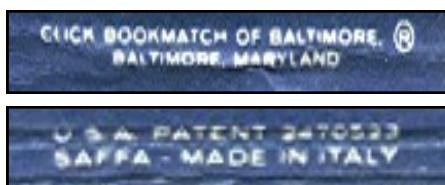


Clicks!



Click Matches, compared to other types of matchbooks, are definitely an oddity. For one thing, they're Italian-made matchbooks. Of course, that doesn't necessarily make them odd, but the other thing is that they open at the top via curved ends, one end closing over the other and producing a soft 'click' sound. Hence, the name. I assume the "Click Bookmatch of Baltimore" company was a distributor, rather than a manufacturer.

They were produced c. 1949-1950s; One rarely hears about them within collecting circles, but some collectors do keep them as a category. Andy Anderson, MO, had 62 back in 7/96. Personally, I shun them whenever I can.

They're murder to deal with. I don't know how they did it, but those curved ends, even though they're cardboard, might as well be steel. You can't flatten them. *[Watch! A dozen collectors will write in saying, "Oh, I flatten those all the time!" ...Well, I've never had any luck doing it.]* In any event, that's why you can't put them in slotted pages. They'll fit into a pocket on a plastic page, of course, but then you've got the resulting 'bulge' to deal with. Not good.

The ideal solution would simply be to keep them as full-books and thus circumvent the problem entirely. But, most of us don't want to deal with full-books. And, many of the Clicks you run across have been stripped of matches already, so you're back to square one.

Then again, I suppose there's the argument that if you *did* flatten Clicks...they wouldn't be Clicks anymore! After all, it's the curved ends that make them Clicks in the first place...*[Good grief! I'm beginning to get a headache!]*

For myself, I don't keep Clicks unless they're in my want areas, but, as of now, I just keep them in a box, not knowing what else to do with them. *[along with a myriad of other oddly shaped items]* Who knows, perhaps this article *will* bring in someone's tried and true solution to flattening them.

Cheryl Crill, CA, reported having 195 different Clicks in April 2005, and that's the largest collection that I know of. There is no listing of this type of cover.

