



Queen Cutlery Guide

A brief introduction to Scissors and Shears of Queen Cutlery Company

Fred Fisher and Dan Lago 1 -20-2020.

Scissors and shears have been an important, but variable cutlery product for Queen Cutlery since 1949 through 1980. As a primarily Tool-oriented company Queen needed to meet the requirements of homemakers and industry once it prepared for a post-world War II civilian economy, but it did not have the specialized forging furnaces required to make scissors and shears, so it quite certain that they looked for a subcontractor.

To clear up basic terminology, scissors are generally less than 6" long and have equal or similar size finger holes on either side, Shears are generally larger – 7"-10" and have differentially sized finger/hand holes to provide more cutting power. In a sense, you could say shears are for big jobs and scissors are for fine work.

The catalog attached below for the Clauss Company of Fremont, Ohio was found in the main Queen Office in Titusville when the Daniels Family Cutlery took over operations in 2012 and given to Fred Fisher by Ken Daniels. It was the third such early catalog Fred received from Ken to assist in his study of Queen Cutlery's history. And for that reason, we only share parts of it here. The number 36 Clauss catalog was used from the middle 1930s into the 1950s. It is huge, with 51 pages of cutlery items of all sorts. We attach only the cover, the index, and a sample page showing scissors similar to what Queen sold. If you are interested, we offer to search the entire catalog for some unique item you might want.

At the time they almost certainly provided scissors to Queen, they were the largest scissor maker in the world with a very strong reputation for quality shears, in both forging and finishing (See wikipedia reference below). Their hometown in Fremont, Ohio, was very close to Queen in Titusville, and they were able to service Queen's needs with a large variety of products as the public wanted at any particular time. An example might

also be found in the Hair clippers, both manual and electric, that Queen sold, which probably also came from Clauss.

It is notable how many different scissors and shears Queen offered and how relatively short their period of availability was. One can also note that the subcontracted maker of scissors and shears changed in 1974, from Clauss to Marks. We attach a letter from James Lippert, Queen Sales manager at the time of the change announcing the shift and promoting the product.

However, Queen was in the midst of a strategic change to focus more on collector knives, and homemaker were sewing less and using more modern synthetic fabrics. In 1977, the company switched to "770 lightweight knife-Edge shears with "Serra Sharp" where the top blade was knife edged, but the bottom one had a very small serration. We attach a price list with photos – very unusual for Queen, promoting the product from October 15, 1977 (The same time when Queen announced it was discontinuing many traditional cutlery products). At the present time this type of scissors is still manufactured by Mundial – we do not know who produced these shears in the 1970s, but as the company changed, these scissors lasted only till 1980 – the last time Queen provided scissors or shears.

Collector interest in scissors has not been very strong until recently and scissors. Scissors are bought to use and once dull are not retained very well as "collectable" it seems. It is very hard to find many old scissors. In our experience the most difficult scissors to find are the very small buttonhole scissors – We have seen very few examples.

References.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clauss_Cutlery_Company

To link to Catalog Guide for scissors and Shears:

<https://queencutleryguide.com//wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Scissors-Shears-10-2019.pdf>