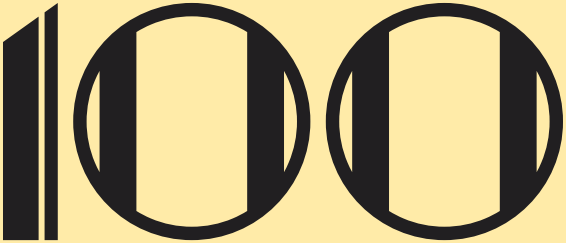

TRICKS
OF THE PRINTING
TRADE

★

Collected by
OTTO DORNER

Digitized by
BRENT NORSWORTHY

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

VOCATIONAL PRINTING DEPT.
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
RICHMOND, INDIANA

The tricks printed in this booklet were collected from the following magazines:

Printing Industry
Graphic Arts Monthly
Inland Printer

Digitized by
BRENT NORSWORTHY
WHISKER FISH PRINT, Co.
2023

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TRICKS FOR THE PRESSMAN

To Prevent Streaks

As I follow your Tricks o' the trade and find them very helpful in my daily work, I am adding a trick which may prove helpful to many pressmen. I have found a practical way to stop a large or small cut or halftone cut from filling up with ink after the press has been in operation for any length of time – without stopping the press and washing the cut.

When running a halftone job on any job press, raise the top roller which comes in contact with the fountain roller by means of two strips of adhesive tape cut so as to fit around the roller truck, thus lifting the first roller away enough to clear the form but not far enough away to keep it from touching the disk.

This will eliminate all streaks caused when the fountain roller deposits ink on the disk and the foremost roller picks or carries this streak of ink on to the half. tone.

– Waller O. Johnson, Jr., Everett, Mass.

Saves Gauge Pins

A common type of gauge pin for platen presses is the flexible kind that permits the grippers to press down upon them when feeding stock. The usual type have two small prongs to prevent the paper from sliding under them. These little prongs have a habit of breaking off while the rest of the pin is good. You can continue using them by cutting a small slit in the tympan alongside the pin. This prevents the paper from sliding under.

– Ralph Fritts, Amsterdam, Mo.

Slur Eliminator

A most convenient way to overcome slurs on job presses, especially on rule forms, is an ordinary piece of inner tube, ¼ inch by ½ inch. This can be tied on gripper clamps or if there are no vertical rules, tie a piece of inner tube to rubber band and stretch across grippers to strike between rules.

I find this much better than cork as it holds up much longer and better results are obtained.

I use this method on the Craftsman unit at all times.

– M. C. Meyer, Baltimore

For Personal Stationery

An extra fancy touch can be added to personal stationery after printing by spraying lightly with a non-alcoholic perfume. The scent will be noticed on the paper several months afterwards. Care should be taken not to use too much of the spray, as it might spot. Experimenting will show the correct amount to use.

Perfume with an alcoholic content will spot the paper no matter how much care is taken. After spraying, a small rag, if saturated with the perfume and placed in the box, will help to keep the paper smelling fresh.

– B. K. Hall, Jr, Windsor, Ill.

Gauge Setting

Job Pressmen can save themselves much time in setting gauges on duplicate jobs by the following simple way:

First, apply a few drops of oil or gasoline on face of copy and rub it in, (this makes sheet transparent) and then lay it on impression on the top sheet and proceed as usual. I find this quite a time saver.

– Albert Parolski, Boston, Mass.

Perforating Rule

To completely eliminate paper sticking to the perforating rule, when the perforating is done with steel rule on a job press, stick a strip of automobile sponge rubber weather strip to the furniture on each side of the perforating rule.

This rubber weather stripping can be secured at any good auto supply house.

It is made with adhesive on one side, and is very inexpensive. As it comes in strips, it can be cut to desired length for each job of perforating.

Using these strips to push the paper off the perforating rule and using press board as packing, one can do excellent perforating on a job press at full press speed.

–G. T. Newby, Helena, Okla.

When Perforating

To prevent slitting of tympan necessitating new makeready when perforating on platen presses I've found that a strip or two of Gummed Holland Cloth Tape stuck on the tympan where the perforating rule will strike is a great timesaver and will stand up for thousands of impressions.

–Cyril H. Heath, Los Angeles, Cal.

Celluloid Underlays

Celluloid, such as used in the curtains of open automobiles, is a valuable asset around the job press. The celluloid, cut into convenient sizes, makes one of the best underlays found in our shop. The job should be completely made up with press board being used for the right impression.

When the makeup is complete, and the pins stuck down solidly, the celluloid should be placed under the top tympan sheet with only one thickness of paper between it and the job.

Naturally, one sheet of press board must be taken out to keep the makeup even.

The celluloid is a hard packing and gives a fine impression, which will "come out" of the paper.

To Make a Watermark

A clear, sharp water-mark may be made from any line cut by using a mixture of liquid petrolatum and alcohol.

Care must be taken that platen and rollers are absolutely clean.

– Albert M. Diamond, Represa, Calif.

No Pencil Needed

When about to set the guides on a platen press, it is sometimes found that no pencil is handy, and time and patience are exhausted in the search for one.

If the position be found in the usual way and a piece of the stock to be run is placed correctly, the exact place for the gage pins can be marked by touching a fingertip first to the ink disk, and then transferring the ink on the finger to the tympan, at the edge of the piece of stock, so that the fingerprint will be half on the tympan, half on the stock.

When the stock is removed the small half-moons remaining will be an excellent guide for placing of gauge pins. Remove ink on finger by smearing finger across a piece of soiled stock.

Two Colors From One

When printing menu covers and jobs of that character, a little spot of an extra color such as an ornament would be very desirable if the addition did not entail so much extra work.

