

## Lookout Show`n Tell #10 – 1934 Osborne Firefinder

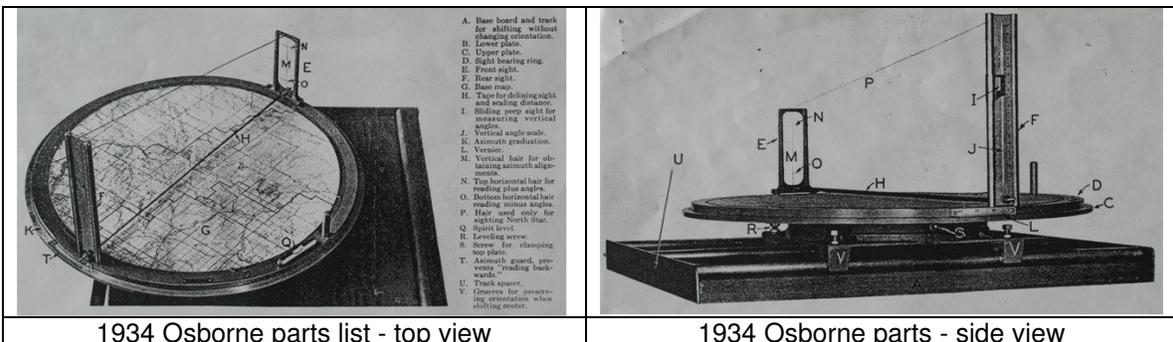
Wm. B. Osborne's final version of the Osborne Fire-Finder came in 1934. Only the sighting mechanism changed from the 1917 model.



Ray Kresek & 1934 Model Osborne Firefinder

He had invented a camera that could now take high-definition panoramic photos of the entire seen area from every lookout. There was no longer a need for the complicated front sight, so it was replaced with a simple set of cross hairs. The rear sight became brass, with a peep sight and a vertical angle scale graduated in 1/10th degree increments below or above the reporting lookout elevation. An improved azimuth scale, calibrated to 1/60th of a degree, gave the firewatcher an instrument with accuracy equal to that of a surveyor's transit.

The newer 1934 sight ring assembly easily interchanged with the 1917 model, making it a minor transition at a minimal cost.





1934 Osborne rear sight



1934 Osborne front sight

**Leupold-Volpel of Portland became Leupold & Stevens Inc. in 1942. They continued to be the principal manufacturer until 1992 of what is now known as the Osborne Fire-Finder #4. After World War II, the weight was reduced by half, as the main body assembly was made of aluminum alloy instead of cast iron.**

**More than 3,000 Osborne firefinders, the most well known of many different fire locator alidades, eventually found their way to mountaintop lookouts all over the world; from New England, to New Zealand. Some have even been modified with a high-power (10x) Leupold rifle scope capable of precisely pinpointing a single snag afire 20 miles away! You can buy one new today from a California manufacturer, the Palmquist Tool Co., for \$4,000.00.**

**Next, Osborne's other invention; panoramic photos.**

**Ray Kresek  
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