

Inverted Strawberry

by Robert Grissom

Inverted Strawberry was made by the Cambridge Glass Company. The "Inverted" part of the pattern name came from the fact that the pattern is pressed into the glass rather than raised as are most carnival glass patterns. Most pieces in this pattern are considered scarce to rare.

Cambridge is perhaps better known for their fine crystal and non-iridized glassware. Originally they used a "C" in a triangle as their trademark, but in 1906 they adopted "Near Cut." Many, but not all, of their carnival glass pieces contain this mark. The company was the second one to make carnival glass and went out of business in 1959.

Principal colors made were amethyst, green, and marigold with green being somewhat scarce. Blue is probably the least often seen color. No pastel colors are known.

Motif Series

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Water sets. Sets are known in amethyst and marigold and are considered scarce. Tumblers have also been reported in green and an especially rare blue. Tumblers have been reproduced but do have the makers marks, so there should be no confusion. Milk pitchers, like that shown on the right, are reported only in amethyst with fewer than ten known.



Celery vase and whimsey bonbon. Both unusual pieces; the celery is one of just a couple known in green; a couple are also known in blue. The green bonbon whimsey is the only one so far reported.



Compotes. There are three different sizes of compotes, the giant, tall, and jelly. The giant (shown above) was made in amethyst, blue, green, and marigold—and none of the colors are seen very often. The tall compote, 6" high, are very rare and only marigold is known. One of these compotes is known with a ruffled top. The jelly compote (like that shown at the left) is about 3½" tall and known only in blue. It is rare.



Table sets. Table sets contain the usual four pieces: a covered butter dish, a covered sugar, a creamer, and a spooner. They are known in amethyst and marigold and any would be considered scarce. In 1983 an antique publication reported a blue set, but none have been confirmed.

Breakfast sets. These consist of a creamer and sugar with no lid, both being stemmed pieces. They are considered quite rare and found in blue.



Spittoons and spittoon shapes. The large bowl above was probably made from the large berry bowl. Whether it can be considered a spittoon or not is at question. It does cup in and then flare out as a spittoon must, but whether it was intended to be a spittoon remains a mystery. This one is amethyst. At the left is a small ladies spittoon, found in sufficient quantities in both marigold and green to suggest that it was a production item, not a whimsey.



Bowls. These are usually found in 7" or 10" round or slightly cupped in pieces. They will come in the usual amethyst, green, and marigold. Amethyst bowls are probably the most difficult to find. Because the pattern is only on the exterior, bowls are perceived as not being as desirable as other shapes. Ruffled bowls would be an unusual find. The sauce above measures 5" across and is blue. Note the Near Cut mark in the bottom.

Berry sets. These sets can be found in amethyst, green, and marigold. A complete set is seldom seen in any of the colors.

Candlesticks. These are 7" tall and are found in green and marigold. They're considered scarce to rare in either color.

Powder Jar. This is the only piece made that would be considered part of a dresser set. It is found in marigold and green.

Glass courtesy of Burns Auction Service, Bruce Hill, Janet Knechtel, Ed Kramer, Steve Morrow, Ruth and John Phillips, Mickey Reichel Auction Co., Carl and Ferne Schroeder, Seeck Auctions, and Harold and Dolores Wagner.

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