

## REFINISHING WORN LEATHER ON THE FACE OF SWITCHBOARDS

### 1. GENERAL:

- 1.1 This section describes the method to be used in refinishing worn leather on piling blocks, lamp rails and plug shelves of the older types of switchboards.
- 1.2 In cases where the leather is badly worn or damaged it may be more advisable to replace all leather work in the sections involved with wood work parts faced with phenol fibre than to attempt to refinish the existing leather. In making such replacements consideration should be given to the length of time that the equipment will be retained in service to insure that the most economical course is followed.
- 1.3 In general, where the switchboard will remain in service over an extended period it will usually prove more economical to replace the leather as it becomes badly worn with new plug shelves, lamp rails and piling blocks equipped with phenol fibre facings.
- 1.4 Phenol fibre has recently been approved to replace semi-hard rubber for facing keyshelf and panel parts.
- 1.5 When the leather is not sufficiently worn to justify replacement the method outlined herein will provide a satisfactory finish.

### 2. MATERIAL:

- 2.1 No. 00 sandpaper.
- 2.2 Safety razor blades and holder.
- 2.3 Black harness stain.

- 2.4 Shellac (White).
- 2.5 Flat brush, 1-in. wide.

### 3. METHOD:

- 3.1 Thoroughly clean the leather using the sandpaper to remove all traces of previous finish. If spots are found where the original finish has penetrated the leather to a greater depth than at others these may be removed by scraping with a safety razor blade, due care being taken to see that the leather is not cut and that the razor blade is not used without a safety holder.
- 3.2 The leather should be scraped with the grain to insure smooth surface. Always finish with sandpaper after scraping.
- 3.3 Do not use a coarser grade of sandpaper than No. 00 as this would result in a rough surface and difficulty will be encountered in finishing.
- 3.4 Before applying the stain the surface of the leather must be uniformly smooth and porous and free from all glazed spots in order to obtain an even finish.
- 3.5 Apply with a brush a thin, even coat of black harness stain and permit to dry thoroughly. In case a spotted finish results this is an indication that the original finish was not thoroughly removed prior to the application of the stain.
- 3.6 After the stain apply a very thin coat of clear white shellac and permit to dry thoroughly before placing the position in service.