

AD31 Zippo Collector Lighter

Thomas Rielly served in the navy from 1966 to 1972 and now resides in Saratoga Springs, New York. Over his time in the navy he collected lighters from many places and ships. He was on the USS Fox DD 779 as an EM3 from 1970 to 1972. At one point in time the Fox was tied alongside the Tidewater for repairs. That is when Thomas purchased the Zippo lighter from the Tidewater's ships store.



Thomas contacted us through our website USSTidewater.org and made the offer to donate the lighter. Since he never served on the USS Tidewater he thought the Association should have the Tidewater lighter.

The AD31 Zippo Lighter now resides in the USS Tidewater AD31 Association museum and will be posted on our website online museum. Thank you Thomas!



Zippo lighters are date marked on the bottom of the lighter. In the photo at right you can see that the lighter Thomas Rielly donated was manufactured in 1964.



ONE DOT ON LEFT, SLIM MODEL

1964

Pocket Date Code Guide
 What began as a quality-control tool for Zippo founder George G. Blaisdell has become a collector's dream.

To identify a potential pattern in any run of lighters returned for repair, the bottom of every Zippo lighter was encoded with a series of markings. Since the 1950s, those markings provide a way to accurately date most Zippo lighters. The world-famous guarantee that "if works or we fix it free" still covers every Zippo windproof pocket lighter today. If your Zippo lighter needs repair, send via a trackable method to Zippo Repair Clinic, 1832 Zippo Drive, Bradford, PA 16701. Go to Zippo.com or call 814-368-2700 for more information.

ZIPPO SLIM LIGHTER IDENTIFICATION CODES

1956	Flat bottom no date code
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965

From 1966, the date code for slim and regular lighters has been the same.

ZIPPO REGULAR LIGHTER IDENTIFICATION CODES

1933 Patent Pending	1960 * * * * *	1978 // //	1994 A to L X
1937 - c.1950	1961 * * * * *	1979 // //	1995 A to L XI
Patent 2032695	1962 * * * *	// //	1996 A to L XII
1942 - 1946	1963 * * * *	// //	1997 A to L XIII
Block Crocodile, Patent 203695.	1964 * * * *	// //	1998 A to L XIV
[This number was stamped in error, should have been Patent 2032695]	1965 * * * *	1981 / /	1999 A to L XV
c.1950 - c.1957	1966	1982	2000 A to L XVI
Patent 2517191	1967	1983	2001 A to L 01
c.1950 - c.1957	1968	1984	2002 A to L 02
Patent 2517191	1969	1985	2003 A to L 03
c.1950 - c.1957	1970	1986 G to L	2004 A to L 04
Patent 2517191	1971	1987 A to L	2005 A to L 05
c.1950 - c.1957	1972	1988 A to L IV	2006 A to L 06
Patent 2517191	1973	1989 A to L V	2007 A to L 07
with patent pending	1974	1990 A to L VI	2008 A to L 08
1958 Patent Pending	1975	1991 A to L VII	2009 A to L 09
.....	1976	1992 A to L VIII	2010 A to L 10
1959 * * * * *	1977	1993 A to L IX	

For more information, call (814) 368-2700

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