



## Queen #6L, The Teardrop Linerlock Knife

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### Introduction

The Teardrop pattern is a traditional and popular style of folding knife, with many examples dating back into the later 1800s. Versions can be seen in most of the available antique knife catalogs. (See for example: David Clark's reproduction of the 1903 Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Co. Catalog, pp. 8, 22. A teardrop is generally a medium pattern, roughly 3.25 inches up to 4 inches, with one blade, or a primary blade with a small secondary pen blade extending from the smaller bolster. This design uses the large end to stabilize the knife in the back of the hand for strong cuts, yet still permits the user to “choke-up” toward the blade for more controlled precise cuts. The teardrop appears to be a more elegant evolution from the very old, highly functional Barlow knife pattern, with a more exaggerated reduction in size from rear to the smaller, more precise front end and blade. With its rounded rear bolster the knife is also more pocket friendly than those with square ends. The Queen version comes with a half stop – a much appreciated feature when your thumb is on the lock closing the knife. So this knife remains true to its user-oriented past. Many traditional Teardrops have an “easy-open” cut-out, and Queen has made a number of them, as well as a harness type with an old-fashioned pic. In fact the #06 is a knife Queen has made in a number versions. So this article deals with only one – the liner lock version of the teardrop.

### Listing of Queen Produced Teardrop Liner Lock knives

For many years Teardrops were a very common version of the basic jack knife and made in such large numbers, and used so hard that they were not considered of great interest to many collectors. That is changing and Queen's Teardrop has contributed to the increased interest in this style of pocket knife. For many years this was the only teardrop on the market but other companies are now offering similar (but non-locking) versions. My interest and bias in favor of locking knives has been shared previously, and extends to this Teardrop model.

The Queen Teardrop Linerlock (#6L) has been cataloged since 2004, replacing the pearl handled Senator (with or without bale). The Queen #6L knife is 3.75" closed with a single spear point blade of 3" in length. All versions produced have used D2 tool steel, flat ground, .12" in thickness, 1/2" wide, with a bright satin surface and standard "Tool steel with model #" blade etch. These blades look sturdy and large enough for serious cutting compared to knives only 1/4" smaller in length. The examples shown below have all arrived very sharp. In short, the teardrop appears to be a capable working knife in all respects, despite its rather delicate name. The earlier models have a round silver-colored "Relief Knife Q" shield. The Curly Zebra and most recent Walnut handle models have an "Incised Knife Q" shield.

The Teardrop liner lock was added to Queen modern locking patterns in the same year the 41L "mini-Hunter", and shares similar strategies in the design of the lock. The locks are made of steel and overlap the base of the blade rather than simply abutting it, providing a very secure locking mechanism. Unlike the long and serrated lock of the #41L, the Teardrop uses a smaller "domed" liner which exactly reproduces the curve of the bottom nickel silver bolster and is less intrusive to the eye, but still provides a positive grip point for closing. While the 41L was introduced with great fanfare and multiple version, the locking teardrop persisted longer into the Daniels Family era, and was used in several special project knives. In general, the Daniels Family preferred to focus on back locking patterns like the 3L (Mountain man), and 4L (woodsman).

There have been five different models of the knife cataloged since 2004: They include:

6L CSB, Carved Stag Bone (2004-2006)

6L COBO, Cocobolo (2004-2005)

6L BEM, Birds Eye Maple, (2006-2009)

6L ACSB, Aged Honey Amber Carved Stag Bone (2007- 2014)

6L CZ, Curly Zebra, (2010 - 2014)

A model #6L W, in American Black Walnut, is available from online sellers. However, the #6L in either ACSB or W is not included in the current 2015 catalog.



Figure 1 displays the two bone handled catalog versions. The CSB on top and the ACSB on bottom. The CSB in 6L is always harder to find, both for introducing the pattern and because the ASCB had a longer production run.





Figure 2 displays the three cataloged wood handled models of the 6L Teardrop, with CBO on top, BEM in the middle, and African Curly Zebra on the bottom. Note the different shields, with the COBO and BEM showing a “relief knife Q” and the CZ showing an “Incised knife Q.”



Figure 3 displays the American Walnut version (never cataloged) of the 6L Teardrop, also with the “Incised knife Q” and D2 steel. (internet photo from sale site by “Knife Center” from about 2013)

Because of their relatively large and flat handle scales, these knives show off the wood used in making them very nicely. I personally like the highly figured Cocobolo model I found, but most have favored the version in the African Curly Zebra series. Almost everyone picks the ACSB as the prettiest of the bunch when I show them the full sets.

A #6L CSB version with the blade etched with “SFO” for “Sharp Fans Organization (?)” has been seen, and the teardrop liner lock in Cocobolo (and perhaps other handles) has been used for Oar Carver knives, with two different blade size versions. No other variants have been seen to date.



Figure 4. Two never cataloged 6L Teardrop knives acquired at a Queen show in 2014. The top one is handled with the Orange Corncob bone used by Queen in the 1994, Schatt & Morgan Keystone series, and the bottom one used bone from Robeson knives by Queen during Daniels Family ownership. Both these knives had highly polished blades and were produced in editions of 10 knives for each pattern. They are certainly the rarest of the 6L knives in our experience.

Finally, as Queen Cutlery under the Daniels Family Cutlery ownership made a very special 6L Teardrop in around 2016-2017, as shown in Figure 5. To our knowledge this is the only Schatt & Morgan version of the locking 6L and it is very consistent with some of the recent knives with a metallic blue Shockwood handle with the famous Keystone shield and a very broad blade and traditional looking blade in carbon steel with the edition size, (1-30) etched on the blade. In our opinion a very classy swan song for the locking teardrop! In Queen last year they made many versions of the Teardrop with multiple blades, with a secondary pic blade, and with easy-open grooves, and mostly with these large carbon blades, so, the #6 Teardrop is a very enjoyable focus for collectors of modern Queen knives.





Figure 5. The only Schatt & Morgan 6L Teardrop Queen ever produced and in a very small edition. This knife has all you expect from a Schatt & Morgan labeled knife, with high polished carbon steel blade, strong tang stamp, unique handle material, keystone shield and a underused pattern. It may also be true that there are other versions that may someday emerge from private collections – time will tell.

No production or sales figures are available for these knives, but our experience has been that both early versions (CSB and COBO), offered for only two years, are very hard to come by at shows or online sales. Of course, these knives have become quite scarce in the nearly 9 - 19 years since they were made. Since it is now clear that no more knives in this pattern will be produced by Queen, collectors will have to wait until early purchasers have reached a time to dispose of their collections – usually around 25 years in our experience to get an opportunity to add these locking knives to their collections - (Like most collectors, my descendants will have to dispose of mine.) When encountered, these early knives have sold for \$80 to \$100, – a bit of a premium in my opinion but that will probably increase.

Both the 6L Teardrop and the 41L Mini Hunter were well designed and represent the traditional approach to locking knives in the early 21 century. I believe they represent good value in very stylish knives that have great ergonomics and the steel to be very effective everyday carry knives as well as unusual collectable knives with a relatively short production lifespan and should become the purview of collectors as they become available.

I have no examples of some of the SFO versions of the 6L teardrop and we always hope for additional contributions and suggestions on our articles. Thank you.