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2. That night they operated! Took me to a Packard Re-Wiring station, where a Certified Re-Wiring mechanic checked my electrical system from A to Z.

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downs and more serious electrical repairs later on. If your regular service station dealer does not provide Packard Certified Re-Wiring Service, have him get in touch with his Packard jobber. Packard Electric Division, General Motors Corporation, Warren, Ohio.





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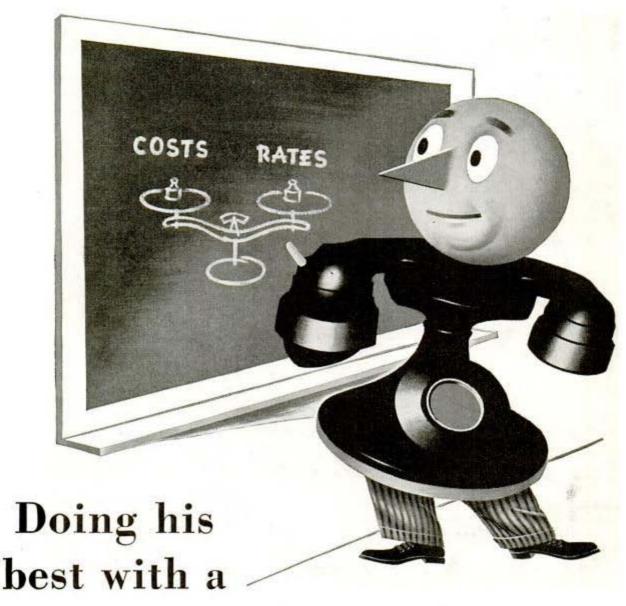
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1A



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Popular Mechanics Magazine

H. H. WINDSOR, Founder

H. H. WINDSOR, Jr., Editor and Publisher

June, 1941

Vol. 75, No. 6

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New Sinews of War

SIXTEEN-INCH chromium steel shells shot from Uncle Sam's coast defense guns will pierce sixteen-inch armor of a target 30 miles at sea, sink any battleship afloat. Far more than in 1917, when stainless steel was new, steel alloys today are the sinews of war. Tank gears are of steel that will bend, not break, under strain. Critical parts of warplanes are of stainless steel that resists wear and corrosion. The Coloroto section in July reveals the revolution that has come to the steel maker's art since the 'twenties.

Carrying the Torch for Industry

THOSE hard-working industrial twins, welding and flame cutting, were born during the world war but nobody paid much attention. Now look where they've gone! A July feature tells of the all-welded battleship, the welded locomotive boiler, flame-hardened steel, and of flame-cutting the teeth of a bridge.

Next Month

MILES in the sky you bail out and plunge earthward. Air rushes past you at a couple of hundred miles an hour, yet strangely enough you can breathe, you're not dizzy, your eyes don't smart. You do get a bang when the parachute finally opens, but you are hanging up there safe enough. Parachutes are pretty reliable lifesavers, you'll agree on reading "Jump Out, the Air Is Fine," a July feature. It reports that 85 percent of R.A.F. pilots shot down have been saved by their 'chutes.

Any Idle Horses?

SOME of the horsepower under your hood is eating up gasoline but doing no work. You paid about \$10 for every horse in your new automobile, but you've let some of them retire to pasture. There are some things you can do about it. A garage equipped with a chassis dynamometer can diagnose your car ailments. An article next month offers a score of valuable tips on tuning your car to the altitude, the work and the grade of gasoline to which it's accustomed.

Saboteurs, Halt!

TRY barging into the Douglas Aircraft plant along with the 18,000 employes who come and go every day. You can't do it. Douglas, like many another vital industrial plant, is on guard against the spy and saboteur. An article in July tells how America's defense factories are protected with infrared fences, camouflaged roofs and unbeatable secret devices.

Published monthly by POPULAR MECHANICS COMPANY, 200 East Ontario Street, Chicago, U. S. A. Single copy in the United States, 25 cents; subscription rates in United States and possessions, and countries of the Pan-American Postal Union including Spain, \$2.50 a year, \$4.00 for two years, \$5.00 for three years. Single copy in Canada, 30 cents; subscription rates, \$3.00 a year, \$5.00 for two years, \$6.50 for three years. To all other countries add \$1.00 a year over United States prices for overseas postage. Changes in address must be reported to us immediately to climinate delay. Entered as Second Class Matter, Sept. 15, 1903, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3, 1879. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office Department, Canada. Copyright 1941, by Popular Mechanics Company, in the United States, Australia, and France. Printed in the U. S. A.



4. So, am I finally wised! I've been using Pyroll a year now without one smell of grief. And does this baby purr: . . Am I going to the '500' this year? I'll see you there, boys, when that starting bomb goes boom!

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SELECT YOUR OWN TIME PAYMENT PLAN AND SAVE MONEY, TOO!

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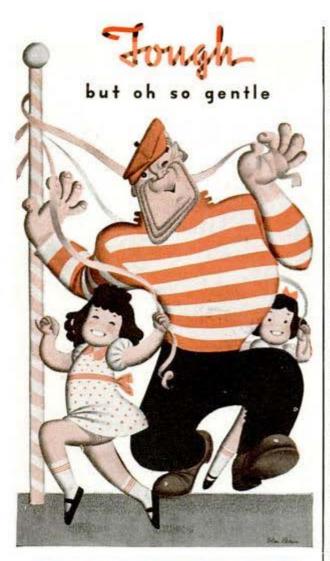
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very real bottle neck has occurred in industry.

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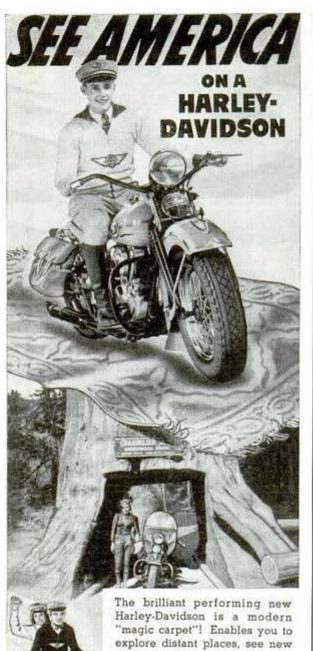
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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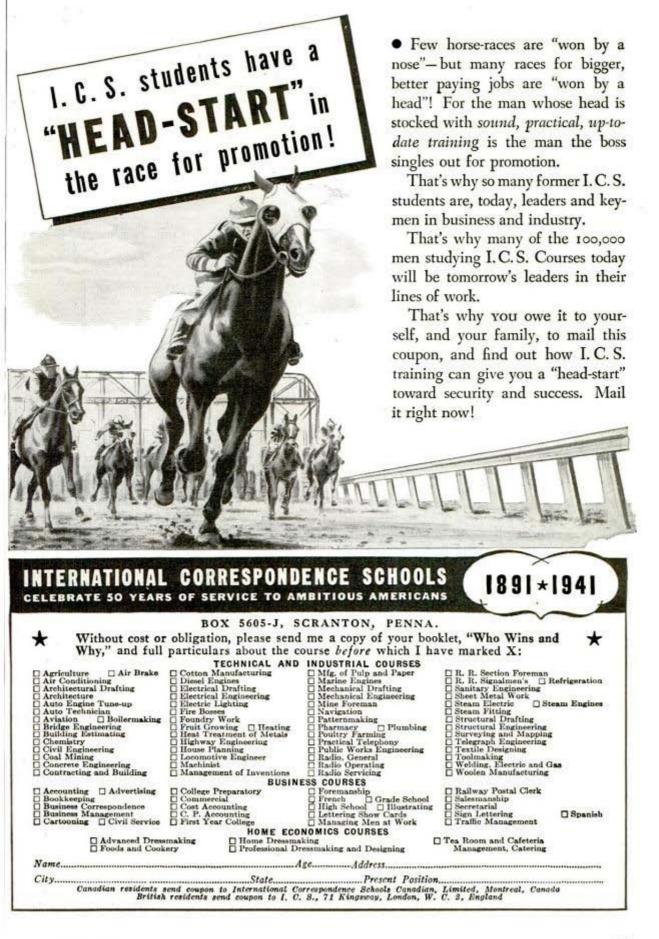
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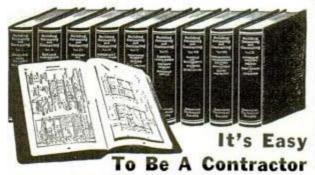
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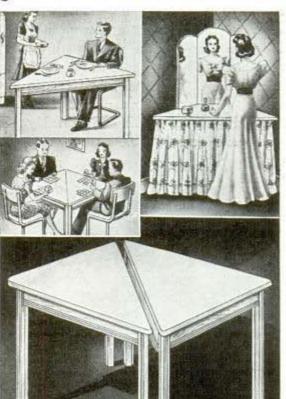
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19A



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'Pullover' Mop Fitting Any Broom Is Removable for Laundering

Any broom can be converted readily into a dust mop by covering the broom head with a "slipover" duster now available. It is held in place by snaps, and when the mop becomes soiled it may be taken off and sent to the laundry. The dust



mop gains the advantage of the broom's flexibility in dusting the woodwork, furniture and hard-to-reach surfaces.

Elastic Rubber Line Has Plastic Hangers for Clothes



Plastic hangers serve as clothespins on a rubber clothesline introduced recently as a convenience for the kitchen or laundry. The strong elastic line stretches up to eight feet, as needed.

WHERE-TO-BUY-IT INDEX OF POPULAR INVENTIONS

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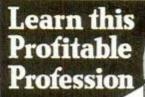
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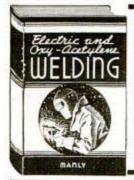
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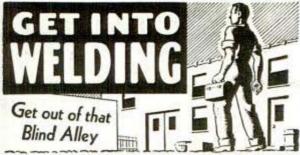
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WRITE Songs. Big money and reputa-tion. Write for information, J. Gordon Pub. Co., 201 N. Hoyne, Ave., Chicago.

SONG Writers. Send for publishing agreement. McKinley Music Publishers, 1501 E. 55th St., Chicago.

FREE—Big list of helpful books. Pop-ular Mechanics Press, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago

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POCKET Size crystal radio only \$1.00. Radio Sales, Southington, Conn.

RADIOS: Save 50%, Catalog free. Autocrat-A, 3855 North Hamilton, Chicago.

RADIO Kits—\$3.95 up, Complete. Single band; all-wave. Save 50%. Radio and parts catalog free. McGee Radio. FP 20, Kansas City. Mo.

RADIO Engineering, broadcasting, aviation and police radio, servicing, marine and Morse telegraphy taught thoroughly, all expenses low. Catalog free. Dodge's Institute, Ames St., Valparaiso, Ind.

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nex. New York.

WANTED—A product—A manufacturing client with excellent facilities wants a product requiring large metal stampings. The product could be new or an established product needing production canacity. All replies confidential. Wolf & Co., Inc., 7 South Dearborn Street, Chicaso, Management Engineers.

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MAKE Money by mail, the way we do. Maywood, P-1107 Free information. Maywood, Broadway, New York.

HOUSE Plan books—Latest titles—Bar-nin catalog free. Popular Mechanics, 633 gain catalog free. St. Clair, Chicago.

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EARN Money at home! Thousands do! "Home Worker Magazine" tells how. Sam-ple 25c. Sizemore, Box 7, 4917 North Kost-per Chieses ner. Chicago.

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BIG Mails, catalogs, propositions, Send dime. Service Press, Box 167, Waukesha, Wis.

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GROCERIES Free! Just agree to show friends, neighbors, others and I'll give you \$5.00 assortment foods, groceries, etc., free. Amazingly simple way to make good money. Send no money—just name and address. Zanol, 2282 Monmouth. Cincin-ret.

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FREE Water and our concentrates make 72 products. We supply labels, bottles. Enormous profits. Qualco, E-20030 Russell. Detroit.

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28 LAWN Ornament patterns 25c. Other patterns: 15"-20" high; Dutch girl, Dutch boy, pirate, bull terrier, Mexican girl, Mexican boy, dwarf, penguin, flower girl, 10c each; 3 for 25c. 25 novelty patterns 30c. All 62 full size patterns \$1.00 post-paid. Strother, Box 383-CO, Belington, West Virginia. paid. Strothe West Virginia.

KNOCKDOWN Cedar chest, lumber, ve-neers, illustrated catalog 10c, Giles Ken-dall Co., Decatur, Ala.

1000 TELUHOW Plans, Explained, simple, useful, interesting. Homecrafters of all ages. Classified illustrated list 10c, Charles King, E. Kingston, N. H.

MONEYMAKING Projects. Knockdown furniture novelties. Materials, machinery. Send 12c stamps for "Razornife" tool and illustrated catalog. Woodcraft Service, Plainview. Minnesota.

WORK With Plexiglas. Make crystal-clear plastic trays, sparkling salad bowls, shatterproof tableware in your own kitch-en. Special four-pound bundle Plexiglas sheets up to two square feet in area \$5.00. Send check, money order. Milton Brum-mer, 720 Locust Street, Philadelphia.

LEATHERCRAFTSMEN: Send 10c for new handbook and catalogue of tools and supplies. E. A. Sweet Company. Inc., Leathercraft Division, A-47, 148 State Street, Binghamton, N. Y.

BUILD Reflecting lawn numbers ple number, instructions 10c, S Specialties, Springfield, Illinois. Superior

VENETIAN Blinds, supplies, machinery, wholesale catalog 10c. "Manufacturing Booklet" \$1.00. "Roberta," Box 260, Gloversville, New York.

CAST Plastics—Make your own plain, illuminated house number. Free folder. Southern Cities Co., 1224 Temple, Long Southern Ci Beach, Calif

22 LAWN Ornament patterns 25c. Other patterns; 15"-20" high; Dutch girl, Dutch boy, pirate, bull terrier, Mexican girl, Mexican boy, dwarf, penguin, flower girl, 10c each; 3 for 25c. 25 novelty patterns 30c. All 56 full size patterns \$1.00 postpaid. Strother, Box 383-CM. Belington, West Virginia.

NEW 1941 Pattern and supply catalog finely illustrating 500 articles. Lawn or-naments, silhouettes, plywood novelties, decal transfers, letter patterns, homecraft hand tools, stencil boards, etc. Write Wo-Met Shop, Ashburn, Georgia.

THE New Shebel Saw Filer produces saws that have no equal. Send for full in-formation. A. P. Shebel. 730 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, Wis.

80 PATTERNS. 20 Lawn ornaments, 20 silhouette, 20 novelties, 20 lawn ornaments, 30c each set, all for \$1.00. Modern Woodcraft, Saginaw. Mich.

WOODWORKING Power tools — Make them yourself. Lathe, scroll saw, saw ta-ble, drill press, portable sander, bandsaw, motorized plane. Complete details only motorized plane. Complete details only 25c. Popular Mechanics Press, 200 E. On-tario Street. Chicago.

RAZORS, BLADES, SHARPENING

CLEAR-VIEW For trimming mustaches. Change present safety razor easily. Plan, \$1.00. Box 305, East Moline, Ill.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, OLD GOLD, ETC.

FINE Diamonds at out-of-pawn prices. Liquidating unredeemed loan pledges and big cash buying power enable us to offer genuine diamonds, prices far less than cost, ½ carat ladies diamond ring, 6 side diamond ring, 1914 inum mounting \$69.50; 1 carat ladies blue white diamond ring, 1914 inum mounting \$69.50; 1 carat ladies blue white diamond ring \$99.50; 1 carat man's diamond ring \$89.00. Hundreds more beautiful diamond offerings, unbelievably low prices. Shipped free for inspection and appraisal to any bank or express agency. Send for free list, Lloyd J. Butler. President, Prudential Loan Association, Pawnbrokers, 133-EA North Clark Street, Chicago.

WATCHMAKERS' Materials, tools, jew-elry-bought, sold. Best prices for old gold, diamonds. Free catalog. Ben Segal Com-pany, Box 150, Chicago.

WATCHES—Hamilton, Elgin, Waltham, Bulova as low as \$2.75. Diamond rings at lowest prices, Postal brings free illustrat-ed catalog. Quaker City Jewelry Company, Wholesale Jewelers, 801 Walnut St., Phila-delphia, Penna, Dept. "S."

ELGIN, Waltham watches \$3.50. Make big money. Free watch and jewelry cata-log. Plymouth Jewelry Company, 163-F Canal St., New York.

WANTED! Gold, silver, platinum, dia-monds, mercury, etc. Ship, Simon's Jew-elry, 353 Old Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio,

OPALS—Collectors' parcels \$5.00. Lapi-daries' parcels \$5.00. Catalogue free, Nor-man Seward, Melbourne, Australia.

BULOVA, Gruen, Hamilton, Elgin, Waltham wrist and pocket watches for ladies and gents. Positively lowest wholesale prices. 1941 styles now available. Write for free money making wholesale catalogue. Norman Rosen, Wholesale Jeweler, Dept. P.M., 801 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

GOLD \$35 Ounce. Ship old gold teeth, crowns, jewelry, watches—receive cash by return mail. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free information. Dr. Weisberg's Gold Refining Co., 1500-Q Hennepin, Minneapolis,

AGATES, ATES, Fossil woods, three pounds postpaid. Jay Ransom, Aberdeen, Wash.

HIGHEST Prices for old gold—Mail your teeth, watches, jewelry, 100% full cash value mailed day shipment received. Sat-lafaction guaranteed or articles cheerfully returned. Information free. Chicago Gold Smelting Company, 300-P Champlain Building, Chicago.

TOBACCO-SMOKERS SUPPLIES

A DIFFERENT Cigar! Box \$1.00 post-aid. Elmer Reed, Gardner, Mass.

GOLDEN Leaf guaranteed, cigarette, pipe or chewing 5 lbs. \$1.00, ten \$1.75. Pay when received. Pipe, box cigars free. Reeves Tobacco Co., Paducah, Ky.

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GUARANTEED Factory rebuilt transits and levels for rent (with purchase option) or sale (cash or terms). Order now before prices advance. We will repair, trade in, or buy your old instruments. Ship prepaid for estimate and valuation. Write for List M-65 and complete information to Warren-Knight Co., 136 N, 12th St., Philadelphia. Penna. delphia, Penna.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

VIEW Post cards. 25 assorted 25c. Spe-cialty Shop, Centreville, Ala.

WANTED-MISCELLANEOUS

CASH For used microscopes, drawing sets, airbrushes, diamonds, watches, binoc-ulars, slide rules, scientific and medical instruments, tools. Satisfaction guaran-teed. Elman's, 108-MF South Clark. Chi-

HIGHEST Prices for used cameras, bi-noculars, microscopes, drawing sets, tools, rifles, shot guns, any optical or scientific instrument. Satisfaction guaranteed. In-formation free. Gordon's, 162-M Madison, Chicago.

MERCURY, Cash paid promptly, Quo-ations free. Wholesale Terminal, Nortations free. Wholes wood, Massachusetts.

CASH For anything, Justice Jewelry Jobbers, 59-P East Madison, Chicago.

POPULAR MECHANICS

STYLISH Name cards handwritten, 35c dozen, 3 dozen, \$1.00. Expert Penman, 1944 Loma Vista, Pasadena, Calif.

SINUS Trouble. If a victim of sinus or catarrhal infection, write National Labora-tories. Benj. Franklin Station, Washing-ton, D. C.

tories, Benj. Frankin Station, Washington, D. C.

ROSICRUCIAN Secret teachings are offered to those who seek to use them solely for the perfection of their inner faculties, and in the mastering of the daily obstacles of life; the International Organization of Rosicrucians will be happy to receive the requests of those who believe that worthiness and sincerity determine the right for one to have such wisdom: to them, a copy of "The Secret Heritage." a fascinating book, will be given without price; let this book guide you to the conservative plan whereby you may widen your scope of personal power. Simply address your letter to Scribe M.Z.E., Amorc Temple, Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California.

PSYCHOANALYSIS Questionnaire 10c. Information free. Mentoplex, 10 Depot Square, Englewood, N. J.

WIN Prize money: Booklet—"Success-

WIN Prize money: Booklet—"Success-ful Contesting"—shows how. 10c postpaid. Bulletin listing \$100,000.00 prizes included. World Publishers. 4515-"B" Cottage Grove, Chicago.

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MEXICAN Legal matters, William coke, Reliable American Attorney, El Cooke, Ne.

CONTEST Bulletin. 22 big pages of contest helps. 10c. General Contest Service, Dept. 7. Duluth, Minn.

MEXICAN Legal matters. Wm. A. Cocke, American Attorney, ElPaso, Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS

LEARN About milk goats. For free literature and sample magazine, address: Goat World. Vincennes, Indiana.

SLIDE Rule users—New, simple indi-cator locates decimal point. Complete with case, \$1.50. Chas. Dickson, Harvard, Ill.

WET Basements! Save 80% waterproof-ing your own! Easy! Also profitable busi-ness. Write Seal-Seep, 692, Cincinnati.

LEARN Tempering tools, copyright book-t postpaid \$1. P.O. Box 324, Hagerstown, Md

THREE Fountain pens \$1.00 prepaid, sured. American-Simplex, Anderson,

STAMP Size, glossy, gummed photo stamps, Reproduced from your photo-graphs, 100—59c, Guaranteed, Ward-woode, MP-5, Wallingford, Connecticut.

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SOAPMAKING. Learn home. No ma-ninery. (Stamp.) Posera, AF-4545 Bartchinery. (Stamplett, Milwaukee.

PUZZLE Your friends with ½ inch ucrose crystals (cane sugar). 25c coin. I. Marble, 2527 W. Ave. 34, Los Angeles, California.

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FINANCIAL Assistance for sound, practical inventions to be patented. References free. E. Warsham, Box 1356, Washington, D. C.

INFORMATION. Business, personal. The Roxbys, Research Specialists, 747 S. New Hampshire Ave., Los Angeles.

STANDARD Electric lamp insect killer. \$2.00 up. Literature free. Sauer Bros., San Leandro. Calif. RECEIVE Gigantic mails, magazines, samples. Your name in numerous mailing lists 10c. Howard, 396 Broadway, New York York

PREDICT The weather! Be your own weatherman! Genuine Taylor aneroid barometer, 3½ inch dial, 5¼ inch mahogany-finished case. Chrome-finished bezel and hanger. Only \$4.95 postpaid. Your satisfaction guaranteed. Information free, William D. Hayes, Dealer in Instruments, Box 1433-N. Oakland, California.

TATTOOING And electric engraving utilts. Write Tatuco, 651 South State, Chicago.

OUTDOOR Pireplace units; 6 models, \$6.75 up. 10c brings plans, information. Pontiac Outdoor Stove, 15 Spokane Drive, Pontiac. Mich.

GOOD Eyesight without glasses. Simple, inexpensive home treatment. No drugs. A. E. Jacobson, Upsala, Minnesota.

CONVERT Your lawn mower into a power mower, for as little as \$10.00. Complete plans \$1.00. Lucky's Mower Shop, 2017 N. W. 20th St. Miami, Fla.

DEAFNESS, Why? Good hearing with-out mechanical aids. No drugs. Relieving deafness. Johnston, Station C, Vancouver, Capada. Canada.

FROG Raising! Book for \$1.00. Rob-erts Frog Farm. Orange. Texas.

COATS Of arms and crests, correctly painted in colors or black and white, from heraldic description or furnished copy, \$10.00 and up. Highest grade work. Her-aldic Studios, 1914P Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

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PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS

Say you saw it in POPULAR MECHANICS

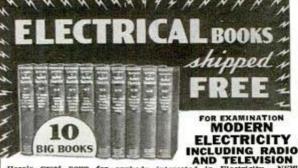
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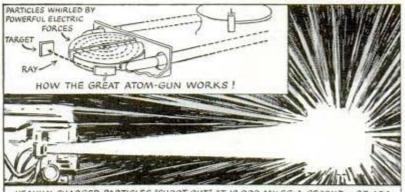
Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics!

WONDERS OF AMERICA

Smashing the Invisible!