These objections can be overcome and a two-color job printed with one-color ink, one lockup, and with no separation of form for color, with very little additional work, providing the run is short.

Print the job as if for one color, and before the ink is dry dust the spot chosen for the additional color with gold embossing compound.

Thus, if using, say, blue ink, the finished job would be blue and gold– a two-color job from one color ink. This stunt can be worked on any number of small jobs.

Perforating and Printing Idea

Herewith submitted is an idea for perforating and printing in one operation. Most of our perforating jobs require one perforating rule running vertically in the form. I took a set of old rollers and cut out the composition so that in traveling over the form they will ink the form but not the perforating rule. In locking up a job, I know where the perforating rule should be placed to meet the "gutter" in the rollers.

This makes for an easier job, both in perforating and printing (the rollers do not get chewed up, filling up the type). It also saves the rollers, since you have one definite cut on them, instead of several.

– Lucien R. Bonnin Moosup, Conn.

Thawing a Frozen Press

Usually when a piece of printing machinery suddenly "freezes up" from lack of oil, a single working or moving part has caused the difficulty. A good and almost infallible method of "thawing out" the frozen bearing and putting the machine in working order without the use of tools, is as follows:

First, locate the source of the trouble. This usually can be done easily and quickly by pressing the fingers around each oil hole, the main bearings or least accessible oil holes first (as these latter are sometimes neglected), until excessively warm metal points out the dry bearing. Lack of lubrication in this particular spot has caused the metal to overheat, expand, and "drag."

Squirt copious quantities of kerosene oil into the oil hole nearest the seat of the trouble, allowing the coal oil to run out freely around and at the bottom of the bearing, carrying with it small particles of babbit, dust, lint, and grease.

Now turn the machine over by hand, rocking slowly forward and backward, a little at a time, until the "frozen" part breaks free. If difficulty is encounterd the bearing should again be flushed with coal oil, so that the bearing is continually flooded and at the same time slightly lubricated and the operation repeated until successful.

Feeding Light Tissues

Here is the trick most pressmen would like to know – how to run even the lightest weight tissue on Miller-fed Automatic jobber without picking more than one sheet. Put on lightest suckers. Cover each one with Kraft gummed paper shutting off all air. Take common pin, make one hole in each end, one or two holes in center sucker. Now so the feed rack grippers won't hold light sheet too tight, wrap 5 or 6 turns of ordinary store string around hook on cam on feed rack front end of shaft. With this arrangement tissue with holes in can be run, even the lightest weight tissue made.

– Ernest Smith, Troy, N. Y.

Perforating Rule and Type Run

When necessary to run a perforating rule with the type form, yet the rule must either cross or come very close to type matter, it is often difficult to get both good perforating and good printing. If the press size permits, run the job work-and-whirl, with the perforating rule in the second half of the form by itself, the type matter in the other half, and a much better job will result.

– *Chester F. Nye, Olympia, Wash.*

Saving Job Press Rollers

To keep from cutting rollers on ruled work where angle chase or expansion roller trucks are not available. Prepare form containing rules in usual way. Then take type high rule or border and run through saw, trimming 11 points less than type high. Place this strip or strips right up against end of brass rule and lock ready for press. This thin strip of metal keeps rollers from hitting sharp ends of rule thus saving rollers which otherwise would be cut to ribbons. If the rules are wide apart an extra lower cut can be given rule in between brass rules to keep from printing on sheet.

– N. M. Patterson, St. Paul, Nebr.

Simple Paste Pad

An ordinary wide strip of gummed tape, placed around the wrist, makes a suitable and quickly made paste pad for "spotting up" or general make-ready purposes. Some authorities claim that a certain kind of paste poisoning can occur where the practice of putting paste on the back of the wrist is consistently followed. They advocate a regular paste pan with a strap attachment for the wrist, which makes for both safety and utility.

However, the above suggested style made from gummed paper or pliable cardboard prevents the skin absorbing any paste, can be thrown away when the job is finished, and is much less expensive.

– *Preston Dalton, Collinsville, Ill.*

Pressroom Suggestions

To prevent rules from cutting rollers, lock a 4 pica piece of hairline rule across the end of rule far enough away so as not to print on paper. Also, when perforating on platen press, bring up the perforating rule with strips of cardboard under top sheet and paste a strip of muslin ¼" wide under top sheet. Have muslin pasted on both sides so that it will adhere to top sheet. There will be threads that strike between teeth of rule and prevent cutting a slit in tympan which would interfere with feeding.

– W. H. Richards, Indianapolis, Ind.

Cleansing Hands

Most of us don't like the looks of our hands after washing up a press. I've found that by rubbing some fibre grease on the hands before the wash up, that the oil will not penetrate into the pores and leave the hands dirty.

– *Wm. J. Dowrick, Sacramento, Calif.*

To Save Tympan Sheet

I often find that I can run a number of small jobs on the platen press, without changing the impression sheet, if it is not punctured with too many holes from the gauge-pins.

To avoid this, I insert the gauge-pins through short strips of gum-paper-tape, instead of through the impression sheet, and attach them in the desired positions. When a job is completed, the paper-tape is easily torn away, leaving the sheet smooth and ready for another short run job.

– G. E. Hendrickson, Argyle. Wis.

Creeping Forms

I had trouble with my forms creeping over sidewise when using only one side of the press. So I made a wooden frame to lock against, using ⅝ inch hard wood and strapping it securely to the bed as a safety first measure.

– *Clyde S. Moore, Inglewood, Cal.*

Uncertain Register Cure

Old presses have, as a rule, a certain amount of side play in the bed into which the chase is clamped. To avoid uncertain register from this defect, simply tap and thread four holes through the bed from the side, boring two holes in each side in such a way as to tighten on the chase when in position. The screws are tightened onto the chase and will not jar or work loose, and may even be used to a certain extent in assisting hairline register.

