

REPORT No. 51The Double Rope Grab

- Origin Following the development of the rope grab described in H.Q.M.D.C. Report No.41, the Director of Forestry for England suggested that a double grab should be produced to enable two ropes to be joined together. This suggestion has been followed up and the results of trials of a double grab are described in this report.
- Description The grab, designed for use with 5/16" diam. rope consists of a fabricated body allowing a loop of rope to be fed in from both ends and two wedges which are placed in each loop after passing into the centre of the body. When the ropes are pulled tight the wedges are gripped by the tapered sides of the body. Weight of the grab = 6 lbs. 10 ozs. Price = £4. 10. 0 (if made in quantity this could be reduced). Photographs of the grab partially and fully assembled are attached to this report.
- Observations
1. Two pieces of 5/16" diameter rope were joined together with the double grab in 1 min. 30 secs., without the use of any tools. Dismantling also takes the same time but it is necessary to tap the bottom of the wedges with a drift, to release their grip on the rope in the body.
 2. A dynamometer maximum load test showed that the rope broke at a pull of 7,000 lbs. and at this load the grab showed no sign of failure.
 3. The grab appears to provide a very satisfactory method of joining together pieces of rope which would otherwise be too short for logging and would be scrapped. It must, however, be noted that ropes joined together in this way could not be used with pulley blocks and could not be wound on a winch drum.
- The advantage of the grab method of joining ropes compared with using bulldog clips is the speed with which the joint can be made or disconnected and the absence of the need for spanners, loose nuts etc.
- Conclusions The double rope grab apart from the limitations mentioned at Observation 3, is a convenient method of joining ropes together wherever frequent joining and disconnecting is needed. It is unlikely to be suitable for use on ropes exceeding 5/16" diam. as the necessary size would be inconvenient to handle.

