

Plumb BSA Scout Axe

History and Timeline of the Plumb Boy Scout Axes



This paper is dedicated to the Axe Junkie Facebook page, its members, and its exceptional Admin team for keeping us all in line. Without the page and it's members, I would not have discovered my passion for the preservation and restoration of axe history.

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History and Timeline of the Plumb Boy Scout Axes

By Ryan Landin

Other papers compiled by Ryan Landin:

Hatchet Identification*

Axe Books*

*Both of these can be found in the
Files section of the Axe Junkie page

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And most importantly, my fiancé, **Lauren**, for supporting a unique hobby that probably occupies more of my time than it should.

Introduction

Hi everyone. My name is Ryan Landin. I've been a member of the Axe Junkie community for a little over two years. Along with the collection and restoration of axes and hatchets, I've found I have an avid curiosity for the history behind these wonderful tools. Plumb axes seem to be a lot of what I find here in Ohio, so it has slowly become my collecting brand of choice. As I've found these Plumb axes, I've naturally gotten curious to how old some of them are. Among my collection are a few BSA axes of which I am quite fond. Many people have posted on the AJ page wondering what years their particular BSA axes were produced. Historically, our answers have been pretty vague with dates spanning multiple decades. I decided I would do some research and see if I could help us all answer these questions with a little more specificity.

I began researching for this paper more than a year ago. It was a slow process. I scoured every inch of the internet looking for any information I could find on Plumb and it's correlation to the Boy Scouts of America. At first it seemed there was very little information to draw from, but every time I turned over a stone, another clue was uncovered.

Most of the items I used to draw information are old ads, catalogs, journals, magazines, and books. These can be great sources for determining what year a certain pattern began being manufactured, but not so good for concluding what year that pattern stopped being produced. A hardware store could advertise a certain pattern years after production ceased due to having old stock left over to sell. The way I determined the date range for each pattern of BSA axe was as such: the first year correlates with the first year a pattern became available to consumers. The second or ending date for a certain pattern correlates with the first year the next pattern began being produced. For example, Plumb started making the third pattern of BSA axe in 1922. They then redesigned the axe in 1929 and released the new version to consumers. I'm sure there was plenty of stock left over from the older pattern in hardwares and catalogs, but the older pattern would get a date range of 1922-1928. There are a variety of other factors I used to date these axes, but for the most part this concept holds true throughout this paper. In each description I try to explain as best I can why I believe these dates to be true. I hope you get as much enjoyment out of this paper as you do practical use.

As a disclaimer, I am not saying these dates are 100% accurate. I believe they are very close to the actual manufacturing dates, but it is possible some of them could be wrong. If you have proof of inaccuracies or missing information in this paper, please let me know. I will correct it as such. This paper is for all of our benefit. This paper being right is more important than me being right.

Quick Facts

- ❖ There are *at least* a total of **25** different Plumb BSA axe heads*

Scout Axe

- ❖ 10 different patterns of the Scout Axe
 - 13 different patterns including the different variations
 - Pattern #3 has 2 variations
 - Pattern #4 has 2 variations
 - Pattern #7 has 2 variations

Super Scout

- ❖ 2 different patterns of the Super Scout axe

Official Felling Axe

- ❖ At least 4 different patterns of the Official Felling Axe
 - Pattern #3 had 2 variations

Explorer

- ❖ 3 different patterns of the Explorer axe

Voyageur

- ❖ 1 pattern of the Voyageur

TomaScout

- ❖ 1 pattern of the TomaScout

* These are just the heads. All 25 are in the Quick Reference Guide. If you found every axe in this paper in its original off-the-shelf condition with handle and original labels, there would be *at least* 34 different variations.

Scout Axe

Scout Axe #1

1911 - 1912

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) were founded in 1910. Plumb teamed up with BSA in 1911 to make the first Official American Boy Scout's Axe. The picture below is out of the 1911 Boy Scouts Handbook. It appeared in the 1912 handbook as well. As you can see it does *not* have a nail slot. This appears to be Plumb's hunter axe re-branded into the Scout Axe. Note the squared edges of the poll similar to a Dayton pattern full sized single bit. The head has the typical Plumb Anchor stamp on the cheek with the word Plumb in cursive and the anchor underneath. The Boy Scout's Fleur-De-Lis is stamped on the backside cheek of the hatchet. This hatchet also had two paper labels, one by the poll and one on the handle. The one on the head is the same Plumb Anchor logo. The sticker on the handle has the BSA Fleur-De-Lis and the words "Scouts Axe." Other notable features: belt sheath, one piece steel, and forest colored hickory handle. Judging by the picture forest may be a natural hickory (brownish) color. It may have also been green judging by later models.



SCOUT'S AXE

The Official Axe of the Boy Scout

Furnished with a Sheath of Chrome Tanned Leather to carry on the belt.

Manufactured by the makers of the famous Plumb "Anchor Brand" tools.

Solid steel of special analysis, from head to cutting edge. Double tempered, making a good keen edge, hard — yet tough.

Highest grade Hickory handles, with special Forest finish, which blends with the colors of the woods.

The best axe that money can buy or skill produce.

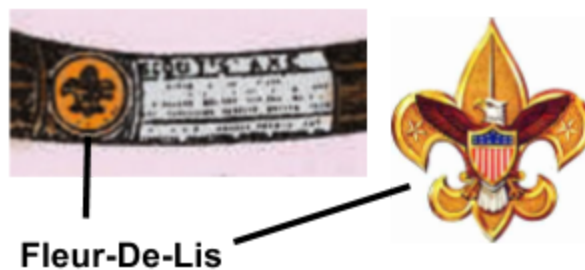
For use in forest or camp it is the handiest tool in a woodsman's kit.

