

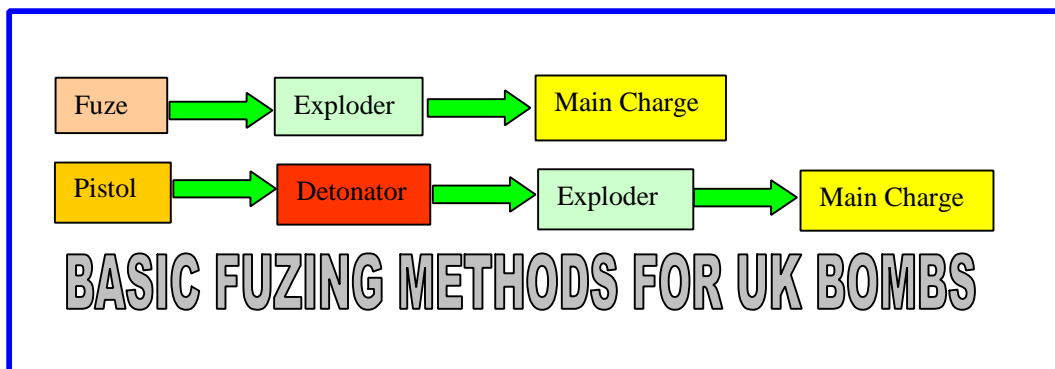
BRITISH BOMB DETONATORS

The British Air Force approached the detonation of bombs in two ways.

- By arranging a PISTOL, detonator, exploder and main charge or,
- By arranging a FUZE, exploder and main charge.

The difference is as follows:

A fuze contains the initiating explosives within the structure of the fuze, whereas a pistol contains no explosives at all and acts purely as a mechanical device to transmit the impact of hitting the target to a separate detonator. These arrangements are shown schematically below.



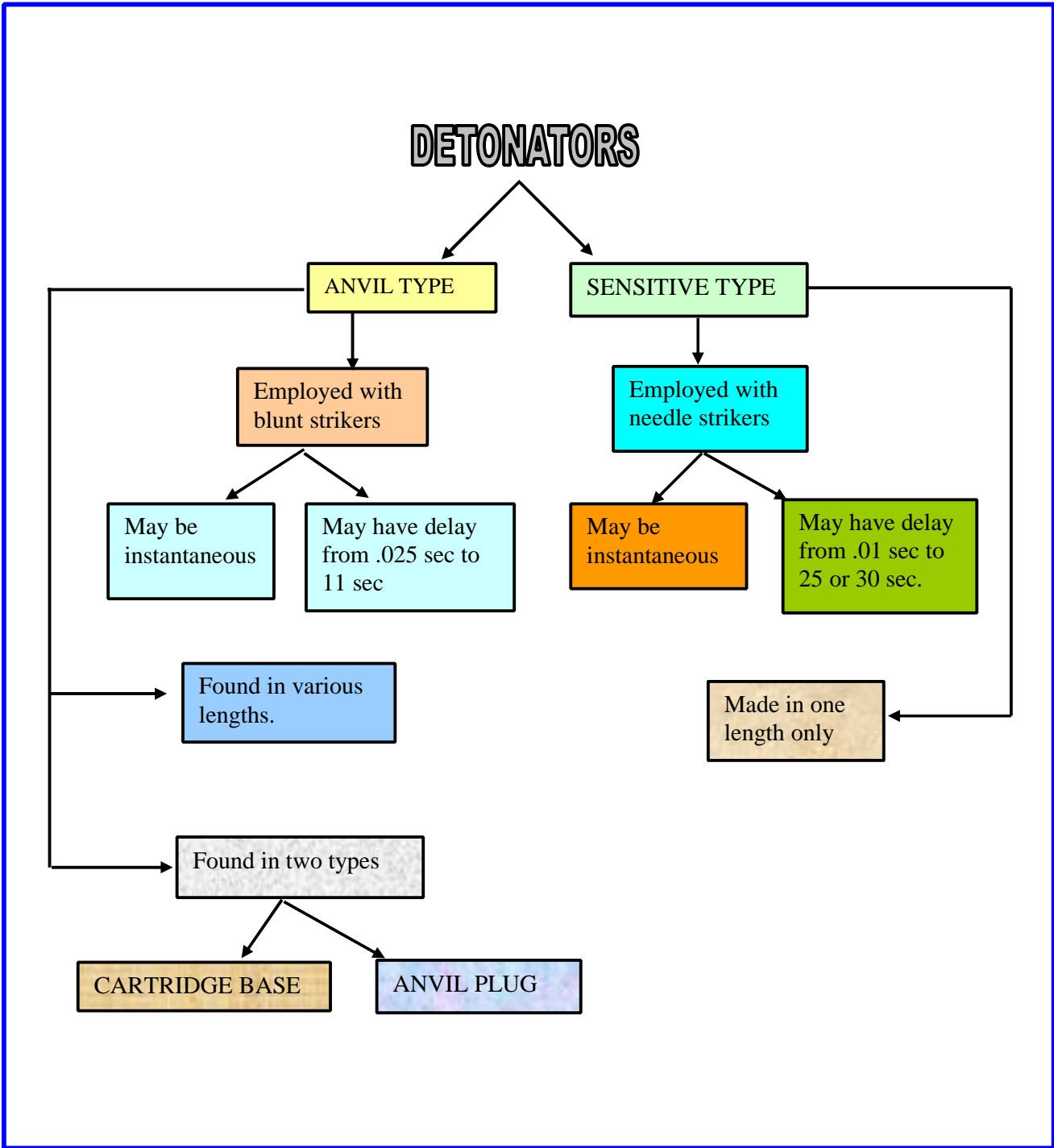
The Detonators used in British bombs are of two types and these are as follows:

