

Hand Mold Machine Parts Symboling Scheme As Used At CircuitousRoot

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Premise

This is an attempt to devise a scheme of part symbols useful over a range of typefounder's hand molds. It includes features for molds in text and small display sizes for these styles of molds:

- French (Components on Base Plates. Potences/Male & Female Gages)
- Flemish/German (Components fastened to Carriage. Wings instead of Potences)
- Composite (Components on Base Plates, Wings instead of Potences)
- Lever Molds (In any of the above constructional variations)

It does not try to accommodate lead/slug molds, furniture molds, large display molds, or special matrix equipment used only for justifier's molds.

System

This symboling scheme uses the Bancroft/Lanston system as a base. For more on this see the CircuitousRoot Notebook on Part Symboling Systems at:

<http://www.CircuitousRoot.com/artifice/symboling/index.html>

This system uses a three-part code (with optional modifiers). The central part of this code is always alphabetical, and as used here contains a "Machine Code" which distinguishes this machine or tool from others (hand molds vs. Thompson Type Casters vs. Lanston Monotype Composition Casters, etc.) For hand molds, I use a three-letter machine code of the form HMx, where 'x' is assigned sequentially in the order the molds are drawn. Thus, HMA, HMB, HMC, etc. I assign these codes so as not to conflict with existing Lanston Monotype usage. Before this Machine Code appears the numeric Group Number indicating the logical group of parts within the machine that the particular part is contained within. After the Machine Code appears the numeric Part Number within the group.

Example: 2HMA1

- 2 = Group 2 (the Base Plates)
- HMA = Hand Mold, Example A
- 1 = Part 1 within the Group (the Base Plate (bottom))

Groups

The Groups span the two halves of the mold. Thus the upper and the lower Base Plates are both in Group 2HMx.

1. Woods
2. Base Plates
3. Mouthpiece (French & “Composite” Molds)
4. Mouthpiece (Flemish/German Molds)
5. Carriage (including Nick Wire(s))
6. Body
7. Potence (Male & Female Gauges), if present
8. Wings, if present
9. Registers
10. Stool (Non-Lever)
11. Stool (Lever)
12. Matrix Equipment (Non-Lever, Not Justifier's)
13. Matrix Equipment (Justifier's)
14. Bow (Spring)
15. Hooks
16. Lever, if present
17. Mold Tools

Orientation

The hand mold is a hand-held object (thus without fixed orientation) which has a high degree of symmetry and consequent perils for even the mildly dyslexic. In addition, parts useful for orientation have occupied different positions on different styles of mold (e.g., the nick wire). It is necessary to adopt a consistent terminology. Place a closed hand mold on the table in front of you. Make sure that the half to which the Bow (or Spring) is fixed is the bottom half. Make sure that the Mouthpiece (where you pour in the typemetal) is away from you and the end which holds the matrix is toward you. Then as you face this mold:

- The half directly on the table is the bottom half.
- The half above it is the top half.
- The left side is the “Mold Left” side of the mold, regardless of how you turn the mold.
- The right side is the “Mold Right” side of the mold.
- The side near to you is the “Matrix Side” of the mold.
- (It may also be termed the “Matward” side or end of the mold.)
- The side away from you is the “Mouthpiece Side” of the mold.
- (It may also be termed the “Jetward” side or end of themold).

[TO DO: Illustrate this]

Machine Code Assignments for Hand Molds

HMA: A 19th century lever hand mold owned by Paul Aken

HMB: A newly drawn plain hand mold. Traditional style matrices. “Composite” style construction (base plate and wings). 24 point body, 0.050 depth matrices. Generally based on HMA but without the lever mechanism.

HMC: A regularized lever hand mold based on HMA.

HMD: The HMB plain hand mold adapted for use with Lanston Monotype Type-&-Rule Caster display matrices (but corner cuts not actually required), or Thompson Type-Caster Matrices.

HME: The HMC lever hand mold adapted for use with Lanston Monotype Type-&-Rule Caster display matrices (again, without requiring the corner cuts) or Thompson Type-Caster Matrices.

General Hand Mold Parts List

1HMx – Woods

1HMx1	Wood (bottom)
1HMx2	Wood (bottom) nut
1HMx3	Wood (top)
1HMx4	Wood (top) nut

2HMx – Base Plates (French & “Composite” Molds)

2HMx1	Base Plate (bottom)
2HMx2	Base Plate (bottom), Post
2HMx3	Base Plate (top)
2HMx4	Base Plate (top), Post

3HMx – Mouthpiece (French & “Composite” Molds)

Note: These part symbols accommodate a two-part (per half) mouthpiece with a bottom plate and a sidewall. If the top and bottom halves of the mouthpiece are each a single unit, then consider it to be the “plate” and omit the part symbols for the sidewalls.