HEAVILY CHARGED PARTICLES "SHOOT OUT" AT 18,000 MILES A SECOND __ 35,000
TIMES FASTER THAN A RIFLE BULLET_ IN A MYSTERIOUS BEAM THAT SMASHES
AGAINST ATOMS IN A TARGET. THE IMPACT RELEASES ASTOUNDING ENERGY
FROM THE ATOMS' "CORES"—FOR EXAMPLE, 50 MILLION TIMES MORE
POWER THAN FROM THE BURNING OF AN ATOM OF CARBON IN COAL.
SCIENCE AIMS TO HARNESS THIS POWER

THE ENERGY BEAM HA! HA! ITHOUGHT COULD CONSUME I NEEDED A COOLING YOUR PIPE SYSTEM ON MY PIPE BEFORE I TOOK UP COOL-INSTANTLY_SO THE MACHINE **BURNING PRINCE ALBERT** HAS TO HAVE YES, AND SCIENCE A COOLING HAS A WORD ON SYSTEM THAT, TOO

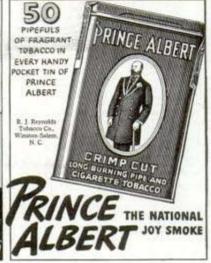
IN RECENT LABORATORY
"SMOKING BOWL" TESTS,
PRINCE ALBERT BURNED

86 DEGREES COOLER

THAN THE AVERAGE OF THE 30 OTHER OF THE LARGEST-SELLING BRANDS TESTED— COOLEST OF ALL!

PRINCE ALBERT YWE ROLL-YOUR-OWNERS HAS BROUGHT 4 REGARD P.A. THAT WAY, MODERN PROGRESS TOO _ PRINCE ALBERT CLOSE TO THE LIFE OF SPINS SO FAST, SO EVERY PIPE-SMOKER. EASY, SO SMOOTH PA'S MILDNESS, AND FIRM! NO, MELLOWNESS, AND ATHERE'S NO OTHER TOBACCO LIKE P.A GOOD TASTE ARE NOW WITHIN EVERY SMOKER'S FOR REAL SMOKING REACH





Popular Mechanics Magazine

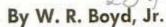
WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

Vol. 75

JUNE, 1941

No. 6

AMERICA'S "SEA" OF OIL



Executive Vice President, American Petroleum Institute

EVERY 20 minutes the American petroleum industry produces as much gasoline as a European air fleet consumes in a whole day of wartime flying, so no one need worry about whether our oil supply is sufficient for all defense purposes.

Actual daily consumption by an air fleet remains a military secret, but might be estimated at 2,500,000 gallons. In contrast our petroleum industry distributes to consumers around 180,000,000 gallons of gasoline daily.

How much gasoline may be consumed by the great mechanized army and the mighty fleet which Uncle Sam is building is comparatively unimportant so far as our oil supply is concerned. No military machine in the world, and none presently contemplated, can have even the capacity for consuming as much gasoline as do the 30,000,000 motor vehicles

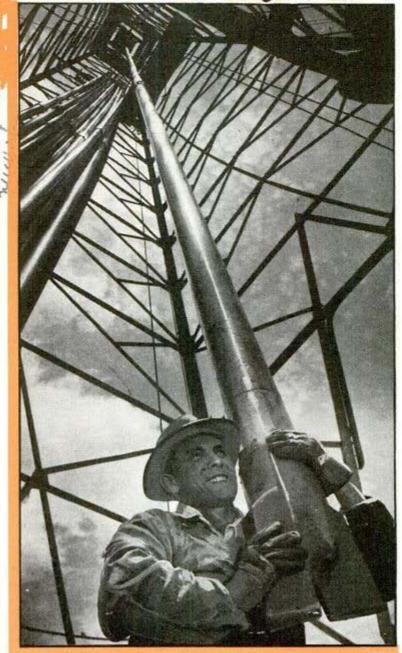


Photo courtesy Standard Oil of Indiana

Here the "fishtail" is going down, which means the driller is working fast in a soft formation. This is one step in drilling an oil well

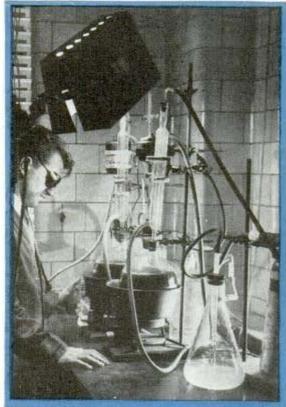
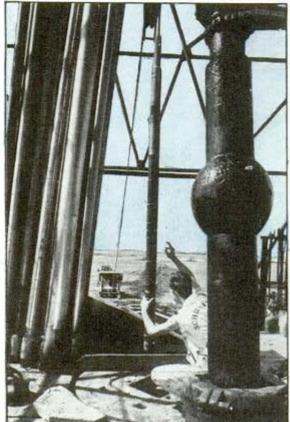


Photo courtesy Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.

Studying extreme pressure lubricants such

as are used in auto hypoid gears Below, oil is detected in earth when it blocks flow of electricity from this device to truck



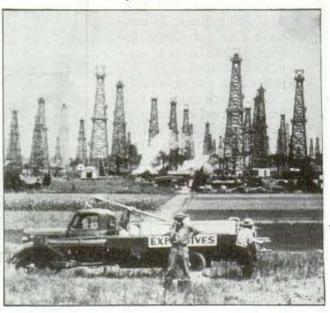


Engineers in American Airlines plane checking on test of new fuel for commercial and warplanes

and the thousands of airplanes, motor boats, tractors, stationary engines, and other consuming agencies in this country in peacetime operations.

Folks who worry about this country's oil supply underestimate the size, productive capacity and the ability of the petroleum industry, which is accustomed to meeting changing, as well as suddenly expanding needs. For instance, from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 new-model automo-

Below, with background of old-fashioned, crowded oil field, engineers set off charge whose vibrations bounce off deep-laid layers of earth's crust. Instruments record the vibrations and help determine whether rock structure capable of bearing oil exists at point tested



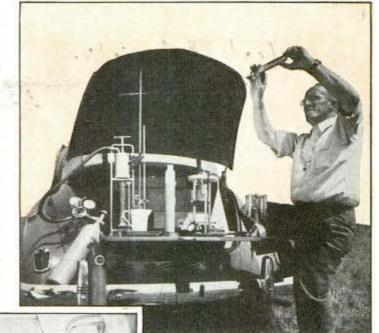
POPULAR MECHANICS

1340

biles have been taking to American highways every year for more than a decade, in fact, for about two decades. Those new machines, with their changed requirements for fuel and lubricants, came along, but the older cars kept traveling, too.

Meeting the fuel requirements of these 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 new cars alone meant that the industry had to produce from 1,400,000,000 to 2,800,000,000 gallons of additional gasoline each year. Meeting lubrication requirements meant the additional production of from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 gallons of lubricat-

ing oil. No army in the world has 2,000,000 motor vehicles, and possibly none ever will have so many. Even if military demands grow far beyond present estimates, the supply still would be adequate. For years the petroleum industry has been producing far more than could be consumed. Present gasoline consumption of the United States is approximately 24,000,000,000 gallons per year. That gasoline comes from crude oil

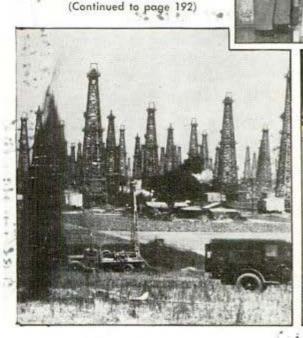


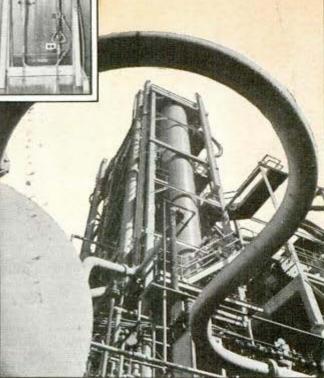
Laboratory on wheels is used to analyze drilling mud for signs of oil

Left, model of apparatus developed by Standard Oil of New Jersey to speed up cracking of petroleum

Below, the photographer catches an unusual view of a gas absorption plant

Photo courtesy Standard Oil of Indiana





9310.

Test Tubes 14 Feet High



Inside the tall glass tube is another containing a gaseous element whose atoms are to be sorted

Light and heavy atoms of the same element are separated according to their weight in a towering pair of test tubes at the General Electric research laboratory. The apparatus consists of two glass tubes at the test long, one inside the other, and a gold wire extending from top to bottom in the inner tube. This inside tube contains the gaseous element to be separated, and is kept at fixed temperature by passing

steam through the outer tube. When the gold wire is heated—gold is used because a baser metal might be attacked by the element being tested—lighter atoms go to the top and heavier ones sink to the bottom to be collected.

Auto-Wheel Tester Shows Faults On a Single Meter

Attached to the front wheel of an automobile while it is in motion, an automatic tester indicates whether the wheel is rolling true, and in addition shows camber, caster,



kingpin inclination, toe-in and toe-onturns. All this is given on a simple meter that can be read without knowledge of steering geometry. Other hidden defects, such as shifted axles and bent frames, are also detected by the instrument.

Protective Plate in Baseball Cap Guards Against Head Injury

Players on the Brooklyn National League baseball team are wearing caps equipped with protective plates to guard them from head injuries that wild throws might inflict. The caps have side pockets in which the guard plates are inserted.



Slipped into the side pockets of the cap, the protective plates prevent injury from accidental blow

Chros. POPULAR MECHANICS
Lis. Is I Bennett and
Philip Handy

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V 2364

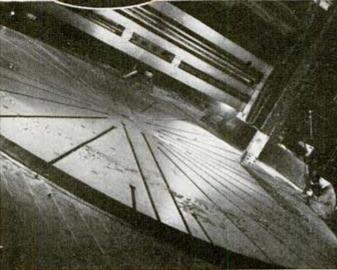
SYMPHONY SYMPHONY INDUSTRY





Rhythm of machines, clash of steel and humming of motors play a symphony of industry as America's factories turn to defense. Above, like an organ console are De-ion arc extinguishers, which perform job formerly done by fuses

Left, Westinghouse pneumatic tube system, in which messages speed through tubes that, in this photo, resemble pipes of an organ



Above, 30-foot table of boring mill, resembling phonograph turntable, at Westinghouse plant. Right, "cymbals" are metal plates built into electric motors to keep out dirt



East Pettsbugh.

Large Patrol Bomber for Navy Tested in Flight



Initial flight tests were made recently of a new long range four-engine patrol bomber said to be one of the largest and most powerful in the navy service. Built by Consolidated Aircraft Corp., San Diego, Calif., the huge ships, known as PB2Y-2, will take their place in the fleet as sister ships to hundreds of twin-engine Consolidated patrol bombers of the PBY classification.

Four-engine long-range patrol bomber is one of the largest and most powerful airplanes in service of the navy

Army Sled Driven by Propeller Mounts Machine Gun

by the nather final assauthe Finns, aerosleds been operated during winter maneuvers by U. S. Army units at Fort Brady, Mich. Powered by gasoline, the propeller-driven sled is equipped with a machine gun and is manned by troops equipped with skis, snow shoes and other winter paraphernalia.

ready for warfare at Fort Bradis gerosle



Six-Foot Coil of Pipe Cleaner Is Unrolled and Clipped Off as Needed



Smoker pulls pipe cleaner from reel and cuts it off

Holding a six-foot coil of pipe cleaner, a vest-pocket container is equipped with a small push clipper which "bites" off the cleaner at the length wanted. Refills may be inserted by unscrewing a flat plate on the side. Pipe smokers find that one filling lasts a long time. For long-stem pipes, an extra-long cleaner can be snipped off.

Two billion cubic feet of wood are produced annually on farm, woodlands in the United States.

M Unines 12/20/40

Roller Skates Easily Converted for Use on Ice

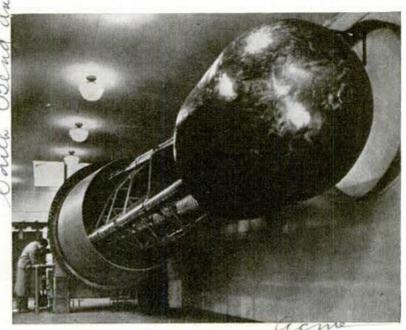


Two views show how blades may be attached in place of rollers so the skates may be used on ice

Both ice skating and roller skating may be enjoyed with convertible skates now on the market. As rollers they have three wheels in line and a rear brake, which make rolling easy, quiet and smooth. To change the skates for use on ice, the wheels are removed and a blade having three steel supports fastened in their place on each shoe. The ice-skating attachment comes in hockey style blade.

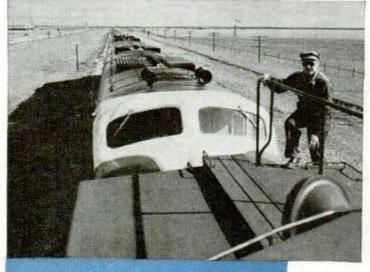
Twenty-Ton Atom Smasher Generates 8,000,000 Volts

Power as high as 8,000,-000 volts will be generated by a gigantic atom smasher, weighing 20 tons, which has been completed at Notre Dame University. This immense energy will be used in experiments with the disintegration of the nuclei of atoms by bombarding ' them with high-speed electrons, and in production of radioactive metals. Making available the most penetrating X-rays ever produced, the machine also will aid scientists at the university conducting fundamental research in the field of artificial radioactivity.



Atom-smashing monster hurls electrons with force of 8,000,000 volts in making metals radioactive and splitting nuclei of material structure

The MOST POWERFUL



Through louvres on roof of locomotive, above, heat from electric brake is dissipated

By Roderick M. Grant

VER the caboose, threequarters of a mile down the track, a lantern waves.

"High ball!"

Two blasts issue from the powerful horn. The engineer throws the control lever into position one, advances the throttle and the idle hum of the Diesels amplifies into a businesslike throb. Gently, easily the 68-car freight glides forward, heading up for the Arizona Divide-one of the toughest grades on the line.

"Never saw any steam engine get up here with a load like this," remarks the fireman up in the cab. "We'd need at least one

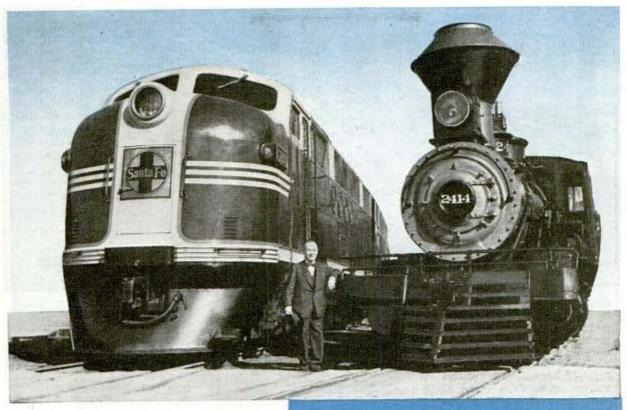
helper engine, maybe two."

But the big Diesel-electric streamliner doesn't call for help. The Santa Fe's No. 100, first main-line freight locomotive of its breed, the most powerful Diesel on wheels, is on trial for its life. The price tag was \$450,000, more than a thousand dollars

Left, the maintainer inspects a neatly packaged 16-cylinder engine. Below, the Diesel pulls up the steep grade to Cajon Pass on its first eastbound trip



DIESEL on WHEELS



a ton, and it had better be worth it. For back of the steam engine lies a century of performance; the country grew up with the iron horse, and old railroaders cling to it in sentiment as much as in respect for the power of those thrusting pistons. The Diesel locomotive—grandchild of the automobile and child of the submarine—is an infant. If it meets the test of heavy freight service, the railroads are headed into a new era.

In the dynamometer car just back of the locomotive a bell jingles. An observer up in the cab is calling the engineer of tests.

"Throttle in position three," comes the word from the head end, and the test man jots the information on the locomotive's "diary" as he watches the needle jump around to 110,000 pounds on the drawbar dial, indicating the engine's pull on the coupler as it drags 3,150 tons of freight into action. The diary is a moving sheet of paper, geared to the car wheels

No. 2414, oldest engine on the Santa Fe, has one-tenth the tractive power of the big Diesel. Built in 1880, the old timer was retired in 1939 after nearly 60 years service. Below, at the controls of the Diesel freighter







Above, the engine control pedestal in the streamliner's cab. Dial at top guides the engineer in advancing or retarding traction motors

Mechanical pens in dynamometer car (above) log the Diesel's performance on its maiden trip; the dial shows the pull on the drawbar in thousands of pounds

Right, high-speed motion picture camera shows drive wheel of steam locomotive clear of the rail, pounding it; Diesel-electric drive wheels hold the rail

Below, engine maintainer regulating shutters which control air intake for cooling radiators and traveling across a desk at a speed proportional to the train's; on it a crew of engineers and a battery of mechanical pens record every change of pace, every shift of throttle, every milepost and every varia-

tion in drag on the coupler as No. 100 purrs up the mountain grade. A mechanical integrator writes continually the foot-pounds of energy expended in hauling the train across the continent. For this is the baptismal trip of the Santa Fe's 5,400-horsepower giant, and a jury of railroad engineers is waiting to be shown.

Over the plains of Texas from Canadian to Amarillo the train raced in two hours and a half, sprinting over a mile a minute on the level, taking a six-tenths percent grade—one percent is 52.8 feet rise in a mile—at 34 miles an hour. No stops en route. The man at the throttle grinned.

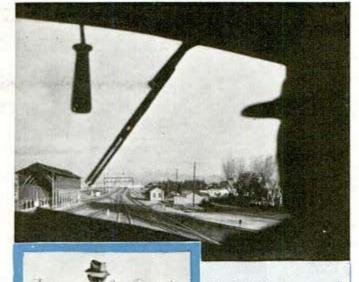
"Used to make this run in seven or eight hours with a double steam locomotive," he said. "And we stopped for water about every 25 miles on the upgrades." 2208

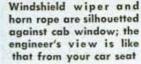
For a long time the people of America had almost forgotten there were railroads. Then, seven years ago, a Diesel-electric streamliner flashed across their vision at 100 miles an hour. Today they are riding from coast to coast by Diesel, at nearly a mile a minute all the way. Freight has been speeding up, too, but of this the public is scarcely aware. The average freight locomotive is nearly 50 percent more powerful than 20 years ago, and freight train speeds from terminal to terminal are 63 percent faster.

Again, as in passenger service, it is the Diesel-electric streamline freighter that is likely to revolutionize railroading. No. 100 gave a hint of what is to come when, on its debut trip from Kansas City to Los Angeles over the Santa Fe, it trimmed a full day from the steam schedule without attempting a record. Running time was 55 hours, an average of 32.5 miles an hour with a top speed of 65.

Inside and out, it looks very much like its sensational brother,

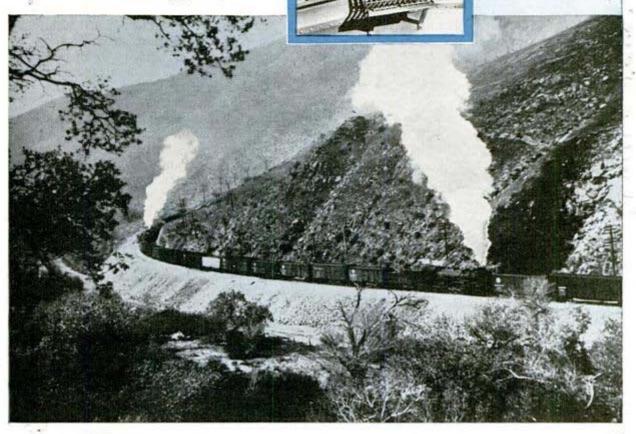
(Continued to page 199)



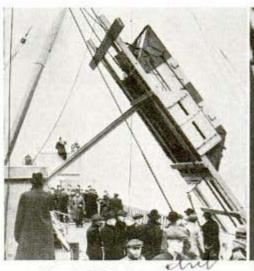


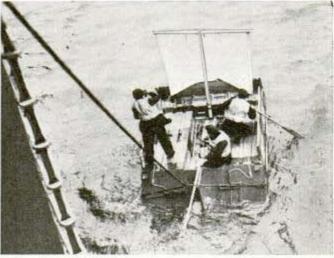
New steel freight cars (left) have open-mesh steel running boards and brake steps for safety

Two extra engines at middle and rear help a Santa Fe steam freighter climb a steep grade the Diesel can take unaided



Life Raft for Wartime Launched by Catapult





Life raft, left, being catapulted into sea. Right, it is designed to float safely with either side up

To save the lives of her merchant seamen who may be shipwrecked by enemy action, Britain has introduced a new raft that may be launched with either side up. If the ship is struck by a torpedo, an automatic launching device catapults the raft into the sea. Invented by R. S. Chipchase, head of a firm in South Shields, England, the life raft carries a sail, oars and a stock of food, water and other provisions.

Unexploded Bombs Hauled Safely in Special Police Truck

Probably the first vehicle of its kind in the United States, an automobile has been designed for the Milwaukee, Wis., police department to be used in transporting unexploded bombs which saboteurs or spies might "plant" in factories producing defense materials. Its body is a heavy steel "hopper," weighing 3,300 pounds, and so shaped that the force of an accidental blast would be directed upward through the

open top. The bottom, three feet square, is made of five layers of half-inch boiler plate, while the beveled sides consist of two layers of plate with a 2½-inch oak plank between them. Heavy boiler plate reinforces the driver's cab, and a rear window of 1½-inch bullet proof glass protects the driver from flying fragments. In practice tests, explosions have forced the hopper about four inches down on its special springs, but have done no damage to the machine itself.



If bomb being transported in this truck explodes accidentally, its force will travel upward with little chance of doing harm

Cartridge in Garden Hose Feeds Plant Vitamin

Much labor in applying vitamin B₁ to lawns and gardens is saved by the development of a vitamin cartridge that distributes automatically when the garden hose is

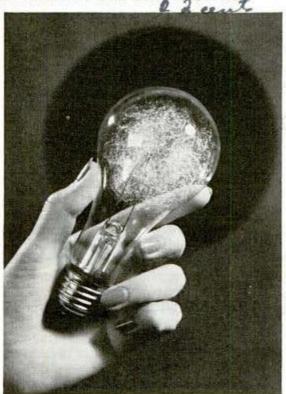
POPULAR MECHANICS

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used. The usual method of application involves mixing the vitamin in a container and spreading it by means of a sprinkling can. This is eliminated by the vitamin cartridge, since it is only necessary to insert it in any standard nozzle, screw the nozzle onto the garden hose, and sprinkle with a fine spray. One cartridge is sufficient for an average size lawn and garden, and it costs only a dollar to keep them "vitamized" an entire season. Adding vitamin B1 to the soil frequently results in larger blooms, hardier plants and a better lawn.

Shredded Foil in Photoflash Increases Light Output

Giving a light output double that of the familiar Synchro-Press Lamp No. 21, and two-thirds that of the huge No. 75 foil-filled lamp, a new powerful photoflash lamp has been designed especially for obtaining good color pictures, as well as making flash pictures at greater distances. Designated as G-E Photoflash Lamp No. 50, the bulb is rated at 100,000 to 120,000 lumen-seconds of light output, coming to its peak in .03 second. That so much light can be generated from a bulb having an over-all length of 5% inches, is due to the shredded foil with which it is filled,



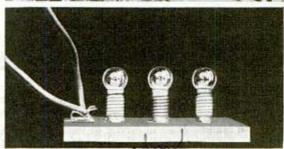
Foil is finely shredded in this new photoflash lamp in order to produce a light of greater intensity

JUNE, 1941
Nela Park

Sun Rays Make Electricity To Light Three Bulbs







Electrical hookup, top and center, uses sun's rays to generate current that will light lamps, bottom

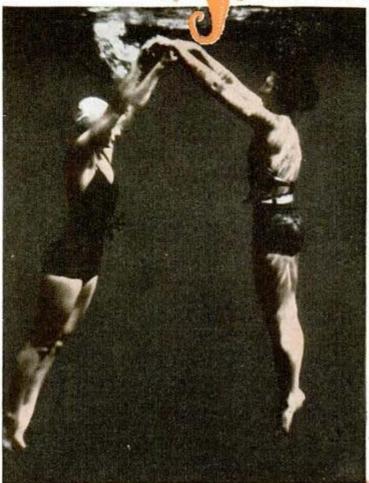
Another step toward the goal of harnessing the sun's power to produce heat and light has been achieved in an invention by O. H. Mohr, of Oakland, Calif., which utilizes rays from the sun to generate sufficient electric power to light three electric lamps. The device consists of a lead-free glass bulb, enclosing a cluster of wires, thermocouples and other electric apparatus. Alternate heating and cooling of this assembly generates electricity in small amounts.

¶A new calcimine "overcoater" paint can be applied over old calcimined surfaces without washing, shellacking or sizing.

Paint. Point 13 Products Co. 99 & 6 th

K1358.

WONDERS of



Two swimmers form a bridge through which "mermaids" will dive. In the movies the scene is a masterpiece of grace and timing Below, firing a stove in undersea schoolroom, Dry Ice is used to give a realistic effect in movies of smoke pouring from chimney



Above, photographer descends into steel tank for an underwater "take"

DOWN on the ocean's bottom a school for mermaids is in session. Each damsel sits at her desk, taking down with pencil and paper the lecture of the "teacher," who illustrates the lesson with chalk on a blackboard.

