

A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR MAKING PAPER POTS

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A simple hand-operated machine for making pots from common roofing paper was devised at the U. S. Southern Great Plains Field Station in 1936. Its principal parts are a wooden block to force a previously cut strip of roofing paper (Figs. 1 & 2) into a mold and makes it U-shaped. The parts of the strip protruding above the block in the mold are then creased by folding them over the block (Fig. 3). The device is built permanently into a rough table and has a foot treadle with a spring release for raising the block out of the mold (Fig. 4). After the paper-wrapped block is raised from the mold, the creased paper is slipped off and the overlapping parts are fastened together with a common hand stapler such as can be bought at any stationery store. The bottom of the pot is formed by making at one end a cut of suitable length at each of the four corners with a small rose clipper and then interlacing the four tabs (Fig. 5).

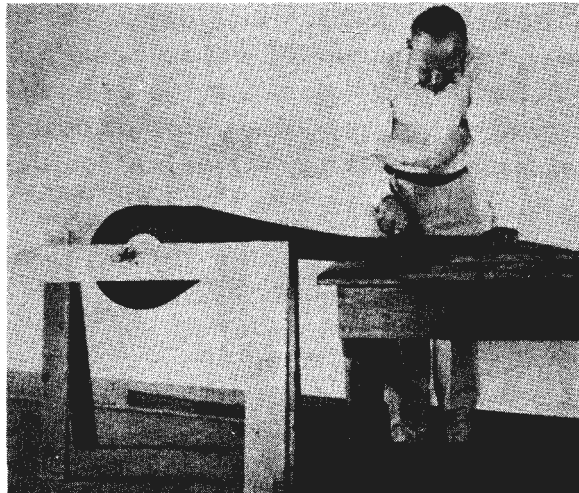


Figure 1. The cutting board has a guide made of two strips of metal spaced so that the paper can be inserted between them and an additional strip spaced so that it will serve as a groove for the point of the cutting knife. A 3/4inch strip of wood serves as a backstop 12 inches from the cutting groove. The photograph shows the 3-foot paper being cut into strips 12 inches wide.

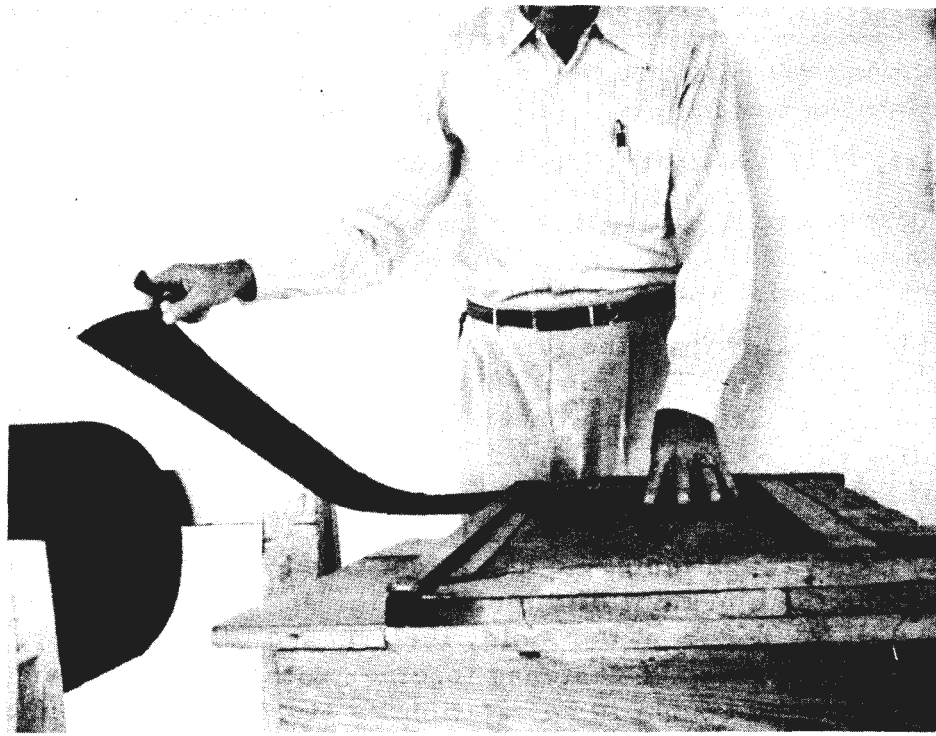


Figure 2. The 3-foot strip of roofing paper inserted into the cutting board ready to be cut into 12- x 12-inch pieces.

