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Time for twine to shine



The rise and rise of large square baling is throwing the need for better quality bale twine into sharp focus – with a clear need for greater value for money.

Traditionally, manufacturers made big bale twine stronger by making it thicker, or heavier, using the same 'recipe' of raw materials. Eventually, this reaches a point where the physical properties of the twine become too much for the knotters, resulting in bad knot formation, knots slipping undone, snapped twine and even damaged knotting mechanisms.

Now modern materials and modern manufacturing processes are being used by Tama to produce a large square bale twine fit for the modern world. The aim is to put an end to knotting problems, twine breakages and baler malfunctions, deliver more bales per pack, and provide better value for money.

Large square bales offer many advantages, not least easier road transport and storage, especially when supplying power stations. The market is growing at more than 4% a year, but

twine technology has not been keeping pace, prompting the arrival of a new type of twine and a campaign to correct some popular misconceptions.

Thicker twine poses the problem in the majority of large square balers using a 'double-knot' mechanism. During the knotting process the knotter will tie-off the last bale and creates the knot holding the twine around the start of the following bale at the same time, which effectively prevents twine from being held under the immense pressure a 'single-knot' system creates, which can damage the twine. So far, so good.

The downside is that with thicker, less flexible twine a 'double-knot' system struggles to create a satisfactory knot at the start of the new bale – one that will hold together as the bale is being formed. As the 'stuffing' action of creating a new bale repeatedly tenses and relaxes the knot, a thick twine knot can progressively untie itself. It simply pulls through once the full pressure comes on the twine as the bale is tied-off.

Now the expertise accumulated by

Tama during almost two decades of creating world-leading netwrap products is being applied to large square bale twine, with a particular focus on higher specification raw materials and modern manufacturing methods.

Those technological advances have created ever lighter weight netwraps, that still exhibit the same high strength, allowing roll length to be increased significantly, without individual rolls becoming too big or too heavy to handle. Similar technology is now being used to create a full range of twines to help you get the best cost per bale and offers a colored segmentation to guide you to the right twine dependent upon your baler, the crop and the baling conditions.

No longer is twine the neglected part of the crop packaging market. Farmers and contractors can finally say goodbye to over-weight, inefficient products made from outdated raw materials and embrace the best that modern technology has to offer instead.

Tama twine farmers tell their tale

Lawry Taylor

J.A Drewe
Didcot, Oxon
Product: Type 72

You just want to get on

Productivity is the key to any successful business.

And with the Big Spool Type 72, you get more bales out of a spool – meaning more time is spent baling and less on replacing spools.

"The bigger spools means more bales, so that was a no-brainer for us," said Lawry Taylor from Didcot-based J.A. Drewe. "It means you spend less time having to get out and change it, which you definitely don't want to be doing when it's 30C outside! You just want to get on, and this definitely improves output."

J.A. Drewe use a 2140 Massey and a 3200 Claas Quadrant for their square baling, producing around 25-30,000 bales.

"Our supplier asked us if we wanted to try it and it's been absolutely spot-on – there haven't been any problems at all. We've never had baler problems from the string and we've been on it for three years.

"It flows very well through the knotters – it feels very smooth and it doesn't get caught up on the rollers.

"It has improved my job because it is so convenient to use."



John Leggat

James C Innes & Sons, Huntly,
North-east Scotland
Product: Type 72

The bigger rolls save time

I bought a pallet of the Type 72 this year to give it a try – it's very smooth and leaves a bonny knot. But the really great thing about it for me is the big rolls. It means you don't have to change it as often – you get more of a break between stopping and putting on a new roll. There are 16 rolls in a baler at a time and every one of them is at a different stage so if you're running dry, you would normally have to get out and change or check them every hour-and-a-half. One roll feeds another so when one ends you've got to change it.

It's a great plus – you don't have to jump out so many times to check. It's definitely a good thing. The baler makes knots in the twine and some of the cheaper stuff can leave the knots a bit more frayed and not so tidy. But these are bonny knots and I'm not losing any – cheaper twine will make a knot and then the knot can pull out but this stuff seems to be working great. I'm very happy with it.



Ian Weatherley

I L Weatherley
Contractor and farmer
Hexham, Northumberland
Product: Type 72

A better quality string

I was recommended the Type 72 as an improvement on the string I had been using. I've found that this string is more even and I have had fewer knotting problems – in fact it has been no bother whatsoever. It completely suited my purpose for the baling that we do. When the bale is made there is a knot at each end – and if it doesn't tie correctly, you have loose string.

I think it's just a better quality string. It doesn't twist as it comes out of the ball and it seems to be more even – there is no variation in the string, it just seems to be a higher quality.



