

MIDDY BLOUSES AND KIDDIE BLOUSES

During the 1920s through the 1940s, it was popular for wives, girlfriends and children to wear authentic-looking U.S. Navy blouses (jumpers) with correct-looking USN patches. These patches, rating badges, service stripes (hashmarks) and distinguishing marks were often authentic USN insignia. Others, especially for the kiddie blouses, were cheaply produced imitations of authentic rating badges. The Middy, or “Middie,” blouses, when not displaying authentic USN badges, would display an authentic looking rating badge produced in unauthorized colors, such as all white, all gold or all red eagles, specialty marks and chevrons. In addition, the Middy blouse would most often show a chief petty officer rating badge. The jumper style uniform was not worn by USN chief petty officers.

These Middy blouses are often mistaken by novice collectors as being authentic vintage USN jumpers from prior to World War II.



Illustration-38

Middy, Kiddie and real blouses



Illustration-39

Collection of unauthorized and misused USN insignia