

Iron

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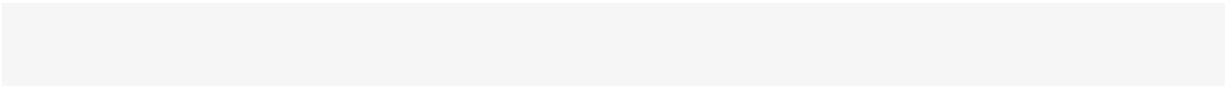
Small iron with removable wooden handle.

Accession Number 2011.27.2

Fabricant / Éditeur H. R. Ives & Co.

Materials metal, wood

Measurements 12,5 x 7,5 x 17 cm



Historical context

In the early 19th century, irons were fitted with a removable wooden handle that enabled women to heat the base over coals or in the oven, then insert the wooden handle to move it around and iron clothes, thus limiting the risk of burns. The first iron models had a metal handle. To optimize garment ironing, housewives usually had two irons so that they could rotate while one heated the other ironed.

In the 20th century, the first electric irons came onto the market, followed by new models such as the steam iron. From the mid-20th century onwards, as electricity became available in the home, families began to incorporate electric irons.

If washing clothes is a colossal task for housewives, ironing them is equally tedious. In addition to the aesthetic aspect, ironing is an important step, particularly for disinfecting linen.

From the mid-19th century onwards, middle-class families began to employ domestic servants to take care of household chores. Laundry was a particularly time-consuming task for women, so much so that some less affluent families called in a daily housekeeper specifically to do the washing.

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On display