ANVIL TYPE

This is a type that is used in conjunction with a CARTRIDGE BASE No. 28 or with an ANVIL AND PLUG that screws into the head of the detonator. It follows that the two types are known as the Cartridge Base class and the Anvil-plug class.

SENSITIVE TYPE

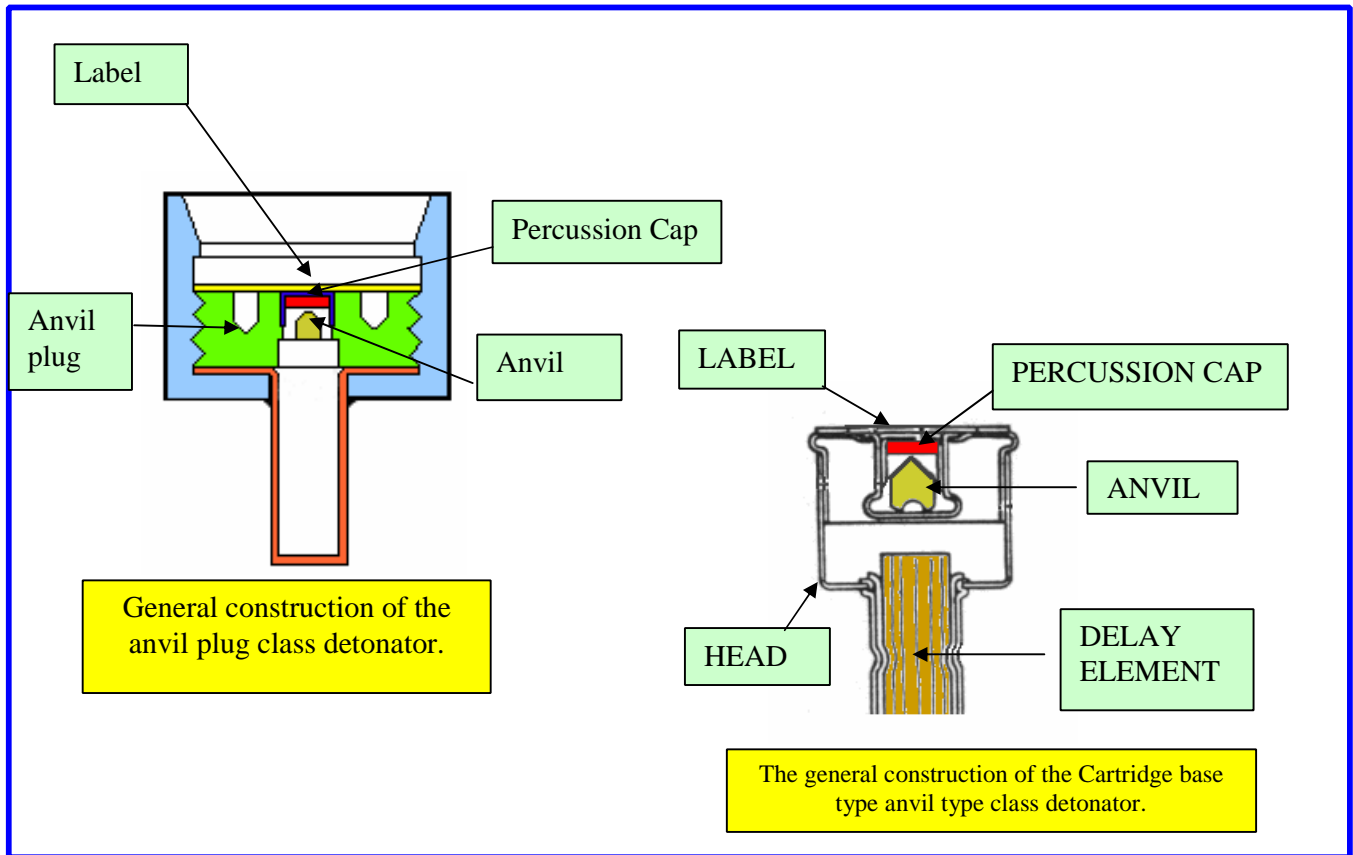
These are the type used with pistols having needle strikers and are not fitted with a percussion cap or anvils. They are made to a standard length and they are thus useable in all standard service bombs.