FAYETTE R. PLUMB, INC.
Philadelphia U. S. A. St. Louis



SCOUT'S AXE

The Official Axe of the Boy Scout



1913-1921

Scout Axe #2

In 1913, Plumb came out with a new and improved design for the BSA Scout Axe. The biggest change was the addition of a nail slot for drawing nails while in camp. It's possible this is the first time a common hunter's hatchet had a nail slot added to it, creating the classic scout/belt/camp hatchet we have known for many years. Again, this is speculation, but I have yet to find evidence of a hunter's hatchet with a nail slot before 1913. The handle possibly changed colors in 1913 as well. They changed the advertisement to "missionized" finish instead of the "forest" finish of 1911. This meant the handles were now green. In the third photo it says "14 inch Green Mission Finish." I have seen a colored photo confirming the green handles. The paper labels on the head and handle stayed the same. The Fleur-De-Lis was again stamped on the backside cheek. These ads ran in Boy's Life Magazine and other catalogs from 1913 all the way up until 1921. Weight of head, 1 ¼ lb.

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT



in the OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT AXE

NOTE THE NAIL-SLOT NOTCH

THIS Scout Axe is a necessity to campers—and a handy tool for chopping jobs or opening boxes at any time.

The nail slot is an added feature that makes the axe mighty useful. In camp—where nails are always scarce—you often have to alter tables, benches or do building work—where an old nail is all you can get. The Scout Axe with nail slot draws nails straight and quickly. Saves them for future jobs.

PRICE TO SCOUTS

Axe with Sheath	- - -	\$1.00
Axe without Sheath	- - -	.75

Sold by all wide-awake hardware dealers




Fleur-De-Lis on Back

PLUMB

Fine Grade Forged Steel; Dead Black Finish Body; Polished Face; Ground Edge; Head 5 inches; Cut 3¼ inches; Face 2x¼ inches. 14 inch Green Mission Finish Hickory Axe Style Handle. Heavy Russet Harness Leather Sheath Sewed and Riveted; with Brass Glove Fastener; Slits Cut in Back Through which to Pass Belt.

1922-1928

Scout Axe #3 with 1 variation

In 1922, Plumb began using the classic PLUMB inside the box logo on the Scout Axes. The letters "U.S.A." were also stamped just under the Plumb logo. The head retained the square poll. I have found two different iterations of this model of the Scout Axe. The first has the Fleur-De-Lis on the rear side. The second has the Fleur-De-Lis just above the Plumb logo. Both version have a new paper label on the head. The label has the Fleur-De-Lis in the center with Boy Scouts of America and Made by Plumb around the outer edges. The label on the handle changed as well with two different variations. The first is very similar to the 1913 handle label. It has the Plumb Anchor logo instead of the Fleur-De-Lis. It still read "Scout's Axe." The second label has Plumb's advertisement for their take-up-wedge. It has a picture of the wedge and the classic Plumb logo. This is the first Plumb Scout Axe to use Plumb's patented Take-Up-Wedge (Screw Wedge). This is also the first year Plumb began pushing hard for the advertisement of the black head with the red handle to set themselves apart from the competition. Plumb began advertising a cheaper canvas infantry sheath option alongside the leather sheath as well. Weight of head= 1 ¼ lb. Total weight= 1 lb. 9 oz. Each of these photos is slightly different. Note the labels and stamps.



1929-1937

Scout Axe #4 with 1 variation

In 1929, Plumb changed the design once again with subtle changes to the location of the emblem and logo, as well as changing the handle design. The Plumb logo was moved back by the poll while the Fleur-De-Lis was stamped on the same side just above the nail slot. The square poll was maintained once again. Two different variations of handles were used during these years. The first and earliest is shown in the first picture. It ran from 1929 to around 1934. It has the word "Plumb USA" in the center with "Selected Hickory" to the left and right. It was advertised as being a red handle with gold lettering. The second handle had the words "Official Scout Axe" along the side. It ran from 1934 to 1937. This is the first handle to use the words "Official Scout Axe" stamped into it. The use of the screw wedge was continued throughout these years. There was one alternate variation of this model. Some axes from this year had "U.S.A." stamped just under the word Plumb by the poll. The Fleur-De-Lis remained on the front cheek.




1936-1937

Scout Axe #5

In 1936, Plumb made some changes to the Scout Axe, but for some reason they didn't push advertisement for this specific design. It did not appear in Boy's Life or Scouting magazine. This was the first time Plumb dismissed the small Fleur-De-Lis stamp and began using the larger BSA logo on the Scout Axe. See pictures below. It was first used on the smaller Plumb Voyageur in 1933. The BSA logo was found near the poll of the hatchet. It's possible this was just a trial to see what kind of response they got from consumers. Important side note, the square poll was retained in this model. Next to the nail slot were the words "Guaranteed Plumb." The advertisement you see below is out of the 1936 Joseph Woodwell Fall and Holiday catalog. In the picture you cannot legibly make out the words "Guaranteed Plumb," but note the handle. The handle is what I believe is the same handle from the 29'-37' model with "Official Scout Axe" stamped on the side and the squared end knob. Also note the square poll in the advertisement. These findings all held true when I found multiple pictures of this model Scout Axe online. See the picture below. It's hard to see but the axe in the picture reads "Guaranteed Plumb" and you can see the faint word "Official" on the handle.

66 JOSEPH WOODWELL C



OFFICIAL SCOUT AXE
The Advertised Finish
The Official Axe of Boy Scouts
of America

No.	Weight	Consumer
680	1 lb. 4 oz. Axe alone—Doz.	\$15.00
682	1 lb. 4 oz. with Leather Sheath—Doz.	\$18.75



1938-1940

Scout Axe #6

In 1938, Plumb decided to do a remodel of the Scout Axe again after only two years since the last change. This time Plumb ditched the square poll for a smoother rounded poll similar to a Michigan pattern. The large BSA stamp remained near the poll as did “Guaranteed Plumb” on the cheek. The handle got a drastic make over. The words “Official Scout Axe” were kept on the side of the handle, but the font was changed to be a little more fancy. They added paint as well: a red painted knob with a green line between the red stain and the red paint. As you can see in the ad, the knob was painted red but the shape changed as well. This was the first year Plumb went to the rounded end knob. The head was black as usual with gold paint filling the stamps. The take-up wedge was still used in this model. A leather sheath was offered as usual.



