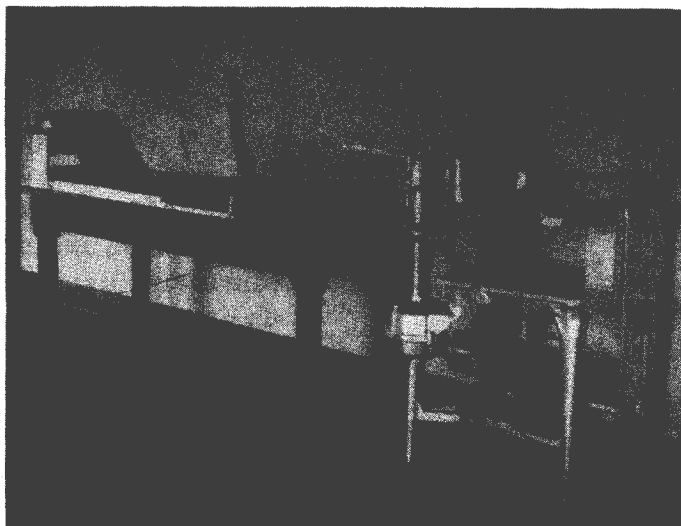


AN IMPROVED DEVICE FOR MAKING PAPER POTS

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An improved machine for making pots from common roofing paper_ was devised at the U. S. Southern Great Plains Field Station in 1954 to replace a simple hand-operated machine that had been in use since 1936.^{1/} The principal parts (Figure 1) are a common paper cutter, a modified roller (Figure 2) on a discarded washing machine, and a paper stapler. The 3-foot roofing paper is cut into 1-foot rolls with a power saw at a local lumber yard. The 1-foot roll is mounted at one end of a frame built around an ordinary 12-inch paper cutter. The frame has a guide and a backstop so that the paper can be cut into 12- by 12-inch pieces. The pieces are then run-through the modified wringer to form the 4 creases shown in Figure 4. The creased paper is then stapled (Figure 3). The bottom of the pot is formed by making at one end cuts of suitable length with a small rose clipper and then interlacing the 4 tabs (Figure 5).



Figure]. Equipment used in making pots. The backstop on the cutting frame shown is set to cut 12- x 12-inch pieces. It can be adjusted to cut paper of various lengths for pots of the desired heights.

1. A Simple Device for Making Paper Pots, Tree Planters' Notes, No. 20, June 1955.

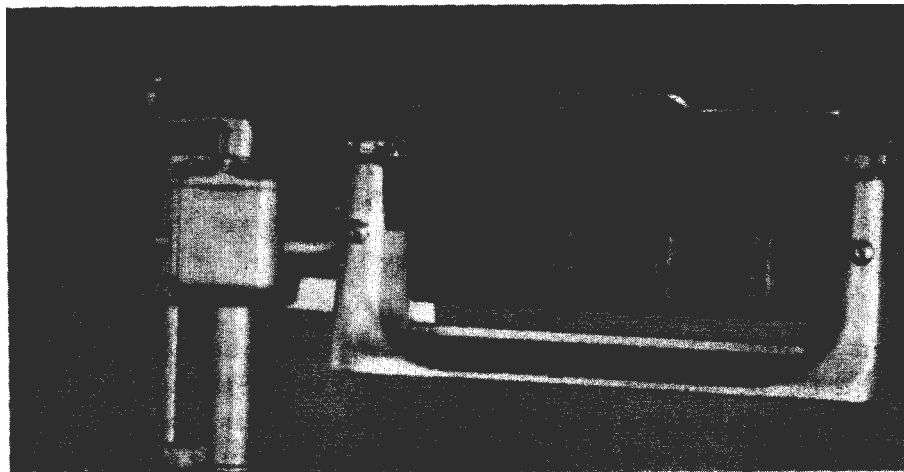


Figure 2. Close up of the modified lower roller of the creasing machine. The lower rubber roller was removed and replaced with a wooden roller of the same dimensions as the upper roller except that 4 ridges $\frac{5}{32}$ inch wide by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch high were left on the roller. The outer ridges are $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches from the ends of the roller., and the other three intervals are $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Measurements are at the center of each ridge.