Now one of the fair students raises her hand. "I'm cold, sir," she complains. "Would you mind firing up the stove a bit?" Teacher pokes around in the stove, and a cloud of smoke pours up the chimney.

This scene from a recent underwater movie is realism to the nth degree. The players look so natural and comfortable you'd insist they were in their subsurface classroom 15 minutes or more.

Just how is such movie magic achieved? How long must the actors remain below at a stretch? Best qualified to answer these questions is Newton Perry, who for 12 years at Silver Springs, Fla., in waters so crystal clear you can see the bottom 70 feet below, has been acting, directing and writing scripts for underwater films. Perry has made about 15 feature films

POPULAR MECHANICS

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UNDER-WATER MOVIES



and a score or more of news-reel shorts.

* How are underwater movies filmed?

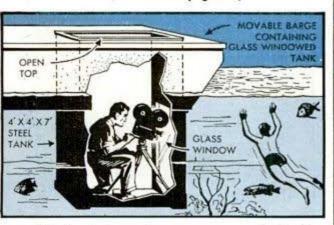
The photographer goes down in a steel tank four feet square and seven feet deep.

One section is glass and the top is open.

The cameraman can shoot as deep as 20 feet, or tilt his camera to film the surface.

Usually no special lighting is required, for the shots are made in sunlight.

(Continued to page 190)



This sketch shows the cameraman crouched in his floating tank, shooting movies through glass window

Enjoying soft drinks at a submarine soda bar; stage "props" are weighted down to keep them in position

Glass-bottomed range finder (below) is used to watch rehearsal of underwater high-jinks before filming



/Air-Raid Shelter Used in Home

Serves as Table in Daytime

Mus Window Secular

Churchil Horno Secular

Heavy steel table affords good air-raid protection for the folks at home

Strong enough to bear the shock should two stories of brick and masonry tumble on it, a new shelter for protection in homes against bombs of air raiders has been devel-

oped in England. Designed for use as a table in the daytime and a shelter at night, it is a box 6½ by 4 feet, fashioned of steel, and having side walls of steel netting to prevent injury from flying glass and debris. The combination shelter and table is large enough to accommodate two adults and two small children.

High-Speed Midget Flash Bulb Hits Peak in 1/200 Second



Synchronizing the flash bulb and camera shutter is simplified by a new lamp that reaches its peak of flash in 1/200 second. It is revolutionary in its construction, for this midget has no aluminum leaf or

wire to produce its flash. Instead, it has a small amount of chemical paste applied to the ends of the lead-in wires in an atmosphere of oxygen. Its quick flash makes

Daytime

Daytime

Compared to take pictures by the open-flash method, but it can also be used for high shutter speeds. The new bulb, called the "SM," is the same size as the Number 5 and has a single-contact bayonet base. It is said to be especially good for closeup pictures.

Baby Buggy Cradle Has Two Rockers Folding Upward

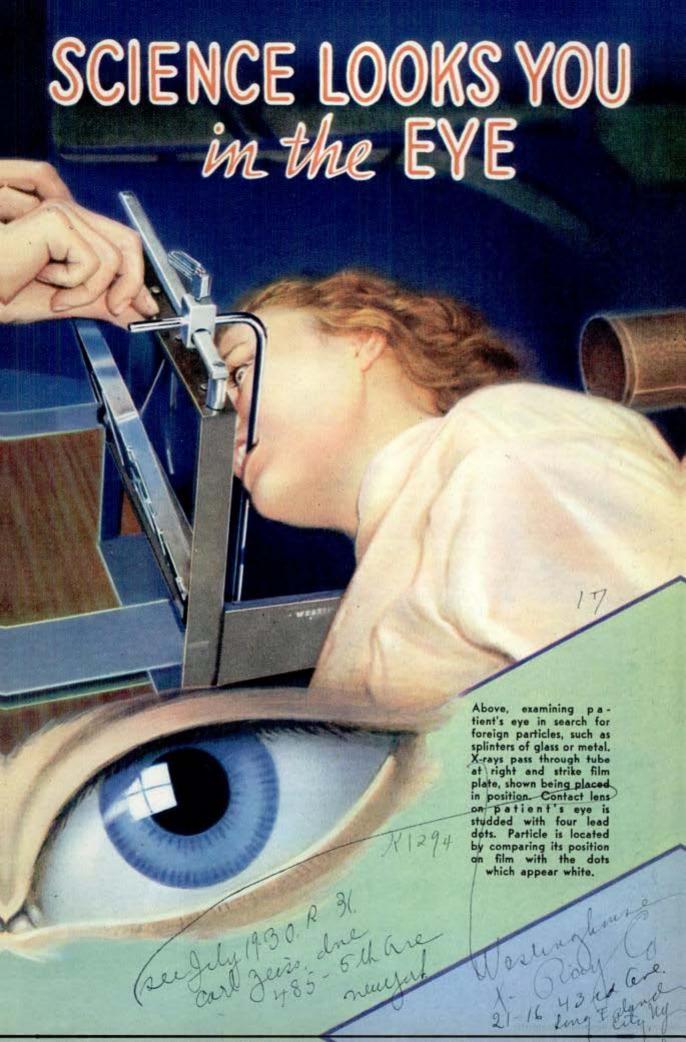
Equipped with a pair of hinged rockers, a baby buggy can be changed into a cradle whenever desired. To afford maximum benefit from the sun, the body is completely open. Rockers are of heavy gauge tempered wire. Foot pressure lowers them, raising the buggy off its wheels.

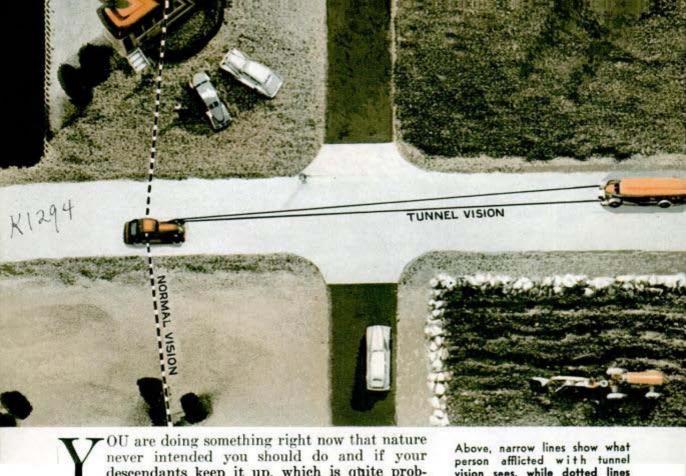


Rockers are lowered to use baby carriage as cradle

POPULAR MECHANICS

Iseneral Electue





OU are doing something right now that nature never intended you should do and if your descendants keep it up, which is quite probable, at some distant period the human face may be equipped with a single, large eye, perhaps staring out like a locomotive headlight. Or one big eye which functions and one small one which does not.

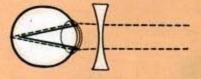
Reading, watching movies, playing bridge and concentrating on close, difficult industrial and commercial tasks are things that nature did not take into consideration when your binocular-type of paired eyes were worked out by evolution. Nor did she expect that the human race would stay awake after clark, dancing, riding around in autos, going to parties and window-shopping.

These modern, sixteen-hour-a-day eyestraining tasks and pleasures were not contemplated for the primitive, teamed-up human eyes and something was bound to happen. What is happening, according to

Below, test for tunnel vision is to hold pencil at arm's length to the Side and a little forward. Look ahead, then move pencil all the way across line of vision to same angle on other side while keeping eyes forward. If you cannot see the pencil throughout the movement your side vision is faulty and you should consult an oculist.

Above, narrow lines show what person afflicted with tunnel vision sees, while dotted lines show what person with normal vision can see. Tunnel vision often causes crashes.

How to correct near-sighted eye revealed in test at bottom of page



Below, place object on window si Stand back a few feet. If object clear and object across street loo blurred, you are near-sighted. Con cave lenses are prescribed.

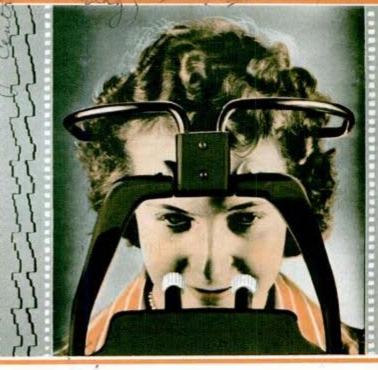


K1294 Suite 3/57

the research experts of the Better Vision Institute of New York City, is that civilized man is rapidly becoming a one-eyed creature in the sense that he uses only one of the two eves which he possesses.

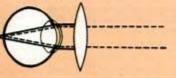
"Optical scientists are engaged in a vital struggle today," says M. J. Julian, president of the institute. "They are fighting to keep mankind two-eyed. Just as there is scientific evidence indicating man once had a third eye in the top of his head - perhaps to keep vigil from monstrous flying enemies -there is a school of thought which favors the theory that we may evolve into a one-eyed species. Nature usually first subordinates and eventually eliminates the neglected human organ.

"And a glance in the mirror will give you evidence that nature does make major changes in our eyes. The pulpy mass in the corner nearest the nose is the



Above, reading skill is tested on eye-movement camera which produces developed film eight minutes after test. Film reflects actual behavior of eyes while reading. Called the ophthalmograph, it was developed by American Optical Company to assist educators and evemen in diagnosing defective reading habits which are a major cause of school failures.

How to correct far-sighted eve revealed in test at bottom.

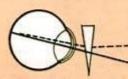


Below, if distant object is clear, but near object blurred, you are far-sighted. Glasses with convex lenses are prescribed to correct this defect in your vision.

How to correct astigmatic eye revealed in test at bottom.



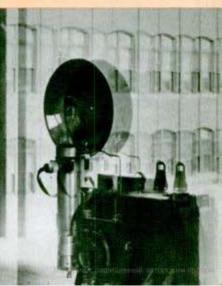
Below, if both near and far objects look blurred and distorted, you are handicapped with astigmatism and should wear glasses with cylindrical lenses. How to correct double vision revealed in test at bottom.



Below, if both objects appear with two blurred and overlap-ping images, you have double vision and should wear glasses with prismatic lenses.







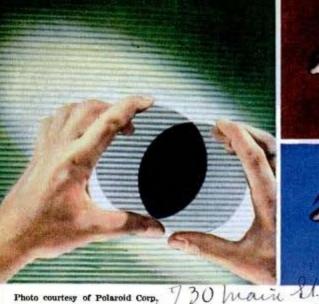










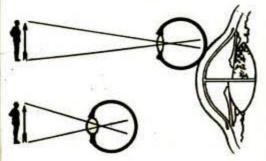




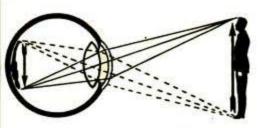
Photo courtesy of Polaroid Corp.

Here's what happens when you take two Polaroid disks and place one over the other with their invisible "optical slots" crossed. This helps to explain the basic principle on which the polarizing lenses operate in blocking glare, as they would if installed in windshield and headlamps of autos. Note blacked-out segment.

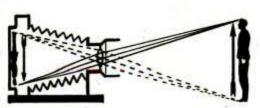




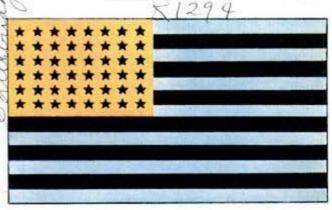
In comparing the human eye with the camera, note above that flexible lens of eye keeps eye in focus. It becomes flatter for far vision and rounder for near (see upper and lower drawings, respectively).



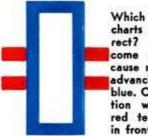
Note, in drawings above and below, that eye, like the camera, "takes pictures" upside down, In the eye, light rays fall on the retina-and picture is flashed to brain, giving impression we call "seeing."



Above, many people regard the color of the eyes as indicative of certain characteristics in the human makeup. Black eyes are believed to show wit and ambition for power; brown to indicate affection and sincerity; hazel to go with a happy and active nature; blue to denote the optimist and dreamer; gray to mark wisdom and perseverance, and green eyes generally are associated with talent and a shrewd mind. How do your eyes seem to carry out this theory?



Your eye is likely to play tricks on you in color perception. For instance, gaze steadily at the center of the flag above and keep looking at it for at least thirty seconds. These colors will saturate your eye. Then quickly focus your attention on a plain piece of paper or blank wall. Keep staring for a few moments—and the flag gradually will appear in its normal colors. If you fail on the first attempt, try it again, experimenting with the distance you hold the page from your eyes.



John charts

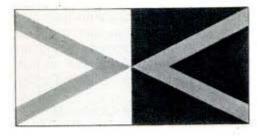
Which of these two charts appears correct? You may become confused because red is a more advancing color than blue. Close examination will show the red tends to stand in front of the blue.



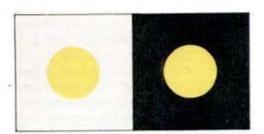
2157 Institute POSTERIOR CHAMBER SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT EYELASH CORNEA

This diagram shows essential parts of the eye, as well as demonstrates perception of color. Your eye contains some 130,000,000 nerves, called "rods," which are sensitive only to black and white, and some 7,000,000 nerves, called "cones," which give the sensation of color. One scientist estimates that the human eye can see 100,000,000 different colors.

N K1294



Above, both gray arrows are the same in this chart. Yet one looks lighter and one darker. Below, the two yellow circles are identical. Yet the one on black seems to be far brighter than the one on white. No man-made instrument is so sensitive to form, motion and detail and to the countless variations of color shades and tones as your eye.



Right, by applying a transparent film of vaporized salt, generally a fluoride, about four-millionths of an inch thick, light beams are made to penetrate rather than reflect from the surface of a lens. Treated lens is shown at right, giving clear view of the ruler, and the untreated lens at left, reflecting the light beams and giving a blurred image of the ruler.

Bausch Lond Cony



UPPER EYELID

PLIPIL

LENS

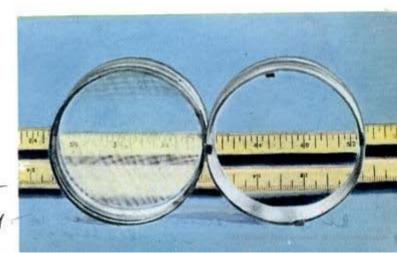
VITREOUS

RETINA

SCLERA

NERVE

Above, close left eye, look at black circle on chart and bring picture slowly toward you. At a certain point the cross at right will disappear. Left, cross vanishes if you repeat with right eye closed, showing the eye has blind spots.



hewten mass

shrunken remains of a third eyelid, scientists believe."

"Civilized eye"—a phrase used to describe the breakdown caused by modern man when he brought outdoor eyes indoors and put them to work at tasks for which they were not fitted—is growing so prevalent in the United States that even optical scientists were surprised at the first reports from a survey started on behalf of the institute and not yet completed.

It turned up the fact that eightyone per cent of the city folks questioned had their eyes examined at some time in their life, indicating their sight was troubling them. Another startling, new figure uncovered was that fifty-nine and ninetenths per cent of all urban adults in this country now wear glasses. By such surveys and laboratory research these scientists who look you in the eye are finding out a lot of interesting things concerning your sight and are doing a lot of important things to correct rapidly increasing defects.

For example, just as one of your feet is usually larger than the other and one of your hands is usually stronger and more useful than the other—so that you are said to be right-handed or left-handed—these research men say you are also born right-eyed or left-eyed, which means one eye dominates the other.

This works out satisfactorily while we are very young. But when modern life begins to put its heavy strain on the eye-team, the weak member gradually collapses under the pace set by the stronger eye and as a result, without realizing it, the last few generations have been doing most of their seeing with the dominant eye. This situation, unless corrected, leads to many serious eye conditions and, some of these experts believe, will eventually cause mankind to become one-eyed, in theory or in fact.

While everyone knows that eyestrain will result in headache, they have found also that it is responsible for such apparently unrelated troubles as indigestion, St. Vitus's dance and shingles. And, because the body's nerves are hooked with the

Umerican aptica

Above, this huge pair of glasses, made for exhibition purposes to illustrate a new style, is large enough to fit a giant sixty feet tall. More than half of the adults living in cities in the United States wear glasses. Eyestrain has been found to result not only in headaches, but in such troubles as indigestion, St. Vitus's dance and shingles. The eyes provide definite clues to the state of your general health.



Polaroid day glasses have control button permitting wearer to regulate amount of light passing through the lenses. Left, the glasses "wide open" and, right, "closed" to block out blinding glare.

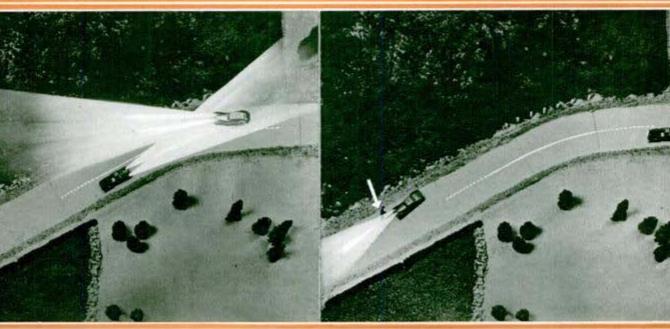
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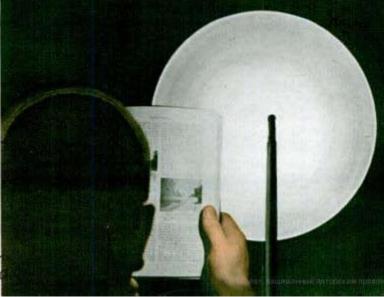
spinal cord, and thus the brain, eve trouble causes false symptoms of stomach ulcers, gallstones, lumbago, sciatica and rheumatism. On the other hand your eyes provide definite clues to the state of your general health. That's one reason why the newly improved ophthalmoscope is such an important eye-examining instrument. This device projects a beam of light into the eye and permits an examination of the eye's retina and background—the only part of the body where arteries, arterioles, veins and capillaries with the blood circulating in them may be viewed in their natural living state. With the aid of. the ophthalmoscope, symptoms of eye, brain, blood and systemic dis-





Top, taking test of reading ability. Center, left, driver of car at right is blinded by glare of other car's headlamps and situation is dangerous for cars and pedestrian, indicated by arrow. Center, right, although the cars have met and passed, the same driver may be so badly afflicted with night blindness that he may not recover vision in time to avoid striking the pedestrian. If you've had this experience-slow recovery of vision at night after a strong glare, you'd better have your vision checked by an expert. Bottom, peanut bulb on tip of rod emits one foot-candle of light, about as much as Abraham Lincoln read by in his youth. This demonstration was staged in General Electric's laboratory.

american mutual historia



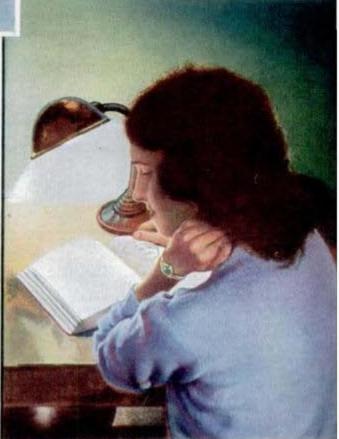
eases can be observed in the eye's background. Recently this diagnostic instrument was improved by the addition of Polaroid, the glare-control material, which eliminates the reflections that formerly handicapped doctors when looking you in the eye.

Your eyes each have over 130,000,000 nerve endings and six muscles so they may be turned in any direction or converged or diverged. These muscles perform a tremendous amount of work in the course of a day. More than 100,000 eye muscular movements are made by the average good reader in a single half-hour's perusal of non-technical material. Those of a poor reader may run as high as 300,000.

If eye-coordination is below par, the attempt of the eyes to focus on an object, and the brain to fuse the (Continued to page 176)

Left, Polaroid eyetogs, especially for skiing, block out about ninety-nine per cent of ultraviolet rays and reduce glare from snow.





Demonstrating how Polaroid light reduces glare in reading. Left, note that type in book is visible, even in this reduced photo. Right, the page, under ordinary light, is just a white blur.

, Митериал завинаетельн шаторским прак

Portable Pumps Help Quench Air-Raid Fires





At left is engine and water pump mounted on special wheelbarrow that may be moved easily to strategic spot. Bicycle trailer, right, carries stirrup pump, first aid kit, and fire fighting apparatus

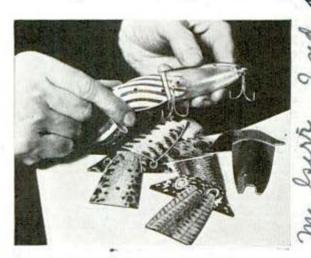
Two types of easily portable pumps are being used in London to help minimize damage wrought by incendiary bombs. One, built by two 18-year-old boys, consists of a bicycle trailer that carries a stirrup pump, four gallons of water and a first

aid outfit. The boys are messengers for air raid wardens and their work inspired them to construct the apparatus so they might be ready for action at all times. Another recent development is an engine-operated fire hose pump mounted on a wheelbarrow.

Colored Fishing Lure in Shell May Be Changed Easily

Made in two parts, a transparent fishing lure can be changed in color by unscrewing and inserting a different colored piece. There is no limit as to possibilities of color combinations and as many inserts as desired may be carried. The lure consists of an unbreakable "glass house" equipped with hooks, the two sections being held together by screw threads. Inserts are specially treated paper pieces shaped to fit snugly within the lure and ranging in color from greens to bright oranges, with stripes of various hues simulating the scintillating colors of fish.

(Nearly one-half of the 92 known elements are used in the building of automobiles.



Any color insert that suits the whim of fisherman may be slipped into transparent lure as shown above

JUNE, 1941

3401 Smeligan

25

£327

Bomb-Resistant House Set Up in 23 Minutes



Intended as a backyard shelter, the "tent" at left is of three-inch reinforced concrete and would protect against anything but a direct bomb hit

Below, a crane lifts one of the precast concrete walls of the semi-bombproof three-room house, which was erected in less than a half hour

In a recent demonstration of precast concrete houses and backyard "tepee" bomb shelters, the walls, partitions and roof of a three-room house were erected in just 23 minutes. Semibombproof, in that its walls would stop all but the heaviest flying fragments, the house was designed for quick construction for defense industry workers. The walls, floors and roof pan-

els are precast in forms flat on the ground, and are made of an aggregate which is 60 percent pumice. Only half as heavy as ordinary concrete, it is said to be more resilient to shock. The cost of the precast house is about half that of typical frame construction. After pouring, the panels are allowed to dry for two days, then are lifted into place on the building site with a truck

crane. Welders join the corners and partitions. The small shelter demonstrated with the precast house is of three-inch reinforced concrete and is intended to be buried in the backyard. Impervious to damage except by direct hit, such a shelter for six persons would cost around \$60, plus excavation and charcoal filters if gas defense is required.

Use of Wrong Hand in Writing Is Not Cause of Stuttering

Despite the theory that stuttering is a result of teaching a left-handed child to use the right hand, a test of 1,600 students at Syracuse University indicated there is no basis for that explanation. In that group were 77 students who had changed their

grause

writing hand, yet only one of these stuttered. The old theory has been based on the finding that one side of the brain is dominant, and it was supposed that teaching a person to write with the wrong hand would force the weaker side of the brain

POPULAR MECHANICS

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Soldiers Working As Linemen Learn Trade for Civil Life

to take the initiative and thus disturb the whole nervous system. Prof. Harry J. Heltman of the Syracuse School of Speech says there are about 1,300,000 stutterers in the United States, that the habit is most likely to develop at 11 years of age, and that three times as many boys stutter as girls.

Liquid Rubber Coat On Pulley Stops Belt Slippage

Applied easily with a brush to the face of any pulley, whether flat or V-type, a coating of rub ber-base liquid is claimed prevent the belt from the best fr



These soldiers, swinging on wires, learn trade while serving Uncle Sam

Many men will emerge from Uncle Sam's army well versed in useful trades about which they knew nothing when they entered. In stringing up communications lines, for instance, uniformed soldiers learn the fine points of how to erect poles and climb them to hook up the wires.

Hot-Air Unit Warms Up Bomber's Engines

To conserve gasoline and oil that would be consumed in warming up the engines of a bombing plane before the takeoff, the Germans have been using a portable heater. This unit delivers hot air through flexible ducts to the engines. The saving in aviation fuel and lubricating oil is considerable, especially during the cold winter weather.



