

Wick Shop

www.MilesStair.com

Miles@RuralOregon.net

PO Box 503

Coquille, OR 97423

Installing Side Draft Central Vulcan Wicks



Side draft Central (Globe) Vulcan wicks requires paying attention to details and knowing how far down to install the wick on the wick sleeve. The installation procedure is different from center draft Vulcan lamps.

At right, side draft Vulcan burner apart, the one pictured is a 16" burner.



At right, the wick is fully seated as far down as it should go. A quick glance would seem to indicate the wick could be pulled down to the height of the wick pockets, but with the side draft burner the top of the wick sleeve (the brass band right below the blue mark on the wick) is much higher than on a central draft Vulcan burner. Note the large gap for the air vent, one on each side.

To install the wick, raise the wick pockets as high as possible, as shown at right. Insert each tail through a wick pocket, with the blue mark directly over the wick winder. Gently pull each tail alternately to pull the wick down over the draft tube as straight as possible. When the blue mark on the band reaches the stop of the wick sleeve, stop pulling down on the tails.

Some Vulcan lamps have bent or crushed wick pockets. A narrow spoon handle can be used to expand the wick pockets to full depth, but the wick pockets are fragile and should only be expanded when raised within the body of the burner base.



The wick shown in the photo at right is fully seated as far down as it will go. It is in exactly the same position as the photo above right, but in this photo the wick has been lowered as far as it will go and the wick pockets are now beneath the burner.

The band of wicking keeps the tails from splitting the top tubular part of the wick while also evening out the flow of fuel to the top of the wick. This results in an even flame without flame spikes if the wick has been properly trimmed and burned level.



The photo at right shows the wick fully seated down, covered by the outer wick tube. The excess exposed wick is to make up for variations in burners made over the years.

At this point the wick is trimmed level with the top of the draft tubes using good shears or a razor.



The wick is now ready to be burned level. Replace the gallery on the burner and install the burner on the font. **DO NOT ADD FUEL TO THE FONT!!!** Put about a teaspoon of fuel or alcohol on the top of the wick as trimmed level with the draft tubes, replace the flame spreader, light the wick, and place the chimney on the burner. The wick will burn the fuel, then the cotton wick itself will burn down level with the draft tubes. Raise the wick so that 1/16th inch or so is again exposed, repeat the 'dry burning' technique, and again burn the wick down level with the draft tubes. (Warning: burning cotton is smelly.) The wick will then have a level burning surface producing an even burn without flame spikes, and retract down into the draft tubes sufficiently to extinguish the flame. [Note: It may be necessary to burn the wick down 3 or 4 times because the wicks used in Vulcan lamps are very thick.] Fuel the font, wait a half hour, and enjoy burning the lamp!