

collectors to motion lamps identification values

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Introduction

When you think of collectibles, you might picture rare coins, vintage comic books, or antique furniture. Yet, there is a growing niche that captures the imagination of a dedicated community: motion lamps. These lighting fixtures, equipped with motion-sensing technology, have evolved from simple household devices into coveted artifacts for collectors who appreciate their design, engineering, and historical significance. A key factor that sets one motion lamp apart from another in a collector's eye is its identification values—serial numbers, model codes, batch identifiers, and manufacturer markings. These details not only authenticate a lamp's provenance but also influence its market value and desirability.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the world of motion lamp collecting, demystify the various identification systems, and provide practical advice for spotting genuine pieces, evaluating their worth, and preserving them for future generations. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just beginning to explore this niche, you'll find the insights here indispensable.

What Are Motion Lamps? Understanding the Basics

Motion lamps are lighting fixtures that automatically turn on or adjust brightness when motion is detected within a specified range. Originally developed for convenience and energy efficiency, these lamps have seen significant technological advancements—from infrared sensors in the 1970s to sophisticated microcontroller-based systems in modern LED designs.

Collectors are drawn to motion lamps for several reasons:

- **Design Innovation:** Sleek, minimalist forms that blend seamlessly into contemporary interiors.
- **Technological Milestones:** Each generation reflects a leap in sensor accuracy, power efficiency, and user interface.
- **Limited Production Runs:** Many manufacturers produced small batches, especially during early adoption phases, making certain models rare.
- **Storytelling:** Motion lamps often carry narratives about the era's lifestyle, energy concerns, and technological optimism.

The Role of Identification Values in Motion Lamp Collecting

Identification values are the fingerprints of a lamp. They encode information such as the manufacturer, model, production year, and even the specific production batch. For collectors, these details are essential for:

- **Authenticating Authenticity:** Verifying that a lamp is genuine and not a counterfeit.
- **Determining Rarity:** Some models were produced in limited quantities, and identification codes can confirm whether a lamp belongs to a rare batch.
- **Tracking Provenance:** Understanding the lamp's history, including previous ownership and any restorations.
- **Assessing Condition and Functionality:** Certain identification codes may indicate whether the lamp has been refurbished or replaced.

Common Identification Systems and Codes

Motion lamps can feature a variety of identification systems, each with its own format and meaning. Below, we break down the most common types and how to interpret them.

Serial Numbers and Batch Codes

Serial numbers are unique to each lamp, while batch codes often denote a group of lamps produced in the same run. Typical serial number formats include:

- Alphanumeric strings (e.g., SN-2021-AB12)
- Numeric sequences (e.g., 00012345)
- Combination of letters and numbers indicating year, plant, and serial (e.g., H-19-0001)

Batch codes may appear on the lamp's housing, underside, or within the user manual. They are invaluable for determining whether a lamp belongs to a limited production run.

Model Numbers and Catalog Numbers

Manufacturers assign model numbers to differentiate product lines. These numbers often reveal:

- Design generation (e.g., Model 3000 vs. Model 3000B)
- Feature set (e.g., sensor type, dimming capability)
- Target market (commercial vs. residential)

Catalog numbers are used in retail and may differ slightly from model numbers, especially when a lamp is sold under a different brand name.

Manufacturer's Markings and Logos

Many lamps carry embossed logos, stamped initials, or holographic seals. These markings can help identify:

- The original manufacturer (e.g., Philips, GE, Osram)
- Rebranding or licensing agreements (e.g., a lamp sold by Vizio but manufactured by Osram)
- Quality certifications (e.g., UL, CE)

Electrical Ratings and Certifications

Identification values often include voltage, wattage, and lumens. For example, a lamp might be labeled as **120V, 60W, 800lm**. These details are crucial for:

- Ensuring compatibility with existing electrical systems
- Assessing energy efficiency and potential cost savings
- Verifying compliance with safety standards

How to Read and Decode Motion Lamp Identification Values

Decoding identification values may seem daunting, but with a systematic approach, it becomes manageable. Follow this step by step guide to unlock the secrets hidden on your lamp.

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Locate the Identification Markings: Check the base, underside, and side panels for stamped or engraved codes.
2. Document the Codes: Photograph or write down every visible number, letter, and symbol.
3. Cross-Reference with Manufacturer Catalogs: Use online databases or manufacturer brochures to match

model numbers and serial ranges.

4. **Verify Batch Information:** If a batch code is present, confirm its production year and quantity through manufacturer archives or collector forums.

5. **Check for Additional Documentation:** Some lamps come with original manuals or purchase receipts that can validate the identification data.

Tools and Resources

- **Manufacturer Websites:** Many companies maintain archives of old catalogs and technical specifications.
- **Collector Forums:** Communities such as [LightingCollect.com](#) and [VintageLampForum.org](#) are treasure troves of information.
- **Online Databases:** Sites like [SerialNumberLookup.com](#) or [ProductInfoHub.org](#) allow you to input serial numbers and receive detailed reports.
- **Professional Appraisers:** Certified appraisers specialize in lighting artifacts and can provide authenticated valuations.

Historical Evolution of Motion Lamp Identification

Understanding the historical context of identification systems can deepen your appreciation of a lamp's place in the timeline of lighting technology.

Early Motion Lamps (1970s-1980s)

During the 1970s, motion lamps were primarily mechanical, using simple infrared beams. Identification markings were often rudimentary:

- Single serial numbers stamped on the housing.
- Manufacturer logos without additional codes.
- Limited batch information due to low production volumes.

Collectors value these early models for their pioneering design and the nostalgia they evoke.

Modern LED Motion Lamps (2000s-Present)

With the advent of LED technology and microcontrollers, identification systems became more sophisticated:

- Embedded RFID tags for inventory management.
- QR codes linking to digital product pages.
- Detailed batch codes indicating firmware version and sensor calibration.

These advancements not only improve functionality but also provide richer data for collectors seeking authenticity and provenance.

Factors Affecting Value for Collectors

While identification values play a pivotal role, several other factors influence a motion lamp's desirability and price.

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