–Harry C. Hackett, Everett, Mass.

To Remove Dried Ink

When ink dries on the ink disc of a platen press, use a piece of steel wool, instead of a rag, with the usual cleaning fluid and the disc can be easily cleaned off without damaging the surface of the disc.

– *Kenneth Cook, Elizabeth, N. J.*

When Printing Letterheads

Most printers now buy their better letterhead stock already cut and packed in boxes of attractive appearance. When running a letterhead order put the bottom of the box in position where print ed stock is placed by delivery, either automatic or hand. This eliminates the handling of the stock while the ink is still wet, also keeps any finger marks off as the hands do not touch the stock anymore after placing in feeder or feeder table.

– Louis J. Walls, The Jasper Herald

To Wipe Off Tympan

Use a fine powder instead of gasoline for wiping off your tympan; it makes a cleaner job. Be sure to brush off thoroughly, however, as the powder may injure type on fine cuts.

– *C. R. Greene, Tippecanoe, O.*

Making Ready 88 Cards

In a shop where saving time is next to quality, this little suggestion will be very helpful. In making ready on an "88" card, which is sometimes rather difficult, take a piece of glass or other transparent material, cut it to the size of an "88" card and border it with a few deep scratches. Place this glass over the impression on the tympan, fix it so that the printed matter fits inside the border scratched upon the glass. Set pins accordingly.

– Robert S. Glasscock, Kansas City

Printing Raised Letters

If you want to do a small job of "raised letter" printing and don't have regular equipment, print the job with a rather heavy bodied ink, any color, dust with Burgundy pitch, (obtainable at any drug store) and heat over an electric plate. You will be surprised how rapidly you can turn out this work, and what excellent results you will get.

–P. H. Knowlton, Denver, Colo.

How To Kill "Static"

We have experienced considerable annoyance at times from electricity or "static" in running newsprint on our old drum cylinder, with the sheet sticking or clinging to the fly and falling bad.

By wiping the tympan with a rag well dampened with plain water we got fine results and no bad effects.

This wiping process is usually necessary only about two or three times to the thousand impressions.

– A. F. Masingill, DeQuincy, La.

Watermark Mixture

A mixture of castor oil and wood alcohol used in the place of ink will make a perfect watermark in any kind of hard finish sulphite or rag bond when applied to a perfectly clean press with good rollers. Any form or cut will appear as an ordinary water mark when allowed to dry thoroughly.

– Morland J. Morgan, Opp, Alabama.

To Prevent Pins Slipping

If your pins slip when running cardboard stock, or when you want a good register job seal bottom end of pins with red canning sealing wax. Light a match and hold under sealing wax to drip a good amount on tympan. Don't let it pile up above height of pin as the furniture of form will hit it and chip it off. To get off wax from ends of pins just snap the tongue or tap lightly with piece of metal.

– Stevens Job Printing, Adrian, Mich.

Using Celluloid Triangle

One of the handiest tools around a platen press is a transparent celluloid triangle such as is used by architects and draughtsmen. Nonpareils and picas can be scored on the two edges for ascertaining the margins when drawing lines before setting the gauge pins, thus insuring a straight margin on the printed sheet.

– W. F. Hagerman, Quincy, Ill.

Brush Felt Blanket

Often when the felt blanket on a newspaper press has been in use for a long time it becomes glazed and hard. In this condition it makes very poor packing for newsprint. To remedy this condition I brush it thoroughly with a wire brush until the fibres raise up. Then wet a sponge in water and lightly dampen the felt. It will swell slightly and regain its softness.

– Roy Brock, Hollister, California.

Platen Register

When feeding jobs on platen presses, too much care cannot be used to prevent the register from getting off. Especially is this true of color jobs and ruled jobs were duplicate or triplicate is made.

This worry can be banished by dropping a few drops of beeswax on the gauge pins after they are set. A match will easily melt the wax.

– Ralph Fritts, Amsterdam, Mo.

Washup For Metallic Ink

After running a job with metallic inks, such as gold or silver, a coating of ink remains on the rollers. The job of washing up will be greatly lessened if the rollers are first scraped, lightly but firmly, with an ink knife. The usual wash up follows easily.

– *Henry Napor, Jersey City, N.J.*

Dust With Talcum

If you have a job of bronzing a cloth back book I have a suggestion that will help you. Before printing, dust the surface to be printed with talcum powder.

The talcum will prevent the bronze powder from sticking to any part except that to be bronzed. The talcum will not effect the printing in any way. This helped me on a job I recently had and I pass it along to any one who has a job of this nature.

–Paul Wagoner, Mount Airy, N. C.

When Perforating

When perforating a job on the end, always use a 3-em piece of furniture between the chase and the rule. In this way you only wear one ridge in the roller. In other words put the perforation rule in the same place each time to avoid cutting the rollers in many places.

–*Charles Smith Jr., Inman, S. C.*

Checking Cut Rollers

Almost always, when I have a job with perforating rule in the form, provided the rule runs up and down as in a ticket with a stub, I take a piece of friction tape about ¼ inch wide and long enough to go around the roller once. I put these pieces of tape one around each form roller where the rule contacts the roller.

This will keep any roller from being cut by the rule, and does not affect the printing qualities at all.

– *Parker Printing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.*

Linoleum Blocks

I have had to print from linoleum blocks on several occasions, and in previous years I have tried various methods of "finishing" the surface so that it would take a minimum quantity of ink and prevent offset, especially on coated stock.

