

**Glass "indent" ornaments** are among the favorites of collectors. They've been popular ever since glass Christmas ornaments came to be. The indentations are almost always multi-faceted so the reflecting surface is multiplied. This is why they're so popular. They add a lot of glitz. Because the ornaments have a significant indentation, the viewer is compelled to look into the ornament, not just at it.

Most European indents come from Poland, but I think some were made in most every country that made glass ornaments, including Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and others. Later, American manufacturers created their own



**European indents 2**

version of indents. The most prominent was the Shiny Brite brand, which is still being produced. Whether European or American, there is almost no limit to the variation that is found with these jewels. Every color is represented, but red, gold, silver, green, and blue are the most common. There are numerous shapes, but most are either round or slightly elongated, sometimes called "icicle" or teardrop, but neither of those terms accurately describes the shape. The type we see most often have one or two indents, varying in size. But some ornaments have many indents. I think I have some in my personal collection with as many as ten indentations, but we don't see those too often. Really, there is plenty of dazzle with even two indentations.

Like all European glass ornaments, the indents are fragile, especially the indent itself, where the glass is thinner. One customer told me how she enjoyed poking her finger in the indents and breaking them, when she was a child. I assume she got a chunk of coal in her Christmas stocking.



**American indents 1**

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**European indents 1**

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The type we



**European indents 3**

American ornaments have thicker

glass, but they are still delicate. It's amazing how many of these beauties have survived intact.

Along with the indents we are offering a small group of ornaments that I refer to as "kitsch." That is, cute, but in a somewhat overdone way, almost tawdry. But still fun. I have seen other ornaments with applied facial features, but these are the first I have seen that include a hat. Although unmarked, I believe these are Japanese, which

means post WWII. We only have a small number of them, so please only one per customer. They would be perfect on a vintage aluminum tree.

Once again I am showing a few examples from my own collection, just for fun. Although unmarked, I can tell these three are all European, but I have plenty of American examples, too. The gold one has a deep indentation and the added "nipple" at the base. The two-part ornament is unusual in its basic design. I've seen other two-part ornaments, but not with



**Kevin's show and tell**



**Japanese kitsch**

indentations.

The silver ornament has the added glass "tubing"

around it. That sort of work was typical in Czechoslovakia. All three are quite uncommon and any collector who appreciates this period would treasure them. I certainly do.

Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this blog, please contact Kelly, who handles mail order sales, at 262.693.2040 x101 or [info@milaegers.com](mailto:info@milaegers.com).