Redesigned Scout Axe

Streamline design and color are the new design features of the Plumb Official Scout Axe. New axe retains the Plumb patented Take-Up Wedge. Colors are red-grip, green stripe and stamping. Handle is slimmer with

-1938 Hardware Age



1941-1950

Scout Axe #7 with 1 variation

In 1941, Plumb made a small change to the Scout Axe. They changed the word “Guaranteed” to “Genuine”. So now the cheek read “Genuine Plumb” instead of “Guaranteed Plumb”. Everything else stayed pretty much the same. At some point during this model, the BSA emblem changed slightly. The jagged line around the circle was removed leaving a smooth circle only. I believe this change was short lived due to the small number I have found online. Picture of the uncommon emblem below. Plumb continued to use the patented take-up wedge in this model until 1942 when they decided to ditch the screw wedge and just use a wooden wedge. This was right in the middle of WWII which might have played a role in this decision. A sheath was still offered.



STREAMLINED, WOODSMAN TYPE

OFFICIAL SCOUT AXE

COLORFUL, SPRINGY HICKORY HANDLE

PLUMB STAY-SHARP STEEL — THE NAME YOU KNOW

OFFICIAL SCOUT AXE

Here, fellows, is your chance to get what you've always longed for—a genuine Plumb Official Scout Axe for Christmas! Patterned after the Plumb woodsman-type axe used by Peter McLaren, America's champion chopper. Complete with sheath for your belt.

Say: "DAD, I WANT A



1950-1955

Scout Axe #8

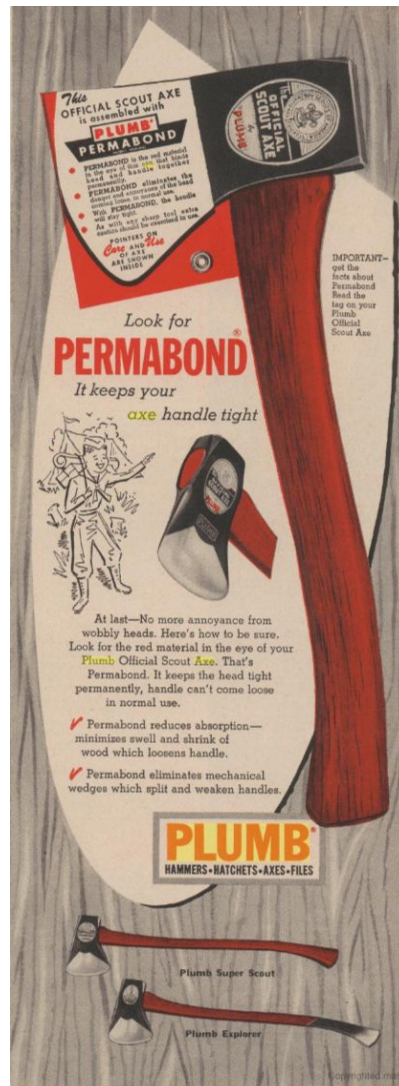
In 1950, the Plumb Scout Axe took on its biggest transformation since its debut in 1911. Plumb decided to bring its new National Pattern head to the Scout Axe. The national pattern design consisted of a poll with beveled corners similar to a rafting pattern and a slightly wider bit with a pronounced downward sweep from the shoulder to the heel similar to a Hudson Bay pattern. The nail slot was dropped. This hatchet did NOT have permabond or a screw wedge. The head came with a paper label on the cheek that read, "Official Scout Axe by Plumb." The head also had a stamp reading "Genuine Plumb." The original Fleur-De-Lis by itself made its comeback after missing for 15 years. It was stamped on the backside of the head on the cheek. The head was painted black as shown in the picture with the bit being polished. The handle remained red as well with the words "Official Scout Axe" on the side. The end knob went back to being squared off compared to the rounded end found in the last model. The green and red paint was removed as well.



1956-1961

Scout Axe #8 with Permabond

In 1956, Plumb made one major change to the Scout Axe. They used permabond to attach the handle to the head. Permabond was a red polymer substance that filled the eye where the handle usually protruded through. It was basically red plastic. The advertisement read, “Permabond reduces absorption- minimizes swell and shrink of wood which loosens handle,” and, “Permabond eliminates mechanical wedges which split and weaken handles.” The only other addition was a thick card stock paper advertisement wrapped around the bit telling all the benefits of permabond.



1962-1972

Scout Axe #9

In 1962, Plumb made another drastic change to the head of the Scout Axe. The head was modified to be similar to the national pattern but without the bevels on the poll. The stamp continued as the Fleur-De-Lis, but this time it was larger. It was found on the opposite side of the paper label with the word "Plumb" underneath. The words "Be Prepared" were removed from the Fleur-De-Lis. The paint on the head was changed to a straight line rather than the angled lines of the last model. The paper label read "Official Scout Axe Made by Plumb" as seen in the picture. Permabond was again used to secure the handle. The words "Official Scout Axe" were removed from the handle. This model also came with the permabond advertisement wrapped around the bit. The last advertisement I found for this model was in 1972. Plumb was acquired by the Ames Co. in 1971, so it's feasible that production stopped in 1971 or 1972. But it's also possible it continued for a few more years.