On this year's work, which included several school annuals, I had eighteen of these linoleum blocks to tackle. The first run, which included a large Indian head figure, proved a task. More ink, more squeeze, more rubbing with an eraser, but all of that failed to get me anywhere. The trouble as I could see it was "the small bumps" making the surface uneven. The blocks were cut from battleship linoleum and mounted on wood base, which was very straight and type-high. The surface had been treated with soapstone.

I even tried very fine emery cloth. So after spending a few minutes reasoning the problem, I secured a package of very fine steel wool. I lifted the cut, first using gasoline and the wool with good sturdy even strokes. The use of the steel wool gripped with the thumb and the fingers is all that is necessary, as there is no danger of damaging the plate. Rubbing should be fairly brisk and even over the entire face of the cut.

–Peyton W. Thomas, Plymouth, O.

TRICKS FOR THE COMPOSITOR

Finishing Linoleum Blocks

Linoleum Blocks caused me considerable trouble until I found a satisfactory method of "finishing" the surface so it would take a minimum quantity of ink and prevent offset, especially on coated stock. Using steel wool and gasoline with a sturdy, even stroke turned the trick. There is no danger of damaging the plate.

– Peyton W. Thomas, Plymouth, Ohio.

Linoleum Help

If and when you have come to the point, in your small shop, where you are using linoleum blocks for tint blocks or even undetailed illustrations, you will find it helpful to "burnish" the linoleum. This will take the "grain effect" out of the lay of ink transferred from it; it will print much more sharply and save ink considerably.

We have found that burnishing can be done most effectively when a soft pine block is used. The edges of the block should be rounded so that they won't dig into the linoleum.

After the linoleum block is well inked, the idea is to force ink into the "pores" of its surface by rubbing with the soft wood. A small block works better than a large one. Of course the process has to be repeated each time the linoleum block is washed.

– Arthur Rudd, Quincy, Calif.

Cleaning Type

A cup cake pan which can be bought in any five and ten cent store will prove useful in cleaning a case of dirty type quickly. Fill the small pans with lye water and on small fonts of type twelve different letters can be soaked in this lye water at a time. After soaking, fresh water can be poured over the pans from a running faucet to remove all traces of lye.

– Walter Masson, Boston, Mass.

Repairing Wood Blocks

Regardless of how much care is taken with wood blocks in cutting, locking up, or printing, nearly always they are dented or chipped at the stone, or the surface is harmed when a crumpled sheet gets through the press.

The old method or remedy was to soak the injured spot or dent with boiling water and, when the offending part had swollen, sandpaper smooth –a messy remedy at best.

A far better and more durable method is the following: Procure ten cents' worth of pure dental wax, melt with match or hot iron, fill cavity, rub smooth.

This wax will blend with the wood and will not show in any way on printed sheet and will stand fifteen to twenty thousand impressions.

– *George Francis, Buffalo, N. Y.*

Care of Planers

When your planers get all banged up and dish-faced from the mallet, take a piece of old belting about the same width, cut a slot with your saw so it will be flush with the surface and tack or glue it in. We make it a point to take planers to local wood shop every so often and dress down planing surface on a belt sander, so our planers are always "new."

–Irwin Coffey, Greenfield, Cal.

To Remove Cuts

In your March issue Cleveland asks about taking small cuts from wood bases without injury to the cuts. In my long experience I have found one very good way to accomplish what this questioner is trying to do: "I take the wood off the cut" rather than the cut off the wood– by this I intend to illustrate that it is the cut that must be kept perfect and the wood is of no consequence– therefore I use a wide knife or chisel and split the base in a line parallel to the cut face. This permits me to remove the lower approximate half of the wood which exposes the ends of the nails which can then be driven back enough to grasp with pliers and pulled out leaving the zinc or electro perfectly flat and uninjured.

– Virgil J. Temple, Glendale, Cal.

Lost Tweezers

Lost tweezers will no longer be a problem if this trick is used: Buy a clip such as is used to slip over the end of a pencil to hold it in your pocket. (Ten cent stores have them). Put the clip on your tweezers as you would on a pencil, then squeeze it tightly with pliers to fasten it securely. You can clip your tweezers to your pocket and they will stay there.

–Kenneth L. Wilson, Pillsburgh, Pa.

Saving Type

In a composing room with a cement floor, a strip of linoleum two or three feet wide down the ad alley or in front of the type case racks will yield big dividends. None but a clumsy compositor would drop large display letters very often, but anyone is apt to do so occasionally. Theoretically, a letter has six sides, and should light face down and be ruined only one time out of six, but alas, theories don't always work, and seemingly the letter is ruined nine times out of ten. Such a strip of linoleum will prolong the life of a series of type by at least 20 percent, and in addition will be thoroughly appreciated by floor men.

Locating Slugs

An easy way to find the exact location of the slug to be taken from the galley and the correction inserted is to place the marked galley proof alongside the galley up-side-down (of course with the reading side up). The proofreader's marks will be directly opposite the slug to be taken from the galley, thereby saving much time in locating the line to be corrected.

– George F. Herrington, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Better Looking Proofs

When a proof is pulled on other than the actual stock, much can be added to its appearance by placing a piece of the actual size stock against a windowpane, then lay the proof printed side against the stock. The light shining through makes both sheets transparent. Set the type in the position it should be when printed. Then take your thumb nail or pencil and trace the outline of the actual size stock on the back of the proof.

When turned over the proof will have a panelled outline of the stock and will show the position of the type and how it will look when printed.

– A. V. DiPietro, Marlboro, Mass.

For Identifying Cuts

Strips of paper with the person's name or description of the cut that have been pasted on the sides of cuts very often fall off, or the writing becomes blurred or dirty. The next time you are throwing in a publication or form with cuts in it, take the dead slug with the person's name or description and hit it quite hard with a planing mallet on the side of the cut. You won't have to say, "I wonder who this is," when a cut is to be used again.

