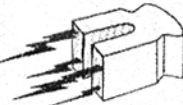
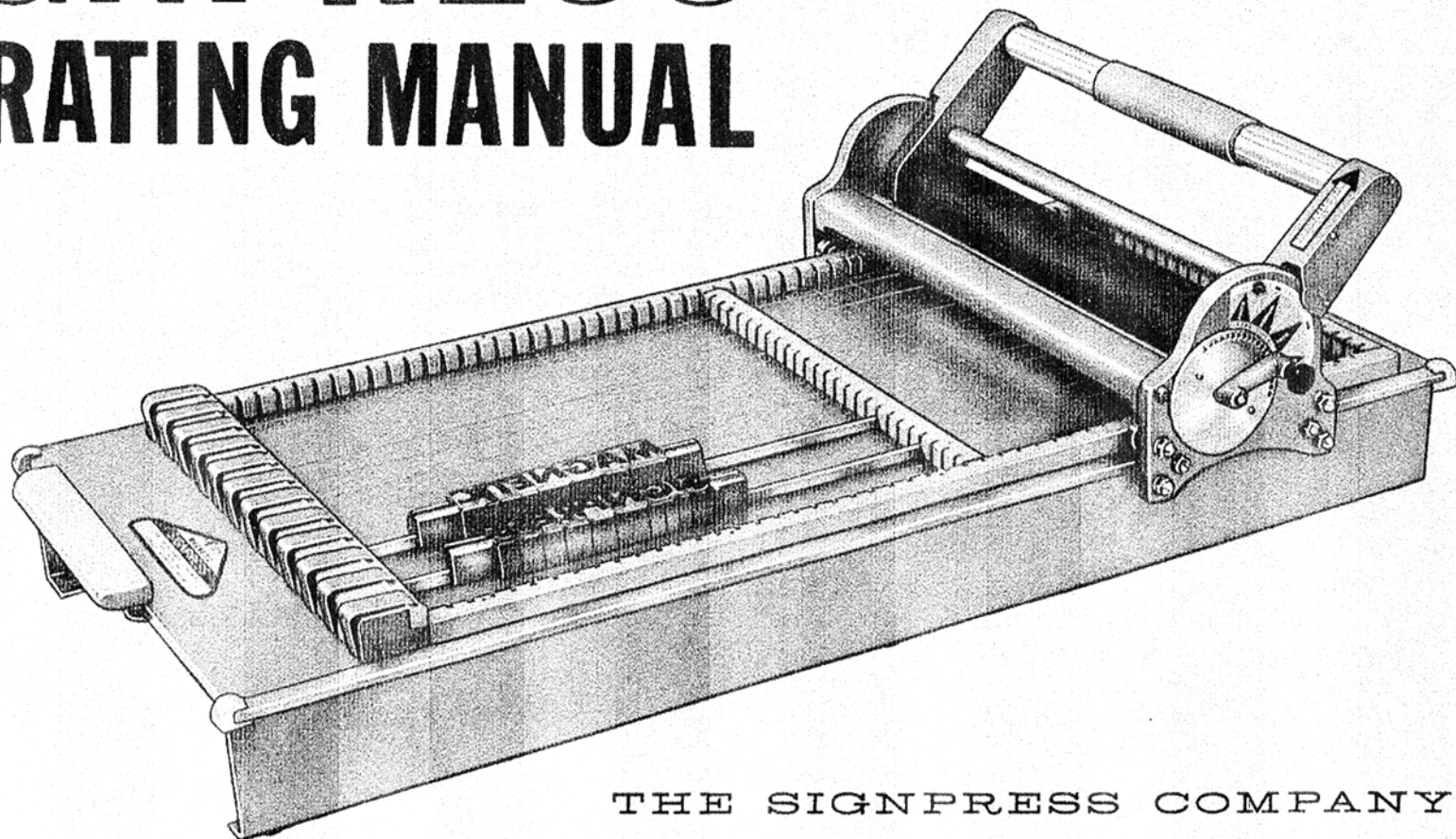


