

Every good pressman knows that rollers, to keep up the proper suction, must be frequently changed during the day. Then it is plainly necessary that he must have at least two sets, in order to save valuable time. If he has a third set, it will be all the better; and we would confidently recommend that he make a point to keep up the supply of the three grades above noted.

In the foregoing, no doubt, much has been said that is already known to some printers—perhaps something not already learned by many. The fact that the treatment of the same article, used for the same purpose, is so various throughout the civilized world, clearly points to the necessity for the adoption of a system in regard to that article, particularly when the absence of that system causes so much waste of time and money, to say nothing of the extreme annoyance to which printers are subjected in consequence. The making and treatment of rollers is as capable of being systematized as imposing a form or any other work in a printing office.

Considering the variety of opinions held on the subject treated, it is quite probable that the above may provoke criticism; therefore, nothing has been put forth which the experience of eminently practical men, extending over fifty years, will not clearly justify. And be it understood that no claim is made for originality in this article, as this is a subject which has been discussed by the most experienced and learned men in the art. It is merely a condensation and grouping together of the best ideas in regard to roller composition.

Newspaper Diagrams.

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It is uncertain who originated the publication of diagrams in newspapers. Evidently it was the idea of an impecunious printer-editor who could not afford engravings. Many leading newspapers now use diagrams where engravings are not feasible. It saves expense and time, requires no making-ready, and does away with liability to warp.

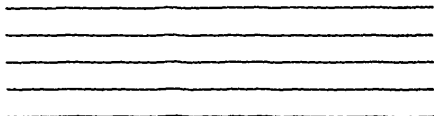
On the morning of an execution, recently, the New York *Herald* published a diagram of the scaffold to be used. The papers reached Boston at 1:30 p. m. At 3 o'clock the Boston *Herald* reproduced the diagram, adding interest to its telegraphic report of the execution. A wood engraver cannot re-produce a diagram as quickly as a compositor.

A fire in Springfield, Mass., at 9 o'clock one night, was telegraphed to the Boston *Globe*. A compositor acquainted with the burned district, by the aid of a map, set up a diagram for the morning edition.

A two-inch diagram will sometimes furnish more clearly the desired information than a quarter-column description.

HOW TO GET DIAGRAMS.

Many offices cannot afford a \$10 font of map type, and must rely on ordinary type. If nonpareil is used (any size will answer, but the smaller the better), rule thin paper this wise:



The lines should be as long as the columns are wide, and may be multiplied to any number. They may be made by leading with two six-to-pica leads, ordinary six-to-pica rules. Print on thin paper, and with a sharp pencil carefully draw the plan. By holding the paper to the light it may be drawn on the reverse side, and then becomes "copy." The ruled line (which should be in red or blue) will show just what characters should be put in each line.

The diagram man of the New York *Sun* once said he could do anything an engraver could, with type and rule. He flattered himself.

Beside the ordinary body type and gothic, space rule is indispensable and inexpensive. A font of labor-saving dummy rule, six-to-pica, is exceedingly useful. However, the diligent compositor will find many novelties by reversing and combining ordinary characters and gothics.

A fire destroying a portion of a building, block, or several buildings, may be appropriately represented by groups of gothic lower-case o o. An irregular pond, or tract of land, may be outlined with periods if properly drawn on paper described above. A swamp or island is appropriately indicated by daggers and double daggers († ‡). For a boat use a condensed gothic J sideways (𐀀).

Some time ago the rival western New York weeklies reported a local regatta. One had an engraved plan of the vicinity, and the other relied upon a diagram. Owing to the prevailing wind it was necessary, at a late hour, to alter the course. This was almost impossible in an