– *Raymond C. Kaspar, Sioux City, Iowa*

New Use for Glue

Recently in experimenting with a high grade of linoleum for linoleum blocks, etc., we accidentally got a few drops of LePage's glue (with which we mount the linoleum on blocks) onto the printing surface. An attempt to wipe it off produced a thin shiny film which dried immediately and which seemed to produce a satisfactory printing surface, so we coated the entire surface, spreading the glue with the finger. The result was entirely satisfactory– more so than with any other system we have tried.

–R.A. Mollman, Milstadt, Ill.

Blank Paneling

A way to do blank paneling without rule or dies: Take a piece of 3-ply board about two inches wider than panel. Center the size of panel on the board with pencil and ruler, then take a steel rule and a razor blade or sharp knife and cut through on line. Paste one of the pieces on draw sheet of platen; after secured fit the other piece over, then take a cut, trifle larger than panel, insert lock-up and close press so that the unpasted piece can be pasted on to cut. Adjust pressure for sharpness of panel as you would on regular jobs.

– John H. Gehrke, Milwaukee, Wis.

To Transfer a Design

To transfer a design, drawing, or any picture printed with printer's ink to a linoleum block, lay the picture face down on the linoleum, soak a piece of blotting paper in ammonia, lay it on the back of the picture, place piece of heavy cardboard on top of this, and weight down heavily for five minutes; or place in a book or letter press for the same length of time. Don't leave picture in contact with linoleum longer than five minutes or paper will stick to block.

– C. E. Baker, Huntington, Pa.

TRICKS IN USING INK

Matching Ink

How many times have you run short of ink that you mixed, or have a little on hand that you must match. You can match this ink perfectly and save the time of pressproofing.

The method is to place a speck of the ink you have on hand and a speck of the ink you are mixing side by side about 12 points apart on a pad of machine finish paper which you should have on hand for this purpose, take a clean ink knife with a smooth edge and draw it evenly over both specks of ink at the same time, this will readily show your shade of color in comparison, as both specks of ink spread the same. Not like the old method of finger dab. If these speck-spreads are properly matched, your color should be okay for printing.

– M. J. Harmon, New Britain, Conn.

Avoid Ink Drying

Every printer has had trouble with ink waste due to the ink in an opened can drying out and becoming unusable. To avoid this, when we open a can of ink and use only a portion, we replace the lid on the can and using a small amount of melted paraffin seal the can making it airtight. When the can is re. opened the ink will be in perfect condition even though it has been months since the can was sealed.

– Helen W. Smith, Montgomery, Ala.

Grease Gun Saves Ink

There is no better way to handle printers ink than with an old discarded grease gun, the kind that screws in. You can find one in any garage.

Clean it out and fit a small nozzle to it. By giving the handle a turn you can get just the right amount of ink-you waste none. Furthermore, no skin forms on the ink. When the desired amount of ink is out, give the handle a back turn to hold excess ink in.

– Kent Reger, Buckhannon, W. Va.

Keeping Ink Fresh

Many small job printers use colored inks occasionally only, and when opening a tube that has previously been in use find to their sorrow that the ink has dried out. And what a problem, with a fresh tube probably several hours distance away. Here is how to keep your ink fresh. After using part of the tube necessary to finish the job, screw on the top, and place the tube in a small jar of some kind. I prefer the small pickle jars that cost a dime filled with pickles. Fill the jar with water and once in a while refill as the water evaporates, and when you take the tube out for use the next time you will find the ink nice and fresh. When the tube gets smeary on the out. side, use gasoline instead of water, and the tube will soon clear up. Label your bottles and there you are. A real money and ink saver.

– C. H. Krelle, Oakland, Nebraska.

TRICKS FOR THE LOCKUP MAN

For Numbering Machines

If you want to keep your numbering machines in good condition, just try this for a while.

Cut a block of wood the same size as your numbering machine used in the form and when you're finished running and ready to tie up, slip the block of wood in place of machine. With a stiff type brush, clean the machine out with kerosene. After the oil has drained, dip a piece of stiff bond paper in sewing machine oil and slide the end down between the wheels so that the shaft which the wheels rotate on will be well lubricated. Using the same method, lubricate the sides of the plunger.

When this is finished, put the machine away in a dustproof box.

The next time you want a machine you have one all ready for use. Besides, this method of giving trouble-free operation, will add a long time to the life of a machine.

– Richard Danielson, Port Allegany, Pa.

Handy Magnet Use

Makeup men can save themselves much time and bother by suspending a magnet from an old Model T Ford field coil over the center of each stone in shop. Makeup rules, composing rules, tweezers, and other small makeup tools will cling to them readily and always be in plain sight and easy reach when you are ready for them.

– Dave Head, Cathlamet, Wash.

Prevent "Filling Up"

Here is a real help that greatly decreases much of the "filling up" that accompanies forms with double rules, small type or even shaded type. Of course if the job of this nature is being run with perfectly clean ink and good seasoned rollers very little filling up will occur.

If you will have a 6-point type-high rule locked in the bottom of every form, scrubbing out can be averted. It should be locked parallel to the form and just far enough away so that it will miss the guides. Of course, this prints on the top sheet but this is of no consequence as it will be below the guides and will not mar the printed sheet as it is removed from the tympan. It seems that this rule literally scrapes each roller free of foreign material as they pass over it yet very little of it is picked up again for further distribution.

– *Preston Dalton, Collinsville, Ill.*

Protecting Rollers

When I have a form containing rules (perforating or plain) running crosswise in the form, I drive a small upholstery nail in the furniture at each end of the rules, out of the range of the sheet to be printed. This will bear off the rollers before they hit the sharp ends of the rules.