MAGNETIC MODEL 

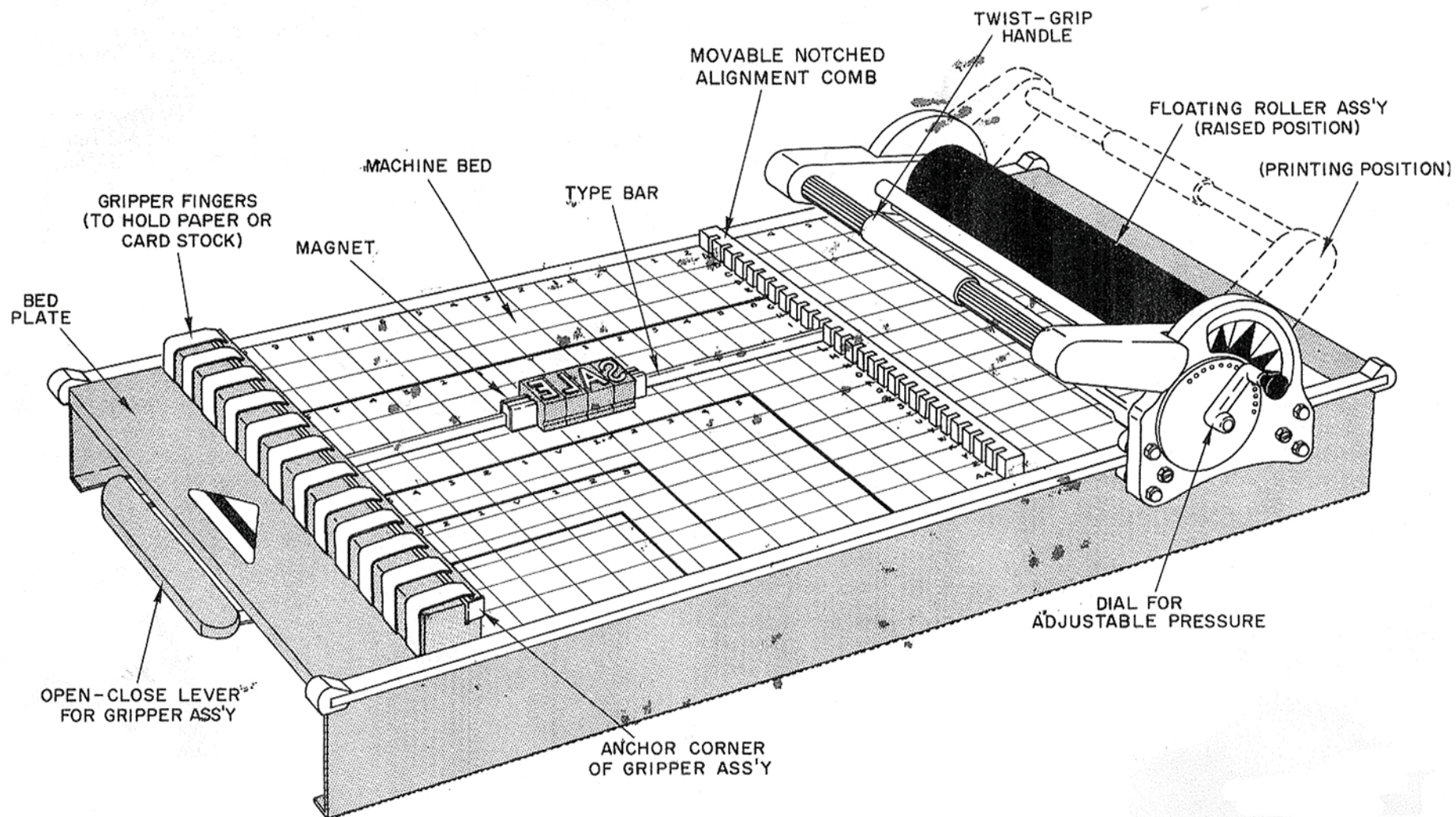
SIGNPRESS

OPERATING MANUAL



THE SIGNPRESS COMPANY

Box 1267, Galesburg, Illinois 61401



CARE IN UNPACKING MACHINE AND SUPPLIES

In choosing the Magnetic SIGNPRESS, you have purchased the finest sign making equipment. When properly operated and cared for, it will last for years.

Remove the packing material and braces from the shipping case. Then remove and set aside the several small boxes of type and supplies. Grasp the SIGNPRESS firmly underneath the bedplate at each end and lift it from the shipping case. Place the machine on a bench or sturdy table. Do not lift machine by Gripper Lever.

We have applied a thin coat of oil on the bed of the machine to protect the surface from rusting during storage and shipping. The machine and bed should be wiped clean with a dry cloth. To insure smooth carriage movement, the bearings (wheels) should also be wiped clean.

The type cases are packed separately. Unpack these from the shipping containers.

PERMANENT SET-UP IS IMPORTANT

Your SIGNPRESS should be set up permanently in a convenient location where it is ready and available at all times for making signs. Our bench and type rack is illustrated in our catalog. If you did not include this item in your order, provisions should be made to set the SIGNPRESS on a rigid bench or table. If possible, arrange type trays directly back and above the machine — at least within easy reach to the side of the SIGNPRESS. Your workbench should provide sufficient space on top to lay lines of type for make-up and working space. The top should be 32"-36" high.

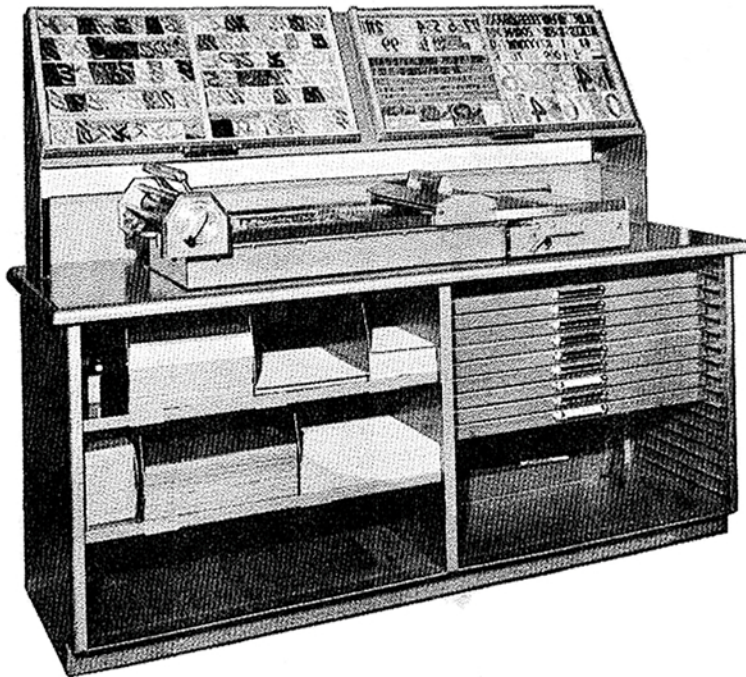
Best results can be obtained if the temperature in the room being used is 65° to 72°. This permits a more even distribution of the ink and will give a much better appearing finished product. The temperature, for room and paper, aids in absorption and drying.