Andrew Lloyd

AJ Lloyd Ltd
Contractor and beef farmer
Norwich, Norfolk
Product: Type 72 + Tama HD

Consistency is key

I've tried type 72 from other manufacturers and they were okay but we've never looked back since switching to Tama. The difference is that Tama's twine is more consistent. A coarse twine won't pull through so well as a smooth one so when you're setting up the balers and the knotters, you need to know what it's going to be like from one pack to the next pack.

With the Tama twine, you could take a pack that came in at the beginning of the season and another pack at the end of the season and the consistency is nearly identical. With some other manufacturers, it wasn't – it could be totally different, which means you have to set the machine up differently. And that all takes time. The last thing the blokes want is to get out in the middle of the field and have to change things.

This year, we've also started using the High Density string for the high density balers and we've got on very well with it. High density balers can get half a ton into a bale, rather than a conventional one which is 350-450kg, so if you're getting paid by the ton rather than the bale that means we can get more straw in fewer trips. It puts more pressure on the bale but this string has never let us down at all.

Again, I've heard from other people who have used other products that have claimed to stand up to 90psi but the string starts popping. But the Tama HD goes to the baler's maximum and still holds.



Troy Stuart

Stuart Partners Ltd
Clyst St Mary, Exeter
Product: Type 72

The right string for the right baler

Busy contractors can have a range of baling machines to call on depending on the job they need to do.

They will choose the most appropriate machine for the job in hand. And so they want the right string for the right baler too.

"Different balers like different strings, because they have different properties," explains Troy Stuart from Stuart Partners. "The great thing about TAMA is that they recognise that so, instead of producing a single string for all, they've got different products suited to different machines.

"And when you've got the right string for the right baler, it's completely trouble-free – that's what I like. It works a dream."

Stuart's uses TAMA HD Extra for their Krone 1290 HDP extreme high-density baler, and Tenafil 100 for their two Claas Quadrant 5300 balers, producing 40-50,000 bales a year.

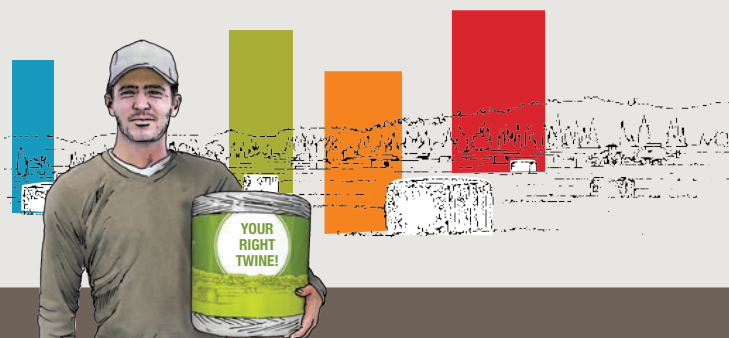
"You don't get so many slipped knots or broken string," added Troy. "They've got the knot strength that you need to do very high density on the HDs and you've got the reliability you need where we're baling a lot of silage for example, which is quite a tough application.

"It just does the job, no problem."

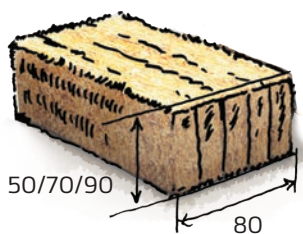


Tama Twine

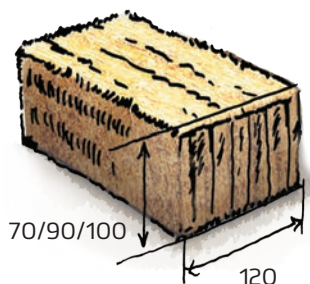
Make the right choice
for your baling needs...



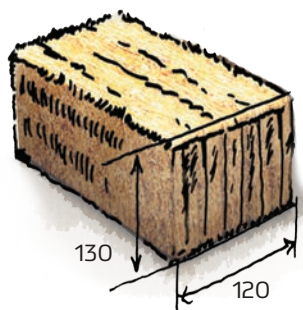
Which twine for which job?



	Straw			
	Standard	Extreme	Silage	Hay
Tama HD Extra				
Tama LSB Power		✓		
Big Spool Type 72	✓		✓	✓



	Straw			
	Standard	Extreme	Silage	Hay
Tama HD Extra		✓		
Tama LSB Power	✓	✓		
Big Spool Type 72	✓		✓	✓



	Straw			
	Standard	Extreme	Silage	Hay
Tama HD Extra		✓		
Tama LSB Power	✓	✓		
Big Spool Type 72	✓			

How many packs for 1,000 bales (8ft) ? (Guide Only)			
Twine	80x90	120x90	120x130
Tama HD Extra		32	39
Tama LSB Power	10	15	17
Big Spool Type 72	9	13	15

* All figures shown are approximate and are intended as a "guide only"

	Standard	High	Very High
Twine type specifications	Big spool Type 72	LSB Power	HD Extra
			



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