

Key Note

MARCH 2022 *Issue 45, Series 2*

1987

35 years of promoting Morse code

2022



Mystery Marconi key?

A special order by the British Diplomatic Wireless Service to the Marconi Company for it's employees. See larger image on the inner cover.

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And more besides.

The "*FISTS Collection*" Disc from Club Sales



Founded in 1987 by the late George "Geo" Longden, G3ZQS

Club Goals

- *Further the use of CW*
- *Encourage newcomers to use Morse code*
- *Engender friendships among members*

"Accuracy transcends speed, courtesy at all times."

"When you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend."

Website: www.fists.co.uk

Email: kn@fists.co.uk

Centre of Activity Frequencies: 1.818, 3.558, 7.028, 10.118/128, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058, 24.908, 28.058, 50.058, 70.158, and 144.058.

Everyone has pet peeves, we call them pets because it seems we like them to stay around.

I have a bevy of pet peeves, a flock of forget-me-nevers.

One is - and it does not apply to you or your keys - is:

1) Why when designing up and down keys don't people put a base that extends to the centre line of the knob button? If they do not do this, the key will often tip.

The Lennart Pettersson key mentioned in the FISTS Newsletter is such a key , beautiful but why-oh-why did they truncate the base so short? It's annoying to use and have the key tip, and it's annoying to see it like this.



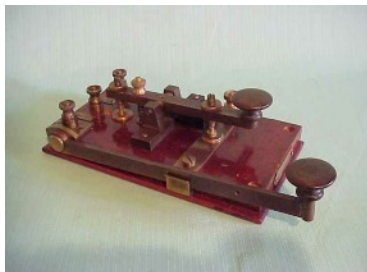
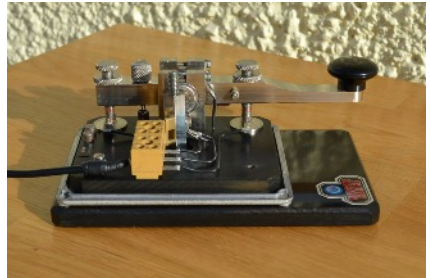
Interestingly I found an alternate version which looks like it was factory made.

That's very elegant, maybe it was some individual's handiwork, if so, BRAVO.



Marconi's MIMCo got it wrong with the 365, A, B, C, D keys but for the 365EZ and FZ they corrected the problem - even though they discarded the beautiful painted brass box for a zinc Eddystone box. Some added bases to the 365 keys to get it right as in this photo.

Marconi's MIMCo 365EZ/FZ type keys that fixed the problem. Marconi should have known better, they got it right with their Salami Slicer, the famous Marconi Guillotine key used on spark radio stations, the lever shorted the arc at the contacts so they key could break the arc and resume sending.



Phil's PS-213 Replica - notice the short base - I had him modify mine, I wasn't going to put up with such a fine key that tips.

Marconi's key and my copy of Phil Boyle's (G0NVT) fine Guillotine replica. Modern makers of the fabulous PS-213 - which I believe is the best sending Morse key ever made - have corrected the problem that existed with Marconi's version - too short a base.

Phil G0NVT's model of a PS-213 type key with a special basket weave spring tension/spacing assembly. He had built a PS-213 for me, but he admitted it was a lot of work with the extra fiddly pieces, but I insisted and got a beautiful base for my 213 replica



Alberto Frattini's lovely PS-213 type key - he got it right. This key is that of R/O Lino Natale, IZ0DDD who was radio officer at Roma Radio/IAR and knew about the defect in the keys at the station! He has many of our friend Alberto's keys. Alberto also got it right with his Swedish keys - a long base under the knob.



N1EA #8997