

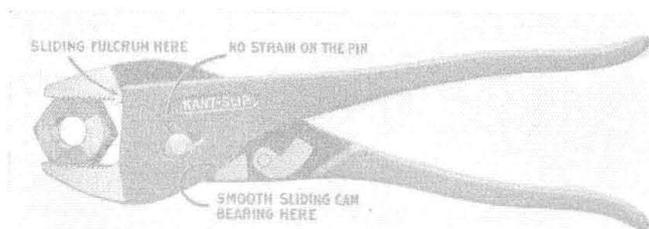


Fiberduct for Under-Floor Wiring

A NON-CORROSIVE raceway for under-floor wiring in concrete floors, known as G-E Fiberduct, has been put on the market by the General Electric Company (merchandise department) at Bridgeport, Conn. This system is so designed that neat appearing outlets may be installed safely and economically at any point and at any time during the life of the building. G-E Fiberduct is composed of impregnated fiber which successfully resists corrosion. The wall thickness is 3/16 in. and the cross-sectional area is three square inches. The duct is oval in shape, so designed that when concrete is poured over it, an arch is formed, thus assuring maximum strength. This shape offers the added advantage of minimum height, making it ideal for use where space between floors is limited. Another feature of this new system is the cast-iron, rust-resisting junction box equipped with an adjustable brass cover. A line of brass surface fittings permits outlets to be established when and where they are required. This system is adapted equally well for cinder fill, or monolithic (one-layer) construction.

Improved Pliers Built on Wrench Principle

A HAND PLIERS with a powerful parallel grip, which it is said enables this tool, not only to function as an ordinary pliers, but also to do the work ordinarily requiring such tools as a monkey wrench, flat wrench or stillson wrench. This new tool, which is manufactured by the Kant-Slip Plier and Tool Company, 6036 Wentworth ave., Chicago,



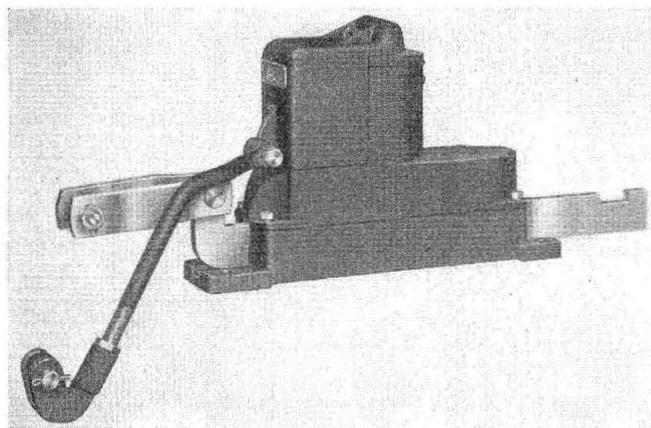
Kant-Slip parallel grip hand pliers

will grip, hold and turn a pipe in close quarters, such as a pipe which is lying flat on the floor, or flush against a wall. Nuts with rounded corners are easily held. The most striking feature of this new tool is that it adapts itself to the object held in an automatic manner, without the necessity of making any screw adjustments, or changing any parts.

The Kant-Slip pliers embodies a radical departure in tool construction, this pliers being the first to eliminate the pin as a point of strain. The pin merely holds the two members together. A cam arrangement together with a sliding fulcrum is the novel feature of construction. The sliding action of the cam and fulcrum together, wedges the object between the jaws of the pliers. The fulcrum is always close to the object gripped. The tool is made of drop-forged, chrome-vanadium alloy steel properly hardened, but not case hardened. The gripping teeth are accurately machined, and the handles are shaped to fit the hand and to prevent slipping.

An Electric Lock for Mechanical Levers

AN electric lock operating on an entirely new principle, that of locking mechanical levers directly as distinguished from a latch lock, has been put on the market by the General Railway Signal Company and is known as the Type-L. This new device is not a