Sometimes I use a thumbtack but as that is short a small piece of nonpareil must be tacked on first. The nail must be type high or it will not be of any help.

– *Wesley Parker, Randolph, Mass.*

About Numbering Machines

Numbering machines that do not turn over correctly each time, and those that stick on impression while a form is being run, can sometimes be corrected by unlocking the form and putting less "squeeze" on the machine with the quoin key. Machines with no side walls, and those with walls removed may be easily affected in this manner. Trouble can be avoided, however, if each machine be carefully justified in the stick, both ways, before placing in the form. If the spacing material so used is kept at all time with the machine to which it belongs, the justifying operation need be done but once.

Justification Idea

When a form doesn't lock up properly, due to improper justification (lines not being tight enough) the trouble can easily be remedied with out going back over each line. Cut a piece of heavy blotting paper, the width of a lead, and lock it up against the ends of the type lines. This will fill up any slight unevenness at the ends of the lines, and the form will then lift satisfactorily.

– Kenneth L. Wilson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Plane Small Form Safely

When planing small forms for the job press, such as a line of script for a calling card job, or small envelope corner, much type is ruined by not having the planer square on the form. To avoid this I lock some type-high material, old brass rule or lino slug in the chase to hit on the platen below the guides; then when the form is planed by resting one part of the planer on the form and the other on the rule, a perfect job of planing can be secured without injury to the type.

– W. R. Patterson, Springfield, Ohio.

Scrubbing Forms

Before scrubbing forms, always dampen a cloth slightly with gasoline or other cleaning fluid and wipe off form. This cloth takes off a great portion of the accumulated ink and lessens the amount of inky fluid running down over the body of the type and spacing material when form is scrubbed.

– A. Raymond Davies, Philadelphia, Penn.

TRICKS FOR THE PAPER CUTTER

Stock Cutting

In cutting stock for tabbing jobs I have found that by counting the large sheets in the required amount and then inserting the chipboard before cutting saves a lot of time. i.e., a job of 500 half letter head size to be tabbed, the job would require 63 sheets of 17×22 stock. Thus I have eight tabs containing that number of sheets.

– Barney Barnhart, Lyons, Kans.

Paper Cutting Made Easy

Considerable labor and time can be saved at the cutting machine if the operator is supplied with a cake of good castile soap or paraffine wax and some talcum powder tied in a cloth bag. By soaping or waxing the knife before each cut it is possible to cut much larger lifts without straining the machine. This is particularly noticeable when cutting eggshell or similar stock. Heavy lifts of stock can be handled with greater ease if the bed of the cutter is dusted with the talcum occasionally. This permits the stock to slide easily against the guides, instead of dragging and usually spoiling the bottom sheet.

– Eugene J. Rhodes

Cutting Paper

Just a little discovery I made about cutting paper that I thought might help others.

I was cutting some enamel paper, which is always hard to handle, and the bottom sheet seemed to stick, making the stock uneven and hard to jog. I sprinkled a little talcum on the bed of the cutter and my troubles were over. Try this some time and see how any paper slides back to the guide.

– Ira S. Boynton, Minneapolis, Minn.

Changing Cutter Blade

Many of my co-workers have asked me how I change a blade on the paper cutter, Therefore, I thought this little bit of work might help someone else to change his blade on a paper cutter.

I first loosen my screws and then let the blade rest on the strip of wood; finish unscrewing the screws; and then I push the lever back in place, which leaves the blade resting on the wood. I then put two of the screws back in the blade and lift it out of the cutter holding on to the screws. After putting the blade where I want it, I take the screws out and put them in the new or sharpened blade and following the same procedure, I put the new or sharpened blade in the cutter, and bring the lever back in place, thereby eliminating any chances of cutting the hand or dropping the blade on the foot. Then I proceed to put the screws where they belong, and adjust the blade.

– C. duSheridan Quillin, Louisville, Ky.

TRICKS FOR THE PRESS FEEDER

Lids on Ink Cans

After a new can of ink is opened, rub a little machine oil on the inside rim of the lid and the next time the lid will come off easily, without prying or making jagged edges on the lid.

– L. C. Thompson - Beatrice, Nebr.

When Feeding

Oftentimes when a pressfeeder is feeding paper on a job press he has to stop and put glycerine on the tips of his fingers. If you take a piece of cloth about 2" wide and 6" long, put glycerine on it and tack one end to the under side of the upper feed board the pressman can easily run his fingers over the rag without missing an impression.

– John Hiebert, Los Angeles, California

To Keep Stock from Sliding

A large rubber band stretched around the feed-board of a job press will keep the stock from "working" or sliding off the board. Likewise a large section of an old inner tube tacked on the feed-board of a cylinder press will hold the sheets in place while the press is running.

– *Reuben Holmes, Osborne, Kans.*

Printing Gummed Paper

Here is a real help that will increase speed when printing gummed paper on a hand-fed machine. Sprinkle some talcum powder on the tympan and rub it lightly with the right hand. Do not wipe the powder off yon hand. This process will eliminate gummed paper from sticking to tympan and also from sticking to the hand, and will greatly increase speed in printing.

– George Szybcryaski, Milwaukee, Wis.

To Handle Stock

Many printers use glycerine to help them handle stock when feeding a press but here's a trick that's more helpful. Saturate a small piece of felt with a solution of turpentine, 1 oz. and yellow rosin ½ oz. Fasten the felt to your left wrist with two rubber bands and moisten the finger tips occasionally while you are feeding. You will find that you can grasp the individual sheets easily.

This idea is practical whether you are feeding a cylinder or platen press. Or you can use it any time you are handing paper.