German airport workers warm up engines of bomber with portable heater

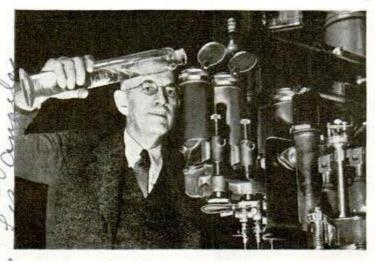
slipping. The liquid is so compounded that it sticks to the pulley's face regardless of the pull exerted upon it. It takes only a few minutes to apply, and if put on at the end of a working day, the pulleys are ready for use the next morning. Tests are said to show that the covering increases the efficiency of belt drives as much as 50 percent.

The fireboxes of some of the steam locomotives now in service on the United States railroads would hold an automobile with room to spare.

JUNE, 1941

X 14 94

SECRET FUELS for



Pouring sample of blended fuel in knock engine to test its detonation qualities before using in racing car



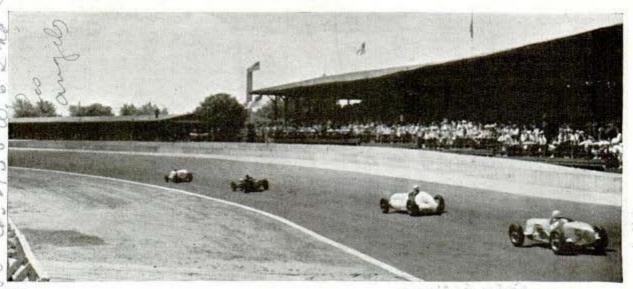
Fred Offenhauser finishing the two blocks of new V-8 supercharged engine to be used in this year's race. Below, view of Indianapolis Speedway with racing cars passing stands at high speed

STUFF that is poured into the gasoline tanks will boost speeds at the 500-mile Indianapolis race on Memorial Day. More than anything else it will decide the winner of America's racing classic.

Two years ago the emphasis was on mechanical perfection. Last year driving skill was paramount. This year, with practically the same cars and drivers in the starting line-up, the fastest fuels are being sought by the racing teams. Secret blends and mixtures by the score are being tested in laboratories and on trial runs.

Gasoline is about the best fuel there is, yet few of the drivers will use it this year; alcohol is one of the poorest fuels and yet all of the supercharged engines as well as many of the unsupercharged motors will be powered with it. Chances are that a "cocktail mixture" will beat straight leaded gasoline to the finish line.

Gasoline's only fault is that in a high-compression, highspeed engine of high specific output it causes high engine heat, preventing the engine from delivering all the power

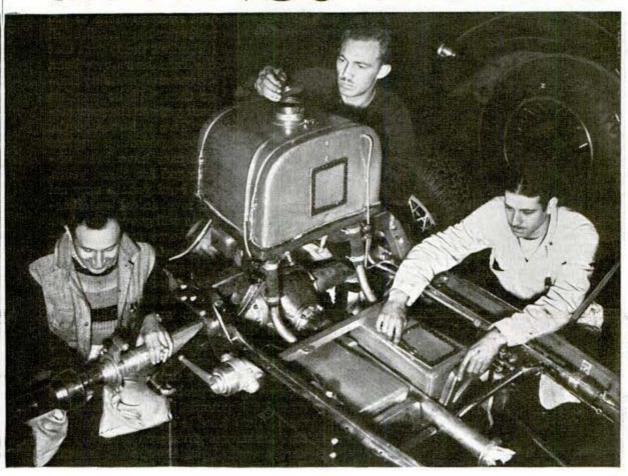


28

POPULAR MECHANICS

X1404

the KINGS of SPEED

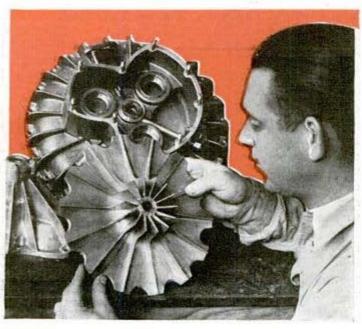


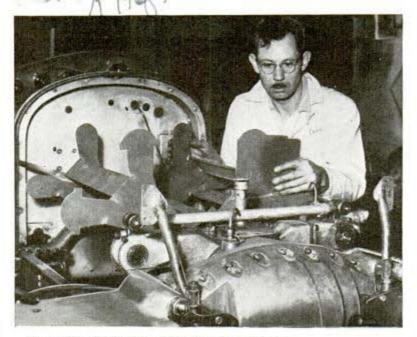
that it otherwise might. On the other hand, alcohol keeps engine temperatures lower, inhibits detonation, and is not as finicky in the carburetor. But alcohol has neither the punch nor flexibility of gasoline, it delivers only a fraction of the mileage, it won't start at such low temperatures, and it sometimes condenses in the intake manifold, giving a lean mixture and balky performance.

In spite of all these objections a few drivers will use methyl alcohol at half a dollar a gallon, while others who have magnesium castings in their superchargers will have to use grain alcohol, far more expensive, because methyl attacks the magnesium parts. But most drivers are hunting for a perfect speed blend that combines

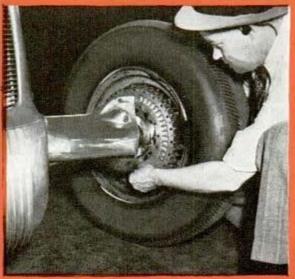
Mechanic at right is shown installing additional fuel tanks around the drive shaft of one of the speedsters

Below, rotor blade and other parts of a supercharger like those used in the cars at Indianapolis





Placing "mockup" of engine in chassis so body can be finished by time engine is ready



View of special brake that has only two moving parts, reducing chance of failure

the good qualities of both alcohol and gasoline. The two fuels can't be used as a simple mixture because each tends to separate from the other. Benzol or acetone is added to keep them mixed. One standard racing mixture is made up of almost 80 percent methyl alcohol, 10 percent gasoline, 10 percent benzol, and a small amount of castor oil. In most cases the secret mixtures that are being tested are variations of this basic formula.

With fast fuels, and barring

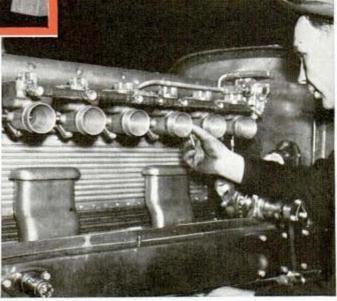
wrecks or weather that would slow down the race, most of the drivers believe that the winner will average close to 120 miles per hour for the full 500 miles, the fastest that the race has ever been driven and probably faster than will be possible next year or the year after. This is because the rules governing engines and cars have been unchanged for three years, but next year a new set of mechanical specifications will govern the race. New cars and new engines will be built. The chances are that the new

rules will call for smaller engines and lighter cars. For instance, the present supercharged cars are of 181 cubic inches displacement or less and this limit is expected to be reduced to 135 cubic inches. Many of the present cars weigh more than a ton each and in 1942 the average car probably will weigh less than 1,500 pounds. The possibility of mechanical trouble and the probability that the new engines won't develop the horsepower of present motors indicate slower speeds next year than this.

Due to the forthcoming changes, only one or two new engines have been built

Below, closeup of six carburetors on racing engine.

Each cylinder has a carburetor



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by Fred Offenhauser for Bud Winfield, is a supercharged V-8 motor of 180 cubic inches displacement, burning an alcohol mixture, that will be mounted in a specially built front-drive Ford chassis that was raced at Indianapolis four years ago. Ralph Hepburn will drive it and it is expected to be one of the fastest cars on the track. Another new car this year will be entered by Ed Walsh of Detroit, having a coil spring front-end suspension and powered with a four-cylinder unsupercharged engine. Only one of the three radical fourwheel-drive rear-engined "Man from Mars" cars designed by Harry Miller is left and this car is being changed around

One improvement that will help deliver higher sustained track speeds is the new Winfield anti-tilt carburetor with which a number of the cars will be equipped. In this new design, the centrifugal force of a fast turn doesn't drain fuel away from the carburetor and starve the engine, hence the driver can always reach for full power with his throttle foot in coming out of a turn.

with the engine in front.

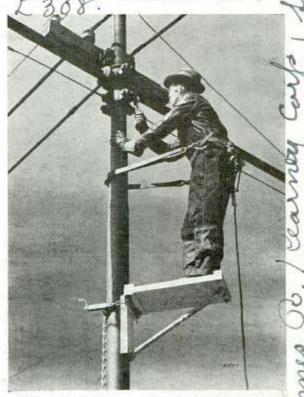
The standard racing wheel until now has been 18 inches in diameter, and this year the size has been increased to 20 inches with a corresponding increase in tire size. In the past the wheels were made of steel. This year they will be of duralumin construction and each wheel and tire will weigh 14 pounds less. The larger diameter with its slower outside speed will deliver better traction and wear on the tires will be decreased.

Giving only half the mileage that gasoline does, the alcohol mixtures being used this year will mean more pit stops than in the past and the drivers will have to change some of their driving habits as well. For instance, the supercharged straight eight that Rex Mays drove to second place on 100-octane gasoline last year, making one pit stop, will make two stops for alcohol fuel this year, in spite of a larger fuel tank that holds 53 gallons.

Does the swing to new fuels on the track mean that alcohol-type fuels would be better than gasoline for stock cars? Not for a long time to come, the racing engineers declare. Gasoline costs less than half as much, goes twice as far, doesn't absorb water from the air, and is more efficient in many respects.

for this spring's race. One of these, built Portable Platform on Pole

Holds Workman Safely



This sturdy platform may be placed at any height

Quickly fastened to any large pole of similar upright made of wood, steel or concrete, a lightweight platform provides a safe place for the workman to stand. The board is sturdy, each unit being tested to support loads over 750 pounds before shipping. Actual breakdown is claimed to be in excess of 1,700 pounds.

Flower Glows Within Light Bulb In Decorative Flowerpot

Nested in a small decorative flowerpot, an electric bulb incloses a flower that lights up in beautiful colors when plugged in. Crystalline stones placed about the bulb give it a gardenlike appear-



ance. The light may be used as a night lamp, since the glow is not bright enough to disturb the sleeper. It is claimed the bulb is capable of burning 2,000 hours.

14th flow

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Latest Streamline Auto Is Wider Than It Is High



Breaking from the traditional body lines that distinguish its other models, the Packard Motor Car Company is introducing a streamline model that is a foot wider than it is high. Viewed from the front, the car displays the Packard radiator lines only in miniature, with the radiator grille section quite narrow. The front fenders are high and wide

with no depression between the crown of the fender and the bonnet side. Running boards, concealed by the skirted doors, are arranged to permit the front fenders to "fade" into the doors, merging with the body at a point about midway of the front door. Unusual roominess is one feature, with the front compartment measuring 58¾ inches at shoulder level, ample for three persons. Extra comfort is said to result from the use of a fifth shock absorber which functions to "dampen out" any lateral movement between the rear axle and the frame. This new model, called the Clipper, is powered by a 125-horsepower, eightcylinder engine. One mechanical innovation of interest is the extension built into the transmission, permitting a shortening of the propeller shaft. This is said to result in quiet operation and in a

reduction in the tendency of the shaft to "whip" at high speeds. The Clipper's gasoline tank is equipped with an alarm whistle which permits full-force filling of the tank as long as the whistle sounds. When the whistle stops the tank is full. A custom styling touch is found on the rear deck where the Packard signature is carried in chrome script.

1306

Breathing Restored By Tilting Patient On Stretcher

Mounted on a wheeled cart that permits tilting, a multi-purpose stretcher adopted by the British Army can be used as an operating table or for artificial respiration. By tilting the patient up and down the stretcher induces breathing similar to the function of an "iron lung."



Stretcher on tilting cart rocks patient to restore breathing

1415.

Camera Snaps Black Leopard's Circus Leap



Here is a spectacular bit of frozen motion—a black leopard caught by the camera midway on its long jump

Fans of the "big top" are getting their 1941 thrills from the performance of a black leopard. One of its stunts in the cage is a long, flying leap between two tall pedestals. A comeramen visiting the training quarters of the circus in Florida recently caught the big animal in air midway between the pedestals as it made the jump.

Steel Claw Lifts Fire Bombs From Inaccessible Places

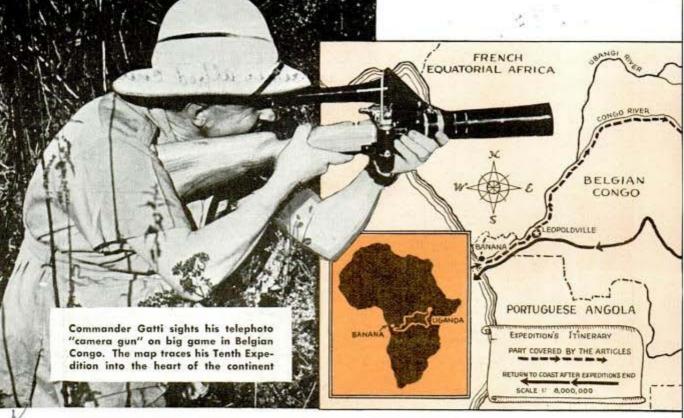
London fire fighters have been equipped with a new tool for defense against the incendiary bomb. It is a steel claw mounted on a long wooden handle. Kept readily available to the fire watchers on the city's roofs, it is used to grip bombs that have fallen into inaccesible spots and lift them out before the fire has gained headway.

WHERE TO BUY IT

Readers who wish more information about commercially available products described in Popular Mechanics Magazine may now write directly to the manufacturer or distributor of the item. Just note the page on which the article is described, then turn to the "Where-to-Buy-It" index starting on page 4-A in the front of the book. If the product is on the market, the name and address of the seller appear under the indexed item. To get quick action—Say You Saw It in Popular Mechanics.



Fireman shows how the claw grips incendiary bombs



TRAILER BLAZING through



The transformer steps up the charge in this single wire encircling the camp to 4,500 volts as a discouragement to wild animals prowling around at night

Part I

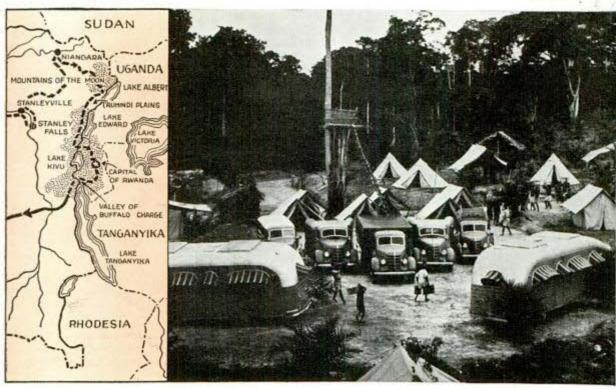
By Commander Attilio Gatti

Editor's Note—Three times decorated for bravery in the trenches, on horseback and in the dir during the World War, Commander Attilio Gatti emerged with a light wound and influenza, for which he took "the cure" of daily burial in the hot Sahara sands. Under the spell of Africa he planned the first of his adventurous expeditions. Author of "Great Mother Forest" and other books, fellow of numerous scientific societies, Commander Gatti is credited with many scientific discoveries among the beasts and flora of the jungle. Mrs. Gatti, an American, accompanied him on the Tenth African Expedition of which he writes in the three-part story beginning here.

IT'S A LONG way from the steaming Congo jungle that John Rowlands Stanley opened up to the Congo into which we plunged, 50 years later, to retrace his perilous journey.

Africa has not changed so much. It is we who have changed, and our safari equipment. Stanley sailed from New York on a precarious little vessel on an expedition in behalf of Leopold II, King of the Belgians. We sailed on a luxury liner, my wife and I and four American companions. Instead of months of navigating down the Atlantic coast to the slave-trading post of Banana

K1428.



the AFRICAN JUNGLES



Antenna for the expedition's short-wave radio station extends from tree left standing in middle of camp (top); the tree also has a platform for movie shooting. Below is a herd of hippos

there was a five-day flight to a modern African town of flower-covered homes.

From there, the 1,700 infernal days it took Stanley to push up the Congo river to the head of navigation telescoped for us into 12 days of lazy relaxation on a paddle boat that once plied the Mississippi.

Our trek into the equatorial jungle began where Stanley stopped, halted by the impassable Stanley Falls. Instead of poisoned arrows, we were met at Stanleyville by welcoming cries of natives, jubilant at the prospect of earning a few francs by unloading our seven vehicles and 15 tons of supplies.

Air-conditioned, electrified "jungle yachts," comfortable steel trailers housing our expedition and its radio station, photographic laboratory and workshop, were to carry us into a wilderness impenetrable a half century ago.

Before the dark curtain of Africa drops on us, come join the party in fancy. The Tenth Gatti African Expedition needs one

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JUNE, 1941



more member. Adventures, thrills, danger will be your lot, along with unique landscapes, pestiferous insects, the scorching equatorial sun and tropical hurricanes. And don't forget, plenty of work. We must shoot educational movies, capture weird animals; investigate ancient secret societies like the Baboon-Men; learn about the Mangbettus who deform their heads like pears; the copper-colored pygmies who barely reach your belt buckle; Giant Watussi princes who look down on you from eight feet of

At right, installing the radio antenna. Below, one of the comforts of home in the heart of Africa—an electric shaver is plugged into a convenient 110-volt outlet



Above, elephants help bring the trucks and trailers ashore over a plank bridge at Stanleyville

height and with graceful ease jump a couple of feet higher than your head.

Now Stanleyville is just beyond the bend. See the native jumping into the river? There are crocodiles around, but he goes in all the same to bring ashore the boat's cable. Those elephants on the bank came from Gangalana-Bodio, where the African elephant, thought undomesticable for centuries, is captured, tamed, trained to serve man.

So, let's go. Or in Kingwana, the only language that can carry us through central Africa, we'll say "Funga safari!"

The river is low, the bank is high. The boat cannot approach shore, the trailers are 44 feet long overall, weighing nine tons each. With poles and planks we build a sort of gangplank. Then hopefully, we call for the elephants. But they don't take kindly to our monsters of stainless steel. The cornaks shout, push,

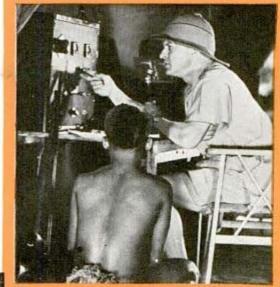
bang right and left with their crooked sticks, but instead of advancing the pachyderms go into reverse. Well, we'll turn them around and see if going in reverse doesn't bring them to the right spot. Chains are hooked to the dolly of the first trailer, an order is given, wheels thunder over the bridge. The elephants, scared by the din, spring ahead at such a pace that the trailer is on the verge of overturning, nearly smashing against a palm tree.

Better thank the elephants and proceed with the slower, safer system of letting the

engines manage the climb.

Think how Stanley would shudder at the

Right, tuning in station OQ5-ZZ for a chat with the outside world and the news from the United States





sight of these half-civilized natives in sporty hats and violent-colored shirts, descendants of the warriors who in 1883 fought him a few miles from here, near the Falls where the Lualaba river becomes the mighty Congo. But now that we are out of town, ready to put up our first camp, he would surely feel at home here at the village of his old friends the Wagenias.

Stanley's little fort today is the capital of Congo's largest province, but nothing has touched the Wagenias. True, they no longer devote themselves to killing white men, but otherwise life is much



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K1428



Above, the explorers relax in camp for a snack and a siesta.

At the left is a glimpse of one of the trailer lavatories

the same as in 1883. They still dress their innumerable children with fresh air; their girls with colored beads; themselves with a square foot of bark, and a preposterous straw hat and necklace of leopard fangs for grand occasions.

Pleasant rascals at times, first-class banditti at others, they run the best racket of the river. Stretched across the falls they keep skyscrapers of poles insecurely planted between gigantic rocks and connected over the deafening tumult of foam by other poles. From these heights, every evening and morning, they drop huge reed traps, which they retrieve so abundantly filled that for 100 miles the river remains almost fishless, and the populations downstream would practically starve were they not to come and

buy fish from the Wagenias. Buy it, of course, at the Wagenias' price. Plenty of catch? A fish goes for a spear point or a couple of leopard teeth. The season is bad? The same fish costs 10 spear points or 20 leopard teeth.

A swell racket. But glance at those skeleton skyscrapers; think what it takes to reach them and get away safely every morning and evening of a man's life!

Look at that 60-foot

Below, Wagenias set fish traps, huge funnels of reeds hung from skyscrapers of poles at the Falls of the Lualaba



canoe, at the frenzied efforts of its 80 paddlers; how it is grabbed by the current, swept away, spinning dizzily. Watch the head man, standing in marvelous equilibrium on the prow, direct its maneuvers. The craft has abruptly stopped just where he pointed, a few feet from treacherous rocks. Now it is catapulting in another direction, seems to fly through the air, is overturning.

Watch how the canoe is steadied, arrested by the brake of 80 paddles, how the last momentum is spent to reach the rocks, to touch them gently. Four men jump with a rope to anchor the canoe; a shout of victory thanks the river's god, the crew swarms up the poles, polished by billions of tons of raging water to the smoothness of white marble.

The aerial fishermen race to the highest poles, hang by their feet, disappear under the foam, make a human chain that swings over a precipice until it reaches the other side of the gap left by a log snatched away by the river, and bridges it so that others can pass over and make a hasty repair.

Huge funnels of reeds are laboriously raised, emptied of their bulging contents, lowered again. Each fisherman, as his ancestors have done for hundreds of years, slits open fish after fish, devouring a part to give his own body the fish's swiftness.

On the return from the falls a small error often capsizes the craft. One moment it is flying down the current, the next it has vanished. Black points bob up here and there, are carried away in a flash. From the shore, women shout and laugh, knowing that tonight or tomorrow the crew will turn up, the canoe on their shoulders, paddle in one hand, string of fish in the other, legs tired from a long walk.

Northward we resume our journey, soon to face the problem hanging over us since the Governor swore that never would the 65 pontoons take the enormous weight of our trailers across a river. The pontoons, sent ahead, are rough contraptions of planks fastened to the tops of native canoes. In designing our Jungle Yachts I had kept them in mind. I had moved forward the rear wheels, carefully calculated distribution of weight and braking problems. But if the Governor is right and I am wrong, we may have to leave our Jungle Yachts behind, or maybe lose one in a river. Fifteen thousand dollars worth of trailer, ir-

(Continued to page 164)

JUNE, 1941

Three-in-One Lamp Adjusts For Table, Wall or Bed

2/08



Three lamps, all of same design, may be used on a bed, as at left, on wall, center, or as table lamp

Any of three purposes may be served by an adjustable lamp that will stand on a table, or hang on the wall or a bed. Rubber-covered clamps housed in the base are opened to hang it on the head of the bed; on the wall it may be hooked to a nail or screw, or it will stand upright on its base upon a desk or table. A universal joint permits the base to be manipulated to suit each of the three positions. The lamp has a three-way incandescent fixture.