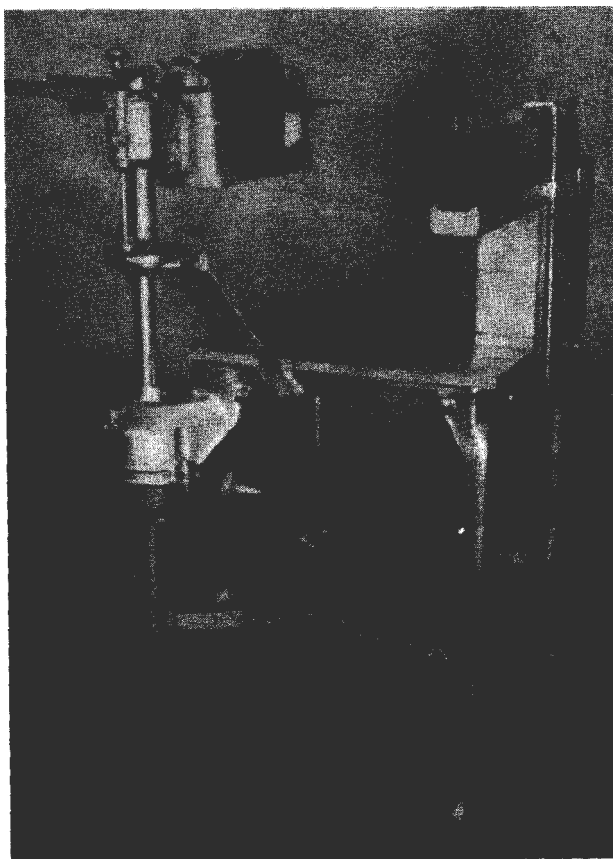


Figure 3, A 12 X 12-inch paper part way through the creasing device. The rollers can crease paper of various thicknesses if the tension is adjusted. A small platform just ahead of the roller was made to serve as a guide for starting the paper between the rollers. The stapling machine mounted on the right side of the old washing machine frame is simply a standard, deep-throated stapler modified so that the foot lever actuates the stapler. This leaves both hands of the operator free to hold the creased paper in position while stapling it.

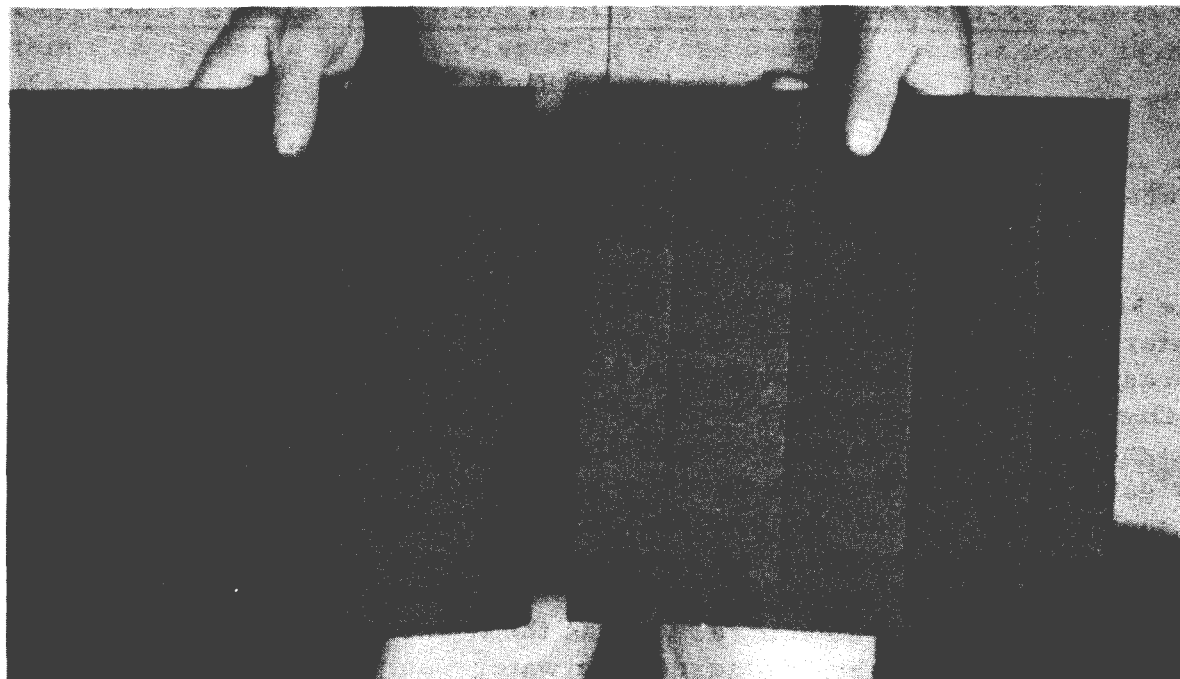


Figure 4. Roofing paper before and after being creased.



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 form to permit folding to make the base of the pot. Finished pots shown are 2-3/4 x 2-3/4 x 10-3/4 inches.