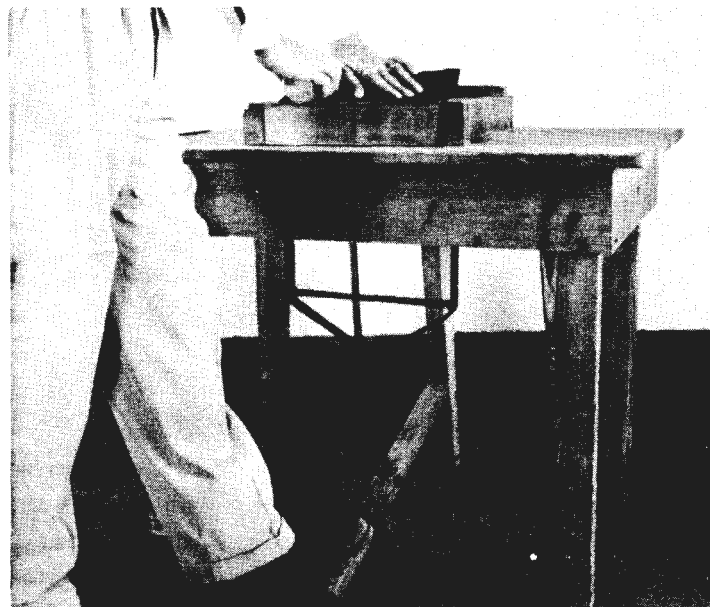


Figure 3. The creasing block in a depressed position. The top creases are being made by folding over the protruding paper and rubbing the creases with a small glass jar. Some other cylindrical object could be used.

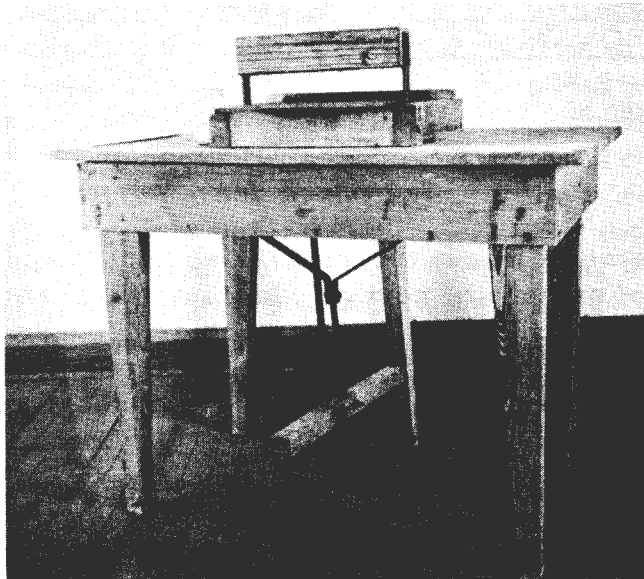


Figure 4. Rear view of the creasing device showing a 12-x12-inch piece of saturated felt in position to be creased. The creasing block consists of a piece of wood 2-3/4 x 2-3/4 x 12-1/2 inches. This block is attached to a "Y" made of 1/4 x 1 inch strip of metal that goes through the table and is attached to the foot lever. The opening on the top of the table is 3 x 3 x 12-3/4 inches to allow for the thickness of the 15-pound paper. In front of the opening there is a 1 x 2 inch strip of wood that serves as a backstop to hold the paper in the proper position for creasing. A door spring is attached to the lever to raise the creasing block.

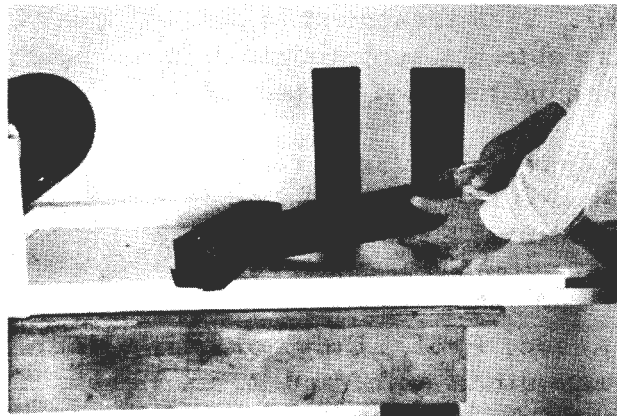


Figure 5. After the edges of the folded paper are stapled, a small rose clipper having a 1-1/4-inch cutting blade is used to make the cuts at one end of the paper for m to permit folding to make the base of the pot.