

Tips for Vandercook Pressmen

By CHARLIE HINDE

For those of you who own a Vandercook, here are a few helpful hints that might help overcome some problems.

TAIL SLUR. A piece or two of masking tape applied to the end of the sheet keeps the sheet securely fastened to the tympan cylinder as you make the impression, especially when using heavy cover stock.

TYMPAN PACKING. To avoid the chore of frequent changing of packing sheets for different thicknesses of paper you are printing, take out one or two packing sheets permanently. Add the packing on top of the tympan under the sheet you are printing to whatever thickness is required to get a good impression. This packing can be the same paper you are using to print. This also allows you to makeready on the packing without removing the tympan sheet.

BED OF PRESS. When you're hand inking a short run or multi-color job, use the far end of the bed for an ink plate. (Caution: Don't leave the ink brayers on the bed).

When you're not using the Vandercook, the bed of the press makes a good lockup stone for your platen press forms.

Another good use of the bed when not being used is to place a plywood board on top of it and use it for a workbench. For the Universal 1, a $\frac{5}{8}$ " piece about 28x40" makes a very handy worktop for binding operations, a cutting board for large sheets or any other chores.

Another caution to be remembered if you are using the press for the first time is don't put your form on the press on a galley. Most of these Vandercook presses are made to print type-high and you don't want to smash the type form on your first job. However, some presses are made to print from type on a galley. Check first. Finally, there is no need to lock up your form in a chase. The form can be locked up right on the bed. Small forms can be held in place with magnets.