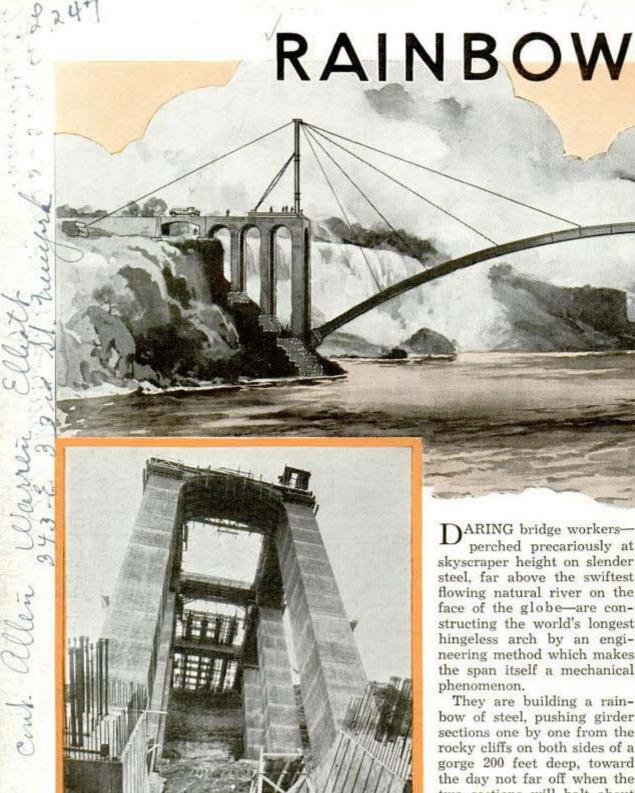
Pilot Light of Flash-Bulb Tester Shows Condition of Bulb

Photographers' flash bulbs can be tested without firing them by means of a simple battery-operated test unit. If the flash bulb is in good working condition. a pilot light on the tester flashes when contact is made. Floodlight and projection lamps can be tested in the same way

Burke



Mardism

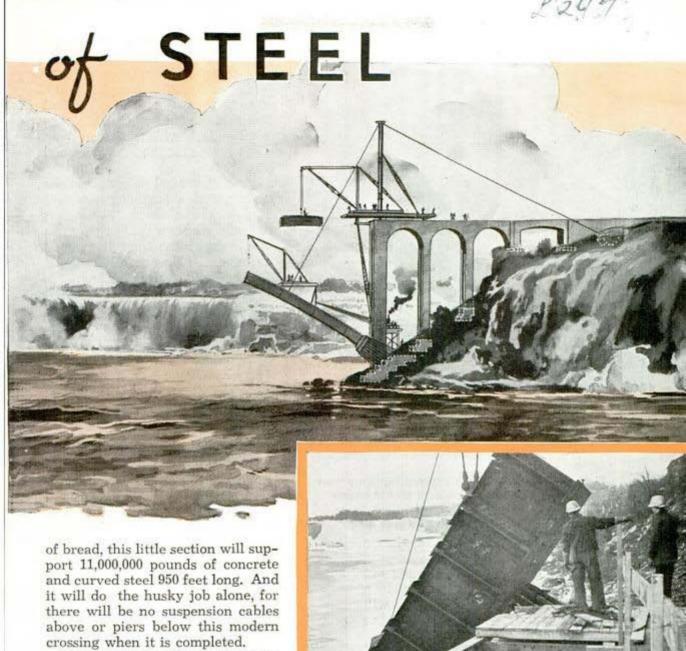


hingeless arch by an engineering method which makes the span itself a mechanical They are building a rainbow of steel, pushing girder sections one by one from the rocky cliffs on both sides of a gorge 200 feet deep, toward

the day not far off when the two sections will halt about 11 inches from each other. Then a tiny keystone section will be dropped in. Not much wider than the length of a loaf

Sketch, at top on this and the page opposite, shows method of construction of Rainbow Bridge. Left, abutment on American side of bridge. Steel is swung out from both sides

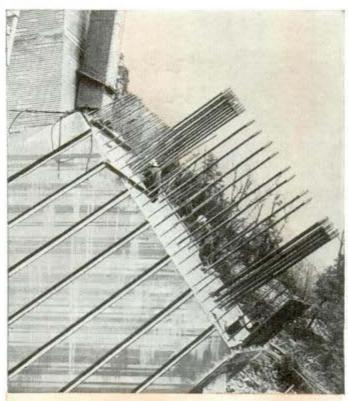
POPULAR MECHANICS



Then Rainbow Bridge, spanning the Niagara River 2,000 feet below famous Niagara Falls, and linking the United States and Canada, will be an accomplished fact,

Past here, in the 36-mile-long Niagara River, pour the waters of the four Great Lakes. Imprisoned between stone walls, the current races toward Lake Ontario. At the falls, the stream takes a drop of 167 feet, boiling with terrific force toward the mouth of the river. Thirteen times this liquid maelstrom aided by winds in the gorge has forced

Right, steel grillage reaching the anchor bolts on abutment. It weighs 60 tons. First sections of the arch were fastened to the grillage before being swung out over river



Above, preparing concrete surface of masonry on Canadian abutment and anchor bolts for the grillage

Right, unusual view of the construction. Note worker clinging high up on derrick, on way to scaffold

of September in all of its glory, a trim, eye-arresting arch consisting of two ribs of steel 12 feet deep, anchored in concrete abutments, joined by lateral steel cross-pieces and supporting vertical pillars which in turn help form a base for the roadway—and that's all.

As a structural object it will be as sleek as a leaping greyhound and as clean as the wind that whistles through the gorge cut in the rock by the tumbling rapids from nearby Niagara Falls, named by the Iroquois Indians from the phrase "Thunderer of Water," which indicated their terror of the falling and boiling stream.

Modern-day engineers were not terrified by the problem of building Rainbow Bridge, but they knew they had a puzzle which needed a novel approach. The site had been used for a bridge since 1868, when a suspension bridge of wood was erected only to be destroyed by the wind. In 1888 the tower and deck were replaced with steel construction. On Jan-

reconstruction or major repairs to bridges at this point.

As each piece of steel is swung out and riveted in place, it is supported by a fanlike series of steel ropes which will remain until the keystone section takes up its incredible burden of weight.

Four columns, 130 feet tall and linked in pairs, have been built on abutments, two on each side of the river to support the cable. Bracing the towers themselves, corresponding clusters of steel ropes extend back 200 feet from both towers where they are anchored into a pair of "deadmen," one for each pair of towers. These are concrete anchors, weighing 600 tons apiece and firmly imbedded in solid rock.

When the keystone section temporarily completing the arch has been replaced by the permanent keystone section, to be carefully machined with an accuracy measured in hundredths of an inch, the supporting cables will be unhooked, the towers will be razed and the bridge will appear during the month



POPULAR MECHANICS

2247

uary 10, 1889, the entire deck was carried away by a wind storm. The structure was hurriedly rebuilt, but its inadequacy and dangerous character soon led to a decision to construct an arch span. This was begun in 1895 under the name, The Falls View Bridge. The structure was a two-ribbed steel arch 840 feet long, the longest in the world. and hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoyed the close view of the falls from its deck. But it was destroyed January 27, 1938 when the worst ice jam in the known history of the Niagara River battered away foundations of the

structure which had become known to millions as Honeymoon Bridge.

Then it was decided that the new bridge would be in the shape of a rainbow-an arch. An appropriation of \$4,000,000, not a large one as present-day bridges go, was all that was available for the job. The erection of any kind of piers in the stream, flowing at 25 to 30 miles an hour and a volume of about 6,000,000,000 pounds of water a minute, even temporary piers for construction purposes, would have washed out the sum in a hurry. Also, part of the construction period was likely to fall within the interval in which the gorge was choked with ice. This invited another disaster from an ice jam during the building of the bridge, if not after.

So engineers began building the novel and graceful rainbow of steel, using the unusual construction methods that soon will result in completion of the bridge.

Each of the main arch abutment piers is



Putting finishing touches on tieback towers atop Canadian abutment

located about 50 feet back from the water's edge and about 50 feet above the surface of the water. The main span is thus over 100 feet longer than the former Falls View Bridge, and the piers are considerably higher above the water. The abutment piers and the approach spans rest on solid rock which forms the sides of the Niagara Gorge so that the bridge does not have contact with the river.

The main arch span, of the hingeless ribbed type, will have two steel box girder ribs spaced 56 feet apart. Steel spandrel columns will rest on the arch ribs and will carry the steel floor girders and concrete deck of the roadway above. The two ribs will be rigidly braced together with steel members to resist forces set up by the wind or by live loads on the structure.

In order to provide for these tie-backs, the Bethlehem Steel Company, the fabricators and builders of the arch span, first

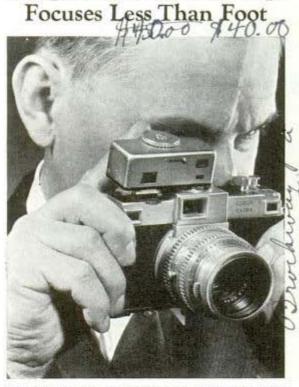
(Continued to page 162)



Sketch showing how the bridge will appear when it is finished. Note rainbow shape

\$1.25

Range Finder for Close-Ups



Close range and view finder may be focused down to distance of 10½ inches when special lens is used

Among six accessory items available for Eastman's new 35mm. Kodak Ektra is a close range-and-view finder. The instrument is intended for use with the 50mm. Kodak Ektar f:1.9 lens at distances from 31/2 feet down to 11/2 feet, and, with the addition of the Kodak Portra 3-plus supplementary lens, down to 10½ inches. In the latter instance, an internal mask is slid into place. It also includes a single evepiece, automatic parallax correction, and a 11/2 feet. A high-low angle finder, fitting into the universal access of the Ektra, permits the camera to be used conveniently from waist-level, as well as overhead, when attached to tripod or other firm support. Then there is a oright-angle finder that aids in obtaining unposed shots as well as shots in cramped quarters where it is inconvenient to face the subject. Critical focusing on close-up subjects is provided by a special ground glass focusing back equipped with a selferecting magnifier and a mirror which can be set at a 45-degree angle for reflex-type focusing. A fifth accessory is the flash synchronizer that attaches to the top of the camera, while the tripper unit is simply screwed into the cable release opening. No

other adjustment is required, yet it synchronizes for speeds up to 1/500 second. It has a quick-ejection socket that accommodates No. 30 or No. 31 Photoflash lamps. Finally, a tripod clearance head is offered which raises the camera a short distance above the tripod head, allowing the hinged cover of the magazine back to be opened for loading and unloading, or another magazine back to be substituted, without removing the camera from the tripod.

Lamps Sterilize Medicine Bottles By Killing Air-Borne Germs

Lamps emitting germ-killing ultraviolet rays have been put to work sterilizing medicine bottles at the Brockway Glass Company plant, removing danger of impure air reaching prescription bottles from the time they enter the annealing ovens until they are capped. This new health defense is made possible through development by Westinghouse of a new lamp having a slender rod-shaped tube. Still another lamp of this general type carries the health protection into drug stores where the bottles are used in filling doctors' prescriptions. In this case the lamp is so mounted that its rays shine directly on the mixture to prevent air-borne bacteria from entering the medicine or the bottle.



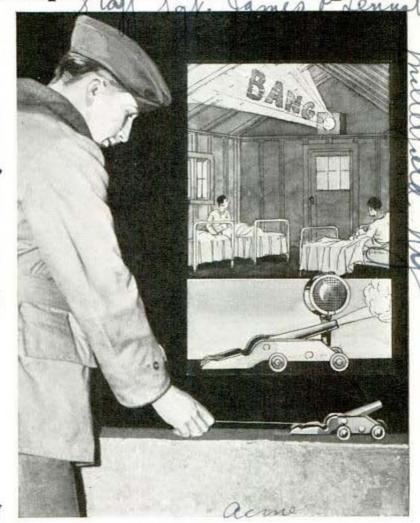
Druggist filling prescription under protection of lamp emitting ultraviolet rays that kill bacteria

1 \$ 300.

Toy Cannon Amplified to Roar Like Big Gun

Given a considerable boost by an amplifier, the crack of a toy cannon becomes a loud "boom" when the traditional morning or evening salute is fired by the gunner of 102nd Observation Squadron attached to the 27th Division at Fort Mc-Clelland, Ala. The sixinch-long barrel is loaded with a black powder charge and the miniature gun placed close to the microphone of the public address system. The report issuing from the loud speakers is said to be as loud as the roar of a fullsize cannon.

Gunner firing toy cannon.
Inset, upper right corner,
shows how minicture gun,
firing alongside microphone, has its "bark" amplified over system of loud
speakers which may be distributed within barracks
and outdoors



Dart Baseball Uses Target to Score Hits, Runs and Outs



Scorekeeper indicates balls and strikes on "batter" as dart is tossed at target. Tense situations in dart baseball often rival real game

JUNE, 1941

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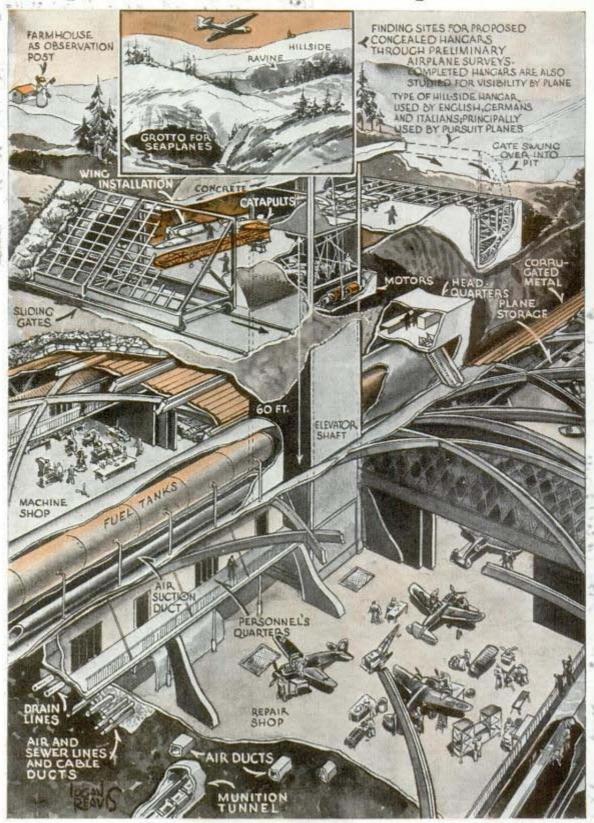
Many of the exciting situations of a real ball game are provided by dart baseball, introduced at Kansas City, Mo. Each player in his turn "at bat" throws darts at a target which is marked in circles to determine whether the pitch results in a foul ball, strike, hit, error, or home run. During play, three outs retire a side. Each team has a scorekeeper at the board.

An average of 2,388,000 motor vehicles have been scrapped each year for the last ten years.

and heys

Материал, элантариный путорским право

Warplanes Hide in Vaults Deep Under Hill

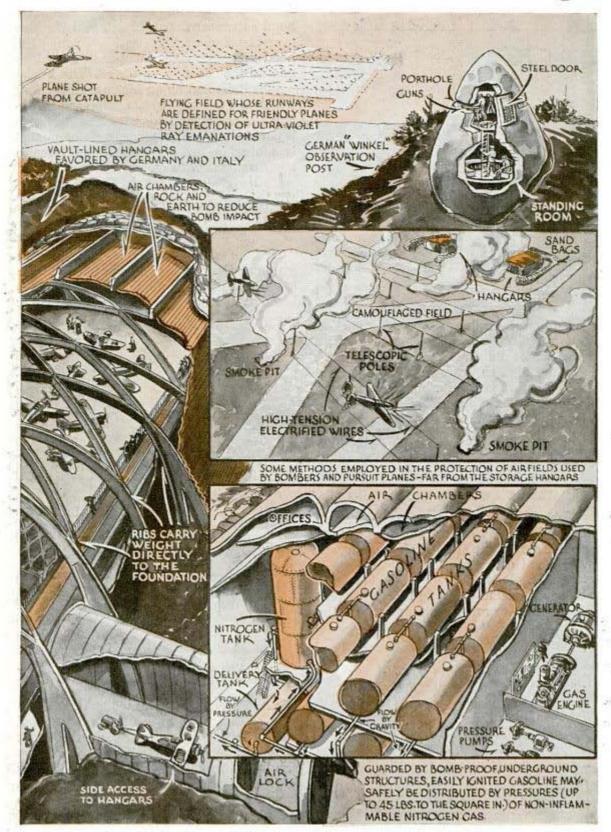


Deep down in the wooded hillsides of Germany, Italy and Britain are vast hangars where warplanes can be stored and repaired, safe from observation and bombs. These drawings were made from actual designs of an American engineer, C. G. Flebus, who was engaged by the axis governments on the subterranean vaults. Disappearing gates hide exits from which catapults shoot planes

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Pressure Tanks Feed Fuel to Buried Hangar



Landing fields for the bombers and fighters are well camouflaged and guarded from enemy planes by telescoping poles and high-tension wires as well as concealed gun nests. Near the bombproof vaults and the seaside grottos where seaplanes hide are huge underground storage tanks from which gasoline is fed into the hangars by the force of compressed, noninflammable nitrogen gas

Rubber Jacket Grips Dish And Keeps Food Warm

13/2

Walbrid



The big rubber suction cup forming the base of the baby's dish holds it firmly on the tray

Firmly anchored by a big rubber suction cup, a child's three-compartment china dish cannot be overturned or knocked from the high chair. The dish has a lacquered rubber jacket for hot water to keep the food warm. The rubber acts as an insulator, keeping the dish warm and protecting the baby from too much heat.

Gauge Tests Thickness of Steel Without Touching Both Sides

With a magnetic gauge just developed in the General Electric laboratories, the thickness of sheet steel can be measured even when only one side of the sheet is accessible. It is accurate to 1/1,000-inch. The seven-pound portable indicating unit is connected to an electric outlet and the



Measuring the thickness of a sheet of steel, with the magnetic cylindrical gauge head held on the sheet

cylindrical gauge head containing an Alnico magnet is held against the sheet to be measured. The magnetic field of the gauge head saturates the material, and the degree of magnetic flux passing through the head magnetic circuit depends on thickness of the sheet being tested. The thickness is indicated by an instrument reading which is a measure of the increased reluctance of the magnetic circuit. This system is particularly useful where a sheet of steel is too wide for convenient and precise measurement with calipers.

"Submarine" Powered by Hand Propels Bather in Water

Bathers who do not know how to swim can push themselves through the water on a one-man "submarine" which operates beneath the surface, yet keeps the user



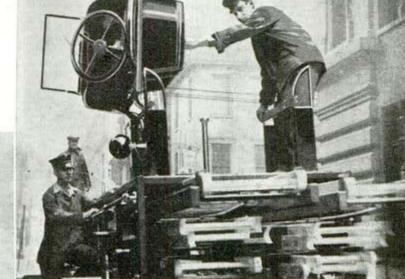
Swimmer kept afloat in water by wearing "submarine" propels self along surface by turning hand crank

afloat. The device, invented by J. D. Barlew, of Dallas, Tex., has a hand-operated bicycle-pedal arrangement at the front that delivers power to a small propeller at the back through a series of gears. Loops over the swimmer's shoulders serve as a harness and have floats on top that help maintain balance in the water.

(See index, page 4-A, to find where to buy articles described in this magazine. Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics. Hinged Seat Tilts When Aerial Ladder Rises

Tillerman's seat at rear of long fire truck, right, tilts to one side in order to make way for the huge aerial ladder

Below, going up! Operation is automatic, fireman manipulating levers instead of turning crank as on older trucks



One man operating the controls can raise the giant aerial ladder of a modern fire truck recently put into service at Cincinnati, O., to combat fires in tall buildings. A special feature is the action of the tillerman's seat, which turns over on its side to allow the ladder to rise from its inclined position. So smooth and quiet is the operation that scarcely a sound is perceptible as the ladder begins its skyward journey. By similar procedure it is lowered and put back in its berth. A turntable permits the towering ladder to be rotated in any direction, and so sturdy is the all-steel framework that any number of firemen may use the ladder at one time.

Variable Speed Control Pulley Expands and Contracts

Speed of belt-driven tools can be varied continuously by a control pulley with only two moving parts, cones with interlocking fingers floating freely on a single axle. Pulleys are used in pairs between the power unit belt and the working unit belt. Moving a lever forces these intermediate pulleys closer to or farther from the power unit, thus decreasing or increasing pressure on the power belt, which in turn forces the interlocking fingers either closer together or farther apart. This, of course, varies the diameter of the pulley and, hence, the speed of the tool.

JUNE, 1941

Lever is moved back and forth to change speed M. Collins 270 South 49 Is St. San Bernardino

DESTRUCTION IS



Top, bridge wrecked by French demolition crew as Germans advanced.

Four to six men can demolish a big bridge in a few minutes



TEARING down enemy fortifications, bridges, barbed wire and the like, in the quickest possible time is the job of the "explosion squad," daredevil fighting unit of the Army. Literally, destruction is their business. Picked men from Engineer regiments, their task in peacetime is to test newest demolition equipment, while in wartime they will not hesitate to gamble with death.

In an advance into a hostile region they must be among the first troops on the job, for they pave the way for the artillery and cavalry; in a retreat they must be the last to leave since they must destroy bridges, railroads, roads and armaments to handicap the enemy advance.

At Fort Belvoir and other experimental stations, the demolition soldiers, with the aid of revolutionary equipment especially designed for

Left, making ready demolition equipment for a test with a scout car

Below, preparing to plant mortars in the standard position for firing



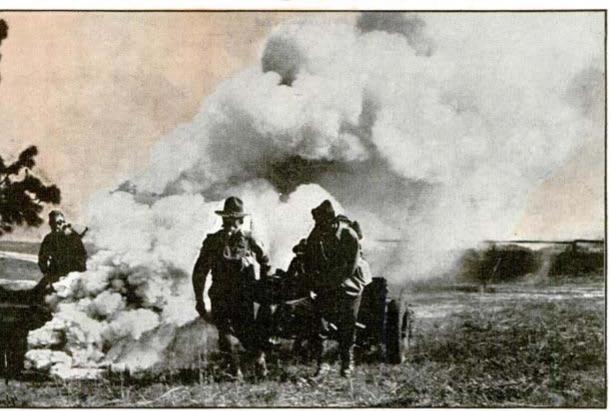
POPULAR MECHANICS

7630 new Hampsel

cut. Rendal

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THEIR BUSINESS



"Explosion squad" in gas masks hauls anti-tank gun through smoke screen department and chemical Below, a new use for compressed-air drills-destroying an "enemy" bridge warfare service, are developing techniques that

them by the ordnance are expected to outdo anything the Germans have accomplished.

Speed, surprise and violent action are the keynotes of the explosion squad, composed of four to six men hand-picked from each regular combat Engineer unit of twelve. They are armed with rifles and machine guns and equipped with special tools and all manner of grenades, explo-

tion specialists are called upon to aid in assaulting an enemy stronghold, here's the procedure: First the air corps and heavy artillery bombard the area, crippling major



sives and gases. Assuming the demoli-



Above, the air drill starts a crater in road to slow the enemy advance. Below, a battery of gas cylinders; placing these screens is an important duty of the "explosion squad"

fortifications. Now the explosion squad makes its assault: smoke screens cutting off enemy observation: flame throwers burning the hostile positions; hand grenades and thermit bombs detonating in and around each enemy position; infantry units in readiness to repel counterattacks and to consolidate gains; and finally, demolition troops placing explosives against turrets, doors, hinges and other sensitive parts of the enemy "works." In other words, this new Army "blitzunit" is charged with disrupting the entire plan of hostile defense or attack.

Bridges that are not to be used during the advance of our



A striking example of what a land mine can do to a tank is shown below. During the invasion this French tank was retreating across the bridge when it struck the hidden mine



troops will be charged with explosives, ready for instant demolition. Roads not scheduled to be ridden over by our attacking forces will be prepared for defense by mining, by road blocks of large trees, by earth barricades or concrete blocks.

Precisely timed military teamwork is needed in blocking the enemy's mechanized vehicles. While the demolition engineers are equipped to build the road blocks to halt the enemy, it is the mission of the heavy weapons of the infantry and artillery to destroy the vehicles once they are halted. Wheeled cars must in general stick to the roads. Tread vehi-

2329

cles can only make speed off the roads when the terrain is favorable. Armored cars of both kinds are hard to hit with sufficiently heavy guns when traveling 40 to 50 miles an hour. Therefore it is the job of the explosion squad to halt mechanized forces so they can be destroyed by heavy fire of our infantry and artillery.

In this work the "land mine" is helpful. A charge of 10 pounds of high explosive in a mine is sufficient to smash any wheel or tread vehicle which will detonate it. Small and easily and quickly handled, it can be buried in open spaces or hidden by underbrush. When a vehicle passes over this type of mine, it explodes immediately.

Military experts believe a sufficiently large supply of land mines, adequately covered by anti-tank weapons, will go far toward preventing spectacular advances such as German mechanized units achieved in Holland, Belgium and France.

Not only do the members of the explosion squad destroy, but they rebuild and repair. Roads and bridges blocked or demolished by the enemy must be made ready for our troop advances. Without the demolition engineers, any dash of our armed vehicles to the front, or on sweeps around the enemy flanks, would be difficult or impossible. Other vital jobs are: penetrating barbed wire; helping consolidate territory gained; extending routes of communication into captured territory; and supplying the usual engineer material, notably pure drinking water and sanitation facilities to troops on the march.

In the case of railroads, demolitions are especially effective. An enormous amount of track can be demolished in a few minutes by explosion crews of four to six men.

War Department scientists are now performing countless tests with incendiaries, which are directed primarily against buildings and equipment and in major assaults on fortifications. White phosphorus, primarily a smoke producer, with the property of igniting spontaneously and burning vigorously when exposed to air, is one of the best incendiary materials. When scattered from overhead by grenades and trench mortar bombs, the phosphorus rains down in flaming particles which stick to clothing and cannot be easily brushed off or quenched. Phosphorus always causes a demoralizing effect far beyond the actual casualties it produces.

