Boston & Maine Railroad
Historical Society, Inc.

File No. 12

Switching & other Equipment

Hardware Collection

Ramapo Patent Safety Switch Stands

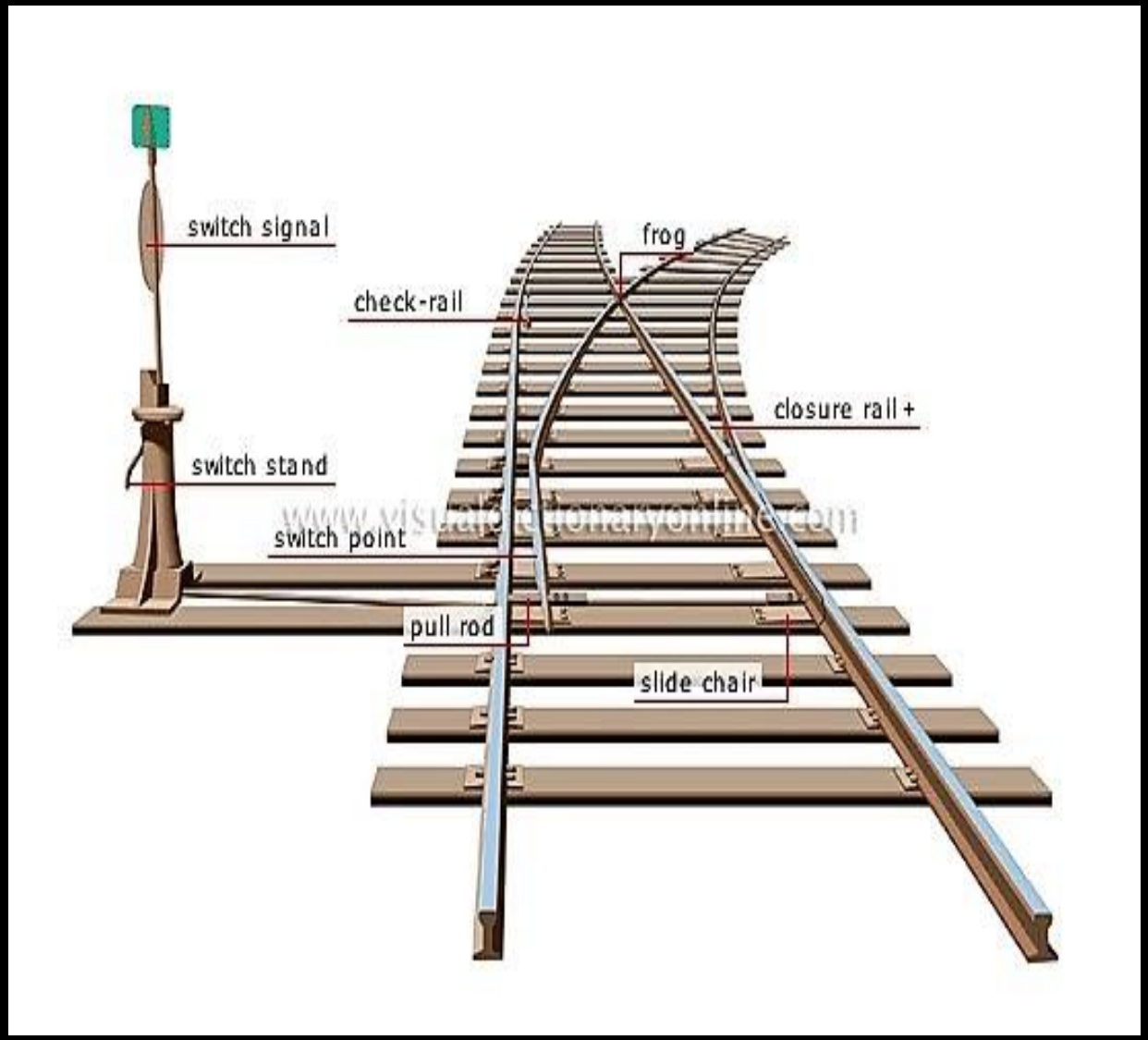
No. 17 No. 18 No. 19 No. 20

- Positive Throw – Ramapo Safety switch stands are rigid for hand operation. The operator raises the handle, there by releasing the spindle from the automatic mechanism, then throws the switch, but cannot lower the handle or relock switch, unless the points are fully thrown.
- Automatic Safety Features – a train or car can trail through a switch when set wrong locked with a Ramapo safety switch stand, without breaking the switch points or injuring the switch stand. The first pair of wheels forces the switch points open compressing springs in the switch stand, and when points are halfway thrown the spring snap the points the rest of the way. The stand is left locked in new position, just as if thrown by hand and is again ready for hand or automatic operation.
- Adjustable Features – All Ramapo Safety switch stands are furnished with adjustable throw and adjustable moving rods, unless otherwise ordered. Adjustable switch rods are not required as either switch point can be adjusted. The throw can always be adjusted to suit that of any switch, can half turn of the eye bolt crank affecting the throw one-twelfth of an inch.

