

What is the position regarding Materials Handling Costs and Turb-O-Web?

A misconception is often put forward that the pre-cutting of Turb-O-Webs ahead of time introduces some form of extra Materials Handling costs and labour costs over and above those costs for angle webs..

In its most basic description, traditional angle web use simply has 2 steps, namely:-

1. Cut the web, and
2. Use the web.

A description of Turb-O-Web use, in its most basic form has 3 steps, namely:-

1. Cut the web, and
2. Store the web, then
3. Use the web.

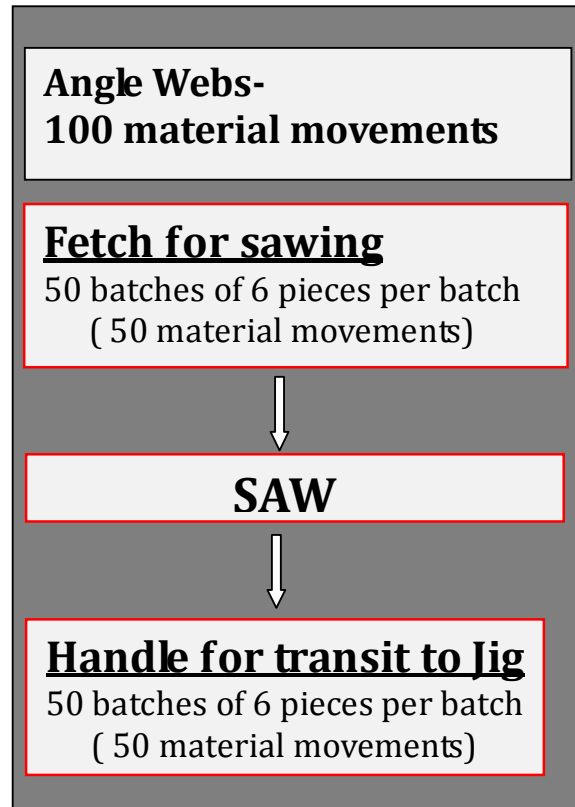
A cursory comparison of the two methods shows that, there is indeed an extra step in the Turb-O-Web process, i.e. store the web until it is used.

A more in depth comparison, however, will reveal that, despite the extra “step”, there is no extra work, cost or staffing requirements with the Turb-O-Web System. There is, in fact, less handling movements.

To carry out this comparison, we will consider the path of travel through the plant of 2 bunks of 300 pieces each as they are brought into the plant, and one is used to pre-cut Turb-O-Webs, and the other is used in response to requirements for angle webs. We will then make an assessment of the total work invested into each bunk, to arrive

at a conclusion.

Let us consider the Angle Web bunk first. Its path through the plant may be represented as follows:-

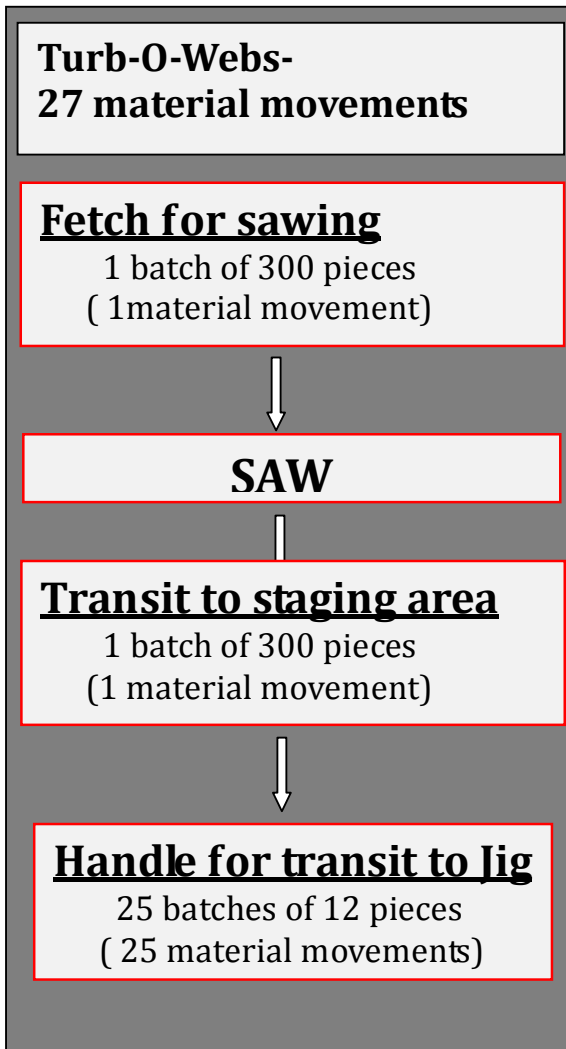


As can be seen from our rudimentary flow chart, we have assumed that the boards will all be required in batches of 6, which we believe is a reasonable assumption for the range of work undertaken these days.

On this basis, the 300 boards will be fetched in 50 batches of 6 pieces, sawn, and handled again in batches of 6 to the jigs.

Now, let us consider the situation with

the 300 piece bunk which is going to be used as standard length Turb-O-Webs. This is represented below:-



So we see from the above two graphics, that even though there is an extra step with Turb-O-Web (staging), there is actually more materials movements with the existing angle web system (100 movements) compared to the Turb-O-Web System (27 movements).

There are several factors which contribute to this apparently contradictory result, namely:-

1. When considering the Turb-O-Web System for the first time, the

cutting, Transit to staging area and Handle for transit to jig are visualized, but often no adequate deduction is made for the cutting and handling of the angle webs which now do not need to be produced.

2. It is important to understand that with the Turb-O-Web System, all of the material movements involve more pieces per move than is the case with the angle web system. This results in fewer material movements with Turb-O-Web than with angle webs.

For example, the material is fetched for sawing, and transited to the staging area as an entire bunk, or unit.

Also, since each particular length Turb-O-Web used in a job replaces many different unique angle webs in that job, the Turb-O-Webs are handled for transit to the jig in larger batches (therefore fewer trips), than angle webs.

For example, 4-00-00 Turb-O-Webs may replace every angle web in a job between, say 3-09-00 and 4-03-00. There may have been, say 7 unique angle web types for a total of, say, 25 webs, i.e. 7 movements which will now simply be replaced by 1 movement of 25 Turb-O-Webs.

3. Another feature which reduces material handling in the case of Turb-O-Webs is that a 4' Turb-O-Web is a 4' Turb-o-Web and no effort is required to handle individual 4' Turb-O-Webs as belonging to a particular truss in a particular job.;