1981-1989

Scout Axe #10

In 1981, the Plumb portion of the Ames Co. was bought out by Cooper Tools. Sometime after 1981, Cooper Tools made another Plumb Scout Axe. I have only seen a few pictures of this hatchet and I don't have much information other than what I can see in the pics. It has the classic red handle with a black head. It appears to have the BSA logo painted in gold onto the side of the head with the word Plumb above and the number 1274 below. It has the word Plumb on the handle with Permabond below that. It also has Cooper Tools painted on the handle.



Plumb Voyageur

1933-1938

In 1933, Plumb released the Plumb Voyageur hatchet. It was reportedly designed by a famous scout who modeled the pattern after the hatchets used by fur trading voyageurs of years past. As you can see in the advertisement, the head lacks a nail slot. This is most likely due to the head being relatively small at only 16 ounces with a 2 1/2" cutting edge. The handle was only 11" long with the words "Official Voyageur Axe" stamped along the side. This was the first year Plumb changed the BSA logo to the larger logo with the Fleur-De-Lis in the center with the words "Boy Scouts of America" around the outside ring. The very outside ring is jagged similar to sun rays. The patented screw wedge was again used in this hatchet. A leather sheath was offered as well.



Kit Karson Kit

1938-1942

In 1938, Plumb also decided to team up with the Remington Arms Co. knife division to make the Official "Kit Karson" Kit. The kit was comprised of a Plumb Scout Axe, a Remington sheath knife, and a leather belt sheath that held both the hatchet and the knife all in one. All three items were stamped with the BSA logo. The kit came packaged in a convenient box labeled "Kit Karson Kit Plumb Official Scout Axe The Remington Official Sheath Knife". The name of the kit is somewhat of a misnomer. The man the kit is named after actually spelled his name Kit Carson. He was a mountain man, frontiersman, guide, and United States Army officer. He died in 1868 at the age of 58. Sorry, I could not find a photo of this kit with this design on the box.



OFFICIAL "KIT KARSON KIT"

Veteran Scouts and Scouters have recommended the adoption of this combination Knife, Axe and Sheath. It was designed in the **Kit Karson** manner and is just about as nifty an Axe and Knife set that you can buy. Consists of the "Plumb" Official Axe, the new combination leather Sheath, and large size "Remington" Official Sheath Knife. Both the Axe and the Knife fit snugly into the Sheath which is worn on the **Scout** Belt.

No. 1079.....	\$3.50
No. 1080 Same as above but small Sheath Knife is substituted for the large.....	3.25

1943-1950

Around 1943, the Kit Karson Kit changed to a slightly different box. The new box made no mention of the Remington sheath knife. It now just read, "Official Scout Axe and Official Sheath Knife." This is most likely due to Remington discontinuing their knife manufacturing in 1940. Multiple companies were making sheath knives for the scouts between '43 and '48, including Ka-Bar and Marbles. These knives could have possibly been part of the Kit Karson Kit during these years. Information is limited here. Around 1948, Western Cutlery began making sheath knives for the scouts. These knives were found in the Kit Karson Kit for many years to come. The axe and sheath remained the same.



Official "Kit Karson" Kit

Here's the ideal Christmas gift—a combination Knife, **Axe** and Sheath. Set consists of **Official Scout Axe**, large size **Official Sheath Knife**. Both fit into the combination sheath for wear on the belt.

No. 1079..... \$3.50

1950-1961

Kit Karson Kit

When Plumb changed to the National pattern in 1950, they continued the Kit Karson combo kit. The contents were the same as before: the new Plumb Scout Axe, a sheath knife, and a combo sheath that held both. The knife in this kit was made by Western. In 1956 they did change to the permabonded axe. This box had a different shape as well. Note the diagonal barrier that goes from corner to corner separating the axe from the knife and sheath. The older boxes did not have this barrier.



1962-1972

Kit Karson Kit


When the Scout Axe took on a change in 1962, the Kit Karson Kit did as well using the new axe. A combination sheath with a knife still made up the kit. The box remained the same. 1972 was the last year I found evidence of the Kit Karson Kit.



TomaScout

1941-1942

In 1941, Plumb decided to try their hand at full tang steel handled hatchets. The result was the Plumb TomaScout. The reason for the new design is up for speculation, but I'm guessing they were attempting to compete with Bridgeport, Estwing, and Vaughan and Bushnell for the "unbreakable" steel hatchet market. Plumb's design was slightly different from the other companies in that their metal handle had a "leaf spring" in the center of the handle, which meant it was supposed to have a little more flex and absorb the shock better than the other steel hatchets. The handle had two wood handle scales pinned to each side similar to the Bridgeport. This new "leaf spring" design might have ended up being more of a flaw than a benefit, seeing as the TomaScout only lasted a few short years. The hatchet had a hammer poll and the bit side had an interestingly similar shape to the national pattern with it's Hudson Bay like sweep down to the heel. The round sticker on the cheek read "Plumb TomaScout." The sheath had the BSA logo stamped on the side of it. The last advertising evidence I found of this hatchet was in 1942. The advertisement below was out of a 1941 Boy's Life magazine.



New!



OFFICIAL TomaScout Axe

Here's an axe with the bite of a hungry tiger! The **TomaScout** has a steel handle that will not break, that is not stiff and that balances with the head. Made of one piece of quality steel. Shock of driving blows absorbed by center leaf spring in handle. Complete with sheath.