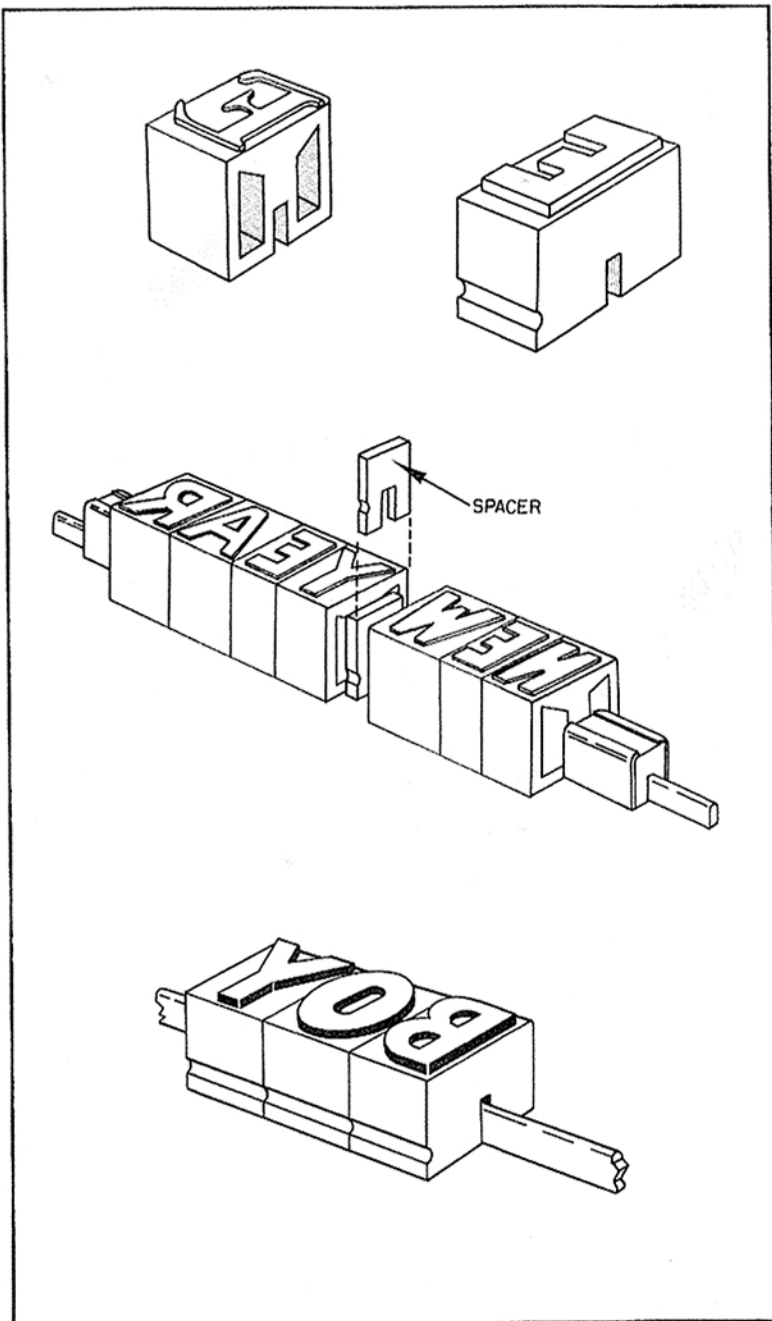
ARRANGING THE TYPE IN TYPE TRAYS

The easel-type trays have legs attached which allow the trays to be placed in an upright position. Assemble each leg with the small machine bolts included with the set. When trays are used with our bench, the legs are not necessary.

You will note the bars in the type trays are adjustable to various positions within the trays for different type sizes. The type is identified on the containers in which it is packed as to style and size. It is suggested you start with the smallest type and arrange it in the trays from smallest size to largest, etc.

NOTE: Start "A" in lower right hand corner and work left and across with the alphabet.





OPERATING THE SIGNPRESS

Only professional printer's type is used on the SIGNPRESS. Normally, sizes up to 72 pt. (1") are metal. Sizes over 72 pt. are "micro-precision" endgrain (rock) maple. Both are sharp characters that will produce good signs, and if properly cared for, will last for years. Signature cuts, illustrations in engraving plate form, and linoleum blocks may also be printed on SIGNPRESS.