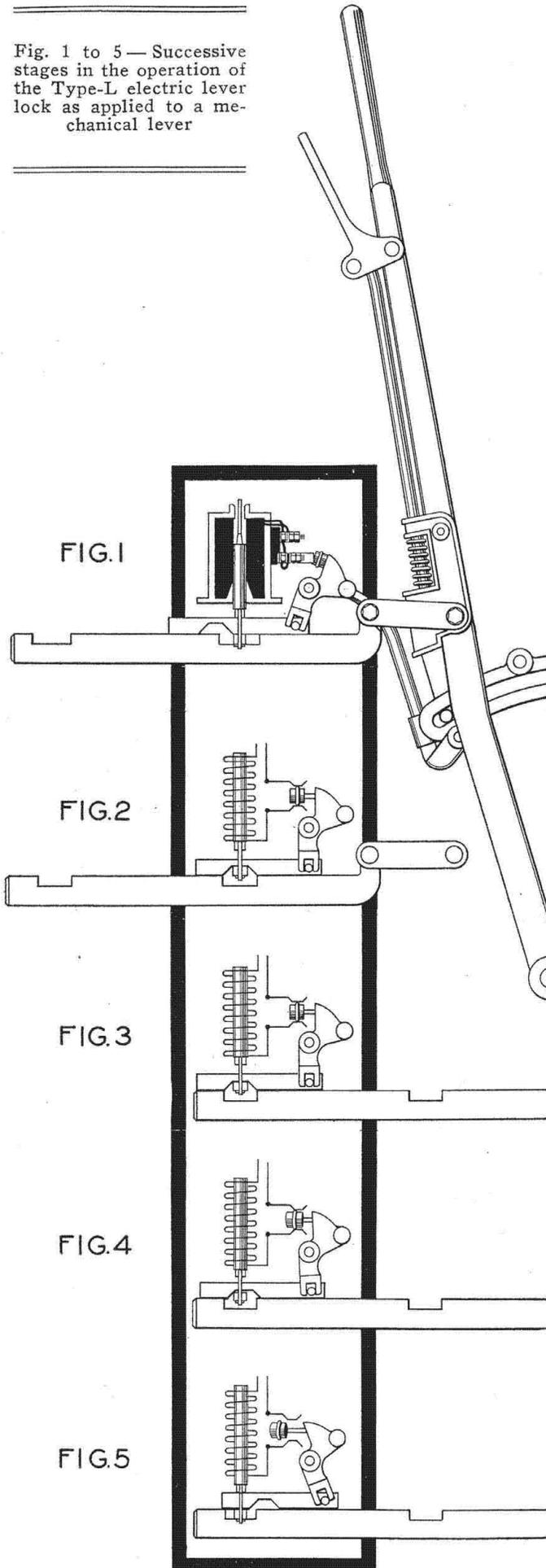


Improved operation and greater safety are claimed for the Type-L direct-lever lock

latch lock as has been used commonly in the past, however, the movement of the latch is utilized in an ingenious way to control the action of the locking dog that engages the lock bar attached to the lever. It is thus applied to lock the comparatively long movement of a mechanical lever instead of the short movement of the lever latch. The manufacturer claims that the result is improved operation and a degree of safety in the electric locking of mechanical levers not obtained with previous types of locks.

Figures 1 to 5 inclusive show the complete operation

Fig. 1 to 5 — Successive stages in the operation of the Type-L electric lever lock as applied to a mechanical lever



of the lock as the lever is moved from normal to reverse. In Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 it can be seen that the full stroke of the lever latch is utilized in releasing the lock, insuring that the mechanical locking of the machine will function to lock all conflicting levers, before the lever is unlocked electrically. The battery saving contact is closed only when the latch is compressed. In Fig. 3 the lever has moved to the reverse position and the latch is still fully compressed, while in Fig. 4 the latch is beginning to release. It should be noted that this initial releasing movement has forced the locking dog to engage the lock bar assuring that the lever is electrically locked, before the mechanical locking can function to release other levers. In addition, the latch cannot be released until the locking dog is engaged with the lock rod.

As the throw of a mechanical lever does not change, and is not affected by lost motion developed in the locking bed, the notch in the lock bar of this lock always moves to the correct position below the locking dog. This notch can be large and thus eliminate the necessity of future adjustments to compensate for wear in service. In other words there is no possibility of the plunger of this lock "riding the rod," because its proper functioning does not depend in any way upon the degree of maintenance given the mechanical locking.

The installation of one of these locks is simple. On a Style-A machine it is mounted horizontally, being attached to the lever by removing the pin which holds the latch shoe and substituting a shouldered pin furnished with the lock. The latch connection can be attached to the rocker without any drilling, on all except the very old machines. On a Saxby & Farmer machine, it is mounted vertically on either the front or rear of the supporting structure. The tail lever must be drilled for the locking bar connection. Although the latch connection can be applied to an old rocker, the manufacturer recommends that a new rocker, having a drilled lug for the connection, be used, because more satisfactory operation will be obtained.

Vest Pocket Lamp Tester

A SMALL neon lamp tester for application to circuits from 100 to 550 volts, a-c. or d-c. has been placed on the market by L. S. Brach Mfg. Corp., and is being distributed in the railroad field by the Railroad Supply Co. This new device is marketed under the trade name of Test-o-Lite, and uses a tiny neon lamp mounted at one end of a small bakelite block. The Test-o-Lite can be used to locate burned-out



Neon lamp tester for circuits of 100 to 550 volts, a-c. or d-c.

fuses, for detecting motor trouble, or for any circuit faults in automatic signal or interlocking practice. This device may also be used as a polarity indicator, because the neon lamp when connected to a direct-current circuit, is illuminated only at the negative electrode, and in this way the polarity of the wires can be detected. When connected to an alternating-current circuit, both electrodes of the tiny neon lamp are illuminated. The device is well insulated and hence, is absolutely safe. It is very compact and handy to carry and saves considerable time in testing circuits.