

# Twelve Ways to Avoid Smashing Type and Other Stuff in Your Press

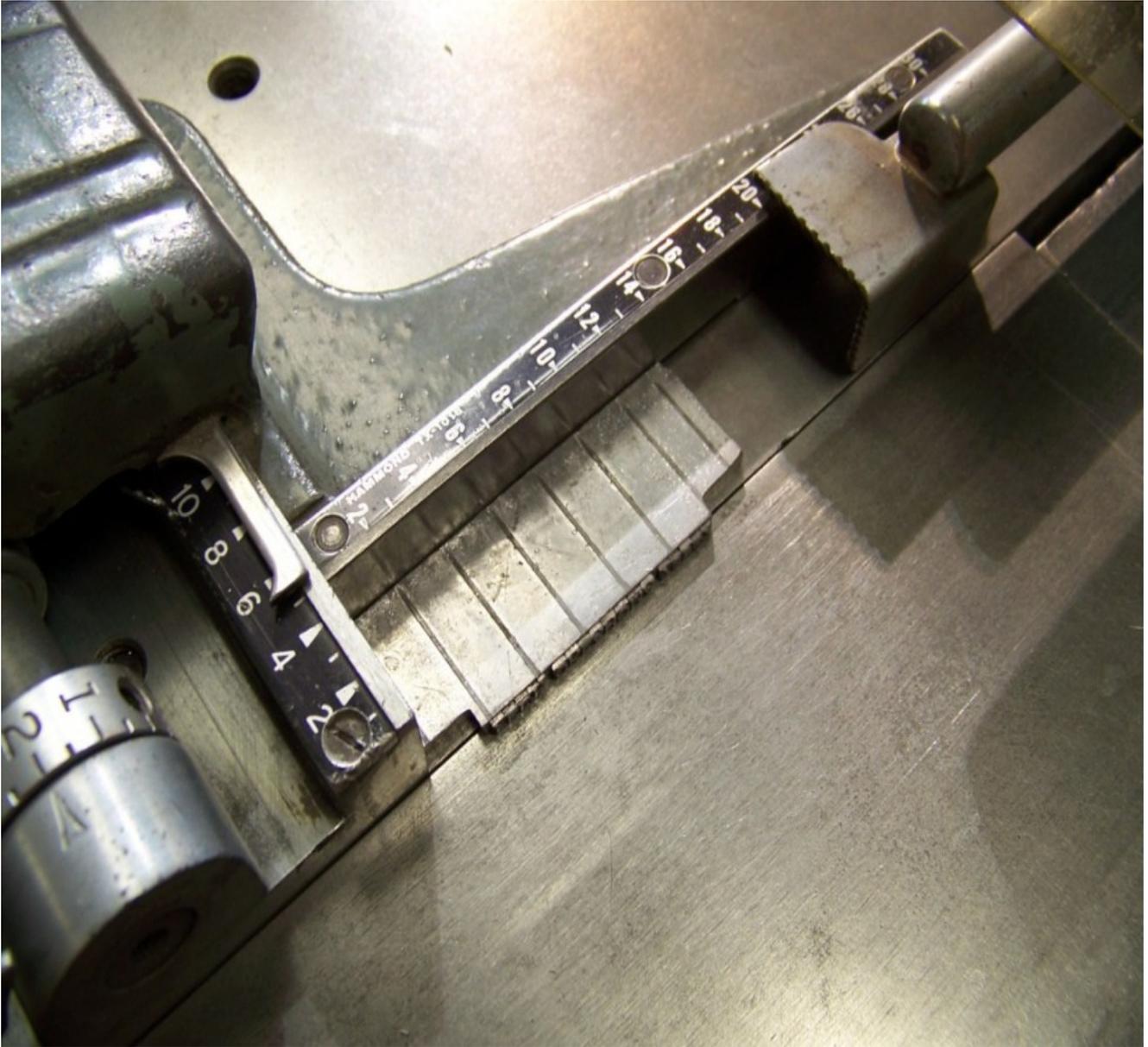
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Who among us has never smashed type? Alas, only those who have never done any printing. It happens, and not always due to error on the part of the pressman. But here's a list of things you can do that will just about eliminate the risk. (This article concerns platen presses. With a cylinder press there's really only one thing you need to know: *NEVER* leave anything on the bed that doesn't belong there. No quoin key, no loose furniture, no screwdriver—not nuthin', not nohow.)

1. Mark with colored tape the areas along the edges of your platen that are in line with the roller tracks on the bed. Anything in this zone *will* be smashed. Insure that neither grippers nor gauge pins impinge on these areas, and trim your top sheet and packing so that these warning marks are always visible.



2. If your form includes any Linotype or Ludlow slugs, rout the shoulders of them down on a saw. (Yeah, I know, who uses a linecaster these days?) The ends of untrimmed slugs are all too effective at smashing gauge pins.



3. Beware of accidentally putting the chase into the press inverted—nothing good can come of that!

4. When you first put a new form in the press, or after any dimensional alteration to the lockup, roll the press through slowly by hand and carefully inspect for any conflict with grippers and pins.