Type furnished for use on SIGNPRESS has a groove milled in the base. This groove fits over the aluminum type bars on which the type is assembled, and holds the type in alignment for printing.

NOTE: Depending on size, type will either have a notch along the bottom side OR an air cell (opening on side of type).

To correctly position type, the notch should always be at the bottom or toward you. On type with an air cell, the air cell should be on the right side as you face the type.

PICKING AND SETTING THE TYPE

There are two common methods of picking and setting type:

METHOD #1. Place the type bars on the machine bed, inserting the ends of the bars in the notches of the type bar alignment comb. Insert the end of the bar towards the gripper assembly first, and then insert the other end of the bar in the corresponding notch, either at the end of the machine for large signs, or halfway position (alignment comb) for smaller signs. As the bars are placed on the machine, they should be placed at approximately the position you wish the type lines to appear on your layout. If the bars need to be moved to other notches, this is easily accomplished later. This is the most popular method because it leaves the type bars in place and requires only changing the type characters. Type characters are picked from the trays and placed over the bars already in place on the machine. Leaving the bars in place aids in making several signs of the same size which require the same essential layout but different words (copy). Select the characters you wish by taking them from the type trays just as you would spell the word being used. The characters are placed on the bars, just as they are spelled, from RIGHT to LEFT. To spell BOY, you would place the B first and the O next, placing it to the left of the B; Y would next be placed immediately to the left of O (see illustration). Metal spacers are used between words. Spacers of various widths are supplied to achieve the desired spacing. If you wish to print lines on an angle, see how this is accomplished in Method #2; however, angles can be used with the other steps of Method #1.

METHOD #2. First, select a type bar long enough to hold the line you will print. Hold the bar in one hand and pick the type from the type trays with the other hand,

and place on the bar. Select the type characters in the order in which you would spell the line. The type will appear on the bar in correct spelling sequence, from RIGHT to LEFT. Spacers are used between the words. The different sizes may be used in various combinations to get just the space you wish.

As each line of type is assembled on the bar, insert the ends of the bar in the alignment comb at each end of the SIGNPRESS. This enables you to run the type in straight lines on the printed sheet. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A LINE ON AN ANGLE, place the line of type on the bed of the machine at the desired angle, without placing the bar in any notches (you may need to use one of the shorter bars).

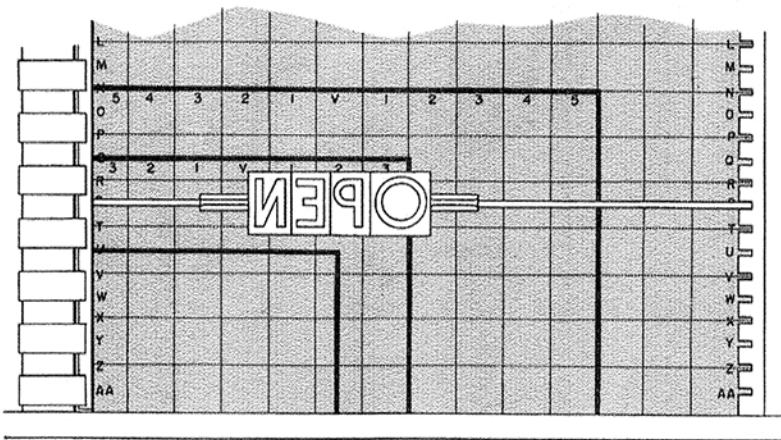
SPACING TYPE ON MACHINE AND LOCK-UP

The machine bed is marked with double lines to indicate STANDARD CARD SIZES (3½" x 5½"; 5½" x 7"; 7" x 11"; 11" x 14"; 14" x 22"), depending on the size of machine you purchased. The finer lines help in spacing and proper alignment. Each fine line represents 1 inch. You will want your copy to appear within the heavy guide lines in just the same position as you wish to see it printed on a card or paper of the same size. In addition to the lines on the machine, you will see numbers and characters. We have established the center for the various standard size forms, which is represented by a "V" on the bed of the machine. From these centers, the 1" squares are numbered equally in opposite directions. These numbers allow instant centering of your lines of type. The alphabet characters (A, B, C, D, etc.) are to assure a type bar is placed on the same notch at both ends AND to aid in placing lines of type in the same location from card to card.

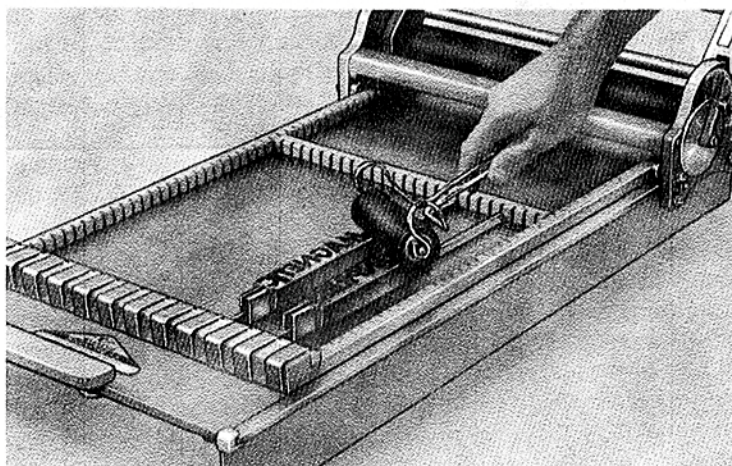
After the type is on the type bar and placed on the machine, it may be properly centered by sliding it along the bar. While sliding the type pieces, observe the lighter lines and numbers. When a line is properly centered (if you want it centered), the ends of the line of type should end up in the same location in like numbered squares (see the illustration). **When the type is located as you wish, lock in place by placing magnets at both ends of each line of type.** Even after magnets are in place, the copy may be removed, if necessary.