No. 1357 \$2.00

☆ ☆

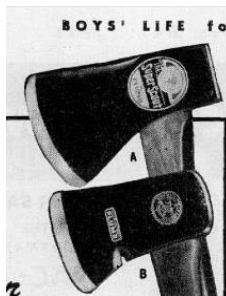
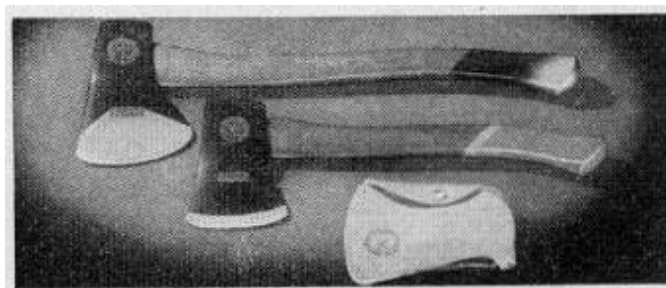


Super Scout

Super Scout #1

1948

The 1940's was a busy decade for Plumb Manufacturing. They introduced possibly their most popular Scout Axe to date, they built a brand new TomaScout axe, and the first half of the decade was spent producing tools for the war while still trying to meet civilian demands. And to top it all off, they introduced a brand new axe pattern onto the scene: the National Axe. The national pattern design consisted of a slightly shorter poll with beveled corners similar to a rafting pattern and a slightly wider bit with a pronounced downward sweep from the shoulder to the heel similar to a Hudson Bay pattern. Notably, there was no nail slot in the national pattern. In 1948, Plumb decided to bring their national pattern to the Boy Scout troops. They did this by introducing the first version of the Super Scout, a 1 ¾ lb. national pattern head with a 16" handle. The word Plumb was inside a box as usual on the cheek. The Fleur-De-Lis was on the backside cheek. Toward the poll was an oval paper label that read "The Super Scout by Plumb." The label also had the large BSA symbol on it. In one version, the head was painted black with lines at acute angles from the heel and toe. The other was painted black with the paint following the edge a half inch or so back. Both bits were polished. The handle was stained red with the last 5 or so inches being painted black. The very end of the knob was painted gold which faded into the black. The side of this handle read "Tested Plumb Hickory U.S.A." in gold.



1949-1955

Super Scout #1 24" Handle

In 1949, Plumb made a small change to the Super Scout. They lengthened the handle to 24-25 inches. Some ads say 24", others say 25". Regardless, the head stayed the same weight while they made the handle longer. They also changed the look of the handle slightly. They got rid of the black and gold end knob and went back to the stained red handle now with the words "Super Scout Axe" in gold lettering. There is some discrepancy here. It appears that Plumb used both types of handles during this time, a 25 inch version of the older handle with the black and gold end knob as well as the one without. Also, the Plumb logo seems to have been on the cheek on some heads and right near the poll on others. I believe most logos on the cheek read "Genuine Plumb" while the ones by the poll just read "Plumb." So the takeaway is, the handle was lengthened from 16" to 24", but the head stayed the same shape and weight, 1 3/4 lb. Notice how the black paint runs parallel to the edge instead of angling back toward the poll. This ad from March 1949.



New Super Scout Axe

"WE BELIEVE IT'S BETTER" . . . that's what the Health and Safety Service says about this new axe in its December Bulletin! Small wonder, too, for the new **Super Scout** combines the best features of the popular Hudson Bay axe and the standard pack axe to give you a lightweight, well-balanced axe for camping and all outdoor use. The re-designed head is more firmly set on handle, weighs 1 3/4 lbs. Springy hickory handle 25" long.

No. 1239 Super Scout Axe with Leather Sheath \$3.00

1956-1961

Super Scout #1 with Permabond

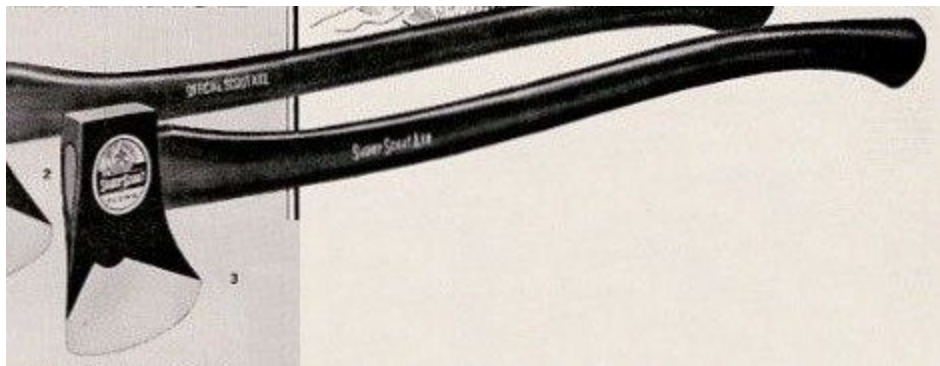
In 1956, the Super Scout took on the permabonded handle just like the Scout Axe did. Everything else stayed relatively the same. There is some small evidence of the handle with the black and gold end knob during these years, but I believe it was phased out in the end.



1962-1972

Super Scout #2

In 1962, the Super Scout took on its first major change. As you saw in the 1962 version of the Scout Axe, Plumb ditched the beveled poll for one with a square poll similar to a Dayton pattern. They decided to do the same thing to the Super Scout. Other than the paper labels, this model did not have a BSA stamp into the steel. Plumb inside a square was the only stamp on the backside cheek. As you can see in the pictures, the paper label changed at some point in these years to match the one found on the Scout Axe. You can see the definite lack of a beveled poll in both pictures. Information during these years was limited. The head was still advertised as being 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. The other change made was to the handle. It was lengthened from 24" to 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This is the last evidence I have of the Plumb Super Scout.



