

## TABLE LAMP MADE IN ENGLAND

Lamp, device for producing [illumination](#), originally a vessel containing a [wick](#) soaked in combustible material and subsequently such other light-producing instruments as gas and electric lamps. The first lamp was invented around 70,000 BC. A hollow rock, shell or other natural found object was filled with moss or similar material that was soaked with animal fat and ignited. Humans began imitating the natural shapes with manmade pottery, alabaster, and metal lamps. Wicks were later added to control the rate of burning. Around the 7th century BC, the Greeks began making terracotta lamps to replace handheld torches. The word lamp is derived from the Greek word *lampas*, meaning torch.

In the 18th century, the central burner was invented, a major improvement in lamp design. The fuel source was now tightly enclosed in metal, and an adjustable metal tube was used to control the intensity of the fuel burning and intensity of the light. Around the same time, small glass chimneys were added to lamps to both protect the flame and control the flow of air to the flame. Ami Argand, a Swiss chemist is credited with first developing the principle of using an oil lamp with a hollow circular wick surrounded by a glass chimney in 1783.