(Continued to page 162)

JUNE, 1941

Gas Mask for Hard-to-Fit Drapes Over Shoulders



Instead of the regulation gas mask, persons hard to fit wear this helmet draped over the shoulders

Special respirators for those who cannot be fitted to ordinary gas masks are being issued in Britain. There are persons who, because of unusual facial contours, deep hollows or wrinkles, or because of injuries or allergies, cannot wear the regulation mask. The new type is a helmet that covers the entire head and shoulders.

Meter Indicates Light Needed
For Various Types of Work

How much light is adequate for various types of work without inducing eye strain is indicated by a simple light meter that is inexpensive and accurate. At the top of the meter is a dial giving

that is inexpensive and accurate. At the top of the meter is a dial giving a direct reading of the light strength. Below it, corresponding numbers show whether the light is satisfactory for a range

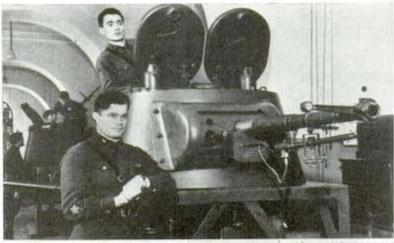
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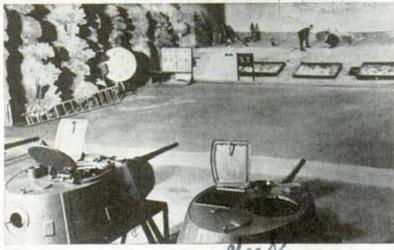
of work from rough housework to that involving prolonged, close use of the eyes.

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Russian Tanks Play War With Aid of Stage Scenery





As tank gunner, top, fires at targets, another student checks results with his watch. Bottom, stage wings used for landscaping indoor range

Tank gunners of the Russian army practice shooting from turrets mounted on "stilts" on an indoor artillery range at the Stalin Military Academy of Moscow. To simulate a real battlefield, the target range is landscaped with wings like those used in stage settings. Student marksmen fire at targets and tiny objects placed in the background. Other students check the results.

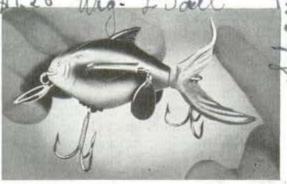
Health of Tree Estimated Quickly With Sensitive Voltmeter

Using a simple but very sensitive voltmeter, tree surgeons can determine whether a tree is healthy in somewhat the same way that a doctor can examine a human with the aid of a stethoscope. The process is based on a discovery, made by Thaddeus Parr of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, that there is a difference in electrical potential between the top and root of a tree. In spring, during the fastest growing time, the gradia ent is from top to roots Later, the direction is re versed. In a tree seriously injured or otherwise in bad health, however, the reaction is abnormal, being either weaker than in a sound tree or reversed in direction. The instrut ment is portable and may be carried into the woods for field diagnoses by foresters and entomologists

Lure's Rubber Tail Wiggles in Water To Attract Fish

2255

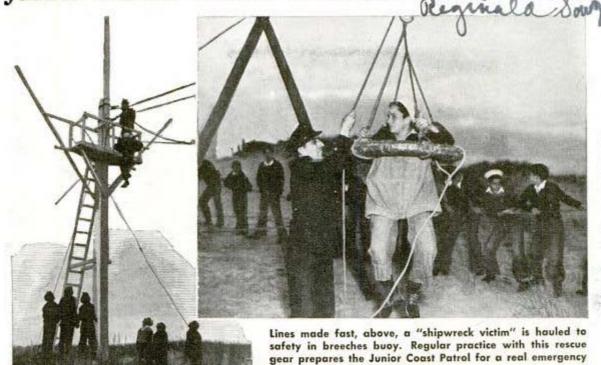
If it is lifelike action that the big fish go for, at rubber-tailed lure now on the market gives promise of hooking them. With its flexible tail simulating the wiggle of a . small fish when being retrieved, the plastic lure. which is available in 147 different color combinations, is more than big game fish such as bass, pike and muskies can resist, according to the manufacturer. The rule ber tail is interchangeable, spinners are mounted in the fins, and treble hooks are there to make sure that the catch does not get away.



Flexible rubber tail wiggles as the lure is retrieved

POPULAR MECHANICS

Junior Patrol Trains With the Coast Guards



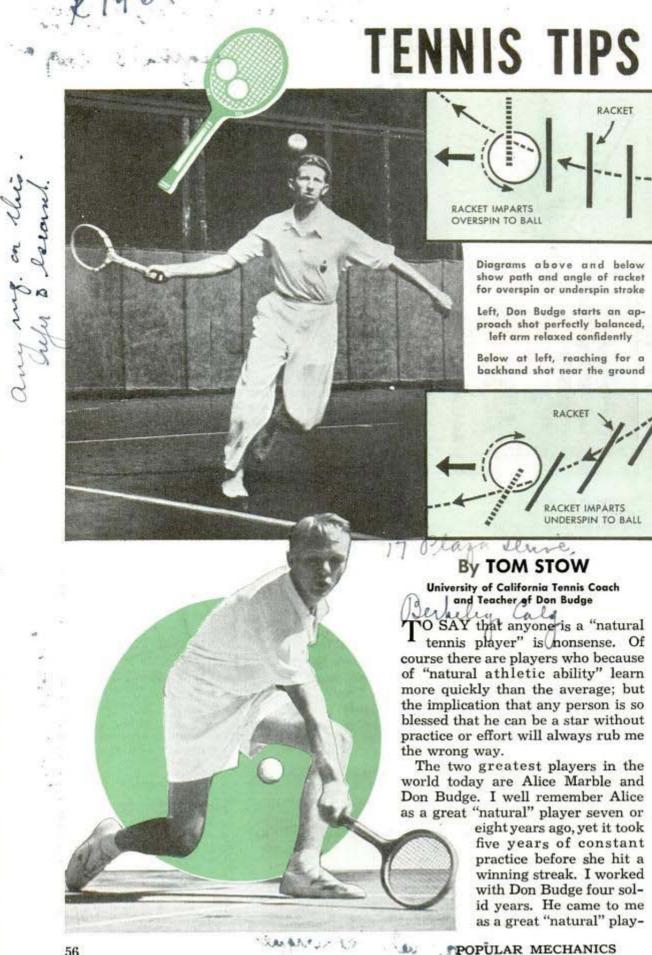
US COAST GUARD

Their target the mast of the drill pole (above), 300 feet distant, the boys are shown how to fire the Lyle gun (below). They load it with two ounces of powder, insert the 18-pound projectile and fire it by lighting a fuse. When they succeed in hitting the target, lines of the breeches buoy are made fast to the pole for a practice rescue

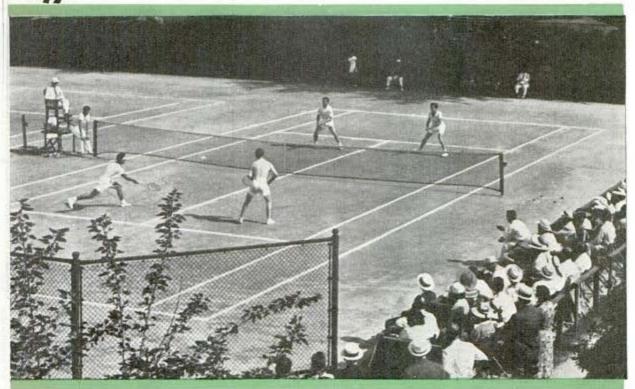


JUNE, 1941 manuel Henryne

Launching the 26-foot surf boat, above, for a lesson in rescue work and handling oars, is one of the enjoyable "classwork" assignments of 30 boys who have organized a Junior Coast Patrol unit at Provincetown, Mass. First studying coast guard work in theory, they later spend weekends at Race Point station participating in drills and routine work of the Coast Guard. They learn rope splicing, seamanship, codes, weather and semaphore signals, and navigation. In emergency they stand ready to help the Guards



from a CHAMPION MAKER



Above, Frank Parker smacks a forehand in fast action at close quarters during doubles play in a National Clay Court Tournament

Down in month 1460

er. They told me he was destined to be champion. He did become champion, and probably the greatest player of all time, but only after four years working, changing, practicing strokes and footwork and every phase of the game.

So whether you're a beginner or an average player who wants to improve, understand that skill is not inherited but acquired by concentration, determination, and study. If you're willing to put in the effort, come along and I'll see what I can tell you to help develop your game.

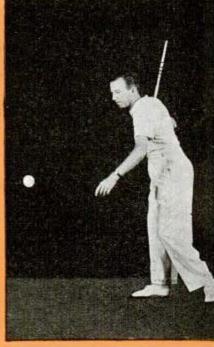
To start at the begin-

Right, Coach "Red" Hoehn of Dartmouth watches a lefthanded star practice backhand with the Stow Stroke Developer. Notice upper ball for service and overhead practice Bouchard Photo

JUNE, 1941

Ited alewine, Santa





In good position behind the baseline, the player at left, above, has racket well back to hit a hard forehand drive. Right, practicing the forehand, weight on right foot, left foot ready to step in for the shot



Elwood Cooke's arm swings straight up in a smooth, accurate toss for serve

ning, pick out a racket with a medium balance and a 4% or 4¾ handle, weighing 13½ to 14½ ounces; slightly smaller if you're a girl. The main thing is to get one that feels right. Next, check on your physical condition. Tennis is hard and fast. Play hard, stop when you are tired; you'll learn faster and get more fun that way.

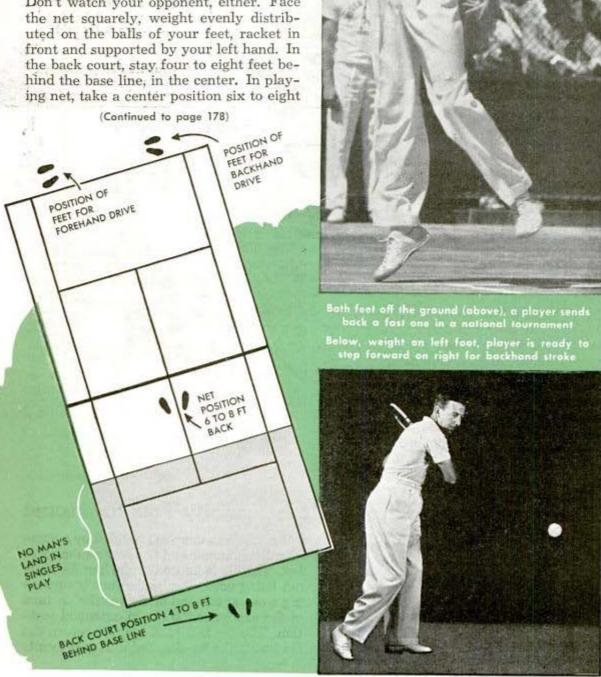
Now for the grips. The Eastern forehand is probably best for you: stand your racket on edge with the cross strings perpendicular to the ground and shake hands with it, the heel of your hand touching the leather button, the fingers around the handle. For the backhand, turn your hand at least a quarter turn to the left and put your thumb up the back of the handle.

Before you try the strokes, let's get the theory of the spins clearly. Since a ball curves the way it spins, an over-spin or top-spin will cause the ball to curve down and jump faster as it hits the ground. This shot can be made by turning the face of the racket up and over the ball with the wrist, or by coming up on the ball with firm wrist. The latter is the correct method, for you can retain control and accuracy, and the body is more easily timed with the shot. To under-cut, hit down at the ball with the racket beveled back; this shot tends to travel straight and bounce slower. Although an under-cut or sliced backhand is used by many topranking players, my advice is to eliminate undercuts until over-spun shots are mastered. Don Mc-Neill, national amateur champion, in trying to overcome an under-cut shot uses his wrist too much in

over-spinning. In so doing he has obtained the "feel" of how to drive the shot, but does not have maximum control. When he corrects this, which he is apt to do this year, the tennis world may be treated to another Budge.

The ultimate shot most ranking players try for is the flat drive, hitting straight with the face of the racket flat against the ball. It carries more speed, but should not be used until confidence and control have been gained for the over-spun shot.

Really the most important fundamental is-keep your eye on the ball. The court and the net won't move; don't watch them. Don't watch your opponent, either. Face the net squarely, weight evenly distributed on the balls of your feet, racket in the back court, stay four to eight feet behind the base line, in the center. In playing net, take a center position six to eight



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Soldier Grinds Out Power for Portable Radio



table hand-powered generators are used in the field by army scouts to operate portable radio transmitters and receivers. While one soldier cranks away steadily at the generator to supply the current, others handle the radio apparatus.

> Portable radio equipment carried by troops on scouting expedition, left, is set up in the field

Hand-cranked generator, below, supplies the current and saves carrying much heavier batteries

J. S. Can Expect as Many Indians In 1980 as in 1492

No longer a "vanishing race," American Indians are now multiplying so rapidly that in forty years their number should reach the total estimated to have been living here at the time Columbus landed. The number of Indians in the United States is expected to reach 700,000 in 1980, perhaps even 750,000. The total is about 360,000 today. Anthropologists believe there were \$\square\$ 700,000 to 800,000 Indians in this country 3 when Columbus landed in 1492.

Washington. Hammer With File in Handle Is a Handy Tool for Home



File pulled out from hammer handle is ready for use. Cap at end is turned when you want to push it back

Two tools in one are provided by a combination hammer and file now on the market. The file is housed in the handle while not being used; it is pulled out by grasping a cap at the end of the handle. A turn of the cap locks the file in extended position. The cap is turned again to return the file inside the handle, and a snap prevents it from coming out accidentally.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Franklin are Columbus. Chio

Sedan Is Easily Converted Into an Ambulance

No tools are required to change a specially designed De Soto sevenpassenger sedan into an ambulance. When the right-hand doors are opened and the center post is swung up on its hinge, a full-length hospital cot can be loaded into the car easily. The post is held up during the transition by a stainlesssteel arm that hooks onto an inconspicuous roof bracket. The seats, of course, are removable.

> All that is necessary to change this sedan into an ambulance is to open the doors wide, swing the center post and hook it to the roof bracket, then remove the seats. No tools are required



Pick-Up Baler Ties Hay in Slices That Pull Apart Easily

Baled hay is produced in slices by a new pick-up baler that cuts and presses the hay into separate layers so it falls apart like sliced bread when the wires are cut. This saves tearing the hay from the bale,

which is of conventional size and weight, and thus eliminates waste when it is used. Mounted on rubber tires, the lightweight machine operates as fast as eight miles an hour in baling hay or straw left in the field

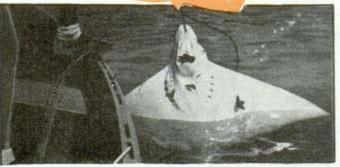
> by grain combines, and bales up to five tons an hour. Operating efficiency is increased by continuous feeding into the baler and elimination of the need for wooden divider blocks, the bales being separated automatically and measured accurately into equal lengths. Fuel consumption of the baler engine is about one quart per ton.

Baler picks up hay left in field and packs it into bundles made up like slices of bread so it may be pulled apart easily when the wire is cut

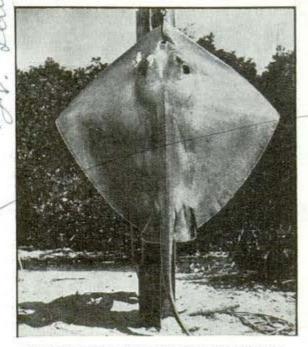
JUNE, 1941

Two new 6,000-horsepower Diesel-electric locomotives built to haul Union Pacific streamliners have automatic water sprays to cool the wheels while brakes are applied.

WHIPPING



Leopard ray with gig in its head. This shows white underside



500-pound gray whip ray caught by the Bowens



FIGHTING to escape the biting teeth of a gig, the great leopard whip ray thrashed the sea madly. Its batlike flippers smashed and pounded the water and its long, horny tail lashed from side to side in a deadly arc.

Suddenly it plunged. The gig pole jerked loose and floated on the surface, but the teeth clung. As the ray streaked through the water, it dragged behind 30 feet of

sash cord and a sealed gallon "spotting" can. Where the ray darted, the can jerked, with the hunters following in an open, shallow-draft boat, bumped along by a high speed nine and one-half horsepower outboard motor.

Poised on the deck of the boat, Dr. Carroll Bowen watched through Polaroid glasses which cut the water's glare, his eyes following the moving can. At his waist was a steel fish knife and in one hand was a harpoon. With it he would hurl the death blow. Signaling his brother, Paul, at the motor controls, Dr. Bowen jiggled his harpoon up and down, pointing his weapon in the direction of the darting ray. Paul stepped the boat up from 6 to 12 miles per hour, then to 17. After a mile and a half of perilous straightaways and breath-taking hairpin turns, which almost tossed Dr. Bowen from the boat more than once, the chase reached an abrupt end.

> Finding its refuge barred, the ray sought deeper waters, sank to the bottom and blew up sand to muddy the sea and obscure the vision of the hunters.

> Dr. Bowen signaled again and Paul reduced the speed until he had the motor little more than idling. The doctor with his harpoon poised, peered down, ready for the strike. Then, under its camouflage the ray streaked off at a right angle. Spinning the boat around, Paul raced after the ray again, speeding up this time to 25 miles per hour. So fast was the

Left, upper side of leopard ray. Note fourinch spine being examined by Dr. Bowen. The ray can inflict a very painful wound by striking the hunters with the spines

POPULAR MECHANICS

THE WHIP RAY

ray that the "spotting" can was submerged for 100 yards in the mad dash.

Suddenly the can stopped moving. The Bowens feared the gig had torn loose and the ray was gone. Paul edged the boat up and stopped the motor. Below, scarcely nine feet off, they spied the huge ray on the bottom and the doctor promptly hurled the harpoon into the head of the monster. Infuriated it shot to the surface and leaped into the air, whipping its tail and smashing with its flippers. Again and again it hurled itself from the sea and crashed back. Finally, after an hour's battle. Dr. Bowen guessed the ray's strength was spent. He and Paul grabbed the gig and harpoon lines and drew the creature close to the boat. As they did the ray sprang and lashed his whip around Dr. Bowen's body, shaking him to his knees. But the ray was too far gone to injure the doctor.

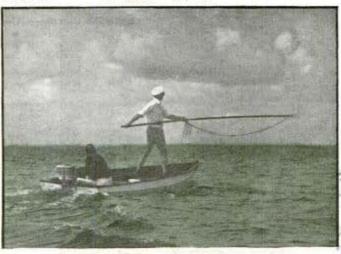
Making sure the monster was dead, they dragged it into the boat. Back at the docks a block and tackle were employed to hoist the ray. It weighed 500 pounds.

Whipping the whip ray is Florida's newest thrill sport. Few have tried it in the past. More will attempt it from now on. Along with Guy Fielden and Ted Ganyard of Coral Gables, Dr. Bowen and Paul think it offers more adventure than sailfish, marlin or tarpon fishing. The sport is fast, daring and risky. Good nerves, steady eyes and a sure aim are essentials. Perfect teamwork between hunter and pilot and split-second timing are requisites.

Rays are broad, diamondshaped and have small, vicious eyes set close together. The leop-

(Continued to page 175)

Right, hauling a relatively small ray into the boat. Note the ray's resemblance to a bat. The manta ray found in the Florida keys sometimes weighs 3,500 pounds



Dr. Bowen with gig in bow of boat; his brother operates motor

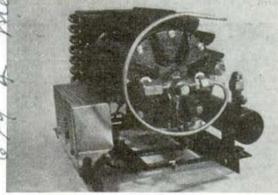


Bowens pulling ray to boat. Large rays can drag boat for miles



Radio Tubes Rule Current In Low-Cost Refrigerator





Top, piston assembly of 500-watt tube-operated refrigerator; below, 250-watt domestic refrigerator unit

An electro-magnetic pump replaces the ordinary rotary motor and pump mechanism in a refrigeration system just developed. The unit is lightweight, quiet, and may be marketed at a 33 percent reduction under present prices. Radio tubes control the current. The pump consists of two opposed compression chambers and a central double-headed piston. Each chamber is alternately polarized by utilizing the characteristics of alternating current, the effect being to drive the piston back and forth between the chambers. The pump is capable of 3,600 strokes per minute, and freezing speed can be varied at will.

Three-Inch Glass on Warplanes Stops Fifty-Caliber Bullets

Tests of safety glass three inches thick, designed for protection of pilots and gunners in warplanes, prove it, will stop even cience Service

Cruy Clidnante.

the heavy bullets of .50-caliber machine guns fired at right angles from 100 yards away. Two-inch glass of the same type will stop bullets of the ordinary riflecaliber machine guns. The heaviest bullet shatters and powders the glass at the point of impact but fails to penetrate it. Since windshields and turrets on airplanes are always streamlined and present a sloping front to the enemy bullet, thinner glass than that tested nearly always would offer sufficient protection.

Adjustable Sprinkler Limits Water Within Area Desired

Finger-tip control for both the distance and amount of water is provided by an automatic lawn sprinkler now on the market. By turning a plastic button located on the sprinkler head, the position of the nozzle arms may be adjusted to cover any area from 5 to 50 feet in diameter, and the openings in the arms may be changed to govern the quantity of spray. Whether set for large or small circles, the spray is always broken up by revolving arms to provide a rainlike shower.



Top, dial control permits sprayer to be set for any diameter up to 50 feet. Bottom, sprayer in action

POPULAR MECHANICS

L305 Pumpo - mazim motor Co, middleboro mars Motorcycle Pump Pours a Torrent on Flames





Motorcycle pumper at left, equipped with a V-8 engine, feeds 500 gallons of water per minute into hose lines. At right, Boston fire fighters man a line of nozzles in a test of small trailer and motorcycle pumpers

Borrowing an idea from the eaters" of London, who fight Incendiary flames with small mobile pumping units strategically distributed throughout the city, the Boston fire department recently demonstrated several portable pumpers capable of pouring a torrent of water. One of them was a motorcycle unit carrying hose lines and using an eight-cylinder engine to deliver 500 gallons of water per minute. Others were pumpers of larger

capacity mounted on trailers or small trucks. In one test, three pumps drove 2,572 gallons per minute through fourteen hose lines. In London similar small units, which can be hauled by any automobile or taxicab in emergency, proved able to rush fire-fighting equipment to the scene of a fire in a few minutes, going around bomb craters or traffic jams that would stop large trucks. Boston has ordered four 600gallon auxiliary pumps for emergency use.

Plastic Helmets for 'Chutists Top Off Latest Uniforms



Here are Uncle Sam's own parachutists, clothed in new type uniforms

slide fasteners. New York led the states in passenger automobiles registered in 1940 with 2,392,008, California following with 2,374,507.

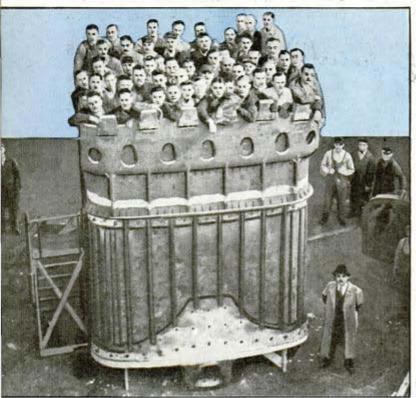
Members of the crack new 501st Parachute Battalion training at Fort Benning, Ga., have been equipped with new uniforms, plastic helmets, and shoes with inner soles of sponge rubber to absorb the shock of landing. The suits are in one piece. made from snagproof olive drab material, and are liberally furnished with pockets sealed with

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JUNE, 1941



Above, thirty-three cubic-yard Bucyrus-Erie stripper operating in an Indiana surface coal mine. Below, 52 men standing in heavy duty stripping dipper demonstrate size of the huge machine



EVER since the first member of the human race attained sufficient intelligence to realize he could dig faster with a clamshell than he could with his fingers, mankind has been striving to increase the strength of the comparatively feeble arms and legs with which nature endowed the species.

For example, Leonardo da Vinci in 1514 sketched a practical machine for underwater excavation and wrote detailed instructions for its operation. It was so mechanically ingenious that when someone placed da Vinci's plans for an excavator, together with sketches and models of some of his other neglected inventions on display in New York City recently, thousands of people were surprised that machines they had known to be so new were based on ideas they had never suspected to be so old.

