



Red Wing Dinnerware & The Anniversary Line

© Copyright 2011 Terry Moe and Larry Roschen
Photos courtesy of the authors and
WWW.REDWINGDINNERWARE.COM

The information presented here has been gleaned from vintage Red Wing brochures, catalogs, price lists and internal documents as well as trade journals and magazines. In this discussion, a "pattern" is a dinnerware set in a particular shape with a unique handpainted design or color scheme. A "line" is a group of patterns that share the same shapes but have different handpainted designs or colors. Some of the introduction and exit dates presented have not been verified because of gaps in available documentation. When uncertain, an estimated date is provided. The end point of a pattern can be difficult to ascertain. In the 1940s and 1950s a discontinued pattern no longer appeared on price lists; in the 1960s patterns that were no longer in production remained on price lists as "limited stock" with only a few pieces listed. Here a pattern is considered to be discontinued when a full range of items was no longer available and orders were limited to remaining stock.

Each pattern has been assigned an Availability rating and a Collector Interest rating as described below. Availability represents an average for the pattern in question, however the scarcity of certain pieces within the pattern may differ. Collector Interest refers to the pattern in general, but there may be specific pieces in any pattern that are of greater interest to specialty collectors (teapots, pitchers, salt & peppers, etc). Please keep in mind these ratings are the authors' observations; your experience may vary.

Availability

- 1 – Rare
- 2 – Very scarce
- 3 – Hard to find
- 4 – Average
- 5 – Readily available

Collector Interest

- 1 – Highly sought, demand exceeds supply
- 2 – Primary of interest to specialty collectors
- 3 – Above average
- 4 – Average
- 5 – Below average

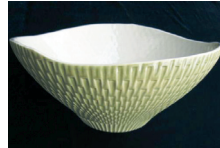
The Anniversary line was introduced in 1953 and it celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Red Wing pottery industry. Six patterns were produced in the Anniversary shape, and the hollowware for each of them was a solid color with covers that matched the pattern. Collectors usually associate each pattern with one solid color. But price lists from 1956 and 1957 offered multiple colors for each pattern. Thus Anniversary pieces that may appear to be mismatched could very well have been sold that way. Features of the Anniversary shape included a crosshatch textured surface on plates and bowls, a basket weave texture on hollowware exteriors, thin handles with a distinctive curve and "curlicue" finials on the covers that resembled the top of a soft-serve ice cream cone. The background color for all Anniversary flatware was white. Trivets were made in 1958 and 1959 for the Anniversary patterns that were still in production during those years; Capistrano, Pink Spice and Driftwood in 1958 and Capistrano and Driftwood in 1959.



Capistrano Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1953-1961 (place settings only 1962-1965)

A Capistrano brochure described the hand-painted design as "depicting the graceful dip of a yellow-breasted, jet black bird into colorful, fruited foliage". The name of the pattern implied the artwork represented the celebrated annual return of swallows to Capistrano. This pattern sold well for a number of years and was the most successful of the Anniversary patterns. Hollowware for Capistrano was sage green, although price lists also offered white or gray as options.

Left to right: Capistrano dinner plate, 10.5-inch salad bowl, celery dish and soup tureen.



Country Garden Availability: 4 Interest: 3 Years: 1953-1957

Country Garden's design was a bright, colorful floral pattern. A 1953 brochure described the pattern as "an all-over bouquet painted in natural colors of vivid lavender, gray, blue, green, yellow and old rose." Country Garden hollowware was gray; other options were sage green, white and pink. Left (clockwise): Country Garden tea pot, sugar, cup & saucer and creamer. Right: Bread tray and dinner plate.



Tweed Tex Availability: 3 Interest: 5 Years: 1953-1956

All Tweed Tex pieces were white; it was the only Anniversary pattern with no hand-painted pieces. Tweed Tex can be difficult to find today, especially accessories such as teapots and pitchers. A unique ink stamp was created to mark Tweed Tex flatware. It was the standard 1950s pink wing-shaped mark but with the word "handpainted" removed. This mark was used only on Tweed Tex pieces. White was the standard color for Tweed Tex hollowware, but a 1956 price list also included black as a color option. At left: Tweed Tex tea pot and salt & pepper shakers.



Pink Spice Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1953 or 1954 - 1958

Pink Spice was another bright, colorful pattern. It featured red and pink flowers, green and yellow leaves and a yellow butterfly. Two different shades of pink were used for Pink Spice hollowware. Dawn Pink, a dark pink close to lavender, was found on a 1954 price list. The 1956 and 1957 price lists included both Dawn Pink and Shell Pink. Shell Pink is a brighter, lighter shade and is found more readily today than Dawn Pink. By 1958, Shell Pink was listed as the only color option.



Above: Pink Spice egg plate (left) and dinner plate (right).

Above: This grouping of Pink Spice beverage servers, tea pots and salt & pepper shakers shows the difference between the Shell Pink (left) and Dawn Pink (right) hues.



Midnight Rose Availability: 3 Interest: 3 Years: 1953 or 1954 - 1955

In contrast to the bright colors of the Country Garden and Pink Spice patterns, Midnight Rose was stark and formal. The design showed a rose, leaves and branches in varying shades of gray and black. The resulting artwork had the appearance of a pencil drawing. Most collectors think of black as the hollowware color for Midnight Rose. But initially the color was white, as stated on a January 1, 1954 price list. Because Midnight Rose was not included on the 1956 or 1957 price lists, the black hollowware must have been added later in 1954 or in 1955 and produced for only a brief period. While not a big seller back in the day, the stark artwork and unusual black hollowware serve to create collector interest in Midnight Rose today. *Left: Midnight Rose dinner plate. Above: Casserole and cereal bowl.*



Driftwood Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: 1955-1961 (Place settings only 1962-1965)

As described in a Driftwood brochure, the pattern depicted "cool, blue petals clinging here and there to a wandering bough of driftwood". Red Wing's descriptions were always fanciful and often exaggerated. The design included no sea or water as implied by "wandering bough", only a wooden branch and blue petals. It was simple, but effective. Like Midnight Rose, Driftwood hollowware was initially offered only in white. Turquoise was added January 1957, and by July 1957 it was the only color option listed. ■



Above: Driftwood dinner plate, beverage server, water pitcher, tea pot and salt & pepper shakers.



At left: Driftwood cups & saucers (top) and divided vegetable dish (bottom).



Looking for some holiday placesetting inspiration?



"Introduction to Dinnerware" series co-author Terry Moe shares these photos of the dinner table from his family's 2011 Thanksgiving (left) and 2010 Christmas (right) celebrations. The Thanksgiving spread shows early and late Normandy, early Ardennes, a Village Green trivet and a green stoneware bowl produced by the Potteries in 1937. The Christmas photo consists of early and late Ardennes and a white Wreath 10-inch bowl holding ornaments. If you dine on Red Wing for the holidays, please snap a few photos and e-mail them to editor Rick Natynski.