

Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks

Supplement No. 2: Assembling Cast Iron Banks*

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Introduction

This is a supplement to the paper "Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks" that appeared in the *Penny Bank Post*.¹ The purpose of this and future Supplements is to expand on the subject, present new examples, and also to correct errors.

Supplement No. 2 presents two examples of jigs used in assembling cast iron banks. The jigs were photographed during a visit with Frank Kidd at Kidd's Toy Museum in Portland, Oregon.

Jigs for Assembling Cast Iron Banks



Photo 1. Jig for assembling the "Flat Iron Building" bank.

A "jig" is a tool used to make repetitive manufacturing tasks easier or more reproducible. The block of wood shown in Photo 1 is a jig for assembling the "Flat Iron Building" bank, M-1161.² Notice the distinct triangular shape of the base of the bank cut into the surface of the block.

Assembly of the parts of this bank requires that the three sides, base, and top be juxtaposed and then secured with a bolt and nut. The jig helped by holding the nut in position so the bolt would grab it when the bolt was inserted and turned, and by pressing the nut up against the underside of the base of the bank so the nut would catch the ridge (see Photo 2) on the underside and not spin when the bolt was turned.

The jig was used by placing a nut in the depression near the center of the jig and placing a bank base in the depression in the jig. Next the bank sides were set into the base, and a top added. Finally a bolt was slid through the holes in the bank top and base, and tightened.

Photo 3 shows an assembled set of patterns resting in the jig.

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Photo 2 . Underside of the base. Note the ridge just below the square nut. This prevents the nut from turning when the bolt is tightened.



Photo 3

No doubt the jig in Photo 1 was quite useful even though it is very simple, even crude. Jigs could be much more elegant. Photo 4 shows a jig for the dog that is part of the "Speaking Dog" mechanical bank, Norman-5170.³ This jig was used to assemble the separate castings that comprise the dog, and/or for drilling or other machining operations on the castings.



Photo 4. Foreground: jig for "Speaking Dog Bank."

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References

- ¹ Fritz Kokesh, "Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks, Seminar by Bill Robison," *Penny Bank Post*, April 2003, p. 5.
- ² Andy and Susan Moore, "The Penny Bank Book: Collecting Still Banks," Schiffer Publishing Ltd., Exton, Pennsylvania, 1984.
- ³ Bill Norman, "The Bank Book; the Encyclopedia of Mechanical Bank Collecting," Accent Studios, San Diego, California, 1985.