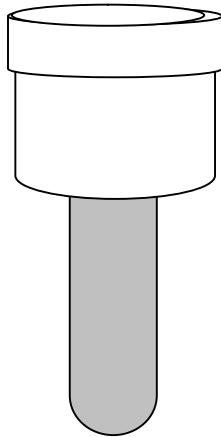
British 120lb GP HE bomb.



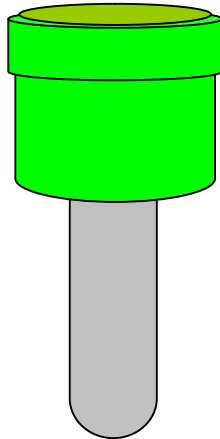
British 112 lb GP HE bomb.



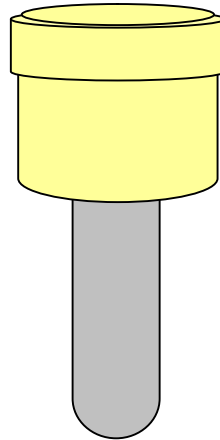
ANVIL TYPE DETONATOR COLOUR CODES



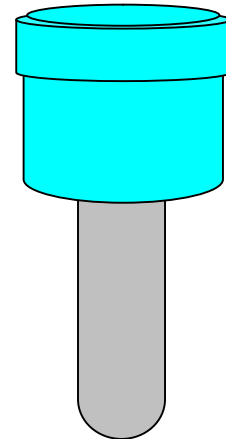
Less than 1 second



2.5 seconds but
less than 11.5



1 second



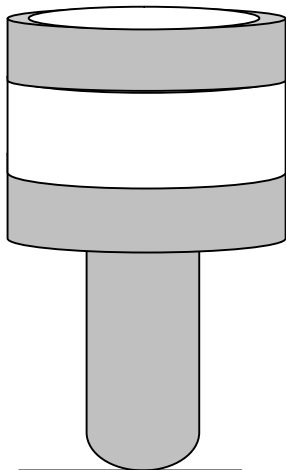
11.5 to 15 seconds

Colour coding is by colouring the head with a solid colour.

