

Finch & C^o



SAILORS CARVED WHALEBONE FID

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OLD SMOOTH PATINA

MD 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 22CMLONG – 8½ INS LONG

SEE FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 13, ITEM NO. 91, FOR A LARGE EXAMPLE OF A LIGNUM VITAE FID

LITERATURE

THE FID WAS A STRICTLY UTILITARIAN SAILORS TOOL AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY HAVE LITTLE DECORATION. OF A CARROT SHAPE WITH A SMOOTH SURFACE THEY WERE HANDMADE ON BOARDSHIP OF A HARDWOOD SUCH AS LIGNUM VITAE OR OF WHALEBONE. RANGING IN SIZE FROM 8 INCHES TO 20 INCHES OR MORE FIDS WERE USED FOR INSERTING THIMBLES INTO PREPARED ROPE, WORKING KNOTS, SPLICING ROPE AND FOR OPENING HOLES IN A CANVAS SAIL BECAUSE SAIL MAKERS WOULD SPREAD THE THREADS OF THE CANVAS RATHER THAN CUT A HOLE IN IT.