Each groove is identified with A, B, C, D, etc. The type bar should always be in identically marked grooves at both ends to have a straight line.

NOTE: Your machine is equipped with an alignment comb that is notched. The alignment comb should be placed in the holes located in the bed of the SIGNPRESS for making signs 14" in length, or smaller. This allows working with shorter bars. When using the machine for signs larger than 14", remove the alignment comb, which has studs on the bottom, and use the alignment comb at the far end of the machine to accept the long bars.



The line of type in illustration is centered on the 7" x 11" standard card size area.



INKING

After the type is picked and locked in place on the machine, it must be inked. Squeeze about one-half inch of ink from the tube towards the upper edge of the ink platen. Using one of the brayers supplied, roll the brayer into a very small dab of the ink on the platen by merely touching the roller to the pile of ink slightly. Now work the inking roller back and forth towards the bottom of the ink platen, lifting the roller at the end of each forward and backward stroke. The roller will revolve and distribute the ink evenly over the brayer. When ink is evenly distributed, transfer the ink to the type with the inking brayer. Apply a THIN uniform film of ink to the type. Roll the brayer over the type 2-3 times on a slight angle. For perfect coverage, roll it back and forth along the line of type as well as rolling top to bottom on each type face. The magnets will hold the type in place during this operation. If more than one color of ink is desired, merely prepare the other color or colors in the same manner as above and apply with separate brayers to the type you wish to print in color. When making more than one copy of a sign, you should re-ink the type after each sign.

Use as little ink as possible — it is much easier to correct under-inking (especially with our card gripper) than over-inking. **REMEMBER** — take only a very small amount of ink on the brayer, and be sure to roll it out well on the platen by lifting your brayer from time to time to help spread the ink evenly over the roller part of the brayer before applying to the type.

PRINTING

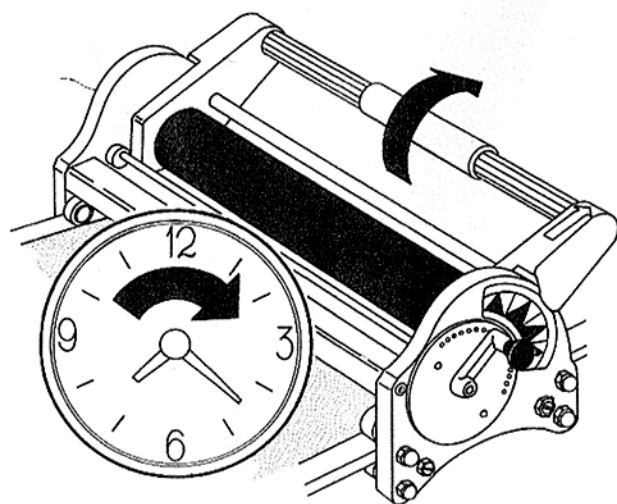
This section provides an explanation of the various parts of the SIGNPRESS and then a step-by-step description of **HOW TO PRINT**. The correct position for an operator is to stand at the left end of the machine as you face the side of the SIGNPRESS with the Adjustable Pressure Dial. This side should **ALWAYS** be the side from which the machine is operated. In this position, the operator can easily retain a grip on the handle, good balance, and operate the Adjustable Pressure Dial.

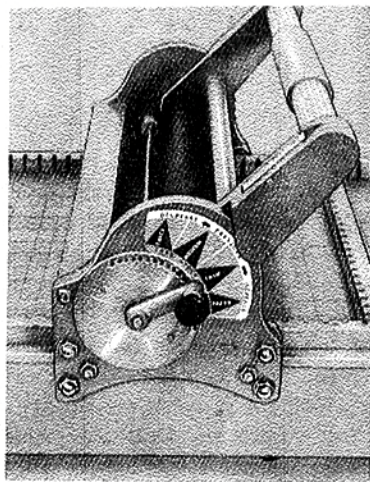
The “**TWIST-GRIP HANDLE**” is illustrated in the drawing of the Magnetic SIGNPRESS on page 1, and in the illustration at the left. When the “twist-grip” is applied by grasping the handle and turning your wrist to the right (clockwise), a braking action takes place to hold the printing pressure on the roller at the proper height for the cardboard or paper you select. It may be well at this time — before actually printing — to take hold of the “twist-grip” and turn it to the right with your right hand. As you have the grip twisted firmly to the right, try to raise the handle. You will note the handle cannot be moved and therefore the printing roller cannot move up or down. When you print, it is necessary to keep the “twist-grip” turned to the right during the entire pass over the material being printed. Otherwise, the printing roller will not be locked in position for an even distribution of pressure over all the type.