– Albert C. Mayham, Grand Gorge, N. Y.

Prevents Bouncing

In feeding a large sheet on a platen press, the sheet frequently has a tendency to bounce away from the side gauge pin. By gluing a small piece of 6-point reglet to the tympan on the opposite side of the platen there will result little trouble from this condition. This makes almost a box into which the sheet is fed, but does not interfere in any way with putting the sheet into the press or taking it out.

– W. C. Vanderwerth, Bryan, Tex.

Aid to the Platen Feeder

When feeding a platen press, especially on soft stock, the stock will sometimes

"drag" when certain kinds of gauge pins are in use, resulting in a loss of speed, accuracy, and patience. If a wood match be whittled to a wedge and inserted in the front of the gauge pin over the tongue, and pushed in as far as it will go and then broken off, forcing the tongue closer to the tympan, the rough spot on the pin will be avoided, removing the trouble. The tongue may then be slightly bent up if too close to the draw sheet for easy feeding. Drag will be eliminated.

Feeding Envelopes

In feeding envelopes by hand, I place the envelopes on the feed board, face down, top from me, then slip my right thumb under the flap, flip it over on to the tympan, to the gauge. On the recoil, the fingers of the left hand pull the envelope off the tympan with the thumb closing the flap as it is placed on the delivery board, all in one operation.

– H. B. Foote, St. Paul, Minn.

Feeding Paper

In feeding poster paper on platen and cylinder presses, also other paper where the stock absorbs the moisture in the hand to such extent that it is hard to pick up the stock, it is to advantage to secure the top from a small mayonnaise jar, place a bit of blotter therein, and soak same with glycerine. The jar top may be placed within easy reach of the feeding hand, which may be moistened at will from this handy receptacle. Putting glycerine in the jar top keeps the feed-board clean and prevents the gummy and wet appearance of feed-boards when a dampened cloth is laid upon it.

– W. C. Vanderwerth, Bryan, Texas

Feeding Tip

I find in feeding sheets a very successful substitute for moistening the fingers with sponge, etc., to get the desired traction on the fingers so that the sheet is picked off readily, is to moisten the fingers with the modern padding cements which dry quickly to a rubber-like coating. If the fingers are dipped into this cement a rubber-like coating is applied to the fingers in a few seconds time, and it will last for a long time. It is easily removed with gasoline.

– *Raymond C. Stevens, Framingham, Mass.*

MISCELLANEOUS TRICKS

Spot Source

Used Stereotypes furnished by national advertising agencies are usually junked. Where a power saw is available, printers can often find attractive "spots" from these ads which they can saw out and lay away for use in local ads or in job work. Words such as "sale," "special," "bargain," and the like can be used repeatedly, or special words or sentences can be used for a certain copy. Whether these words are hand - drawn or in modern type they add to the variety in the shop. Mounting equipment is not necessary if nails are taken from other parts of the plate and the design to be saved nailed securely before sawing. With the care, words and letters can be sawed to point size. Care must be taken to keep all nails out of the line of cutting.

– John R. Brann, Mound City, Kansas.

Cleaning Galleys

When brass galleys become corroded from whatever cause, dip a cloth in a strong solution of ammonia and rub the surface of the galley briskly. It may be necessary to repeat this several times to restore the galley to smooth conditions. After the corrosion has been re-moved, wash well with clear water, oil the surface of the galley and polish with a clean cloth.

– Roscoe E. Haynes, Waterloo, New York

Press Feeder's Safety Device

Several year ago a boy had an accident in my shop when he reached for a sheet of paper that he had dropped between the plate and the delivery table as he was taking the sheet from the press. His hand was not badly injured because the back of the delivery board broke leaving more room for his hand than there otherwise would have been.

When replacing the board, I fastened it with a pair of small hinges costing only ten cent. These allow the back to fold over in case some other boy should be caught in the same way. It has saved several hands since that time.

The delivery table should be mortised about an eighth of an inch deep and the backboard set into the mortise so paper will not slip under it. The hinges should also be mortised in so paper will not catch on them.

– Chester L. Bond, Alhambra, California

Oil Hole Plugs

I have found that by cutting gulf tees half in two that they make excellent plugs for oil holes. Any place on the linotype or around the metal saw you will find that these will keep the metal out of the bearing. They also serve as a constant reminder of every oil hole on the machine.

– Vern L. Trumbo, Bedford, Iowa

Home-made Indirect Lighting

Many of the smaller printers can not afford to install indirect lighting. To enable one to secure such an effect over proof desks or small offices, just paint the lower third of an ordinary frosted electric bulb with silver or aluminum paint. The light should be suspended under a circular shield which may be cut from plywood, or made from tops of cookie barrels, and painted white. This shield diffuses the light, and if the bulb burns out, cost of replacement is very little. A hole may be made in the shield for slipping over the light socket.

– L. T. Ward, Philomath, Oregon

To Divide a Dimension

When I was a boy, my father showed me a simple way to divide an apparently indivisible dimension into equal parts. Suppose you want to divide a sheet that is 7¼ inches wide into four equal parts. You lay a ruler on the sheet at an angle so that the dimension is 8 inches from one edge of the sheet to the other. Then you point off at the 2, 4, 6 inch rulings.

– Harlo R. Grant, Chicago, Ill.

Silver Ink

When the stenciled inch marks on the front of your cutter bed are not dis-tinct, clean them out with a little solvent on a stiff brush; then fill in with silver ink, using a brass rule to do the job, and scrape off the surplus when it is dry. This will make them much more easily read.

– Buck Adams, San Francisco, California

Eliminate Curled Stock

I have had considerable trouble with curling stock and had to work with it for some time to get it under the weights for padding, until I devised a scheme which eliminated my trouble and gave me an even clean tabbing job. I did this by the use of rubber bands on the inside and outer edge. This holds the stock in place nicely until the weights have been placed.

