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Indiana Jones' (Harrison Ford) Eight-Foot Bullwhip Ω

Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom (1984)

Indiana Jones' (Harrison Ford) eight-foot bullwhip from Steven Spielberg's Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. This whip is "shot-loaded" – an option, offered by whipmaker David Morgan at the time the films were made, in which additional weight (in the form of "shot," or small metal pellets) was placed into the body of the whip near the handle, resulting in greater energy transfer to the tail and a whip that cracked more easily and loudly than a standard model. The eight-foot model is believed to be the length most commonly used in Temple of Doom and The Last Crusade, though the productions also utilised other lengths, including 10-foot models. Among collectors today, surviving eight-foot examples are comparatively scarce, making them especially desirable given their close association with the whips most frequently seen on screen. This is the first eight-foot whip from Temple of Doom that Propstore has ever handled.

In the film, the second in the original trilogy, Jones used his trusty bullwhip throughout his adventure to aid villagers in India by retrieving a powerful stone stolen from them and rescuing their children from Mola Ram's (Amrish Puri) deadly cult. The bullwhips for the original Indiana Jones trilogy were famously created by master whipmaker Morgan as part of his 450 series of bullwhips. Whips are measured from the butt of the handle to the end of the braided portion, before the fall and cracker. Morgan whips ranging from roughly six to 16 feet (two to five metres) were made for the films, particularly Temple of Doom and The Last Crusade. This hand-braided leather bullwhip measures just under eight feet (2.5 metres), the length most frequently carried on Indy's belt and believed to have been used, along with the ten-foot (three-metre) models, for swinging and cracking.

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom was nominated for two Academy Awards® and four BAFTAs®, winning Best Visual Effects at both ceremonies. Among its other accolades, the film is remembered for further cementing Harrison Ford's status as one of the biggest stars of the 1980s. Indiana Jones, as embodied by Ford, remains one of cinema's all-time great characters,



and his signature bullwhip is inseparable from the character himself. Used not only for action and escapes, but also as a creative extension of the character's quick thinking and improvisational style, the whip's snap and coil are instantly recognisable to audiences around the world, making it one of the most enduring and evocative props in modern film history.

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This whip originates directly from a production crew member who has had it since filming, and is now being offered at auction for the first time. With gorgeous vintage colouration and notable production wear, this is one of the finest examples of an original Indiana Jones whip ever to pass through Propstore. The whip consists of a 12-plait, natural tan kangaroo-hide body with a wrist loop attached to the butt of the diamond-braided handle and a matching cracker. Approximately 18 inches (46 cm) of the whip's body are shot-loaded for additional weight and greater energy transfer. The shot pellets are housed within a central tube, as visible in X-ray imaging; the whip's body is stiffer where it contains the shot core and more flexible beyond that point. While the leather shows minor wear consistent with on-set use, handling and age, including slight tearing to the wrist strap, this whip remains in exceptional condition, with its vintage colouration and the flexibility of its rope-like body still largely intact.
Dimensions: (complete whip uncoiled, including wrist strap, fall and cracker)
305 cm x 5.25 cm x 5.25 cm (120" x 2" x 2")

Estimate: £200,000 - 400,000



X-ray analysis: The whip features a "shot loaded" core, a technique used by whipmakers to weight the wider end of the whip's body above the handle. The added weight results in higher energy transfer through the body to the fall and cracker; the shot loaded whip is therefore easier to crack and louder than a standard whip.