

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

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SPLICE CASES

20 AND 21 TYPES

SPLICE CASE PROTECTION

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section outlines the method of applying protection against corrosion of buried splice cases.

2. PRECAUTIONS

2.01 The precautions and instructions contained in G86.540.1 shall be followed in using the acetylene torch.

2.02 Keep pitch tape out of the sun before application in warm weather; otherwise it may soften unduly and be difficult to handle.

2.03 In cold weather, keep pitch tape in a heated compartment if feasible. When the tape is chilled, the pitch may crack and some fall off as the roll is unwound. Minor flaking off of the pitch does not materially affect the use of the tape.

2.04 In applying pitch tape, eye protection shall be worn to protect the eyes from small particles of pitch that may fly off the tape as its surface is heated. Use of a small flame will keep this action to a minimum.

2.05 **Do not overheat** pitch tape as this will expose the fabric and the pitch may catch fire. Keep it dry before using it.

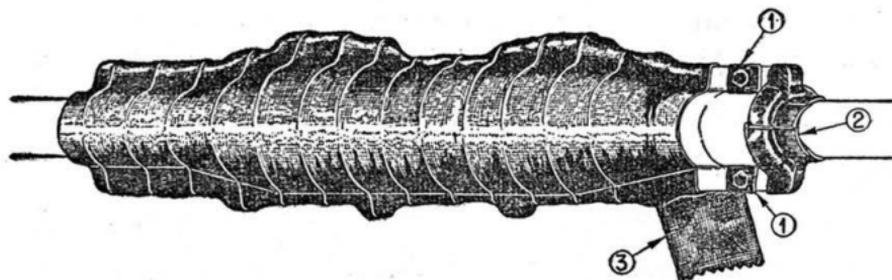
3. APPLICATION

3.01 When unrolling pitch tape, start from the edge and pull across the roll until a full width of tape is free, then pull the full width of tape.

3.02 Pitch tape is softened by a light application of heat from a torch on the surface of the tape that will contact the splice case, just before each section of tape is placed. This application of heat does two things; first, it softens the tape so that it becomes limp and easily shaped; second, the contact surface of the tape is heated enough to liquefy the pitch and make it adhere to the case.

3.03 Clean the splice case and cable sheath with a clean dry cloth.

3.04 Apply B sealing tape and 3-inch pitch tape as illustrated and described below.



(1) Cover nuts and bolts with small pieces of B sealing tape squeezed in place around exposed parts.

(2) Cover ends of splice case with pieces of B sealing tape pressed into place. Press into sealing washer and onto cable sheath for about 1 inch. Extend onto splice case for about 1 inch.

(3) Apply half-lapped layer of 3-inch pitch tape to lap over sealing tape on ends. Heat inside surface of the tape in convenient lengths as wrapping progresses. **Avoid touching the splice case or cable sheath with flame of torch.** While the pitch tape is still soft, form it to the splice case.