3HMx1	Mouthpiece, bottom, plate
3HMx2	Mouthpiece, bottom, plate, screw, jetward
3HMx3	Mouthpiece, bottom, plate, screw, matward
3HMx4	Mouthpiece, bottom, sidewall
3HMx5	Mouthpiece, bottom, sidewall, screw, jetward
3HMx6	Mouthpiece, bottom, sidewall, screw, matward
3HMx7	Mouthpiece, top, plate
3HMx8	Mouthpiece, top, plate, screw, jetward
3HMx9	Mouthpiece, top, plate, screw, matward
3HMx10	Mouthpiece, top, sidewall
3HMx11	Mouthpiece, top, sidewall, screw, jetward
3HMx12	Mouthpiece, top, sidewall, screw, matward

4HMx – Mouthpiece (Flemish/German Molds)

4HMx1	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), bottom
4HMx2	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), bottom, screw, port
4HMx3	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), bottom, screw, starboard
4HMx4	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), top
4HMx5	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), top, screw, port
4HMx6	Mouthpiece (Flemish/German), top, screw, starboard

5HMx – Carriages

5HMx1	Carriage, bottom
5HMx2	Carriage, bottom, screw, port
5HMx3	Carriage, bottom, screw, starboard
5HMx4	Carriage, top
5HMx5	Carriage, top, screw, port
5HMx6	Carriage, top, screw, starboard
5HMx7	Nick Wire

6HMx – Body

In French practice, the part of the Body fixed to the bottom half of the mold is on the port side. In German practice this is reversed and it is on the starboard side. The scheme used here suits both, as it distinguishes the two Body parts in terms of the mold halves to which they are attached, not in terms of their port/starboard positions.

6HMx1	Body, on bottom
6HMx2	Body, on bottom, screw, jetward
6HMx3	Body, on bottom, screw, matward
6HMx4	Body, on bottom, screw, edgeward
6HMx5	Body, on top
6HMx6	Body, on top, screw, jetward
6HMx7	Body, on top, screw, matward
6HMx8	Body, on top, screw, edgeward

7HMx – Potences (Male & Female Gauges)

The Female Gauge is not a separate part, but (if present) is fashioned from the Body. If the Potences are present, the Wings generally will be absent.

7HMx1	Male Gauge
7HMx2	Male Gauge, nut

8HMx – Wings

If the Wings are present, the Potences generally will be absent. The same remarks about French vs. German practice for the location of the Body also pertain to the Wings.

8HMx1	Wing, on bottom
8HMx2	Wing, on bottom, screw, edgeward
8HMx3	Wing, on bottom, screw, not edgeward
8HMx4	Wing, on top
8HMx5	Wing, on top, screw, edgeward
8HMx6	Wing, on top, screw, not edgeward

9HMx - Registers

9HMx1	Register (bottom)
9HMx2	Register (bottom) Screw, left
9HMx3	Register (bottom) Screw, right
9HMx4	Register (bottom) Screw, bottom
9HMx5	[reserved for more screws]
9HMx6	[reserved for more screws]
9HMx7	Register (top)
9HMx8	Register (top) Screw, left
9HMx9	Register (top) Screw, right
9HMx10	Register (top) Screw, bottom

10HMx - Stool (Non-Lever)

[Assign part numbers later, once I have a greater degree of familiarity with non-lever hand molds.]

11HMx - Stool (Lever)

11HMx1	Stool (lever mold)
11HMx2	Stool (lever mold) Screw

12HMx - Matrix Equipment (Non-Lever, Not Justifier's)

12HMx1	Jobbet
12HMx2	Gimlet

13HMx - Matrix Equipment (Justifier's)

In at least two recorded instances¹, hand molds were equipped with special matrix equipment designed to hold a single matrix securely, but to facilitate rapid casting. I am assuming that these molds were intended for use as justifier's hand molds. Reserve the Group 13 for this equipment, but do not further identify it here (as it is too diverse).

¹ As shown in Legros & Grant's *Typographical Printing Surfaces* (1916) and also as shown in the 1953 edition (only) of Konrad Bauer's *Wie eine Buchdruckschrift entsteht*.

14HMx - Bow (Spring)

- 14HMx1 Bow
- 14HMx2 Bow (Non-Lever Mold), securing screw
- 14HMx3 Bow (Lever Mold), pivoting screw

15HMx - Hooks

- 15HMx1 Hook (bottom)
- 15HMx2 Hook (top)

16HMx - Levers (Lever Mold Only)

- 16HMx1 Finger Lever
- 16HMx2 Finger Lever, Pivot-screw
- 16HMx3 Finger Lever Push Piece
- 16HMx4 Finger Lever Push Piece, screws (2)

- 16HMx5 Matrix Lever
- 16HMx6 Matrix Lever, pivot pin
- 16HMx7 Matrix Lever, Matrix Adjusting Screw

17HMx - Mold Tools

- 17HMx1 Turnscrew, for Nuts for Woods, plain
- 17HMx2 Turnscrew, for Nuts for Woods, two-pronged
- 17HMx3 Turnscrew, for general screws
- 17HMx4 Ladles (size as appropriate)
- 17HMx5 Glove (left hand only)

Features Not Yet Accomodated

- Brass-and-steel Mouthpieces, as seen on some of Stan Nelson's molds.