— READ THIS — IT IS VERY IMPORTANT —



GOOD OR BAD SIGNS ARE A RESULT OF INKING
TOO MUCH INK CAN BE A PROBLEM — IT PROLONGS DRYING
AND RESULTS IN UNEVEN EDGES ON PRINTED CHARACTERS



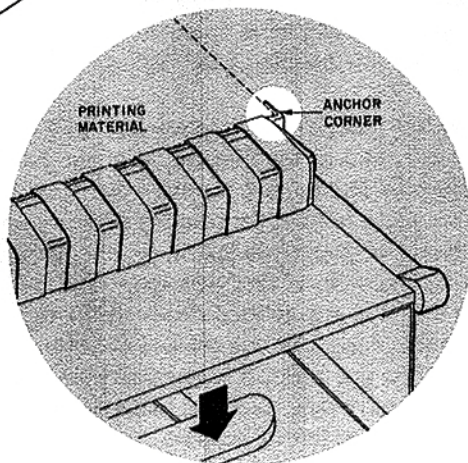
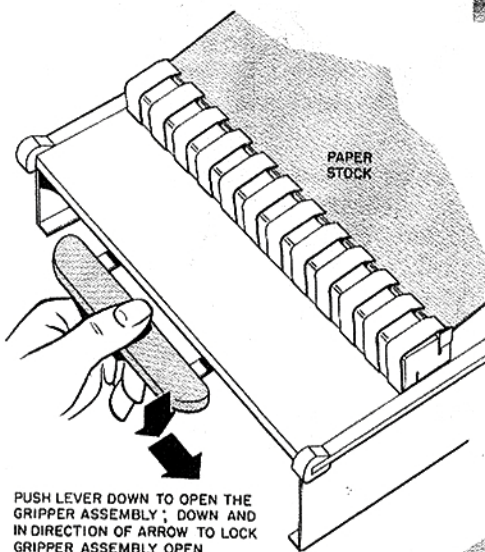


Exclusive "FLOATING PRESSURE ROLLER". By moving the handle of the roller carriage forward and backwards, you will notice the pressure roller will raise and lower. This feature allows the roller to raise clear of the type when returning pressure roller to the gripper end of the machine. This is very important and will become more apparent as you work with the SIGNPRESS. There are two positions for the printing roller: 1. Raised — when not printing. 2. Printing position. These positions are illustrated in the drawing of the SIGNPRESS on page 1.

The "ADJUSTABLE PRESSURE DIAL" is shown in the drawing on page 1 and in the illustration at the left. This dial is graduated in pre-determined areas for cardboard (thicknesses), and for paper. If you are going to print on 6 ply cardboard, pull the black knob on the dial, which releases the pin hold. Then move the dial until it is opposite "THIN" on the graduated dial, and release the pin hold. The same procedure would be followed for any thickness of cardboard or for paper. The fact that the settings are pre-determined is important — however, these are only average settings. You may find a better print will result if you move the dial a notch to the right of your first setting to increase pressure, or a notch to the left to decrease pressure. Therefore, the important feature here is the ability to increase or decrease pressure INSTANTLY by moving the adjustable pressure dial. Many times mill shipments of cardstock or different inks will require printing at a dial setting different than you first selected.

The "GRIPPER ASSEMBLY" holds your paper or cardboard in place while printing. The "gripper" is opened by depressing the gripper lever bar with your left hand. To close the gripper, simply release the pressure on the gripper lever bar and the gripper will close. If you have a large piece of cardboard or a thin (flimsy) piece of material to print, you will find it difficult to insert such material into the gripper with one hand. For such material, we have developed an exclusive "Lock-Open" feature for the gripper. The gripper is locked open by depressing the gripper lever bar with your left hand, and while it is pressed down, pulling the bar towards you. Let go and the gripper will remain open. Now take both hands and position your material to be printed into the "Anchor-Corner" of the gripper. When in position, hold the material with the right hand and close the gripper with the left hand. The gripper is closed by pushing the bar lever away from you and allowing it to raise. As the gripper closes, it will hold your material firmly.

IMPORTANT: When inserting material in the gripper, BE SURE to put the corner of the material into the "Anchor-Corner" of the gripper assembly. With the gripper open, put the material exactly into the corner towards the front of the machine (corner closest to you) and the edge of the material all the way into (under) the gripper fingers. By always placing your material into the "Anchor-Corner", you will be able to re-register for a second impression, if necessary due to improper pressure or inking.



Step By Step HOW TO PRINT

Assuming the type is all set and inked, you are ready to print.

1. With the printing roller in the raised position, move the carriage assembly to the gripper end of the machine.

2. Open the gripper assembly with the gripper lever bar. Insert the material to be printed and close the gripper to hold the material while printing. NOTE: When feeding cardstock, it is much easier to control if held on the front edge rather than the end. Grasp the cardstock between the thumb and forefinger in the middle of the edge closest to you.

3. Set the Adjustable Pressure Dial to correspond with the material being printed.

4. Roll the roller carriage forward just enough to clear the gripper assembly when the pressure roller is put in printing position — this is only about 1". Be sure this is done, otherwise the roller will be adjusted to the height of the gripper assembly and not to the height of the type and cardstock to give you a proper impression.