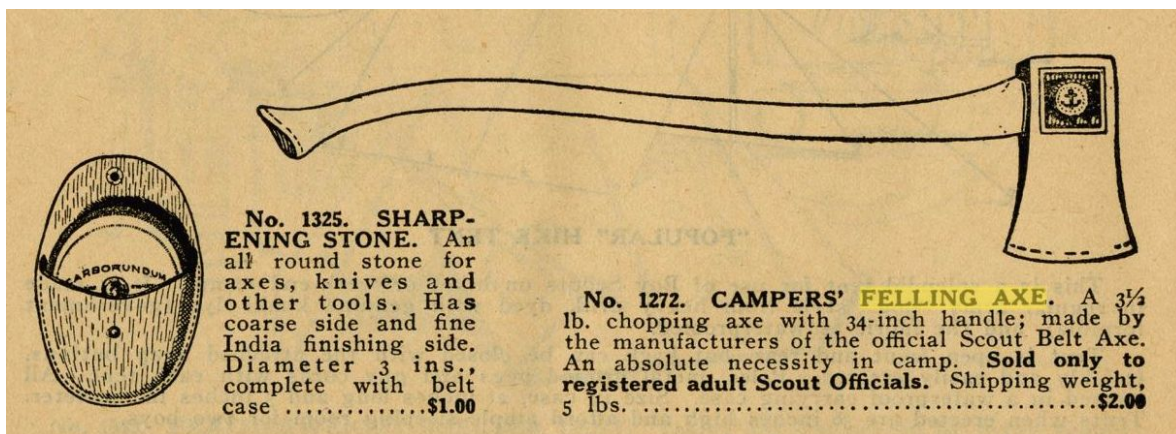
Explorer

Felling Axe #1

Official Felling Axe

~1916 - ~1929

The Scout's Explorer Axe actually started out as the Plumb Camper's Felling Axe. I found advertisements in Scouting Magazine from 1916-1929. The axe was a 3 1/2 lb. single bit on a 34" handle. The axe was a part of Plumb's Anchor line. The paper label near the poll is hard to decipher. You can make out the Anchor in the middle. It's possible it is very close to the Plumb Dreadnaught label from a 1922 ad found below. It's unknown whether this axe had a Fleur-De-Lis or any other boy scout mark on it. I would love to say it does, but I have found no images of a head like this with a BSA logo. Note the product number used to label this axe, No. 1272. These dates, 1916-1929, are general dates. This axe may have started prior to 1916 and may have been produced later than 1929.



No. 1325. SHARPENING STONE. An all round stone for axes, knives and other tools. Has coarse side and fine India finishing side. Diameter 3 ins., complete with belt case**\$1.00**

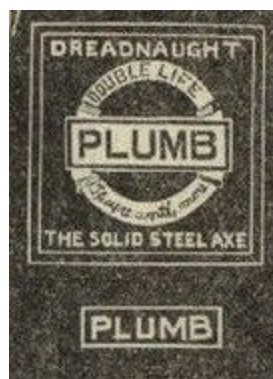
No. 1272. CAMPERS' FELLING AXE. A 3 1/2 lb. chopping axe with 34-inch handle; made by the manufacturers of the official Scout Belt Axe. An absolute necessity in camp. **Sold only to registered adult Scout Officials.** Shipping weight, 5 lbs.**\$2.00**



1930's

Felling Axe #2

Sometime in the 1930's, Plumb changed their felling axe name by removing "Camper's" and adding "Official" to the title. The size of the axe changed as well. They moved to a smaller boys axe size with a 2 ¼ lb. head on a 28" handle. The paper label on the head changed as well. This dreadnaught label from a 1930 ad below is very close and possibly identical to the one found on the felling axe. These top two ads are from 1936 and 1937 respectively. It is still not known if any BSA marks were found on this axe. The handle had a paper label on it. It's hard to be certain with the small image, but I believe the label on the handle is the take-up wedge label found on most plumb axes during the 1930's.



1940's

Felling Axe #3 with 1 variation

In 1948, Plumb advertised a new Official Felling Axe. I only found one ad, but I'm assuming the range is early to late 1940's. This version *did* have a Fleur-De-Lis on the front cheek just above the PLUMB logo. The paper label is unclear in this picture. I could not find a better example. The handle also has writing on it instead of a paper label. It is hard to decipher in the blurry picture, but the writing on the handle might have read "Official Scout Axe" in the wavy font similar to the Scout Axe of this year, but this is speculation. This axe is advertised as weighing 3 lbs. 1 oz. It is not specified whether this is the weight of the head by itself or the weight of the entire axe with the handle. My guess is the head still weighed 2 ¼ lbs. by itself. The handle is advertised as 27". As you can see, the product number for the felling axe remained the same as the felling axe from 30 years prior, No. 1272. I found two versions of this head, one with "Guaranteed Plumb" and one with "Genuine Plumb." Guaranteed would have been the older of the two.



Official "Plumb" Felling Axe

A long-handled axe designed to take care of any chopping job. Tough steel head is tapered to sink deep into the cut and clear itself instantly, correctly tempered to hold a keen edge. Weight of axe is 3 lbs. 1 oz., length, 27".

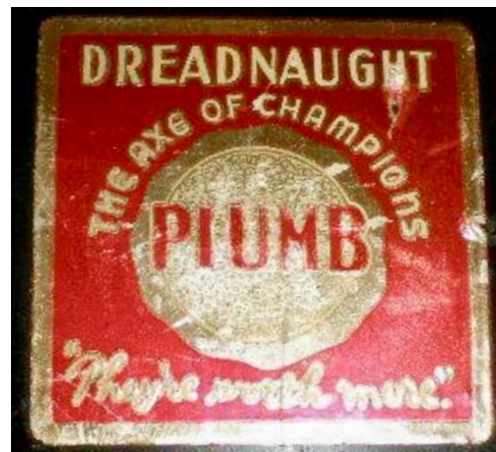
No. 1272 Official Felling Axe without Sheath	\$2.75
No. 1272A Leather Sheath for Official Felling Axe75
No. 1272H Extra Handle for Official Felling Axe85



