

# Match Manufacturers:

## Maryland Match Company (1934-1984)

The Maryland Match Company is one of the more familiar manufacturer names in the hobby. It was founded by Joseph Shapiro in 1934, and from there, financially, it went through a number of hands over the years, just as most other companies and corporations. Eventually, it was acquired by American match Co. and then purchased from it in 1975; it was incorporated in 1979 as Maryland Match Corp.

As the American match industry was collapsing in the 1980s, Maryland Match Company relocated to Canada in 1980 in a last ditch survival move, but, unfortunately, it wasn't enough to save what was left of the company. Maryland's last U.S. plant, in Baltimore, closed in 1984.

Maryland was certainly never the biggest or most important match manufacturer in the United States, but it left its mark on the industry and the hobby. Its trademarks included "Ever-Glo" (1948), "Embassy" (debossed, ?), "Glitter-Foil" (Foilite-type, ?), "Andorra" (box made in Spain, ?), "Photo Color" (?), "Facil-Fab" (Satin-type, ?), "Flair" (Pearlstone-type, ?), "Rhapsody" (Filigree-type, ?), "Safe-T-Flap" (T-shaped flap overlaying matches, ?). Unlike a company such as Universal, for example, Maryland rarely, if ever, actually printed its trademarked names on the covers, themselves.

There is a long-running question in the hobby centering on whether Maryland Match Co. was the first to have issued first the 12-strike (Advance Match Co. may have produced first 12-strike).