5. Move the roller carriage handle to your right — this will swing the printing roller into printing position. Turn the "Twist-Grip Handle" to the right (clockwise) to lock the roller for correct pressure.

6. Now with the "Twist-Grip Handle" and carriage roller locked, pull the roller up to the type edge. If you feel a hump through the cardstock, adjust your roller higher by moving the dial a notch or two to the left, until you can hardly feel the type pressure on the roller. If more pressure is required, move the dial to the right. Once this adjustment is made, pull the roller carriage to the other end of the machine across the material being printed in ONE sweeping motion. **BE SURE DIAL PIN HOLD IS INSERTED ALL THE WAY IN NOTCH SO THAT ADJUSTMENT WILL NOT SLIP. NO FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IS REQUIRED UNTIL YOU CHANGE TO ANOTHER THICKNESS OF MATERIAL.**

7. Release hold on the "Twist-Grip Handle" and swing handle left to raised roller position. Return the roller carriage to the gripper end.

8. Lift the right-hand end of the printed material until it is clear of the type. Then depress the gripper lever bar with your left hand. As the gripper releases the material, take it from the machine. By following this method of releasing printed material, it will keep you from twisting the printed material on the type and causing a blurred or imperfect job.

9. Inspect the piece for good uniform ink coverage. If there is an imperfection due to improper inking, re-ink the type where necessary. Place the card back in the card gripper exactly as before by inserting cardstock into the "Anchor-Corner", and print the piece again. If the piece appears to have uniform coverage but the impression is too light, possibly the pressure is not enough. If this is the case, increase the pressure by moving the dial a notch or two to the right. Re-insert the material into the "Anchor-Corner" and print it again. The pressure roller should bear slightly on the material and type, yet the roller should not bump or bind when pulled over the material being printed.

MULTIPLE COPIES

Multiples may be made in seconds on the magnetic SIGNPRESS. Type must be inked between each copy to assure good ink coverage on each copy.

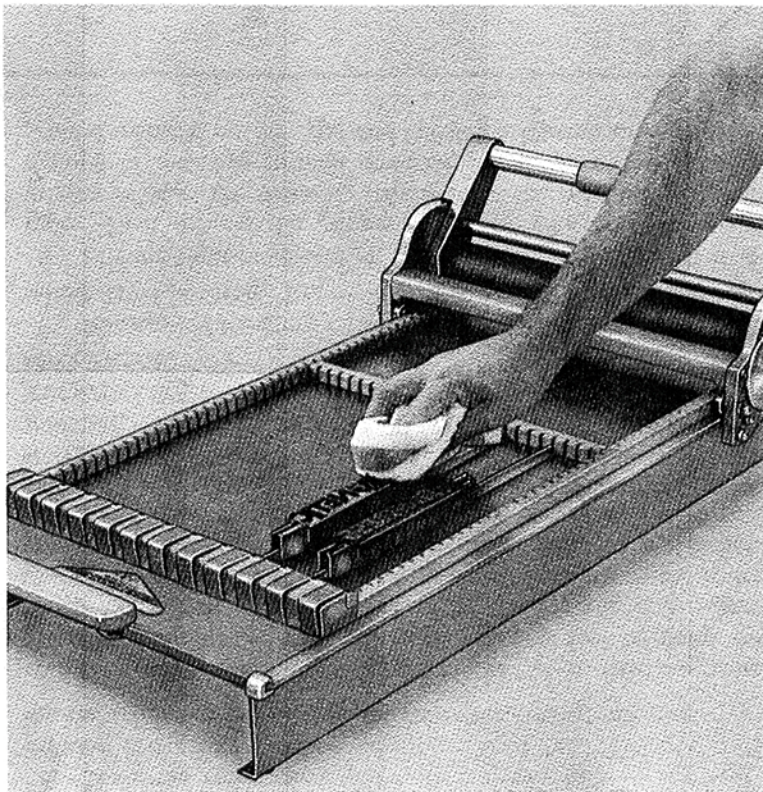
MOUNTED CUTS (ELECTROS), PICTURES, LOGOS, ETC.

Regular mounted cuts (electros) of pictures, logos, signatures, etc., that you would like to print may be printed on the SIGNPRESS, either alone or at the same time as type is being printed. These are regular mounted cuts used by any letterpress operation. They can be obtained locally from your engraver. See your newspaper or a letterpress shop to aid you in obtaining same. If they are unavailable in your area, we will be happy to obtain cuts for you. Such cuts may be placed on the machine and blocked in place with magnets around the perimeter of the "cut" in about 4 places. Any cuts we supply in our catalog are grooved and may also be set over bars, the same as type. You may wish to have someone with a table saw groove your cuts; however, it is not at all necessary.

The same lock-up procedure as above could be used for linoleum block, etc.

TROUBLE SHOOTING CHART

If you feel you are not obtaining the results you want after following the STEP-BY-STEP procedure, consult the Trouble Shooting Chart at the end of the Manual.



CLEANING TYPE

Always clean type before removing from machine. The type will be cleaner to handle and it only takes a moment with a cloth moistened with type cleaner. After wiping the type clean, replace in trays in alphabetical order.

