

## MICROCHIPS INSIDE A METER BOX?

In 1909, Ford Meter Box founder Edwin Ford filed for a patent to improve meter reading. This patent was for a lamp that could be lowered into the pit to improve meter reading. Six years later, he again sought a patent that made meter reading easier. Patent number 1,223,634 was for an electrical attachment for reading meters. Efforts to make meter reading easier continue today, but in ways Mr. Ford would never have imagined. Today, the focus of our improvements is to accommodate new meter reading technology. Ford Meter Box offers several updates of our products to adapt to the rapidly changing world of meter reading technology.

The full line of Ford meter box lids has been modified to work with the first generation of electronic reading systems. These remote touch pad systems generally required a 1-3/4" (approximate size) hole in the lid. A simple request, but Ford engineers were watchful to accomplish this without sacrificing the structural integrity of the lid.



The second generation of reading systems utilizes radio transmission systems. Ford engineers developed a mounting bracket that allows for precise positioning of the transmitting unit inside our meter pits to assure optimal performance.

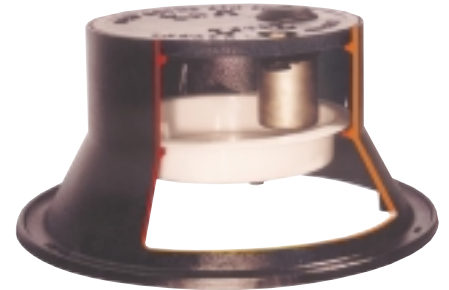


Another challenge was the field adapting of lids to accommodate radio read meters. To address the concerns of radio signals transmitting from under a cast iron lid, Ford engineers looked at many options. One approach was to adapt a product, the all plastic meter frame and lid, that Ford has manufactured



for many years. With only minor modifications, the lid offered on this plastic cover could be retrofitted into or furnished with the Ford model "A" and "W" (11" diameter) covers.

The Wabash box we sell today is an evolution of Edwin Ford's original design. This meter box cover includes a double lid design with a four-inch dead air space



between the lids. This space greatly improves insulation values, much like a double pane window in your home or office. However, the current double lid design features an inner cover that interferes with some electronic read modules. To address this problem, Ford Meter Box now offers a recessed plastic inner lid that allows for up to six inches of space in order to accommodate these new larger transmitting devices.

New "high tech" water meters are cost effective, but also represent a considerable investment for any utility. To help



prevent tampering, all Ford meter box lids are available with secure locking devices to ensure a safe and stable meter setting installation.

The Ford Meter Box Company has been offering meter-setting solutions to the water works industry for over 100 years. Changing with the times is something we have a lot of experience with and we proudly accept the challenges. For more information about Ford's ability to solve your meter setting problems, contact your local Ford distributor or call The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

