BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction and Maintenance

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CABLE SPLICING—GENERAL
TEST BOARDS

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the different types of test boards used for tagging pairs as they are identified preparatory to splicing.

1.02 The three types of boards are as follows:

(a) **Linen Test Boards for Tagging Identified Pairs** are available in two numbered series for boarding cables up to and including the 2121 pair size. One series consists of 42 boards covering the full cable count from 1 to 2121, each board having 51 consecutively numbered holes. The other series consists of 2 boards each having 71 consecutively numbered holes, 1 to 71 and 51 to 21. In these boards the hundreds digit is added as required. Either type of board may be provided, depending on local practice. The linen boards are generally used at splices where the work may not be completed in one day and where the splice may have to be wrapped before the operation is completed.

(b) **Fibre Test Boards for Tagging Identified Pairs** are available in the same series as the linen boards described in paragraph (a). These test boards are too hard and stiff to be wrapped readily in the splice and they are therefore generally used when small complements are being boarded, as in testing distribution terminals, in which the splice will not ordinarily have to be wrapped during the splicing operation.

(c) **Linen Test Boards for Tagging Quads** are available in sets of 5 boards having 40 holes in each and are numbered consecutively from 1 to 200. These boards are made of heavier material and have larger holes than the other linen boards, to accommodate the four wires of a quad in each hole.

2. METHODS OF BOARDING

2.01 **Boarding Conductors at the End of a Cable.** In boarding pairs or quads at the free end of a cable, the identified conductors are placed in the hole in the test board having the same number as the conductor.

2.02 **Boarding Conductors in a Working Cable.** In boarding pairs or quads in a working cable the end of a piece of insulated wire is tied around the identified conductor. Then the other end of the insulated wire is placed in the hole in the test board having the same number as the pair or quad.

2.03 In each of the above cases the boards are positioned so that the numbers face the center of the splice, the back of the board being toward the butt of the cable.

3. NUMBERING BOARDS FOR CABLE TRANSFERS

3.01 In making pair transfers from one cable to another, or to a different complement in the same cable, it is sometimes advantageous to number both sides of the boards that are used for tagging the conductors in the old cable. The old count of the conductor is stamped on the back of the board alongside the hole which has the new count printed on it on the front of the board. This facilitates splicing, since the identified conductors are boarded according to the old count and later spliced according to the new count. In such cases the boards are positioned with the old count toward the butt of the cable and the new count facing the center of the splice. The specially numbered boards required for large transfers are generally prepared in the office, but they may be made up by the splicer on the job, if necessary.