Use cleaner sparingly to avoid getting it on the bed of the machine. Type is much easier to clean right after using than if allowed to set for any length of time. By cleaning as you go, you will not have a big cleaning job at the end of the day or signmaking session. WOOD TYPE requires some caution. The printing surface of wood type has a highly polished finish. This finish can be ruined by some commercial type cleaners. We, for this reason, recommend our Type Cleaner. To clean wood type, merely wipe it off with a cloth that has been dampened with the correct cleaner for the ink you are using. Wood type should not be saturated with anything, even water. Liquids will get into the grain of the wood type and they may warp. Do not allow ink to dry hard on the surface before cleaning. Ink platens and rollers should also be cleaned at the end of each day with the same cleaner used for cleaning the type.

**"CLEAN TYPE AND EQUIPMENT IS ESSENTIAL
FOR PROFICIENT SIGNING"**

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

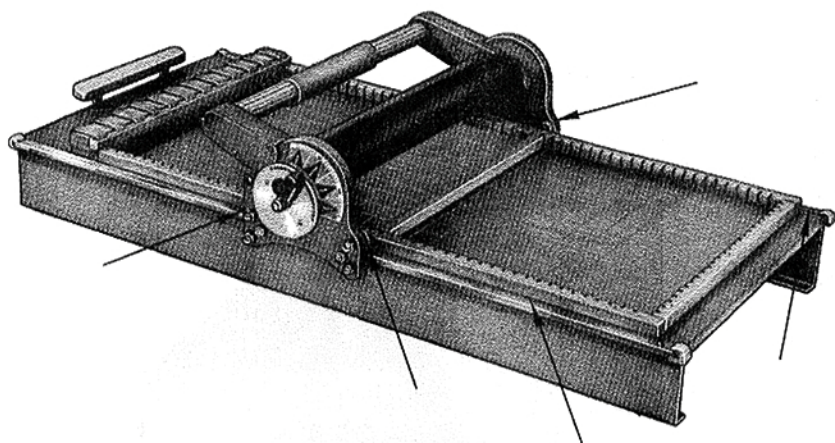
Your SIGNPRESS Machine is ruggedly constructed to last a "business lifetime", if properly cared for. A drop or two of oil on each of the small rollers, at points illustrated at the left, is advisable every two or three months. At the same time, place a few drops of oil on each track and run the pressure carriage back and forth several times. This will loosen any dirt which has accumulated on the track. Wipe off excess oil and you will find the roller carriage runs much easier.

We suggest a very thin coat of oil be applied with a cloth to the printing bed of the machine occasionally, to avoid any rusting of the metal.

The "brayer" handles and rollers should be cleaned at the end of each inking session. The cleanliness of the roller part of the brayer will have a lot to do with proper ink coverage on the type face. A quick suggestion for cleaning your rollers (brayers) is to apply type cleaner to a roller and then run the roller back and forth over a sheet of newspaper to remove the excess amount of ink. Then wipe the roller clean with a cloth moistened with type cleaner.

With each SIGNPRESS and Accessories, you are provided with an ink "platen" (ink plate) for ink distribution onto the brayer. Clean the platen at the end of each printing session.

Removing of ink on the "carriage roller" or any other portion of the SIGNPRESS is accomplished by simply wiping with a cloth moistened with our type cleaner.



TROUBLE SHOOTING CHART

FAULT	CAUSE	REMEDY
POOR INK COVERAGE (PIN HOLING)	Not enough ink	The brayer must have a thin uniform ink coverage in order to ink the type correctly. It may be necessary to go from ink platen to the type 2-5 times in order to ink the entire type.
	Not enough pressure	Adjust the pressure dial a notch or two to the right to increase pressure.
	Ink too thick, or dried ink or foreign substance on type face	Put out new ink and check to see if type face needs cleaning.
UNEVEN EDGES ON PRINTED CHARACTERS	Too much pressure	Decrease the pressure by moving pressure adjustment dial a notch or two to the left.
	Too much ink	The ink should be rolled out thin on the ink brayer (roller) to give thin, even coverage on type.
UNEVEN INK COVERAGE	Uneven pressure	This is corrected by keeping the Twist-Grip Handle locked to the right during the entire printing operation to hold pressure roller at correct height.
BLURRED CHARACTERS	Releasing gripper before card is clear of type	Lift the cardboard or paper free of the type before releasing gripper. This will eliminate twisting the printed piece on the inked type and smearing or blurring the printed characters.
SLOW INK DRYING	Improper cardboard or paper	If using OIL ink you must have a paper or cardstock that allows the oil ink to penetrate its surface. Otherwise the oil must remain on the surface and air dry which takes long periods. Test various materials until you find a cardstock or paper for best drying. (We recommend the cardstock in the SIGNPRESS Catalog for best results.)
	High humidity	
	Ink applied too thick	Again, we cannot stress too much the fact that ink must be applied in thin coats. Try applying a smooth, thin coat for better results.



THE SIGNPRESS COMPANY

GENERAL SALES OFFICE: BOX 1267, GALESBURG, ILLINOIS 61401

PLANT: 4650 WEST MAUMEE STREET, ADRIAN, MICHIGAN 49221