1951

Felling Axe #4

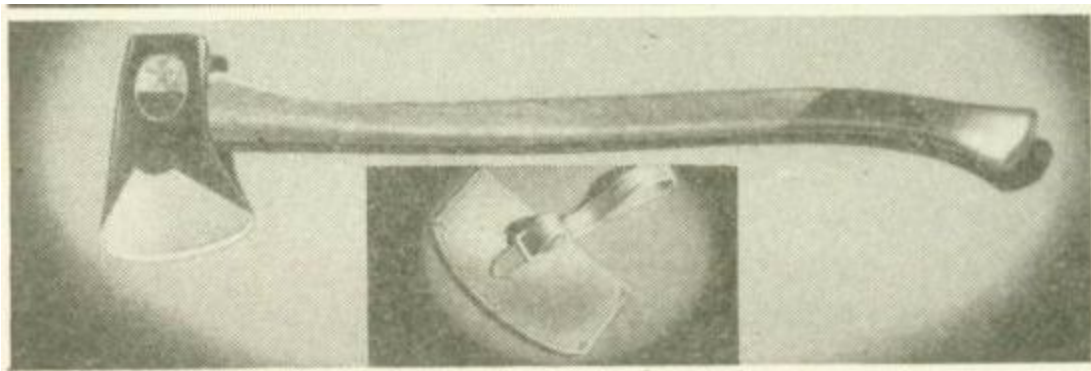
In 1951, an advertisement was printed for a new version of the Official Felling Axe. I don't know the date range for this pattern since I only found one ad, but I'm assuming late 1940's to 1951. The Plumb logo was moved right next to the poll above the paper label while the Fleur-De-Lis remained on the cheek. The paper label was updated to the new Dreadnaught label. The font of the writing on the handle seems to have changed from wavy to straight. I'm speculating it still read "Official Scout Axe." It still had the 27" handle and the weight was advertised as "about" 3 lbs. I'm still guessing the head weighed 2 ¼ lbs. by itself.



1952

Felling Axe

In 1952, Plumb finally brought the National pattern to the Felling Axe. The name remained the same, but the head now had the same shape as the Super Scout with a weight of 2 ¼ lbs. and a 26 ½” handle. The paper label appears to be very similar if not the same as the one found below which read “Plumb National Axe” and was found on the non-BSA national pattern axes. As you can see, the handle with the gold and black end knob from the Super Scout made a reappearance. I am unsure if there was a Fleur-De-Lis on this axe. Also, I’m not sure if there was writing on the handle. As you can see, the sheath for the felling axe was slightly different from the Super Scout. It covered just the bit with a strap to hold it on.



Felling Axe— A sturdy tool for doing the job right and easy. 26½” hickory handle, broad-edged steel head, 2¼ lbs.
No. 1272 (Bottom Photo).....\$3.65
No. 1271 Leather Sheath, extra..... .65



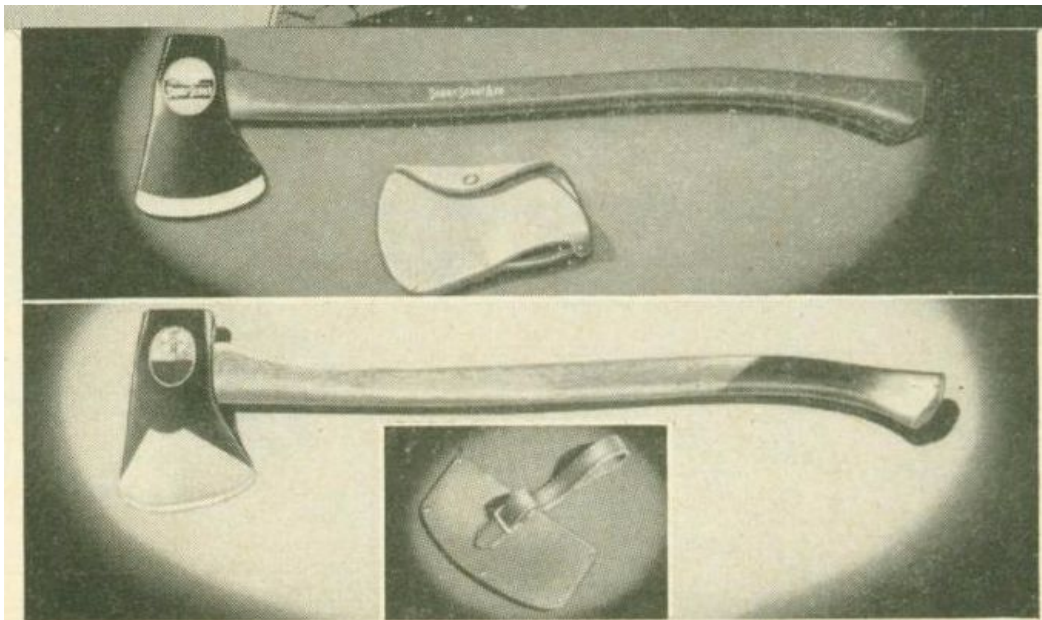
Explorer

Explorer #1

1953

In 1953, Plumb finally changed the name of the Official Felling Axe to the Official *Explorer* Axe. Everything else remained relatively the same.

Official Explorer Axe
Top quality axe, 26½" hickory handle, 2¼-lb. hand-forged steel head.
No. 1272\$3.65
No. 1271 Sheath for **Explorer Axe**, Extra..... .65



Official Super-Scout Axe

Want big axe performance with a lightweight pack axe? The specially designed Super-Scout does a man-size job at felling and trimming, yet handles easily. The hand-forged, tempered steel head is only 1¾ lbs., the prime hickory handle is 24". Axe comes with leather sheath.

No. 1239 (Upper Photo)\$4.00

Official Explorer Axe — 2¼ lb. head, 26½" handle, leather sheath.