5. Don't even install grippers on your press unless a particular job requires it.

6. If you do use grippers, make sure they are securely bolted on and cannot migrate sideways into harm's way.



7. Should a frisket be warranted to keep the paper from sticking to the form: rather than using metal extension fingers, stretch a thin rubber band between the grippers through a blank part of the form.

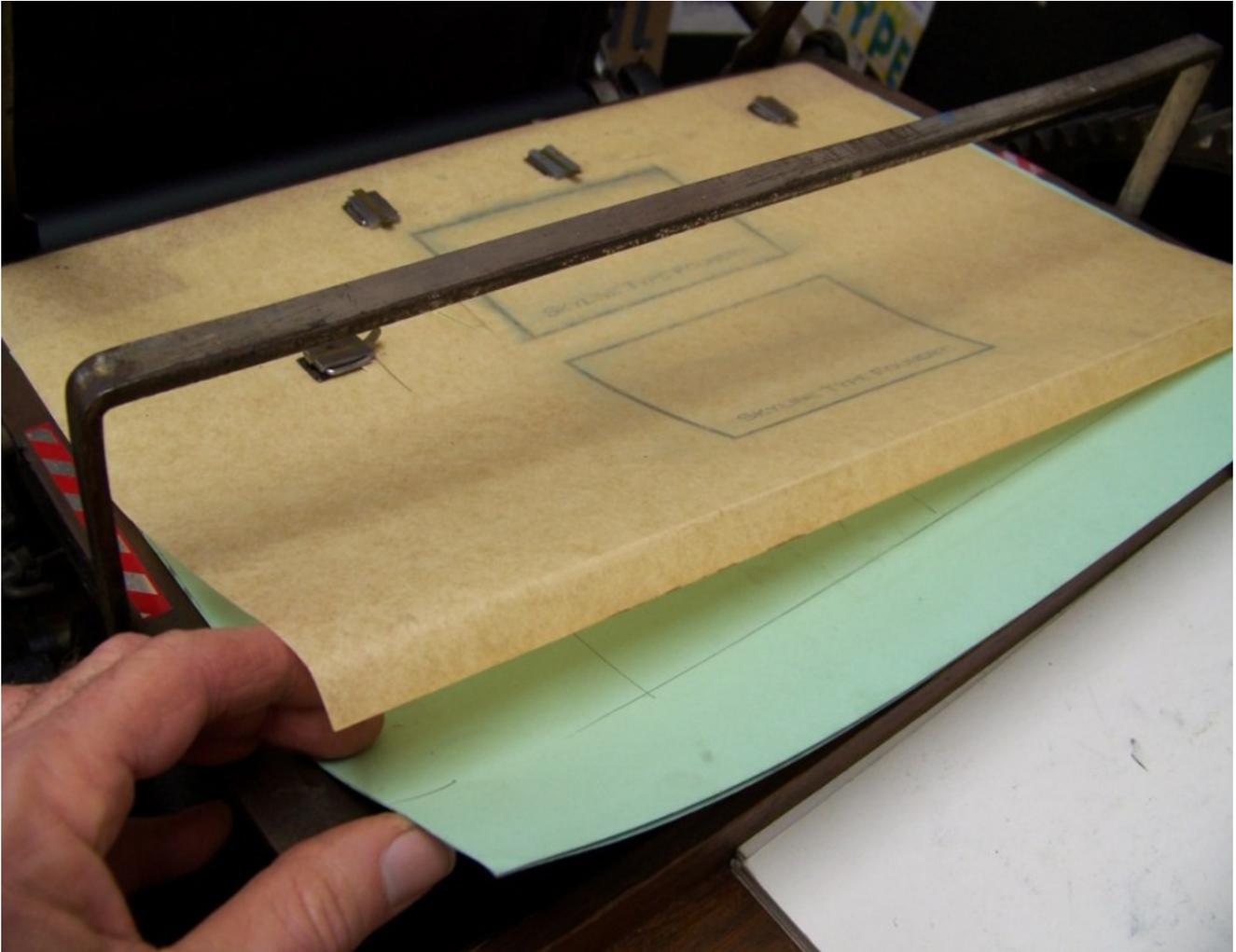


8. If grippers are used, remove them from the press after the run to protect the type in your next job.
9. Be aware of the smash potential presented by the gauge pin tongues, especially when making adjustments to register or to the length of the tongues themselves.



10. Remove the gauge pins from the top sheet after every run, unless you're certain there will be no change in the lockup (and that *you* will be the next one to use the press). The next form locked up and put in the press may be aligned to smash the pins.

11. Remove all makeready from the press after every run. This insures that if the next form calls for lighter packing, the first proof will not have excessive impression.



12. *NEVER* operate or walk away from a press with the tympan bales not securely down. Notwithstanding the type that can get wrecked, it sets up the press for potential major damage should it be cycled through by hand or power. Trust me—I earned this knowledge the hard way. And now it's yours, the easy way.

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