



## OPERATING MANUAL

### Quartermaster Asphalt Sample Divider SP-55

ASTM PENDING; AASHTO R 47

#### INTRODUCTION:

The SP-55 Quartermaster Asphalt Sample Divider is a fixed, four-chute splitter with a gate-release hopper designed to reduce bulk samples of hot-mix asphalt and aggregate materials to four representative specimens. Hot-mix asphalt of insufficient temperature to be free-flowing or aggregate materials larger than 2in may cause bridging in the chutes, causing blockages and uneven sample distributions. We suggest following the guidelines in ASTM and AASHTO procedures to achieve accurate, representative samples.

#### ASSEMBLY:

1. Place the base unit of the Quartermaster Asphalt Sample Divider with four adjustable threaded feet on a smooth, rigid surface.
2. Place a level across the corners of the base unit, and adjust the threaded feet so the base is stable and level.
3. Place the hopper section of the Sample Divider on top of the base. Verify the assembled unit remains stable and level.
4. Slide the four included MA-950 Galvanized Pails under the base, so that each makes contact with two adjacent legs and is positioned beneath the chutes. The handles of the buckets should be facing away from the center of the unit for ease of handling after splitting. Use of the heavy cotton SPA-22 Bucket Liner Bags simplifies clean-up and sample handling.
5. Close the hopper by swinging both hopper doors upward and engaging the release handle under the hopper door catch mechanism.

#### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Check that the hopper doors are closed and secured with the handle/door catch mechanism.



SP-55 shown with SPA-22 Bucket Liner Sample Bags

2. Obtain the aggregate or hot-mix asphalt bulk sample to be quartered. (**See WARNING!**)
3. Place the bulk sample into the hopper, distributing evenly as you pour. Level the sample from side-to-side and from front to back with a small scoop or trowel.
4. Make sure all four buckets are positioned properly below each corner of the Sample Divider base.
5. Turn the Release Handle in a smooth, quick motion, allowing the hopper gates to open simultaneously.
6. Remove the four specimens for testing.

(Continued on back.)

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**NOTE:** For accurate dividing of smaller bulk samples, the optional SPA-21 Quick Funnel inserts into the SP-55 Hopper.

## WARNING!

1. Asphalt paving materials are hot! Please use **EXTREME CAUTION! ALWAYS** wear protective clothing and safety equipment to prevent burns and serious injury.
2. **ALWAYS** practice proper lifting techniques when handling large samples.
3. Use **CAUTION** when opening the hopper door to prevent injuries from pinching action of the hopper door and the release handle mechanism.
4. Proper attention to safety is the responsibility of the operator.

For further reductions in sample size, use samples from two opposite corners, combine in hopper and repeat splitting process until the desired fraction is reached: 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, etc.

For easier clean-up of hot-mix asphalt samples, apply a coat of release agent on all surfaces that are likely to come in contact with the asphalt. Please make sure release agents are approved for use with asphalt and will not change the characteristics of the mix being tested.

## ACCESSORIES:

### GILSON QUARTERMASTER ASPHALT SAMPLE DIVIDER

Description	Model
Gilson Quartermaster Asphalt Sample Divider	SP-55
<b>Accessories</b>	
Quick-Funnel Insert	SPA-21
Bucket-Liner Sample Bags, qty. of 10	SPA-22
8in Double-Loop Wire Ties, qty of 50	SPA-23
Wire Tie Twister w/Plastic Grip	SPA-24
Galvanized Steel Sample Containers	MA-950
Material Handling Chute	HMA-68



HMA-68



SPA-22



MA-950



SPA-21