No. 1272 (Lower Photo)\$4.50

1954

Explorer #1

October of 1954 was the first time I found where the Explorer Axe was advertised as weighing 2 ½ lbs. instead of 2 ¼ lbs. In 1955 it was also labeled as 2 ½ lbs. It was changed back to 2 ¼ lbs. from 1956 through 1960. Then in 1961, there was one last advertisement where the Explorer was described as 2 ½ lbs. It's possible all of the 2 ½ lb. labels were typo's or describing the weight of the entire axe with handle and not just the head. Or, it's also possible there is a 2 ½ lb. BSA Explorer axe out there somewhere. I have no evidence to back up either statement. Everything else remained the same in 1954.



Official Scout Axes

Tempered steel heads, hickory handles, with leather sheath.

No. 1510 Scout Handaxe, 1¼ lbs., 13½" handle.....	\$3.25
No. 1424 Steel-Handle Axe, 1¼ lbs., 13½" handle.....	3.75
No. 1239 Super Scout, 1¾ lbs., 24" handle.....	4.00
<u>No. 1272 Explorer Axe, not shown, 2½ lbs., 26½" handle...</u>	<u>4.50</u>

1956-1961

Explorer #1 with Permabond

In 1956, Plumb added their permabond to the Explorer Axe. Most parts of the axe stayed the same as years past, other than the permabonded eye. These are most likely the years where the handle with the black and gold end knob were phased out. They began using a standard red stained 26 ½" handle with the words "Official Scout Axe" on the side.

IT'S TOPS IF IT'S A Scout Axe

1239

1272

Official Scout Axes

Heat-tempered steel. Springy hickory handle. Superb craftsmanship. You'll find 'em all in every keen-edged, trusty Scout axe. These two long-handled axes are easy swinging, yet do a heavyweight job around the camp site. Patented Permabonding process welds head and handle together forever. They can't come apart! Snap-down leather sheath protects axehead; makes totin' easy, safe, and convenient.

No. 1239	Super Scout Axe, 1¾ lb. head, 24" handle	\$5.25
No. 1272	Explorer Axe, 2¼ lb. head, 26½" handle	5.45

1962-1966

Explorer #1 New Paper Label

In 1962, there were some changes made to the Explorer Axe. As with the Super Scout, these years did not provide a whole lot of evidence to pull information from. I do know the axe continued to have a permabonded eye. At some point the paper label on the head changed. It still read "Plumb National Axe" but had a different look. See picture below. The handle remained the same at 26 1/2" with the words "Official Scout Axe" on the side. Unlike the Super Scout, the beveled poll remained until around 1966.



1967-1972

Explorer #2

Some time after 1966, the beveled poll of the Explorer was removed to look like the new Super Scout. The poll became square. See picture. The paper label was changed as well to look just like the Super Scout and Scout Axe. I have very little information on this version of the Explorer Axe. As far as I know, the head remained at 2 ¼ lbs.



1980's

Explorer #3

Some time after the 1981 buyout by Cooper Tools, a new version of the Explorer arrived. It was called the Plumb Camp Axe. It still had a 2 ¼ lb. head that was painted black with a gold BSA logo painted on the side just like the Scout Axe of the 1980's. The handle was lengthened to 28" similar to a boy's axe. The handle was red with the words "Plumb" and "Cooper Tools" on the side. The scout axes of the 1980's had "Made in the USA" stickers on them as well.

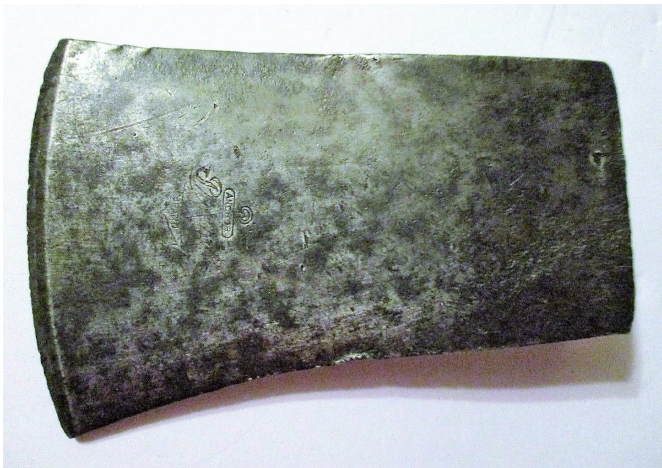


1. Plumb Camp Ax. Has 2¼ lb. rust-resistant, enamel-coated, forged steel head on a 28" hickory handle. UE1272 \$23.89

Quick Reference Guide

Scout Axe

Pattern #1



1911-1912 Fleur-De-Lis on backside

It's hard to see, but there is a Plumb
Anchor symbol on the cheek

Pattern #2



1913-1921 Fleur-De-Lis on backside

Pattern #3 Variation 1



1922-1928 Fleur-De-Lis on backside

Pattern #3 Variation 2



1922-1928 Fleur-De-Lis above PLUMB

Pattern #4 Variation 1



1929-1937

Pattern #4 Variation 2



1929-1937

Pattern #5



1936-1937

Pattern #6



1938-1940

Pattern #7 Variation 1



1941-1950

Pattern #7 Variation 2



1941-1950

Pattern #8



1950-1955 No Permabond

1956-1961 Permabond

Pattern #9



1962-1972 Paper label on backside

Pattern #10



1981-1989

Plumb Voyageur



1933-1938

TomaScout



1941-1942

Super Scout

Pattern #1



1948-1955 No Permabond

1956-1961 Permabond

Pattern #2



1962-1972

Official Felling Axe

Pattern #1 No Picture

Pattern #2 No Picture

Pattern #3 Variation 1



Early 1940's

Pattern #3 Variation 2



Late 1940's

Pattern #4



Late 1940's - 1951

Explorer

Pattern #1



1952-1966

Pattern #2



1967-1972

Pattern #3 Don't have a great picture



1980's