## Just For Openers January-December 2024

### **Electro-Chemical Beer Slide-Out Corkscrews**

By John Stanley

The first weeks of August was the National Association Breweriana Advertising (NABA) National Convention in St. Louis, Mo. About 350 members attended and one was fellow Just For Openers member, Jim Osborn, who brought a great selection of beer advertising openers and corkscrews. In 2020 Jim had completed a set of the 14 known beer advertising slide-out corkscrews and said he was ready to sell or trade the set. He picked out some fairly rare openers I had for sell or trade and with some cash we completed a deal for the 14 pieces shown below.

Being that Jim and I have dealt many times over the years and he had slide-outs in a nice display case, I didn't check them out closely until that evening. It was time for me to be a "baby trader" and I asked Jim the next day for a little rebate on our deal. Several of the corkscrews need some real tender loving care. For corkscrew slide-outs seven were nice and seven were average condition.



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Once I got home and had some time, I realized each one's opener/corkscrew mechanism needed to be cleaned. Years ago an early Just For Openers (JFO) member, Harold Queen, had showed me with the right metal bar, the slider part of the opener can be removed easily (usually). The button that controls the pushing of the slider has a thin pin attaching it to the body. Using a metal bar (1/2" wide and no more than 1/8" thick), you can pry the bottom of the slider just open enough to push the slider out of the case. Note you may have to push the button down to get the pin to fit into the case slot. Once removed you can use fine steel wool and polish the slider on a buffing wheel. It is easiest to use a well used wire brush on a Dremel tool. The slider I show in the pictures below and the following pages had the most rust and cleaned up well.





Button with pin shown below.



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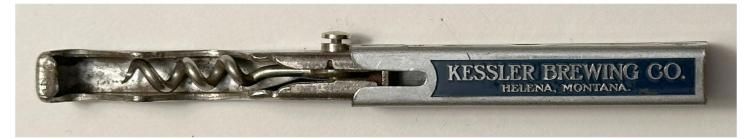


Top pictures shows the slider as the case has been opened enough to push the pin into the channel and you pull it out. The bottom picture shows the case after rust removal. Very unusual to have a nice case and the slider had such a rough life.

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Top picture is the bottom view of the slider and the corkscrew was nice but a lot of cleaning was needed in the surrounding area. Second picture shows the slider and case before being put back together. Third pictures shows the button need to be pushed down to get the pin to go in case slot. Bottom picture shows the button is almost back in. Cleaning is complete.

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M-073-014 Pinney Beverage Company 533 South Fourth West Street Salt Lake City, Utah / Drink Becker's Best Beer / Drink Budweiser (Red)

M-073-013 Heurich Fine Beer / Famous For Quality Since 1873 / Washington, D.C. (Red)

M-073-011 Kessler Brewing Co. Helena, Montana / Kessler Beer / Brewed From Pure Mountain Spring Water (Red)

M-073-010 Kessler Brewing Co. (Yellow)

M-073-005 Kessler Brewing Co. (Green)

M-073-012 Kessler Brewing Co. (Blue)

M-073-003 Missoula Brewing Co. / Highlander Beer / Famous For Quality Always (Red)

M-073-004 Missoula Brewing Co. (Yellow)

M-073-002 Missoula Brewing Co. (Green)

M-073-001 Missoula Brewing Co. (Blue)

M-073-008 Kessler Brewing Co. Helena, Montana / Lorelei Beer / Hotel Placer Helena, Montana (Red)

M-073-007 Kessler Brewing Co. Hotel Placer (Yellow)

M-073-009 Kessler Brewing Co. Hotel Placer (Green)

M-073-006 Kessler Brewing Co. Hotel Placer (Blue)

JFO numbers with descriptions listed above with just one full description for the three different Montana beer sliders.

The Heurich is the most valuable (condition and desirability). As a rule Yellow case sliders are hardest to find in good condition. The three different advertising Montana sliders are ranked by Hotel Placer ones being the hardest then the Kesslers with the Highlanders being the most common. In the early 1990s an original box of three four color Highlander sets was found.





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To finish an example of the "extra long" Elector-Chemical slide out corkscrew. The only black one I have seen. For corkscrew collectors the most desirable slide-out corkscrew to find in any color.