- Information from: Engineering and Maintenance of Way April 1915

Ramapo Iron Works Switch Stand No.17

From: Joseph Shaw Collection



Ramapo Iron Works Hill Burn NY

Switch Stand No. 17 Serial Number E1254 Patented October 3, 1911

RAMAPO AUTOMATIC SAFETY SWITCH SAND

Model Number 20

- The Ramapo Automatic Safety Switch stand:
- This stand has proved economical for busy switches by eliminating expensive repairs to the stand, track and derailed equipment which are often necessary when switches with rigid stands are run through.
- The Ramapo 20, accidentally trailed switches are partly opened by the wheel flange and the throw to the opposite position is completed by the switch stand.
- Fatigue failure in connecting members is eliminated by the resilience of this design.
- A hasp is conveniently located for application of padlock or hook when hand throw is completed.

RAMAPO AUTOMATIC SAFETY SWITCH STAND

Model Number 20

- Ramapo Iron Works

- Short Switch Stand No. 20
- Pat Date: October 3, 1911
- From: Fletcher Quarry

- From: Sandy Shepard Collection

Automatic Safety Switch Stand

Switch Stand Spindle

From: Paul T. Kosciolek Collection

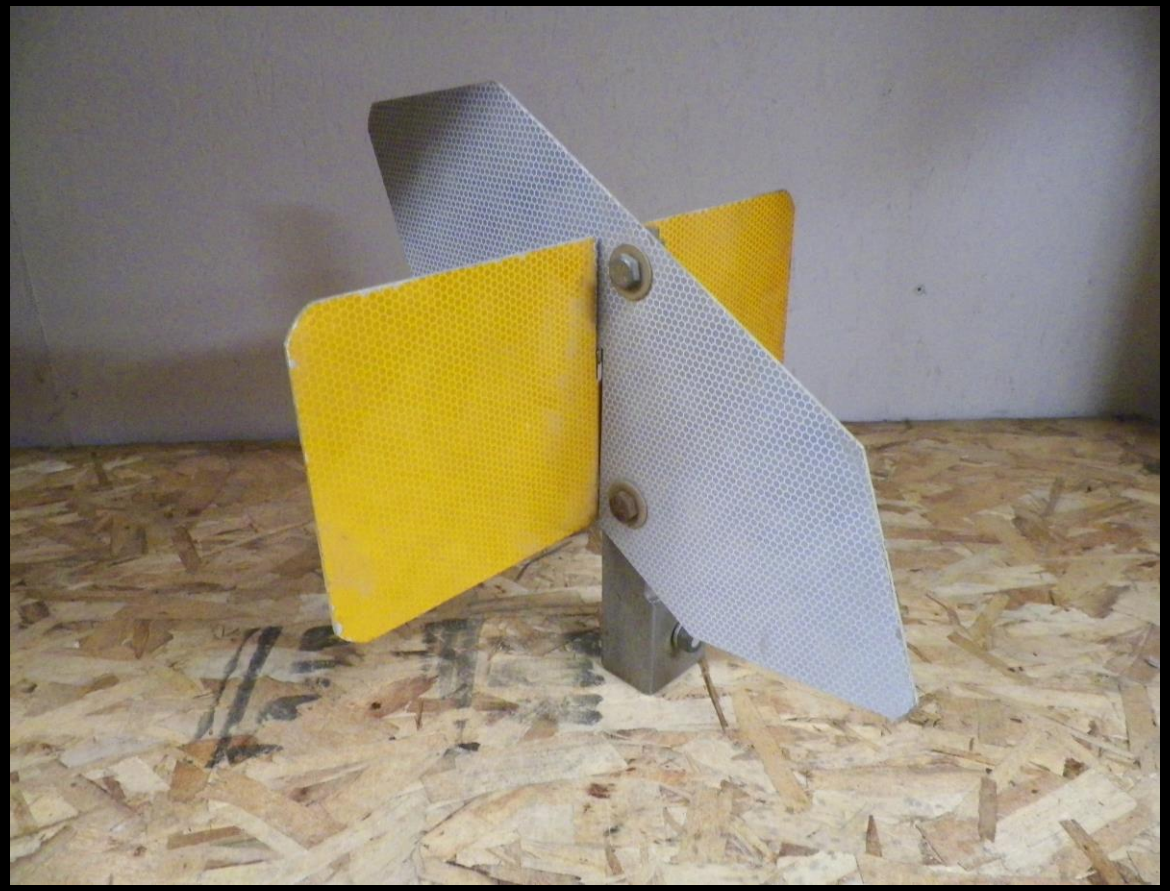
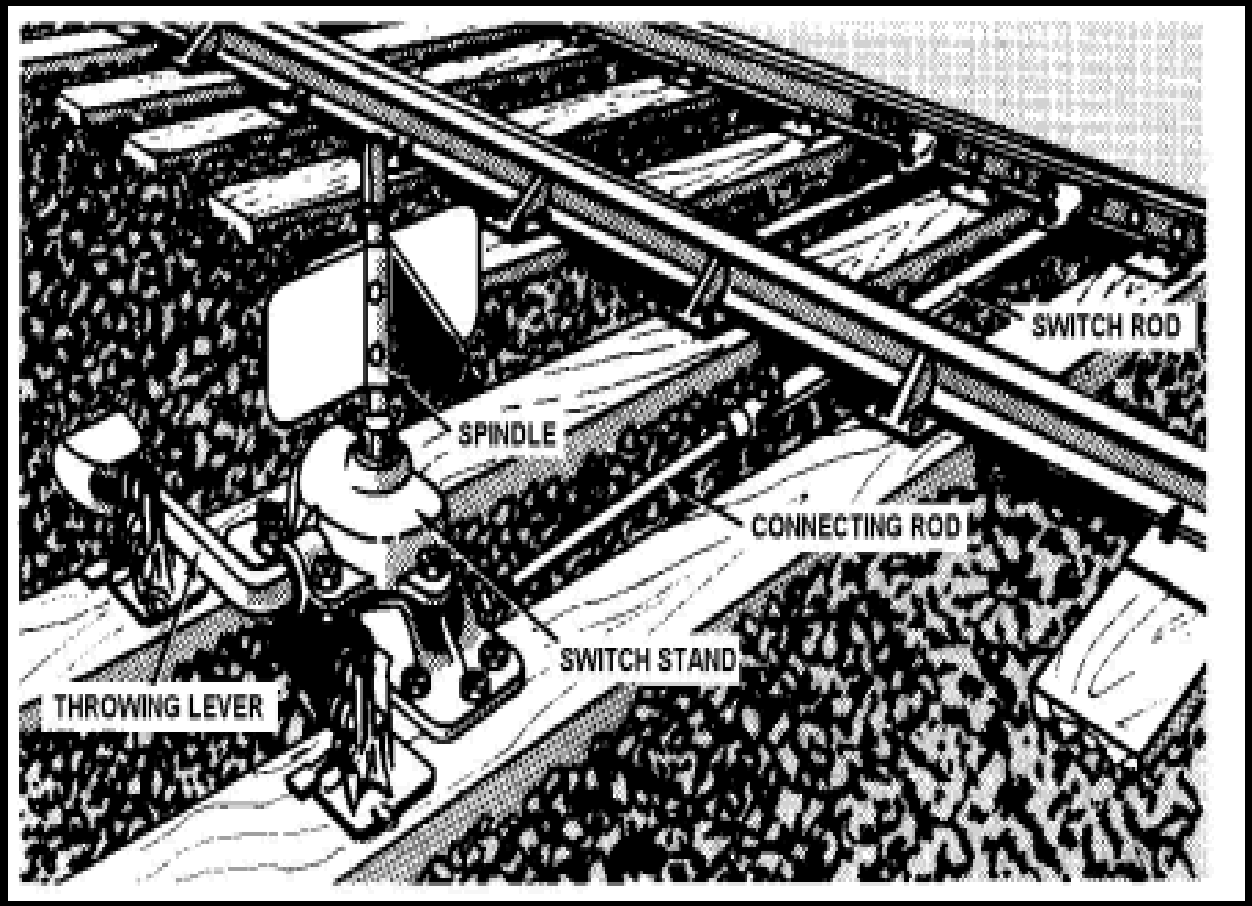


