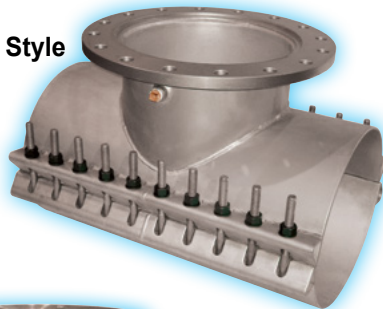


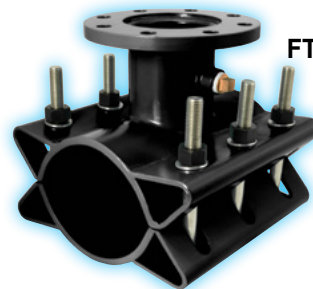
Tapping Sleeves

Whether you need to make large taps on a live water main, install lateral main line extensions, or connect a fire hydrant, take the guesswork out of large taps with Ford® tapping sleeves. Ford offers stainless steel tapping sleeves (FAST, FTSS and FTSAS) and carbon steel tapping sleeves (FTS and FTSC) in a large assortment of sizes.

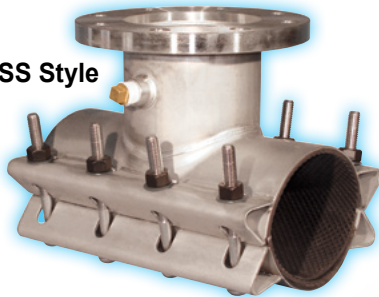
FTSAS Style



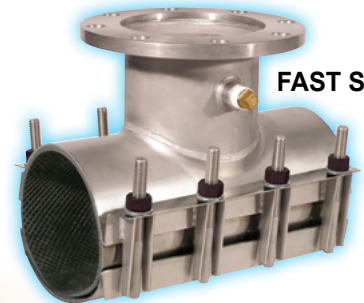
FTS(C) Style



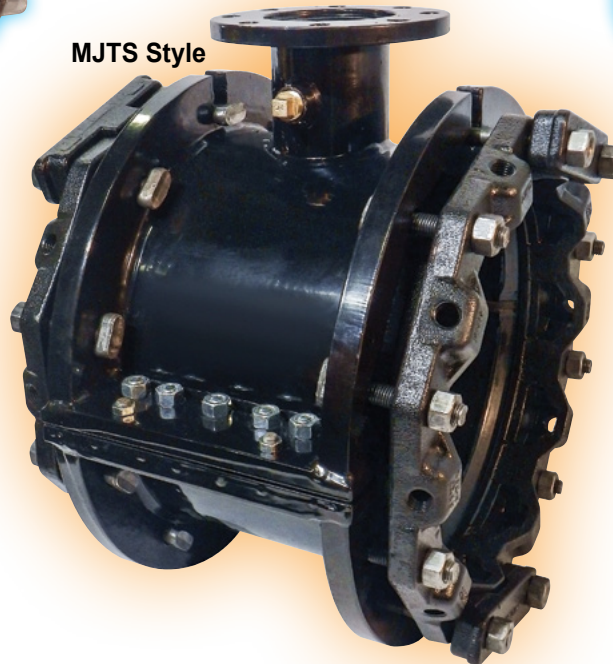
FTSS Style



FAST Style



MJTS Style



Ford's tapping sleeve, the MJTS, is ideal for challenging taps on rough or out-of-round pipe. Ford's MJTS includes a revolutionary gasket design that minimizes installation time. The unique leverage bar sealing system eliminates the need for removing or modifying the sideseal gasket. Alignment pins and "key-locked" end seal gaskets make installation a breeze. For more information on Ford's Tapping Sleeves, contact Ford Meter Box or your local Ford® distributor.



The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc., P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana, USA 46992-0443

Telephone: 260-563-3171 FAX: 800-826-3487 Overseas FAX: 260-563-0167 www.fordmeterbox.com



The Road Not Taken
Acrylic batik on masonite by Sarah L. Luginbill

DECEMBER 2019

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22 Hanukkah	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 ☀ Boxing Day (Canada) Kwanzaa Begins	27	28																																																																																				
29	30	31 New Year's Eve		☀ New Moon ☾ First Quarter ☾ Full Moon ☾ Last Quarter	NOVEMBER 2019 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	JANUARY 2020 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Phone: 260-563-3171 • Domestic FAX: 800-826-3487 • Overseas FAX: 260-563-0167 • www.fordmeterbox.com



Chestnuts



Chestnuts! Mel Tormé sang about them, poets wrote about them and Americans devoured them. The trees that produced them covered much of the eastern United States. They often grew to rank among the true monarchs of the forest, and their spreading branches were filled in season with lovely blossoms.

Chestnut trees once grew in grand profusion from northern Georgia and Alabama through eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, all of Pennsylvania and up the Hudson Valley.

An estimated nine billion chestnut trees provided food for humans and wildlife alike and lumber for a host of projects. Pioneers used chestnut logs to build cabins, coopers made barrels from chestnut and some early eastern railroads were laid on ties of chestnut. Passenger pigeons, now extinct, feasted among the fallen chestnuts. Early settlers turned their hogs loose to forage in the chestnuts. Babies slept in

cradles fashioned from chestnut wood, grew to take music lessons on pianos made of chestnut and buried their parents in coffins created from chestnut.

In many American cities, vendors hawking roasted chestnuts were a familiar sight in fall and winter. They usually stood on street corners, calling out “Hot roasted chestnuts.” They worked with makeshift sheet metal or cast iron ovens over a charcoal fire, and dispensed their food in paper bags. In October, the aroma of roasted chestnuts was a reminder of approaching winter.

The tree dominated the eastern forests. They were giants in a forest of giants. Their trunks could reach a diameter of eight feet, and they could top a hundred feet in height.

And then they vanished, victims of a great natural disaster that killed billions of the trees within a few decades and drove the species nearly into extinction.

The blight that killed chestnut trees in America originated in Asia and was first detected, somewhat ironically, in a tree in the New York Zoological Garden in 1904. The tree apparently was infected with a virus carried by a neighboring chestnut tree from Asia. The infected Asian trees had an immunity that protected them from the ravages of the disease. The fungus spread with amazing speed throughout the millions of acres that were home to the chestnut tree.

By 1923, when the impending demise of the tree was apparent to many, *The Los Angeles Times* posed this question in an editorial: “Will eating chestnuts by crackling log fires become one of the lost arts preserved by a devoted people only in poetry and romance?”

The disease advanced rapidly through the eastern states, and by about 1926 the situation was so desperate that Boy Scouts scoured the forests of Virginia and West Virginia in hopes of finding trees that had resisted the fungus. For the most part, they looked in vain.

Today, only a few living examples of the tree are to be found. A few still stand in Oregon, where they were introduced sometime in the late 1800s, and a few others are scattered about the seemingly unlikely location of Staten Island.

Scientists are at work on several fronts, studying the chestnut tree, and some are even reintroducing blight-resistant varieties into the American wild.

Perhaps those scientists are influenced by an anonymous pioneer mountain woman who said, “A grove of chestnut trees is a better provider than a man, and easier to have around.”

by Pete Jones

Photo credit: Library of Congress. Control Number 2016652343

Please send questions or comments to Pete Jones at peteinwabash@comcast.net.