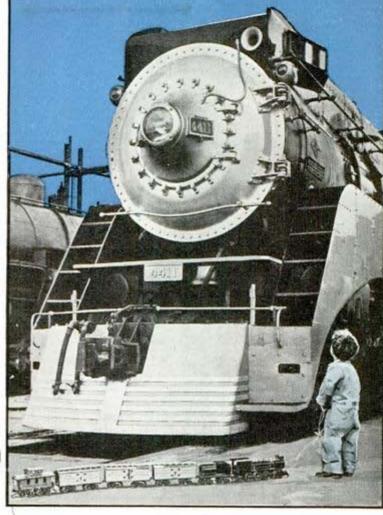
But it was not until 1837 that

ROBOTS of METAL

anyone thought of constructing a mechanical excavator, which is nothing more than a robot arm operating a robot hand. Patented in America in 1839, it attracted a lot of attention with its clumsy central mast of iron supporting a crane which lifted a bucket after it had been filled by a series of jerks from chains controlled through temperamental clutches and powered by a wheezy steam engine.

Then in 1880 an improved machine was invented. This

Below, man standing beside 1,023,000-pound steam drop hammer used in airplane manufacture



Above, child drags toy up for comparison with one of man's robots, a Southern Pacific locomotive

was the railroad type shovel which dips and lifts very much like the one now used to excavate for basements and foundations. The dragline, which digs with a bucket drawn toward the machine, soon followed, and machine-age man continued to free himself from the limitations of his arms and legs at a breath-taking pace, devising thousands of labor-saving mechanisms and immediately making them bigger and better. When he could make them no better, he kept on making them bigger.

Today, because of the demand for tool steel and machine specialists in national defense production, it seems unlikely that for some years, at least, anyone will attempt to produce larger digging machines than those recently put to work in the surface coal mines and quarries of the United States.

The huge dippers of these excavators, used to strip soil from seams of coal or rock, scoop as much

Bull by Chambersburg

more than 110 feet, dump 75 feet in the air and dig at a height of more than 95 feet. So perfectly are they balanced that if one or two of the four caterpillar traction units settles in soft soil, a unique mercury control system causes four huge hydraulic jacks to level the 2,500,000pound machine instantly. And one little man seated at electric controls as simple as those on your automobile operates the giant robot shovel, so large that the dipper alone will accommodate 52 men, standing comfortably close. Nor will the 250-foot armlike booms of the newest type dragline excavators with their marien Below, huge electric shovel makes workmen look like pygmies Above, American revolver type derrick hoisting material from which its own roadbed is manufactured, a construction trestle over a stream as 35 cubic yards of dirt at a single upward swing. The booms on these gargantuan machines exceed 100 feet. The handles on the shovels range over 70 feet, which is a far cry from the prehistoric man and his clamshell. These excavators can reach out Below, huge six-foot plow built to bring up rich peat soil buried in flood sands Calcipellas tractor

Calerfullar Tracta GOPULAR MECHANIC

500-foot carry be increased much in size right away. Their great, rectangular "feet" which look like pontoons and permit them to walk across soft soil without sinking, have probably reached a temporary maximum size which is approximately that of a speedboat.

The conveyor is another of man's robots employing steel to perform both the supporting function of the arms and the transportation function of the legs. The newest conveyor, having reached a total length of 9.6 miles, is not likely to be exceeded by any such machine to be built anywhere in the world during the next few years. Its purpose is to move sand, gravel and stones for the construction of Shasta Dam. More than 12,000 steel troughing idlers



The big Diesel-drawn plow, abov , digs down three feet to turn up better soil

Below, one of two huge bull gears coupled to propeller shafts of S.S. America

"Caterpillar" Diesel tractor and scraper making fill on county road construction La Clarite Chiral

rotating on sealed steel ball bearings support 20 miles of 36-inch, six-ply belting which involves the use of 500,000 pounds of cotton and a million pounds of rubber.

It took mankind a long time to develop the hammer and anvil to a point where the village smithy was extolled in verse and song and it is likely to be some time again before many such robots are fashioned much larger than the 1,023,-000-pound steam drop hammer that recently was manufactured in the United States for a French corporation. The falling hammer section weighs 35,000 pounds. The anvil weighs 762,000 pounds.

(Continued to page 167)

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Small Working Gas Engine Makes 10,000 Revolutions

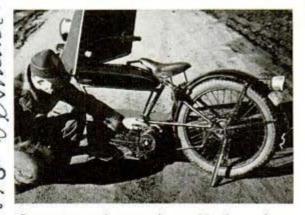


This tiny gasoline engine has tank holding two drops of gasoline and makes 10,000 revolutions per minute

Special tools had to be built for machining parts used in the construction of a tiny valve-and-piston type gasoline engine that runs three hours on an eyedropper of gasoline. Fuel is fed through an opening 1/1,000-inch in diameter. Built by Ray Arden, of Baldwin, Long Island, N. Y., the power plant has a tank holding two drops of gasoline and is capable of making 10,000 revolutions per minute.

Homemade Electric Motorcycle Runs for Half Cent a Mile

Cheap operation is claimed for an electric motorcycle made from spare parts



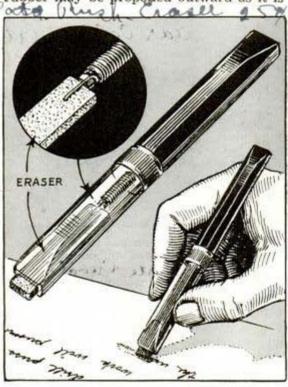
Battery-operated motorcycle runs 30 miles per hour

mounted of an old frame. A 7-horsepower, 12-volt motor, driven by two six-volt batteries housed in a case in front of the motor, supplies the power. Batteries are charged, without removing them from the case, at 2½ amperes for four hours, four days a week, which will run the vehicle 25 miles. The cost is computed by the operator to be less than a half-cent a mile, at a speed of 30 miles an hour. As there is no clutch, the motorcycle starts traveling as soon as the switch, operated by foot pedal, is turned on. The brake pedal is on the

Refillable Eraser Feeds Rubber As It Wears Down

opposite side.

Made in the form of a mechanical pencil, a long-lasting eraser is refillable and the rubber may be propelled outward as it is



Diagrams, upper left and center, show how rubber is hooked within holder. Right, it is held like pencil

worn down. Refills are made either of rubber or of mineral fibers. The latter type is especially useful for making erasures on tracing cloth, as well as for other delicate abrasive tasks as in cleaning and polishing.

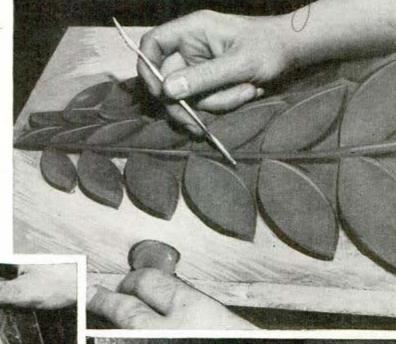
See index, page 4-A, to find where to buy articles described in this magazine. Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics.

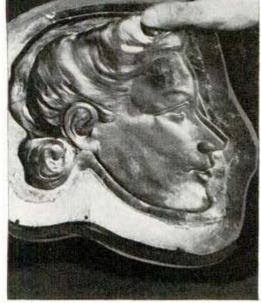
POPULAR MECHANICS

Carvings Copied in Plastic Wood With Dies

Duplicates of hand carvings can be made in any number with the aid of lead molds made from the originals by a Chicago concern. Carvers can send their favorite ash trays, statuettes and other handiwork to the firm where lead is poured around the article to make a mold that may be used in turning out hundreds of copies, using

Fern leaf carved in wood by hand is used to make a tray





Duplicate of form above was formed by pressing Plastic.

Above, lead mold of head, first carved out of wood, is good for thousands of plastic copies

Duplicate of fern, above, was formed by pressing Plastic Wood into lead casting made from the original

Plastic Wood as the molding material. It takes but a few minutes for the Plastic Wood to harden after it has been put into the mold and pressed out. Colors may be added to the finished piece to make it even

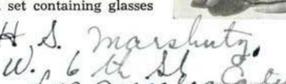
more attractive, in some cases, than the original. The molds and the plastic material are not expensive. For a small investment wood carvers can share their finest work with friends, or even sell it.

"Demountable" Rims for Sun Glasses Permit Lenses To Be Changed

Sun glasses now available have interchangeable rims so the wearer may change the color or density of the lenses whenever desired, in order to match the mood, attire, condition of weather, or to subdue glare. Thus with one pair of spectacles, the purchaser can obtain as many different lenses as he may wish. The "demountable" rims come in sets, each set containing glasses of a different color or anti-glare value.

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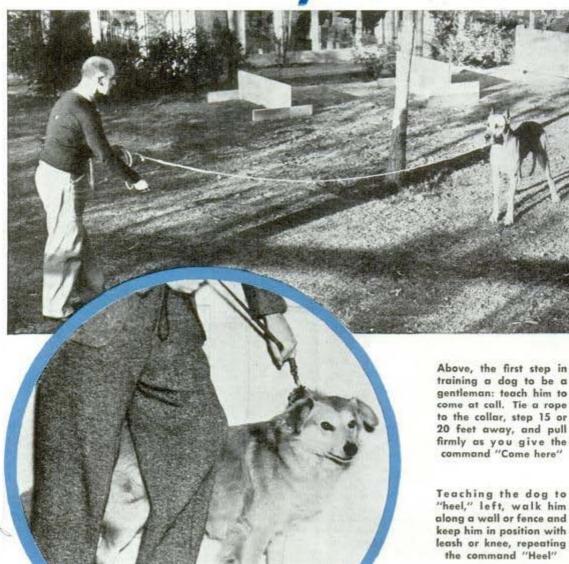
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TRAIN your D



"heel," left, walk him along a wall or fence and keep him in position with leash or knee, repeating

By

R. DeWitt Miller

EVERY DOG should be a gentleman. That is the theme on which Carl Spitz, Hollywood's ace dog trainer, has concentrated for 15 years. For although Spitz, who is head of the world-famous Hollywood Dog Training School, can teach dogs to do almost unbelievable things on the screen, his great purpose in life is to train the American public how to train their dogs. He believes the average American and the average dog are losing half the

benefit of their companionship—simply because the average man has not been shown how to teach his dog to be a gentleman.

"Training a dog to understand the few basic truths on which canine character is built is really simple," says Spitz. "Yet if you don't train your dog in these fundamentals, he's likely to become a cross between a nuisance and a criminal."

From here on we'll let Spitz take over. The methods outlined in this article are so

POPULAR MECHANICS



RIGHT



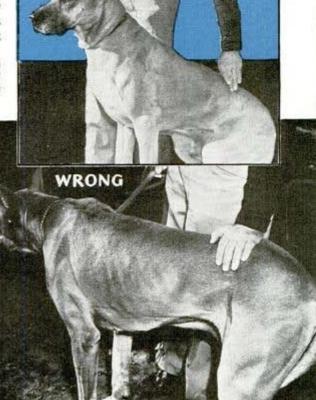
was taught to turn a doorknob by covering the knob with a tennis ball, one of the dog's familiar playthings

fundamental that Spitz uses them as the basis for instruction of his dog actors. Toto, the woolly mongrel in "The Wizard of Oz," Buck, the St. Bernard in the "Call of the Wild," and a hundred other movie dogs went through the same course.

But to start with your puppy. . . The average person eventually succeeds in house-breaking a puppy and teaching it not to chew the piano, but

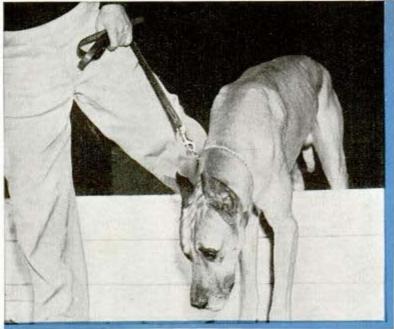
Save your dog from poisoning by teaching him not to touch stray food. Bait a few small mousetraps around the yard with meat (below). To make him sit down (right) use a "tong" grip, don't push down with flat of the hand





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Kizley



Lead the dog over a hurdle with the command "Over" to teach the jump

he wastes a lot of time doing it. The chief cause of this is the tendency to allow a puppy the freedom of the house.

"A puppy," according to Spitz, "should be placed at once in a suitable dog box." The size depends on the puppy, but a standard dog crate is about two by two by three feet. The puppy should remain constantly in this box when he is in the house. At least four times a day he should be let out in the yard. As any dog will tend to keep his immediate surroundings clean, the puppy will form the habit of not dirty-

ing his box. Moreover, keeping him confined to the box
will prevent his world becoming too complex. Confinement should be kept up
for about two weeks, or until the puppy is clean in the
box. He should then be
gradually accustomed to
larger surroundings.

It is not, however, advisable to begin further training of a dog before he is eight months old.

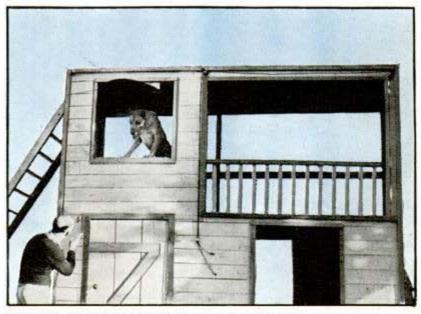
Of all the lessons a dog must be taught, the most important is to come at call. This should be taught with the aid of a long rope attached to the collar. Stand 15 or 20 feet from the dog, and pull firmly on the rope, at the same time commanding "Come here!"

Never change the wording of the command. That would be confusing. Always use a long rope: the dog must be taught to come from a considerable distance. After he begins to get the idea, take the rope off and call him. If he does not come at once. immediately use the rope again. This lesson should consume about 15 minutes a day. It must be learned thoroughly before more elaborate training is begun. Half the problems of dog owners would be solved if their dogs had been taught to come at call anywhere, at any

time, irrespective of what the dog wanted to do at the moment.

The second great failing of the average dog is the habit of eating stray food. Countless dogs are poisoned because of this habit, yet it is one of the simplest to break. Bait several mousetraps with meat, and place them about the yard. After his nose has been nipped a few times, he'll leave stray food alone. A small mousetrap will not harm a dog.

The next step is to teach your dog to walk beside you, at "heel." This is the first



Carl Spitz, Hollywood dog trainer, uses this set to train canine actors; it includes every essential element of a house or street

Trainer holds dog's rear quarters down and pulls front legs forward as he commands "Down"

real test of a dog gentleman. A dog who tugs on
his leash is neither a gentleman nor a pleasant
companion. When teaching a dog to "heel," select
a place near a wall or
fence. Walk with the dog
on your left side, between
you and the wall. The dog
should be on a leash. In
fact, a leash should always be used in any basic
training.

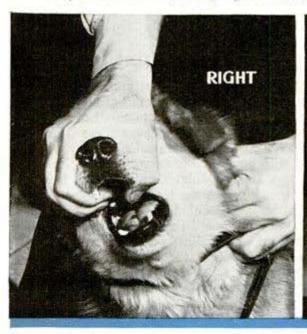
As soon as you begin to walk, the dog will either run ahead, or lag. If he

run ahead, or lag. If he stays behind, pull him forward with the leash. If he darts forward, push him with your knee against the wall or fence. Thus the dog learns to walk just even with your left foot. After this lesson is thoroughly taught, the leash should dangle loosely when you are walking the dog. A stroll then becomes a pleasure, rather than an athletic contest.

The next lesson is to "Sit!" Never use the command, "Sit down!"; the dog may (Continued to page 170)

Teaching the dog to "Stay" (right), walk around him repeating the command; if he moves, force him back, again repeating the order. Always use the leash

Below, right and wrong ways of forcing mouth open. Wrap hand around nose, forcing fingers and thumb in





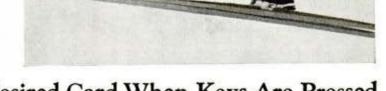
Skier Talks to Radio Audience in Record Leap



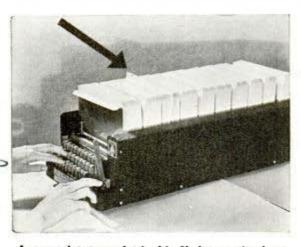
Carrying a short-wave transmitter as he soared through the air in what proved to be a record jump at Lake Placid, N. Y., Torger Tokle, champion ski jumper, described his experiences to a nation-wide radio audience. The microphone was fastened to a baseball catcher's mask which he wore, while strapped to his back was the portable radio set. His words, picked up by a more powerful set at the bottom of the slide, were relayed to Lake Placid Village, from there they were sent over a telephone wire to radio station WGY, Schenectady, and then broadcast over a coast-to-coast network. In the leap which he broadcast, Tokle set a new hill record of 243 feet for the Olympic jump.

Skier poised for takeoff, above, is wired for sound with short-wave radio transmitter strapped to his back and microphone on wire mask

Right, camera caught jumper in mid-air as he broadcast to nationwide listeners a description of record leap while it was in the making



Electric File Lifts Desired Card When Keys Are Pressed



Arrow points to card raised in file by pressing keys

Pressing the first four letters of a customer's name on the keyboard of an electric card-file selector turns up the customer's card from the tray regardless of its position in the file. One selector may be used with any number of card trays. For instance, to find John Brown's card, the clerk would place the tray in the selector and press keys labeled "J," "B," "R," and "O.". The card will bob up immediately, pulled out of position by energized magnets at the side of the selector. All the other cards are kept from bobbing up by means of four of the thirty metal rods lying parallel in the bottom of the selector which were raised when the keys were

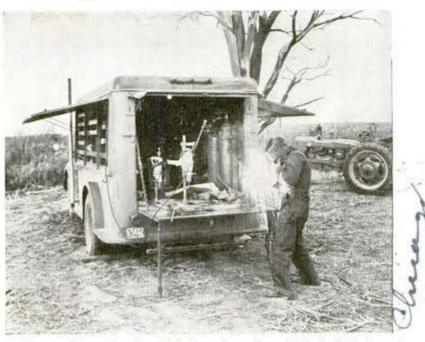
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struck, the four rods fitting snugly in slits between tabs at the bottom of the cards. John Brown's card was free to fly against the magnets because tabs to the left of the four slits corresponding to rods controlled by keys, J, B, R, and O had been clipped off when the card was originally coded for filing. In the same manner any other card in the file can be located by pressing the selector keys corresponding to its code letters.

Gas Tank for Plane Rocked in 'Cradle' To Test Strength

Before self-sealing gasoline tanks are placed on military airplanes, they are given a thorough testing, part of which consists of rocking them in a large cradlelike machine developed by B. F. Goodrich Co., of Akron, O. As the device oscillates with the tank mounted inside, measurements are made of the stresses and strains it endures.

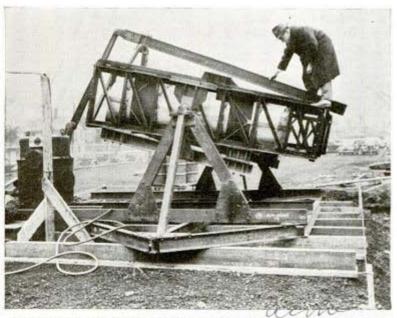
Mobile Electric Workshop Helps Build New Combines



Welder working at bench made by lawering tailgate behind mabile shop

When the caravan of International Harvester's experimental combines took to the fields for tests this year, it was accompanied by its own machine shop on wheels, equipped to make changes in various working parts as the tests proceeded. The workshop is outfitted with welding apparatus, several electric tools and lights operated by current from two generators which, in turn, are connected to the motor truck engine through a power takeoff. When the tailgate is dropped to horizontal position it forms a convenient work-

> bench with a vise attached. Hinged side panels cover a large cabinet with space for tools and bins for bolts, rivets, nuts and other accessories. These panels, when raised, also provide shade in the daytime for workmen. The combines are worked with crops of all sorts and in many parts of the country. When faults or weaknesses are spotted during the field trials, the offending parts are changed or redesigned. Thus, before they are put into commercial production, the combines go through nature's own proving ground.



Self-sealing gas tanks for warplanes are tested by rocking in this cradle

DEFYING the PACIFIC



By Captain Charles A. Borden

SAN FRANCISCO Bay skippers said it couldn't be done—sailing across the Pacific in "Confucius," one of the smallest seagoing boats in the world. But my wife, Rosalie, and I already have proved them to be at least partly wrong, for we've reached Honolulu on our globe-circling voyage.

Confucius is 17 feet over-all, 14½ feet long at the waterline and a six-foot beam. It is a Marconirigged sloop which we built in Hong Kong, China,



mending sails in dead calm after the storm

Checking position and

Above, standing out to sea from Monterey at beginning of the long voyage

Left, the skipper and Rosalie in midst of creating a mulligan aboard "Confucius"

in a SAILBOAT



Two extremes in Pacific "ships"—a big liner and the 17-foot sailboat. This photo was snapped at Honolulu Below, Rosalie and the skipper taking and checking meridian time sight. Instruments were homemade or secondhand

the cockpit seat. It contains besides three small kerosene stoves, spices, olive oil, matches in a glass jar, and five days supplies which we replenish as required from our main stores kept under the bunks, under the floorboards and aft under the watertight self-bailing cockpit. All of our canned goods are marked with a key number with a waterproof crayon so in case bilge water washes the labels off we know what we are opening.

Each stove takes up eight inches of the drawer which is asbestos lined. Plumber's tape extends

(Continued to page 187)



Artillery Range 'Suicide Squad' Blasts 'Duds'

Risking their lives daily tracking down and blowing up unexploded shells on the artillery range at Fort Benning, Ga., is the work of Lieut. Jesse D. Wadsworth and his "suicide squad" of six men. These unsung heroes ride out each morning in search of faulty shells, and whenever one is found they go into action. In preparing the

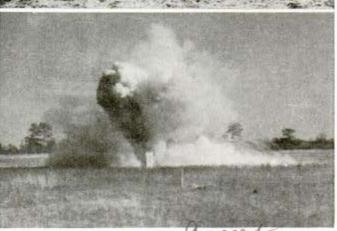
"duds" for explosion, the men carefully dig up the ground around the shell, place dynamite in the hole, pack it with loose earth, and attach fuses to the dynamite. When all is in readiness, they return to the truck and start the engine, as a rule leaving Lieut. Wadsworth to light the fuses and make a dash for the truck. The fuses take 15 minutes to burn, but in this hazardous task anything can happen. The expansion program at Fort Benning has uncovered hundreds of these unexploded shells, some of which have lain as long as 15 years in remote parts of the artillery reservation.

Liquid Oxygen for Planes Seen as High-Flying Aid

Liquid oxygen for high-altitude flying, replacing the large tanks of gaseous oxygen kept under high pressure, may mean increased safety for the pilot, greater maneuverability, and added armament for the ship, because of the lower pressure used in storage, and the reduced weight and size of the tank required. In commercial flying, more space for passengers or cargo could be provided, according to Prof. John Akerman of the University of Minnesota, where the unit was developed. The new apparatus consists of a tank containing the liquid oxygen, enclosed within a large tank containing gaseous oxygen at about 80 pounds pressure. This compares with 1,800 pounds pressure under present methods, which presents the danger of explosion in the event it is struck by a bullet. As the gas escapes, the pressure is lowered, and then automatically the liquid oxygen is squirted into the enveloping tank, to become a gas by "boiling."







"Suicide squad" members (top) get ready to blast unexploded shell, run for lives (center), and (bottom) "dud" blows up

neugre Jemes

Paddleboard Launched in Cradle by Guards

Paddleboards can be launched or lifted from the water by using a winch like one installed at Santa Monica, Calif. The launching devices saves labor for lifeguards who have charge of lockers on the pier where the paddleboards are stored.

Beach guards, using winch, make easy the task of lowering paddleboards into water, even with passenger aboard. Boards are lifted in same way



2111

Army's Midget Scout Car on Raft 'Swims' Across Rivers



Among the accomplishments of the army's new midget scout car is that of "swimming," when it is properly mounted on a raft. Constructing the raft of empty gasoline drums and planking, soldiers place the car so specially designed paddles attached to the rear wheels can push the craft along at two miles an hour.

Rear wheels, with paddles attached, kick up water as midget car propels itself across river on a raft. Its speed is two miles per hour

Auxiliary Propeller for Sailboat Uses Single Blade to Reduce Drag

To reduce drag on the sailboat, a propeller with one blade instead of two has been installed for auxiliary power. This design permits the propeller to be turned up behind the skeg when sailing. Although one boat that uses the single-blade propeller is unusually light, no vibration is noticed when the motor is in operation.