Diagram: Short Switch Stand

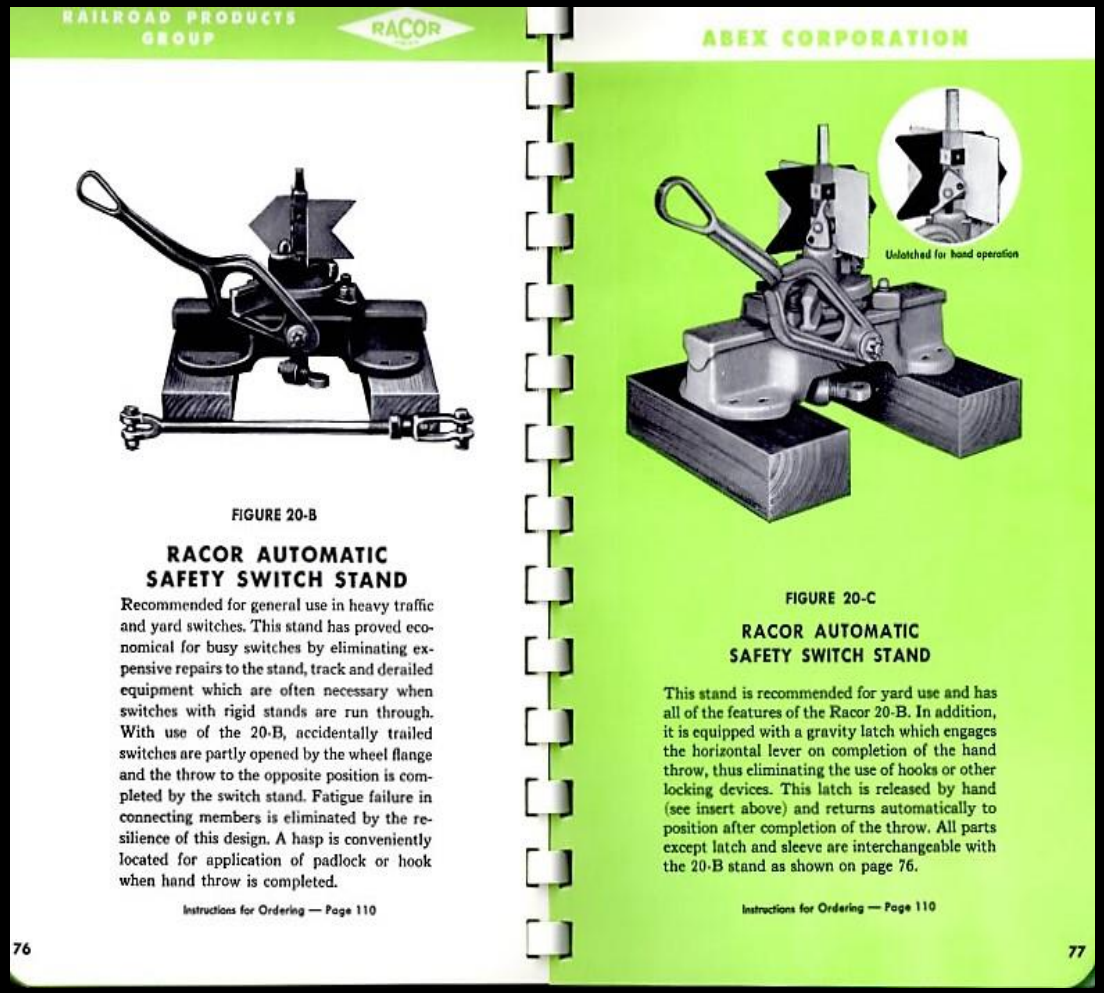


Ramapo Ajax Corp

Hillburn N.Y.

Serial No. E2229 RACOR

From: Joseph Shaw Collection



RAILROAD PRODUCTS GROUP

RACOR

FIGURE 20-B

RACOR AUTOMATIC SAFETY SWITCH STAND

Recommended for general use in heavy traffic and yard switches. This stand has proved economical for busy switches by eliminating expensive repairs to the stand, track and derailed equipment which are often necessary when switches with rigid stands are run through. With use of the 20-B, accidentally trailed switches are partly opened by the wheel flange and the throw to the opposite position is completed by the switch stand. Fatigue failure in connecting members is eliminated by the resilience of this design. A hasp is conveniently located for application of padlock or hook when hand throw is completed.

Instructions for Ordering — Page 110

ABEX CORPORATION

FIGURE 20-C

RACOR AUTOMATIC SAFETY SWITCH STAND

This stand is recommended for yard use and has all of the features of the Racor 20-B. In addition, it is equipped with a gravity latch which engages the horizontal lever on completion of the hand throw, thus eliminating the use of hooks or other locking devices. This latch is released by hand (see insert above) and returns automatically to position after completion of the throw. All parts except latch and sleeve are interchangeable with the 20-B stand as shown on page 76.

Instructions for Ordering — Page 110

Ramapo Iron Works
Switch Stand No. 19

Ramapo Short Switch Stand No.19

Hillburn, N.Y. Serial No. E1257

Pat Date: March 17, 1909

Red Target Plate with Switch Stand Padlock.

