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 31 July 1896

brief description of new design: bicycle design



apex with wheel in centre

the tyres are different on each thimble – there are birds hidden amongst the blackberries on the verso

there are even different versions – ladies and gents with the crossbar on the gent's bicycles

 1896 #8	 1896	 1898 gent's bicycle	
 1896 #10 gent's bicycle handlebars face left	 1901 #10		
 1896 \$10 gent's bicycle handlebars face left			

RD281980

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington

thimble maker: James Fenton

Registration date: 24 August 1896

brief description of new design: moon and stars band



1890s



1899



1901



1905 #12



1906 #8



1910 #11



1910 #10



Olney Amsden (OA)
1901

RD295282

Registration holder and maker: Hamilton & Inches (goldsmiths)

thimble maker: Deakin & Francis Ltd

Registration date: 3 March 1897

Brief description of new design: Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee



yes



yes





Hamilton and Inches (H&I)

9ct

R^D297020

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Fowler

Registration date: 7 April 1897

brief description of new design: bright-cut design

Part of the thimble has his bright-cut design

<p>1901</p>	<p><u>Constantine & Floyd (C^E&F^D)</u> 1899</p>	<p><u>George Goodman (GG)</u></p>
<p><u>George Snook & Co (GS)</u> 1897</p>		<p><u>George Snook & Co (GS)</u> 1898</p>

R^D310734

brief description of new design: miniature chatelaine

Registration date: 1897

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing



this R^D is lettered on the penknife. Four chains with four pendants with a thimble, penknife, scissors and spoon

R^D315477

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 8 March 1898

brief description of new design: Just a Thimble Full
brass thimble

see also R^D707065

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing



this R^D is lettered only on the thimble box

R^D350760

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 16 December 1899



brass thimble
R^D not lettered on thimble

R^D350761

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 16 December 1899



brass thimble

R^D356736

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 2 May 1900



brass thimble

R^D356898

Registration holder: Frederic Griffith
thimble maker: Henry Griffith & Son Ltd

Registration date: 5 May 1900

brief description of new design: Empire design band



1899

Australia – Canada – England – India – Natal- New Zealand - Tasmania



1899



Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C°)

1899 - 1900

R^D426659

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 14 February 1904

Brief description of new design: Louise with interlocking indents



PAT.7
early Dorcas



PAT.11
early Dorcas



Charles Horner
1923



Henry Williamson Ltd (HWL^D)
1906

R^D429537

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 25 March 1904

brief description of new design: Hardwood
narrow band of shallow diamond band



1903



1908



1908

ASH B^R



1911

WHEATLEY

R^D707065

Registration holder: Charles Iles

Registration date: 17 July 1925

brief description of new design: Just a Thimble Full

see also R^D315477



yes



DURBAN
nickel silver



MONTREAL
brass

REG. No.711917

Registration holder: Jeremiah Williams

Registration date: 24 March 1925

brief description of new design: hexagonal thimble

like the earlier example there is no explanation why this REG. No. is used instead of the usual RD
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



[brass thimble](#)

Unknown RD No

Registration holder and maker: Horace Woodward

Registration date: 1888



diamond registered number

brief description of new design: pepper shaker

not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



Horace Woodward & Co (HW&C^o)

THIMBLE HOLDERS

The plush or velour coverings Iles uses velvet in his registration application papers) were not meant to last and some have survived for 120 years in reasonable condition.

R^D №.128040

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 27 June 1889

brief description of new design: The Fair Slipper



blue plush



gold plush



purple plush

R^D №.138883

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 1890s

brief description of new design: bellows shaped (Le Soufflet)



purple plush

R^D169666

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 11 January 1892

brief description of new design: book-shaped



R^D176058

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date:

brief description of new design: The Fairy box



gold plush

R^D176058

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 11 January 1892

brief description of new design: Pink box, green braid

no photo

no known photo

R^D186098

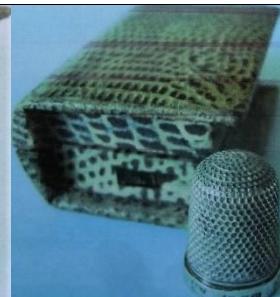
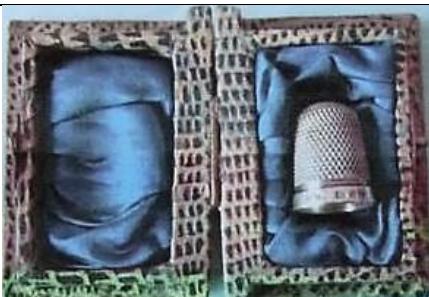
Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 11 January 1892

brief description of new design: book-shaped



leather-bound book



snakeskin

R^D194869

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 1892

brief description of new design: horse hoof-shaped



red plush



Tho this is in the shape of a horse hoof, it may not be part of the R^D above

R^D200439

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 1892

brief description of new design: heart-shaped



blue plush



red plush

R^D210332

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 18 April 1893

brief description of new design: cupid-shaped
this case was made to hold the celluloid The Cupid thimble



blue plush
The Cupid Heart case'



blue plush



red plush

R^D320491

Registration holder and maker: Henry Matthews (HM)

Registration date: June 1898

brief description of new design: lined silver bucket holder



RD392430

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles

Registration date: 1902

brief description of new design: The ping-pong bat



RD430769

Registration holder and maker: Sydney & Co

Registration date: 1904

brief description of new design: coal scuttle shape with cherubs



Birmingham 1906 – also lettered U



Birmingham 1907 – also lettered V



Birmingham 1907 – also lettered V

References

Edwin E Holmes *Registered designs*. Thimble Notes and Queries summer 1989
Bridget McConnel *Dating by a lozenge, or by a RD number* Thimble Society of London winter 1992
Norma Spicer *Iles: a family of thimble makers*. 2001
Norma Spicer and Diane Pelham Burn *British registered design thimbles*. 2003

Contributors

This topic would not have been possible without Ray Nimmo's photos

Ros Forster | Nicola Kissane | Carolyn Meacham-Elegant Arts | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Jean Taylor | Barbra Wallace

This listing of British registered design numbers on thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.

Rather it invites comments and contributions to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

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September 2025**