

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
Teletypewriter and Manual  
Telegraph Station and P.B.X.  
Installation and Maintenance

**SECTION P24.150**  
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AT&T Co Standard

## **SEMI-AUTOMATIC TELEGRAPH KEYS ADJUSTMENT**

### **1. GENERAL**

1.01 Semi-automatic keys are used by many manual telegraph operators. These keys are not supplied by the Bell System but when used it is important they be properly adjusted to provide the best service.

1.02 Poor adjustment of the keys results in service complaints and it is in the Telephone Company's interest to encourage the telegraph operators to keep their semi-automatic keys in good adjustment. Form E-587, a copy of which is attached, describes the adjustment of these keys.

1.03 Form E-587 is available in the usual way and copies may be obtained for distribution to customers' telegraph operators, where desired.

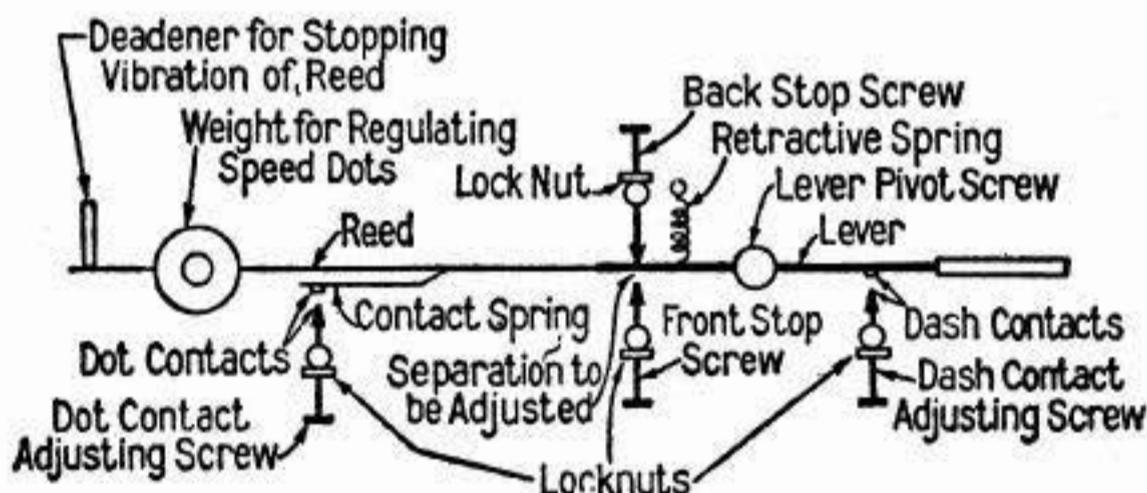
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# TELEGRAPH STATIONS

## ADJUSTMENT OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC TELEGRAPH KEYS

### GENERAL

Semi-automatic sending keys (so-called because they make dots automatically) are commonly used at telegraph stations. The following is a schematic diagram of one of these keys.



The proper maintenance of these keys in accordance with the following instructions is necessary to insure good telegraph service.

### INSPECTION

When signals are not satisfactory, examine the key for mechanical defects. See that contact points are clean and in alignment, with the faces parallel. The lever pivot screw should be loose enough to permit a free movement of the lever but not so loose as to make signals unsteady. All supporting parts should be rigidly fastened. See that cord and plug are in good condition.

## ADJUSTMENT

After inspection has been completed, the key should be adjusted as follows:

- (1) Place the key on a level surface.
- (2) Adjust the back stop screw until the reed lightly touches the "deadener," and tighten the lock nut.
- (3) Adjust the front stop screw until the separation between the end of this screw and the lever is approximately .015 inches and tighten the lock nut. If an .015" gauge is not available fold this instruction so as to obtain four (4) thicknesses of the paper (which will approximate .015") and use as a gauge. A greater separation is permissible if the operator prefers more lever movement.
- (4) Operate the lever to the right. Hold in this position and stop the vibration of the reed. Adjust dot contacts until they just "make" without flexing the contact spring and tighten the lock nut. As this is a very important adjustment it should be checked after setting up the lock nut to see that it has not changed.
- (5) In case the dots are either too light or too heavy, move the weight which is provided for regulating the speed (and which generally should be kept well toward the outer end of the reed) nearer the outer end.

Note A: After key has been adjusted as above, do not change adjustments to correct light or heavy signals except by moving weight toward outer end of reed.

Note B: Keys equipped with two weights should always have one weight near the outer end of the reed.

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