

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER B-2

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY - U. S. FOREST SERVICE - MADISON, WISCONSIN

BOX HANDLES OF WEBBING INSTEAD OF ROPE SAVE SHIPPING SPACE

In export shipment, boxes loaded with 200 to 300 pounds are most easily manipulated when provided with handles. Usually such box handles are made of rope, inserted through holes in the ends of the box and secured with wall knots, or inserted in grooves on the under sides of the cleats on the ends of the box, and held in place by nails or screws driven through the cleats.

The former method of fastening has the disadvantage of taking up valuable space in the interior of the box. The latter increases the thickness of the cleats to provide for a groove of sufficient depth to hold the rope, thereby increasing the displacement of the box. Since the rates for export shipments are virtually based upon the cubical contents of the package, the displacement is an important factor.

A box handle made of webbing instead of rope has been suggested by the Forest Products Laboratory as a means of conserving space. For this purpose webbing about 1/8 inch thick and 1-1/8 inches wide, which has a breaking strength of 800 pounds, should prove suitable. It may be inserted through saw-cuts made parallel to the grain in the ends of the box, turned down flat inside, and nailed securely with large headed roofing nails.

Such a handle takes up no extra space either inside or outside the box. It is easily made and has a lifting strength with a large margin of safety.