

RMS INSTA-POLL

“What do you do with bobtailed covers?”

[It's assumed that we're talking about old covers here]

[Thanks to Dave Carr, CAN, for this one]

[September - 95 responding]

12	-Toss them
34	-Keep them until replacements arrive
33	-Keep them permanently (some or all)
3	-Put them on the freebie tables
7	-Give them away
1	-Avoid them
3	-Try to repair them
1	-I save them for other craft projects
1	-Save them for other collectors

**For respondents giving more than one option, each option was counted.*

**Note: Most of those who indicated that they keep bobtails also pointed out that they do not buy or accept such in trade.*

**Note: If the respondent said 'Keep them', I interpreted that as 'Keep them permanently', but*

many, I suspect, actually meant 'Keep them until a replacement is found'. Several specifically said they collect them, though.

Appropriate comments:

- “I have yet to see a bobtail worth taking.”
- “If the covers are in categories that I collect I will keep them, until I can replace them. I started collecting 50yrs ago in Cub Scouts and most of my original covers we bobtailed for appearance.”
- “I collect the hobby's rare and iconic. On the highly prized bobtails I attempt to repair and or loosely replace the lost striker. All others I cast aside as a filler until something better comes along.”
- “I keep almost all bob-tailed covers. I hate to throw them out as I am sure that someone else may want the odd one to fill in a hole in their collection.”
- “In my categories, I keep them but store them till later (which never seems to come!). I toss most not in my categories. But here's my quandary: I found a slew of bob tailed Canadian Excise Tax Stamp covers, and my gut says " do not toss!"
- “We have "made our own covers" to put in back of them. That is we printed two lines as thick as strikers on sheets of stock the same color as most older covers and trimmed them to the size of 20 and 30 strikes, some being a little wider than most and some being a little longer - especially the 20's. We then place them behind the bobtailed cover - no attachment of any sort, and put them in our books. This helps make them more visually appealing and they stay in the collection until we are able to upgrade them, which we are able to do more often than one might think.”
- “I just treat them as another cover to add to my collection with the hope that I will find the same cover in a complete state. I can't fault someone who happen to cut the matches off and was only saving a cover from a trip somewhere. I know most collectors will not accept them in trade but I am open to trade regardless of condition. I usually only see them when I come across a collection I find in a garage sale or similar situation.”

A suggestion based on the above. For those collectors throwing bobtails away, it would be nice if they were instead given away instead, since so many other collector at least temporarily have a use for them. The number of collectors who just flat out kept bob-tails was a surprise to me. I had no idea it would be anywhere close to that.