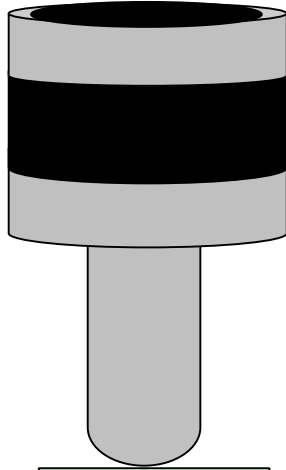


British 100 lb
AS bomb.

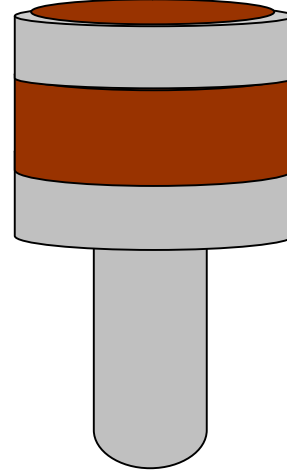
ANVIL-PLUG CLASS DETONATOR COLOUR CODES



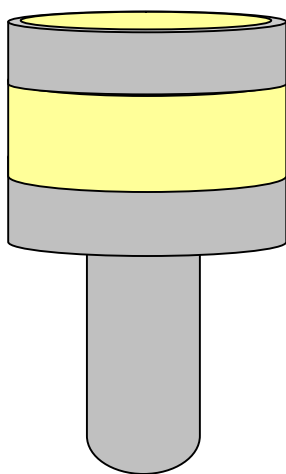
Instantaneous



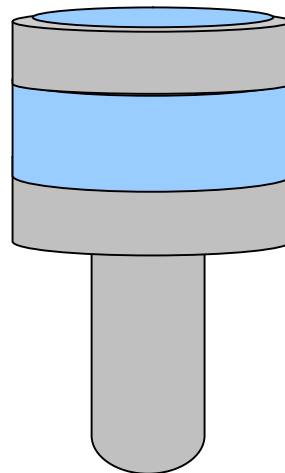
