

# RMS INSTA-POLL

**“Which manufacturer generally produced the best made covers?”**  
 (not the most popular, but rather the best made)  
*[May - 108 responding]*

Universal	27
Ohio	15
Diamond	6
Crown	18
Bryant & May	1
Union	1
Lion	9
Lion (S. Africa)	1
General	1
Superior	9
D.D. Bean	1
Atlas	1
Eddy	1
No opinion	16
N/A	1

**Pertinent comments:**

-That is probably the dumbest question you have ever asked – All match companies used the same paper stock – same inks so what could be different, If you are asking for overall there is no question...[Universal] Their plant in Ferguson Missouri was the only match manufacturer ever to print in rolls not sheets and as a result laminated match stock to make their own foil boards – mirror gloss – unit glow etc. etc. ....Their other production was all done at the Hudson plant on German Melee presses in sheets...

-CROWN....Best paper, matches, striker and staple.

-Crown for quality--people are still finding full book crowns with "shiny new" staples that can be shucked easily without damaging the cover.

-I'd say Crown....I had multiple striker failures with the other manumarks.

-Union Match made big, solid, fat striker, matchbooks that seem designed for reliable use.

-Superior. Seems like the card stock was thicker.

-My vote is Universal. Staples rarely rusted, paper was coarse yet flexible, and match sticks were higher quality and didn't stain than Diamond, Maryland, Crown, Monarch, etc.

-Not a question that is easy to answer. Too many variables.

*Ed. I was surprised at how many respondents mention the staple as a factor to be considered here. I hadn't initially thought of that.*

*I did, however, think about something that no one else mentioned...and that was the frequency of errors (errors being an indication of quality control). Of course, hardly anyone collects Errors, so hardly anyone would have much to base an opinion on. But, I do collect Errors. So I took a look at my Error listing which currently lists 4,298 Errors, and, perhaps not surprisingly, Universal had the highest frequency, by far. Drawing a conclusion from that is dicey, though, because it can be argued, for example that Universal produced the most covers to begin with (with the possible exception of Diamond).*