– Jack C. Elmore, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

On Loosening Screws

When corroded screws will not yield to the coaxing of a screwdriver, they usually may be "thawed out" by the application of a little heat to the metal forming the socket for the screw threads. The slight expansion, caused by the flame of a torch, a lamp, or in case of light castings, even a match, will expand the screw socket enough to loosen the screw and permit its removal with wrench or screw-driver.

– H. U. Ackerman, Louisville, Ky.

For Press O. K.

So that nothing may be overlooked in okaying proof for press, I keep a printed sheet listing the various points to watch carefully as follows (each item, of course, being made a paragraph for easy reference):

Position; register; numbered correctly; pages begin and end correctly; fold O. K.; widows; cuts head up; cuts trans-posed; caption and cut correspond; read captions, heads and subheads, running heads, initials, swash, imprint, insist that page proof and ticket accompany press proof; read ticket carefully; check marks on proof; are there any page references in text that have not been inserted after index was made up?; stock-proper brand, size, color, allow for trim, any changes in duplicates, etc.; number on press or by hand; perforate; compare dates with calendar; volume and number; is scoring rule parallel with forms?; watch for 2-up job on ticket; do bleeding cuts trim O. K.?; check for gripper bite; is sheet properly imposed for push or pull form, for proper lockup and fold?

– E. B. Harding, Brookings S. D.

Reviving Cam Rollers

When rubber cam rolls on a typesetting machine become glazed and fail to operate the cam properly, it is possible to forestall purchase of a new rubber roll by cleaning them with a rag dampened in turpentine or alcohol to remove the "shine" and increase gripping power.

– A. Raymond Davies, Philadelphia.

Remedy for Ink Tube Troubles

Ever have the cap of an ink tube refuse to come off? Never mind! Just drill a hole in the cap and plug it after you have used your ink. An ordinary wood screw, the fatter the better, makes a good plug, and is easily removed the next time. And then it the ink is rather hard, sometimes it will refuse to come out the mouth of the tube and break the tube in some other place. Again, never mind! Use your ink and then patch the break in the tube with a piece of gummed paper from your bundle counter.

– *Robert A. Foss, Laconia, N. H.*

Save Counting

On all forms where stock can be cut slightly oversize without waste, or where the trim is sufficiently large, run a numbering machine in this margin. This will save counting for padding or packaging purposes. The number can be trimmed off after being gathered, or sized off. On jobs which bind, the number can sometimes be run on the bind margin and will be concealed by the stitches and binding.

– Ryland C. Pelly, Salina, Kansas.

Care of Numbering Machines

Never use type wash for cleaning numbering machines. Benzene or kerosene is best. When not in use, machines should be kept in a solution of refined kerosene and fine oil. This loosens the ink and lubricates.

– *Numbering Machine Service Co. Chicago, Illinois*

Use Paraffin

Unless machine oil is put on the lid of the can very lightly it might get into the ink and discolor some.

All ink cans in our plant have paraffin rubbed on the edge of the lid and on the rim of the can.

If any particles of paraffin get into the can of ink, they will not discolor the ink since they are almost pure.

Also paraffin rubbed on the slides of type racks will make them slide 100% easier.

– John J. Mossman, Cincinnati, Ohio

Keep Tympan Clean

Why pull an impression on the tympan? To set platen guides? Lightly paste a sheet of tissue in the approximate position you expect the form to print. Set your guides, then remove the tissue. Result: No offset.

Color register is made on tissue, not on the tympan.

– *Charles Broad, Chicago, Illinois*

Hurry-up Platen Guides

A roll of cellulose tape and the usual quads make fine hurry-up guides on the platen. Not recommended for long runs, but only for those frequent short ones, this "quick-guide" method will prove suitable where you want to save the tympan when changing from statements to letterheads and vice versa.

– *Charles Broad, Chicago, Illinois*

Loosen Burned-in Screws

Burned in screws respond to turpentine. Never have I failed to remove a stuck screw with the aid of it. Usually the screws will come loose after being soaked 10 or 15 minutes but sometimes a longer time is required.

– *W. O. Forsythe, Lancaster, Mo.*

Short Measure Hand-set

Hand-setting of type set in short measures usually proves difficult in holding the type in place with your thumb. This can be solved by placing in the stick a piece of furniture the same width as the type measure. The furniture should be long enough to reach within two picas of the foot of the stick. Then put in your slug and set the type in the usual manner.

Deckle Edge

To get a deckle edge just jog the paper and hold it firmly between fingers or two strips of wood and run it horizontally across a high speed saw.

Warm up Cold Rollers

Pressmen plagued by brick-hard rollers during cold weather can save much grief by warming them at the start of the day with an inexpensive reflecting type electric heater. The heater may be set in the feeder or delivery of the platen press and directed on the rollers which are rolled up on the ink disk. The light drop above the press is always handy to plug in the heating unit.

Care should be taken not to place the heater too close, as this tends to soften the rollers only in one spot, making them apt to be lopsided when cool. If properly placed the heat reaches the entire roller length and considerable warmth is absorbed by the ink disk. Give the rollers an occasional turn so as to warm the entire diameter of each.

Placing of the heater can be worked out satisfactorily for any platen press or small cylinder unit.

Extracting Mats

A pica reglet half the length of magazine with a rubber band wound on the end makes an efficient instrument in extracting mats that have fallen across the magazine channels.

– *Martin Sharki, Morrisville, N. Y.*

Printed in the Richmond senior high school print shop. Type setting, layout, design and presswork was done by the students of the printing classes, 1940-41. Binding by the bookbinding class.

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