Switch Stand Lamps

Tag No.549
Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad
Switch Stand Lamp:

From: Robert Poor Collection

Tag No. 547
Dressel Switch Stand Lamp
Amber & Red Lens

From: Joseph Shaw Collection

Switch Stand Lamps

Tag No. 412
Dressel Switch Stand Lamp
Stainless Steel
12 Volt AC-DC Electric
Nicknamed Cannonball

Tag No. 591
Adlake Switch Stand Lamp
Green & Red Lens

From: Arnold Wilder Collection

Switch Stand Lamps

Two Switch Stand Lamps

Made of Heavy Duty Plastic electric Lamps

Measures approximately 12” Square

Circa 1970’s

From: Joseph Shaw Collection

Cast Brass Heart Shape Switch Locks

- Brass Heart Shape Switch Locks:
- The earlier switch locks were all cast brass, later they were made of iron or steel.
- The all brass Heart Shape locks were with raised railroad markings.
- Also, locks bearing factory stamped railroad markings were located on the shackle or case.
- Other letters , such as an S, meaning “Switch” name or hallmark, and patent dates.
- The cover (metal tab that springs back in place over the keyhole when key is removed) protecting the exposed hole from the elements of the weather, is known as the drop.

Boston & Maine Railroad

Cast Brass Heart Shape Lock /w Brass Key

Cast Steel Heart Shape Lock

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad

Cast Brass Heart Shape Lock /w marking “MDWCO”

Brass Heart Shape Switch Lock /w Key

Boston & Maine Railroad

Standard Steel Clad Switch Lock / embossed B.&M.R.R.

Brass Lock /w Key - WB

Boston & Maine Railroad

Standard Steel Baggage Car Cellar Lock /w Key

B&M R R
#1671
ADLAKE
#1667
ADLAKE
#1670
ADLAKE
#1671
B&M Switch Key

RACO Signal Locks

Brass Signal Locks used to secure the electrical boxes on semaphores and for other purposes in the railroad's block system operating department. Most of these locks have a cylinder mechanism requiring a flat key to open them while others need a hollow barrel (HB) type key.

Brass Signal Lock
New York New Haven and Hartford Railroad

The railroads used many types of padlocks - Maintenance of Way, Road & Bridge Department, shanties, shops, depots, baggage or mail cars and for other general purpose use. They came in a varity of shapes and sizes, made of all-brass, iron or steel, some with a combination of brass and steel. Some required a flat key to open them, others needed a hollow barrel type (HB) key.

Boston & Maine Railroad
Standard Steel –Clad Switch Lock

These are big round-bottomed steel clad standard type that have been continuously in production since the early 1900's and up to the present. The older styles have an extended steel swivel at the bottom center with a chain attached. The B&MRR markings embossed on the shackle.

Boston & Maine Railroad

Standard Steel Clad & Brass Switch Lock /w Brass Key

New York Central Railroad

Standard Steel Clap Switch Lock “Adlake”

Boston & Maine Railroad

Adlake - Standard Steel Clad Switch Lock /w Patent Number 2040482.
The most recent issues just have a row of digits, stamped on the back or year issued, 1966 or 75.

Railroad Switch Keys

- Switch Keys
- Thousand of switch Keys have been made through the years , of bronze or brass, some of steel or iron.
- The Railroad’s name or initials were stamped on the front side of the hilt.
- The letter S (Switch) or department letters and a serial number, along with the maker’s hallmark, were generally stamped on the back side.
- There were many other railroad-marked keys for locks on shanties, coal sheds, signal boxes, cabooses, coaches .
- These various keys , are different in size and shape from the regular switch key.
- Many recent caboose or coach keys are marked “Adlake”.


#262
#285
#299

Boston & Maine Railroad

Brass Switch Key Numbered 23 - 06

New York New Haven & Hartford Railroad

Brass Switch Key /w Serif Letters and Tapered Barrels.

New York Central Railroad

Brass Switch Key /w Serif Letters and Tapered Barrels.

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad

Brass Switch Key /w Serif Letters and Tapered Barrels

New York Central Railroad

Brass Switch Key /w Serif Letters and Tapered Barrels

P. C. Railroad

Brass Switch Key /w Serif Letters and Tapered Barrel.

Railroad Caboose or Coach Key

Railroad Caboose or Coach Key

Boston & Maine Railroad

Caboose Key Number 4943

Boston & Maine Railroad

Caboose Car Key Number 4925

Miscellaneous Keys – shanties, Signal locks, Mail Car, Etc.