SLIDING JAMMERS

Jammers that can be slid from place to place by means of skids are used for decking logs along roads and for loading trucks, sleighs, and railroad cars in the Lake States, but are seldom encountered elsewhere. Such jammers, because of their simplicity, low cost, ease of construction, and efficiency are especially suitable for small operators, and particularly for farm wood-lot owners.

They consist of a substantial timber base and boom structure, with cable, blocks, and guy lines. The base consists of two skids with cross bunks and necessary bracing. Boom structures mounted on the sliding bases vary to suit the individual needs, but usually are one of two types.

The first type is a simple A-frame with different methods of mounting. In one method the legs are fastened to the ends of the bunks by heavy iron hinges. This is known as a tip-up jammer because when it is set up the skid base is tipped up against the legs leaving the road clear for trucks and sleds (fig. 1). Steel pins projecting from the bottom of the legs help to increase their stability when resting on the ground. When moving the jammer, the A-frame is supported by a detachable leg (fig. 2).

The second type of boom structure consists of an A-frame to which a swinging boom is attached (fig. 3). The mounting is a round member supporting the A-frame, this member being secured to the bunks by steel straps. When used without a swinging boom the mounting is placed near the center of the base so that the A-frame can be tilted to either side.

Two guy lines from the top of the mast or A-frame are secured to stumps or trees.

Construction materials needed can usually be obtained from the woodlot and the scrap iron pile normally present on farms or at local blacksmith shops. Purchase of bolts, cable, and blocks represents the major cash investment.

Power to pull the cable is derived from a variety of sources. Teams are commonly used, but other sources include farm tractors, logging tractors with winches, trucks, and hoists. Sometimes hoist units are mounted on the base of the jammer and in other cases they are mounted on separate skid bases so that they can serve several jammers.

Even though these jammers may not be in continuous use, their depreciation is low provided the blocks and cables are protected with grease when idle.

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Figure 1.--Tip-up jammer in loading position.

Figure 2.--Tip-up jammer in moving position.

Figure 3.--A-frame jammer with swinging boom.