.025 seconds



.12 seconds

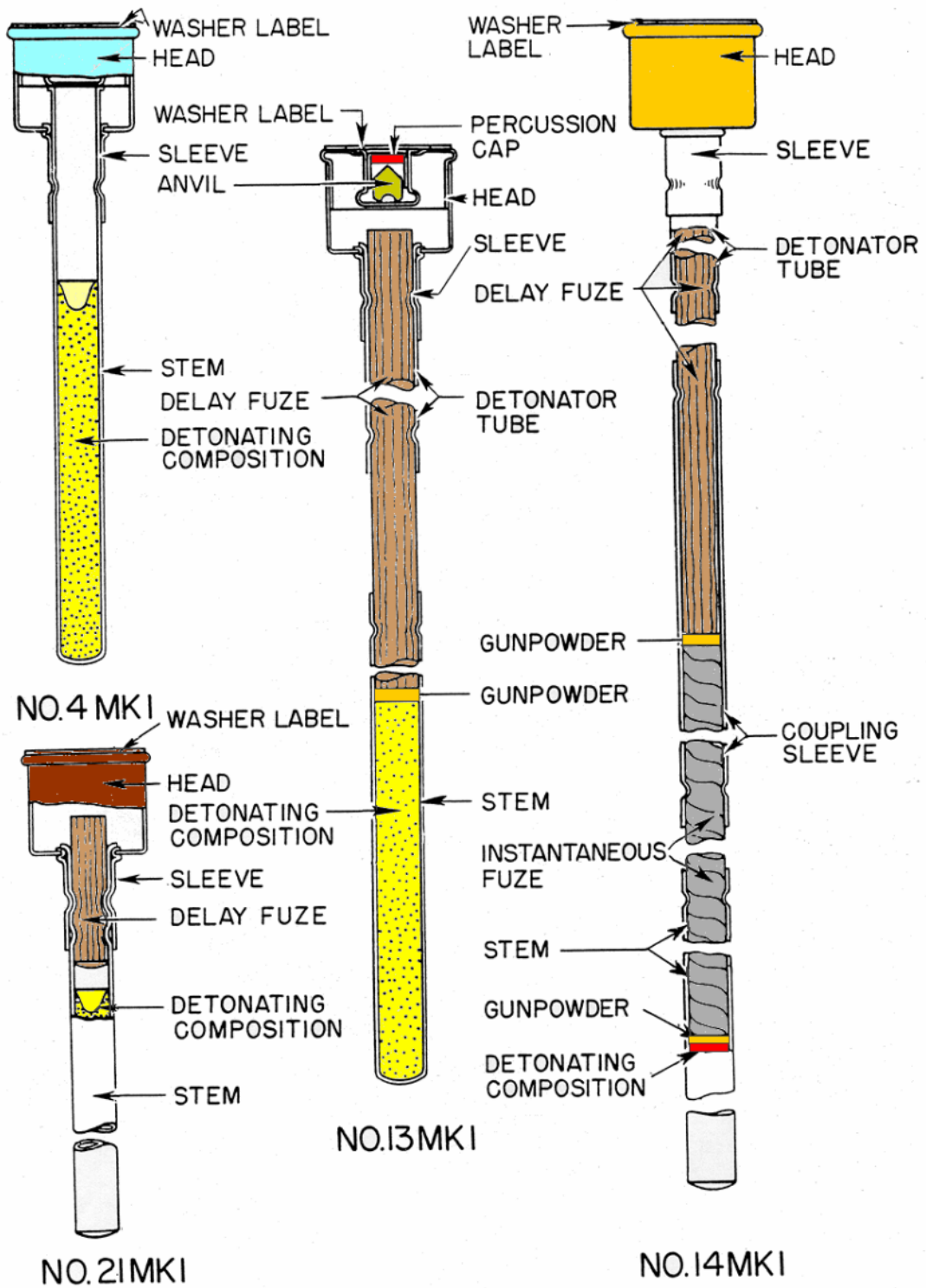


1 second



11 seconds

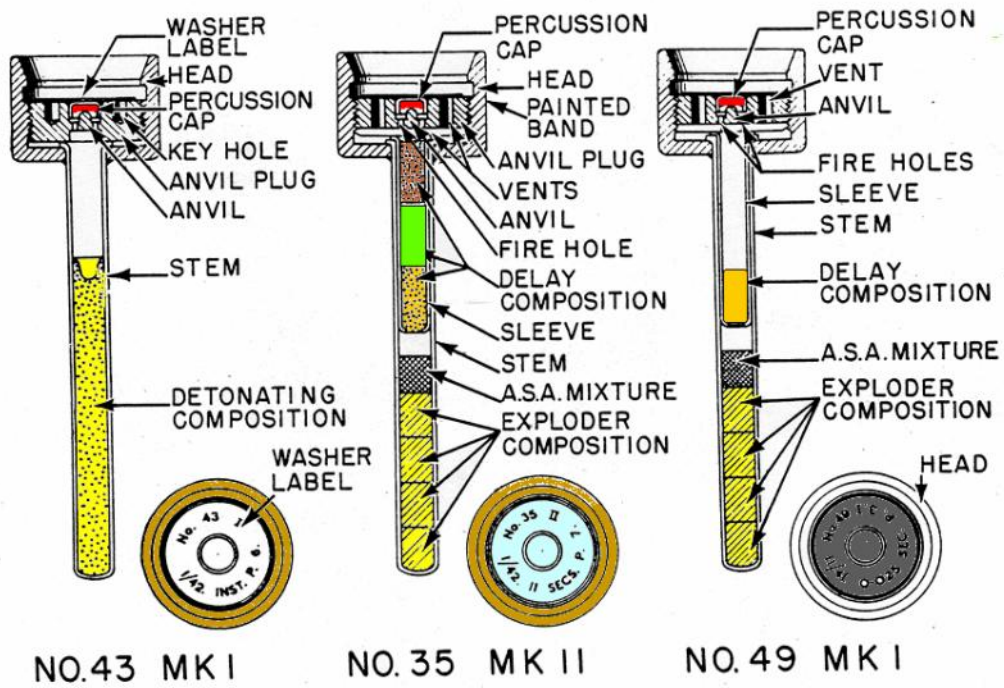
Colour coding is by the addition of a $\frac{3}{8}$ in or two $\frac{3}{16}$ in bands around the head.



Some examples of Cartridge-base class anvil type detonators



British 100lb HE bomb.
Hendon RAF Museum.



Some examples of anvil plug detonators.

ANVIL TYPE DETONATORS CARTRIDGE BASE

MODEL NO.	COLOUR CODE	DELAY	LENGTH	BOMBS
NO 4 MK I	WHITE		83.8	RL 112LB, GP 120LB, GP 250LB & GP500LB
NO 13 MK I	BLUE	12 SEC	180.34	RL 112LB
NO 14 MK I	BLUE	15 SEC	345.4	GP 120LB, GP 250LB
NO 18 MK I	WHITE	NONE	955	GP 500LB
NO 19 MK I	GREEN	2.5 SEC	955	GP 500LB
NO 20 MK I	BLUE	15 SEC	955	GP 500
NO 21 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC	83.8	RL 112LB
NO 22 MK I	WHITE	NONE	342.9	GP 120LB, GP 250LB
NO 23 MK I	GREEN	2.5 SEC	345.4	GP 120LB, GP 250LB
NO 24 MK I	BLUE	12 SEC	345.4	GP 120LB, GP 250LB
NO 25 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC	345.4	GP 120LB, GP 250LB
NO 26 MK I	BLUE	12 SEC	955	GP 500LB
NO 27 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC	955	GP 500LB
NO 30 MK I	BLUE	15 SEC	660.4	GP 250 LB
NO 31 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC	660.4	GP 250 LB
NO 32 MK I	BLUE	12 SEC	660.4	GP 250 LB
NO 33 MK I	WHITE	NONE	660.4	GP 250 LB

ANVIL TYPE DETONATORS ANVIL-PLUG CLASS

NO 35 MK I	BLUE	11 SEC	88.9	SAP 250 & 500 LB, GP 250, 500,1000, 1900 & 5000 LBS. MC 2500, 500, 1000 & 4000 LBS. HC 2000, 4000, 8000, & 12000 LBS.
NO 36 MK I	WHITE	NONE	88.9	GP 40, 250, 500, 1000, 1900 & 4000 LBS. MC 250, 500, 1000 & 4000 LBS. HC 2000, 4000, 8000 & 12000 LBS.
NO 37 MK I	BLACK	.025 SEC	88.9	GP 40 LB.
NO 43 MK I	WHITE	NONE	88.9	F 20 PARA, F20 FINNED GP 40 PARA, 40 FINNED, 250, 500, 1000,1900, & 4000 LBS. MC 250, 500, 1000 & 4000 LBS HC 2, 4, 8 & 12000 LBS.
NO 44 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC	88.9	SAP 250 & 500 LBS. AS 100, 250 & 500 LBS. GP 250, 500, 1000, 1900 & 40000 LBS. MC 250, 500, 1000 & 4000 LBS. HC 2, 4, 8, & 120000 LBS.
NO 47 MK I	BROWN	.12 SEC	88.9	SAP 250 & 500 LBS.
NO 49 MK I	BLACK	.025 SEC	88.9	GP 40, 250, 500, 1000, 1900 & 4000 LBS. MC 250, 500, 1000 & 4000 LBS. HC 2, 4, 8, & 12000 LBS.

SENSITIVE DETONATORS

NO 39 MK I	YELLOW	1 SEC
NO 39 MK II	YELLOW	1 SEC
NO 46 MK I	GREEN	2 SEC
NO 48 MK I	RED	.04 SEC
NO 50	BROWN	.14 SEC
NO 51	BLACK	.025 SEC
NO 52	WHITE	NONE
NO 53 MK I	ALUMINIUM	.5 SEC
NO 54 MK I	GREY	3 SEC
NO 55	BLUE	11 SEC
NO 56	WHITE & RED	.05 SEC
NO 57	BLUE & YELLOW	25 TO 30 SEC
NO 59 MK I	WHITE & BLACK	.01 SEC
NO 60 MK I	WHITE & BROWN	.07 SEC