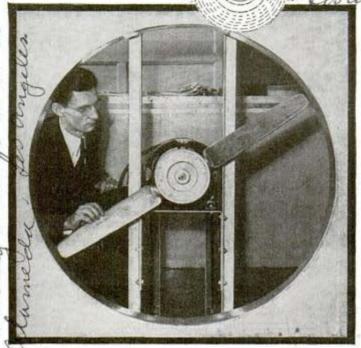
Single blade of propeller may be turned upward behind skeg, thus reducing the drag

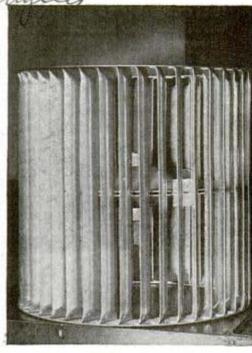
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HOW TO





Left, large type of ventilating fan that has adjustable-pitch blades to take care of different air loads. Right, revolving blower cage that takes place of moving fan blades in many cooling systems

CANVAS OR SHEET METAL HOOD FAN WITH CAPACITY OF 500 CUBIC FEET PER MINUTE OPEN LIPPER END LOADING DOOR METAL COLUMN FILLED WITH 225 LBS. ICE CRACKED TO 6" SIZES SUPPORTING + CUT FROM COLUMN IRON BARS OR FOURY SUPPORT ICE AIR ENTERING AT BOTTOM IS DRAWN UP AND OUT INTO WASTE WATER HOSE ROOM BY FAN

This diagram shows principal features of an ice cooler for single-room cooling

Have you ever shivered while standing near a large window in the winter time, though the window was closed and the air inside the room was warm?

If you have, you experienced the phenomenon called radiant cooling. You can be uncomfortably chilly in a room where the thermometer reads 70 degrees or more, if the walls and windows are cold. Your body loses heat by radiation to surfaces that are cooler than itself. This fact has been made the basis of research that seeks a new way to defeat summer heat.

Men who are studying radiant cooling and heating say that by means of it you can remain cool in summer temperatures of 90 degrees or stay warm in winter with the windows open. The idea is to control the temperatures of the surfaces that surround you instead of the temperature of the air. Such panel cooling has shown its worth in a Grand Rapids, Mich., hospital where surgeons remain perfectly comfortable at a temperature of 92 degrees accompanied by high humidity. Heat from their bodies radiates to two black 3 by 15-foot absorption panels in the walls. These panels are kept chilled by hidden pipes that

DODLE ID MESSE

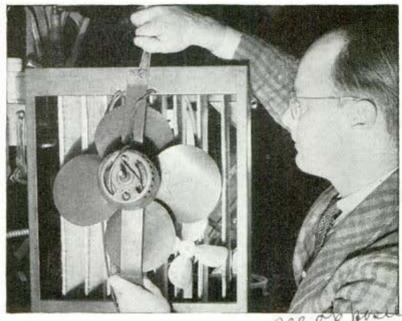
M. Jardine: Calif POPULAR MECHANICS

BEAT the HEAT

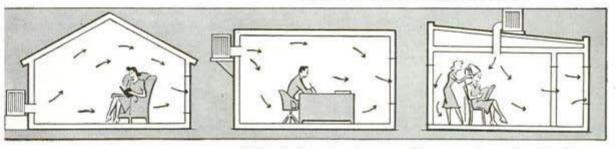
circulate water at 40 degrees. Troughs along the bottoms of the panels collect the moisture that condenses on the surfaces. In the winter, hot water in the pipes keeps the panels warm and thus warms by radiation, occupants of the room.

Experts of mechanical weather can't agree on the future of radiant heating and cooling, although it appears to have a place at least as an adjunct to other methods of air conditioning.

Big strides in air conditioning have been made in the last few years but even at \$1,000, the cost of

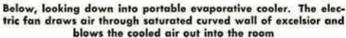


Main circulating fan of small evaporative coaler. Below, sketches of ways in which evaporative coolers may be installed (left to right) in the home, the office and the shop



mechanical refrigeration for the average home is beyond the ordinary purse. To cut operating costs, some mechanical cooling systems operate only part of the time, circulating fresh air through the rooms at night, using cold water for cooling during the morning hours, and switching over to mechanical refrigeration to combat the peak afternoon temperatures.

At the University of Illinois' research residence an air-conditioning system is being studied that first dehumidifies the incoming fresh warm air.



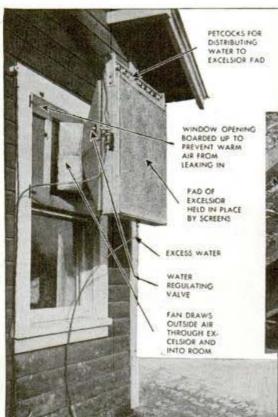


Above, various types of blades used on specialpurpose cooling fans

Below, how a small evaporative cooler may be attached to window opening of room cools it by the evaporation of water, and then circulates the cooled air through the registers of the home heating system. Even this system runs into the stumbling block of costs: "It isn't the heat, it's the humidity." A dry atmosphere is much more comfortable than a moist atmosphere at the same temperature, but so far no inexpensive way to remove moisture from the air has been found. Silica gel, calcium chloride and several other chemical compounds readily absorb water from the air but once loaded with water they must be dried out before being used again.

In the meantime, how are you going to keep cool this summer? One big aid that hasn't always been used properly is attic ventilation. On a hot day, dead air in the attic may attain a temperature of 150 degrees and this heat radiates into the rooms below. A large attic fan with enough roof ventilation to permit positive air circulation will carry this heat load away. Everyone knows how much cooler it is to drive a car with the windows lowered to admit a breeze than it is to sit in the same car, parked in the sun, with the windows closed. This comparison illustrates the value of attic ventilation. The main thing is to use a large fan, ordinarily one of around three feet in diameter. If you have stairs leading up to the attic and down to the cellar, try keeping the doors open with all the outside doors and windows closed while the attic fan is going.

Even without a fan in the attic you can keep the house relatively cool by providing



Installing tin foil above ceiling of new home to form shield against high temperatures and to prevent hot attic air from entering room below

K1431

plenty of ventilation under the eaves, keeping all windows open at night so that the interior of the house can cool off, and keeping the windows closed all morning to prevent the heat from getting in. Awnings outside the windows keep out a lot more heat than do interior shades. A white or light-colored roof reflects heat instead of absorbing it and some of the new insulation materials, placed in the upper ceiling, serve to keep out summer heat just as well as they keep heat in during winter.

 Unless you live in a very humid part of the country you might try an evaporative cooler that you may either make or buy. These "hay coolers" got their start in the dry desert regions of the southwest and for years it was assumed that they would work only in the desert. Although they are most satisfactory in dry climates they are being used successfully in many parts of the country. These coolers use an electric fan to pull fresh outside air through a thick screen or pad of moist excelsior or other material and to circulate this cooled air through a room. On a hot day such an evaporative cooler will reduce the room temperature 15 degrees or more, at the same time increasing the humidity. In humid climates it is important to leave a window partly open, opposite the cooler, so that the moistened air may circulate out of the room. Occasionally the increase in humidity becomes objectionably high, at which times the water to the cooling pad should be shut off and the fan left on to provide the cooling benefit of air circulation alone.

Water evaporation is also the principle in a number of car coolers that keep the temperature down as long as the car is moving.

Portable room coolers that are enclosed in attractive metal cases and that need to be attached only to the electrical system of the home are on the market. Such coolers contain their own water

(Continued to page 168)

JUNE, 1941

Asbestos-Clad Rescue Squads
Walk Through Flames



Flames and gas fumes do not stop these hardy rescuers. Suit at left is made of asbestos; right, new type "breather" mask

Emergency squads of police and fire departments at Rock Island, Ill., keep asbestos suits in readiness so they may enter burning buildings to rescue trapped persons. The garments are of new design. The men also wear a new type "breather" gas mask to guard against inhaling poisonous vapors.

Lamp Socket Mounted by Suction Cup Clings to Smooth Surfaces

Fastened to tile, glass or other smooth surfaces by means of a substantial vacuum cup, an electric light socket is useful for showcases and glass-door closets in the home or in stores. The large vacuum cup stays in place indefinitely.

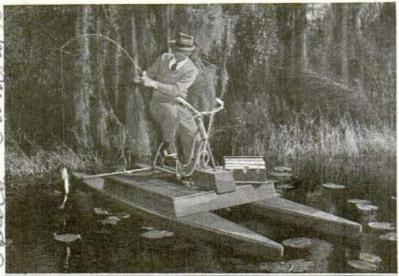


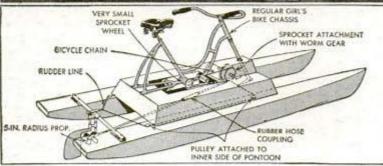
A reflector on the bulb casts the light inward. The cord may be strung to the nearest wall outlet.

191 Franklin are

Матириот зацишенный патороким приво

Water-Going Bike on Pontoons Useful for Fisherman





Fisherman's boat made by mounting bicycle on two pontoons leaves hands free to handle rod. Bottom, diagram shows construction of the water bike

Mounting a bicycle on pontoons and hooking the sprocket to a propeller resulted in a foot-powered boat that is used for fishing in Dupree Gardens, near Tampa, Fla. Fishermen

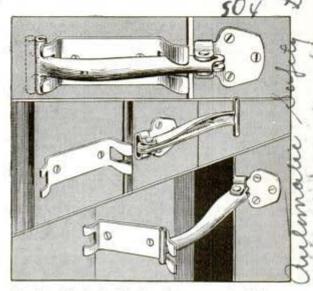
find that it solves the problem of fishing alone by relieving them of handling oars while using the rod. The water bike was assembled by erecting the frame of a girl's bicycle on a platform between two pontoons and using a rubber hose to couple two parts of the propeller shaft which is driven by a worm gear attached to the second sprocket.

Germ-Killing Mist Sterilizes Air Without Affecting Humans

An odorless, unnoticeable mist of propylene glycol, sprayed into the air, will kill many disease germs, according to research workers at University of Chicago Medical School who developed the process. Although extensive studies are yet to be made, tests thus far have shown that the method works when the mist is sprayed into germladen air, such as that resulting from a cough or sneeze. Since the chemical is said to have no ill effects on humans in the quantities used, its application in sickrooms, airraid shelters, schools, factories and the like may cut down, or prevent entirely, the spread of certain air-borne diseases.

Or Doors Allows Partial Opening

Only a screwdriver is needed to install a simple. safety latch that fits nearly all doors and hinged windows, needs no keys and is locked on the inside. It is claimed that the latch cannot be picked, opened by a master key or unlatched from the outside. Without unlocking it, the door or window may be opened partly for ventilation, and the housewife may take a safe peek at callers before unlatching the door to admit them.



Top, latch locked with door shut; center, latch in unlocked position; bottom, door locked partly open

POPULAR MECHANICS

Edward Bigg Beng

selvia Baker

Manager managed arrivers

2029 Oscar Brenner

Three-Wheel Motorcycle for Crippled Hunter

Three-wheel motorcycle, right, easily rides through scrub and young saplings. Below, "wishbone" lowered to hold front wheel in straight line. Boot to right of hunter, lower right, keeps shotgun in quick reach



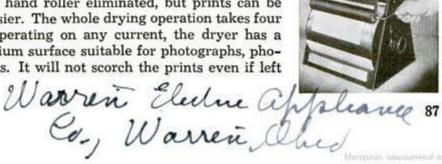
Loss of a leg in a hunting accident did not deter M. O. Devers of Dayton, O., from continuing his favorite sport. He sought the aid of a Harley-Davidson representative in rebuilding a motorcycle that would enable him to rove through fields. Deciding that a three-wheeler was needed, they first reduced the gear ratio, permitting the motorcycle to be driven at a speed comparable to a normal walk. To keep it traveling in a straight line with "hands off," a

"wishbone" is fastened to the front of the saddle so that it may be lowered to engage the handlebars firmly. Since much of the driving would be over rough terrain, the regular exhaust was removed and an automobile muffler installed behind the saddle. In this position the muffler is well off the ground, making the exhaust almost inaudible so that the game is not frightened ' by the noise. The muffler also serves as a heater for the hunter.

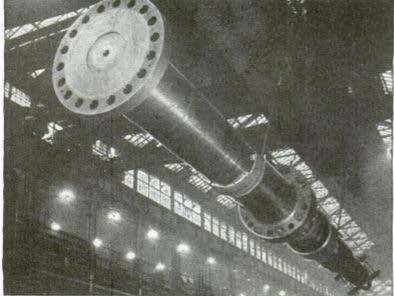
Squeegee Roller Built on Electric Photoprint Dryer Saves an Extra Step

One extra step in printing photographs is saved by an electric dryer that has a built-in squeegee roller. Not only is the separate application of a hand roller eliminated, but prints can be applied faster and easier. The whole drying operation takes four to eight minutes. Operating on any current, the dryer has a 12 by 18-inch chromium surface suitable for photographs, photostats and blueprints. It will not scorch the prints even if left on indefinitely.

JUNE, 1941



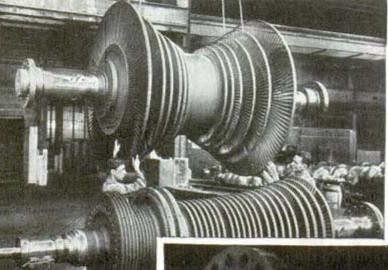
SUPER-POWER from



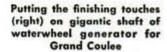
\$50-ton shaft which is part of waterwheel generator being installed at Grand Coulee Dam. The generator is rated at 108,000 kilowatts, making it the largest single power generating unit in the world

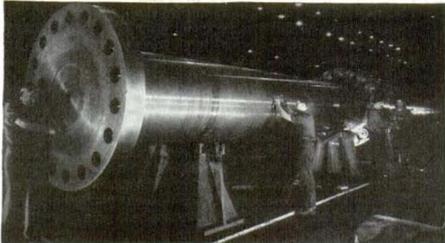
ATEST of the mighty machines developed to produce vast quantities of power is the world's largest waterwheel generator now being installed at Grand Coulee Dam. It will go into service this summer. Built by Westinghouse, this machine is composed of 1,000 tons of parts, the heaviest of which are the steel frame, the "spider"-a single piece of steel weighing 50 tons and used to support the rotating mechanism on a shaft-and the 56foot shaft, which weighs 150 tons and is so long it had to be made in two parts and bolted together.

The generator now being installed is the first of three identical supermachines planned for Grand Coulee. Each is designed to produce 30 percent more power than any other waterwheel generator ever built in this country. Combined output of the three giants will be sufficient to light about 5,500,000 60-watt house lamps. If the 435,000



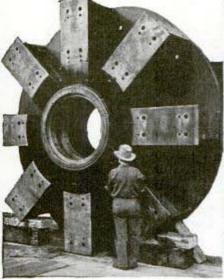
Two rotors for steam turbine together weigh nearly 38,000 pounds, yet are made like a fine watch





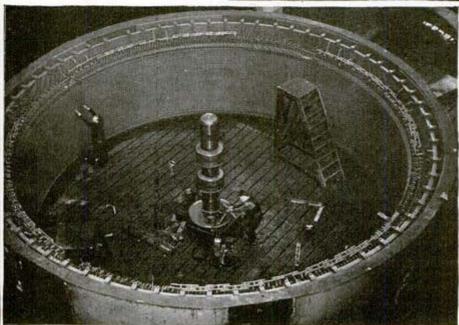
POPULAR MECHANICS

SUPER-MACHINES



Lower end of thrust-bearing support in huge power-generating unit already in use at Boulder Dam where many super-machines are at work





Leveling top edge of stationary member for one of the Grand Coulee waterwheel generators. This scene is in the Westinghouse works

Left, this circle of steel and copper windings is the stator of Grand Coulee waterwheel generator, 30 percent more powerful than any of its kind in the United States

horsepower of the three could be harnessed to the task, they could lift a 33,000-ton battleship more than 200 feet in one minute. When installed at Grand Coulee, the generators will help drive six 65,000-horsepower motor-driven pumps, each capable of lifting 12,000 gallons of water a second and speeding it on its way to irrigate 1,200,000 acres of arid but potentially fertile farm land in the Columbia basin of

central Washington. The mammoth generators will be operated by water rushing through the outlet pipes of the 46-story dam astride the Columbia river. This force will spin huge waterwheels which turn the generators' rotors—Gargantuan axles 30 feet in diameter—120 times a minute. The outer edges will travel approximately 130 miles an hour to convert the water's force into electrical energy.

6 Jounbolds

a · Monnell Shoe

Soldiers Cross Barbed Wire With Aid of Mat



How to cross a barbed wire barricade without displacing it is one of the lessons taught recruits at Fort Custer, Mich. A special mat, made of chicken wire interwoven with canvas, is unrolled across the barbed wire entanglement, covering the barbs and providing a pathway over which the detail may run.

Tossing mat over barbed wire barrier, left, enables troops to cross it with ease, below

Cerns

Shoes Remove Body Static

For protection against explosions where tiny sparks created by static electricity in the human body may ignite highly inflammable gases, a patented shoe now offered carries off the static charge before it can make a spark. Tests made by the manufacturer show that the shoes are two-thirds more efficient than necessary to establish an electrical ground. They will be worn in hospitals by those handling anesthetics, in chemical plants and imparsenals.

Motor Wheel for Heavy Towing Turns in Small Space



Handling mediumheavy loads in the factory is simplified by a motor wheel designed to move standard lift-trucks, towing trucks and other vehicles commonly used. Its power arrangement permits a 38-inch turning radius, and backing is accomplished by simply reversing the steering wheel. Known technically as a factory mule, it can be handled with ease through narrow aisles and

POPULAR MECHANICS

Or. D. Eaglesfield 30/ S. La Salle

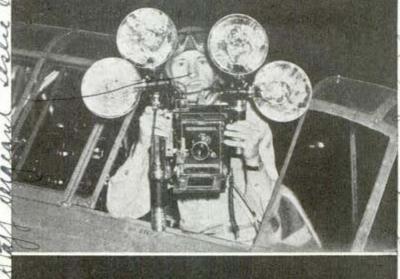
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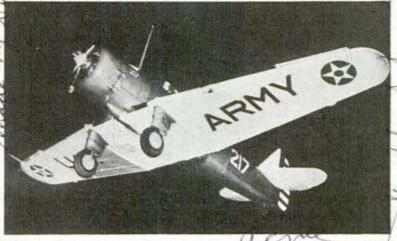
Four-Bulb Flash Takes Photo Of Plane in Air at Night

doorways, as well as in freight cars, trucks or elevators. It is built with either a gasoline engine. or an electric motor for lighter work. Mounted within a large wheel, the engine supplies power through a sprocket operating in a ring gear inside, the rim, giving a gear reduction of 136 to one. The brake and clutch are operated by a rod passing through the steering column, which also supports the throttle control.

Noncapsizable Boat For Army Run by Diesel Engine

Constructed to withstand rough seas without capsizing, a new-type whaleboat craft to be used by the U.S. Army Quartermaster's corps in the Panama Canal Zone, recently went through rigid tests. Twenty-six feet long and equipped with a 40-horsepower Diesel engine, the boat was designed by Arno Apelaracing pilot and flyer, and built at a cost of \$4,185 by Ventnor Boat Works, near Atlantic City, N. J. More of the boats may be ordered if this one proves satisfactory.





Photographer, top, demonstrates how he used four flash bulbs in taking night picture of airplane, bottom, while flying at 3,000-foot altitude

Using four flash bulbs fired simultaneously, an army photographer obtained an unusual night aerial photograph of a training plane, the BT-9, while in flight over Randolph

Field, Tex. Bulbs were mounted above the camera and flashed by the synchronizer as the photographer's plane flew close to the trainer 3,000 feet above the field.

■Look in the index starting on page 4-A to learn where to buy commercial products described in this magazine. To be sure of securing best results—say you saw it in Popular Mechanics.



Safe boat built for army can ride rough sea without danger of capsizing

K1350

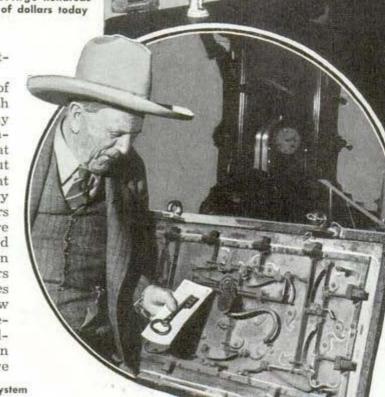
IS YOUR ATTIC



ed away in the past.

Everyone has heard stories of rare old museum pieces, worth thousands of dollars, tucked away and forgotten in old homes. Unfortunately most prizes like that have already been found. But much of the household equipment that was used in the last century is increasing in value. Ten years ago or so the ponderous furniture of the Victorian age was regarded as ugly and unfashionable. Then a couple of New York decorators began using a few Victorian pieces in modern settings and a new trend was started. The old horsehair chairs and sofas of grandmother's time, reupholstered in attractive fabrics, proved to have

Right, complicated levers and locking system inside lid of old chest operated by key



POPULAR MECHANICS

Ref: nearby antique dealer K1350

A TREASURE CHEST?



Silver-plated fruit dish, about 100 years old, which brings a good price now

an appeal that is restoring them to popularity. Fabulous prices aren't being paid for such old furniture, yet a broken down chair may bring you \$25 and an old sofa twice as much. A well-stocked attic may contain \$1,000 worth or more of old "junk."

From start to finish, styles changed little during the Victorian age, which was roughly the last three quarters of the last Hand-painted porcelain clock made in last century is worth about \$100 today. Circle, collection of furniture, mostly of Victorian age, now in demand

century. Yet you will get more for a piece of furniture built before the Civil War than a similar piece built in the 80's. By the later date first-growth wood was no longer available and the machine was taking the place of hand craftsmanship.

If you should be lucky enough to find a carved rosewood parlor set, made by John Belter in the 40's, you would have a treasure for which collectors would give several thousand dollars. Belter originated a laminating process for rosewood and his process died with him. His pieces are distinguished by thick borders of carving that usually pierce the wood and that usually are of vines and leaves.

An old marble-topped wash stand is worth 10 or 15 dollars and you would hardly recognize it later on after it is converted into a smart radio cabinet. Marble-topped tables also are being cut down to serve as coffee tables.

The fact is that practically everything made during the Victorian age has regained popularity and is in demand. As far as old furniture is concerned, so much of

Silver-plated galleon model that sells for about \$500. Right, old barometer-thermometer

it still exists that in most cases prices must compete with the cost of modern furniture, though even this is an improvement over the prices it formerly commanded. One exception is the average old bedroom set, for which there is still little demand. Ten years from now, it may be, these pieces will pick up value.

Below, assembling Venetian glass chandelier stored for years. It will bring \$100 when wired





The flowery china of the last century is the latest style again and old silver and old jewelry are now bringing high prices. Astral lamps, complete with crystal globes and sparkling prisms, are worth \$50 or more. Artificial flowers under glass domes, pictures made of horsehair and sea shells, and other old parlor decorations now can be sold readily. Sandwich glass, ruby glass, and "lion' glass, much of which was turned out in wholesale lots and given away as grocery premiums, now have a much higher value than they had originally. One good place to look for old glassware is in the cellar.

Do you have a pair of rusted legs from an old sewing machine, lying under the porch or leaning against the back fence? These old bases are being repainted and fitted with marble table tops, to be used in the patio or sun porch. If you find an old locket and chain that has been saved for years you can get a good price for it now, or it will make a very desirable gift. In the attic you are apt to find a box or two of old blown glass Christmas tree decorations. Many of these fragile pieces are collectors' items now. In nearly every collection of old things there is a gun or two and although prices for guns start at only a few dollars they are easy to sell. Even radiator emblems and other parts of early automobiles have a value now.

The old pier mirrors that extend down to the

floor, out of style for decades, are again in demand and if you find one that you don't wish to sell you might bring it downstairs

and put it on display again.

Valuable antiques are sometimes found in strange places and once a Los Angeles dealer discovered a \$450 sideboard in an outhouse, being used as a chicken roost. Refinished, the piece was a collectors' delight and it was even rented to a motion picture studio that needed some authenticappearing furniture in a period picture. Country auctions and the auctions at which old estates are broken up are two fruitful/sources of antiques. W. Parker Lyon who has amassed a museum full of early California historical material that ranges from hoop skirts to fire engines, first does to the fire department of a town when he is on a hunt for antiques. The fire-prevention bureau of the department, he knows, has listed all the attics and cellars that are stored full of old combustible material and these accumulations often contain just the sort of things he wants.

One of the first relics Lyon bought was an old Wells Fargo safe. He paid \$50 for it, then blew the rusted door open with dynamite. Inside was \$2,000 in gold coins as well as dozens of Pony Express stamps. Another time, having paid \$150 for 30 boxes and crates, unopened, at a storage company auction, Lyon opened them up and found a collection of old silver, a diamond ring, a first edition of Mark Twain, as well as Worcester and Doulton china

and glass and other valuables.

Lyon paid half a dollar for a collection of old letters, once, and later found that one of them was signed by Thomas Jefferson. He traded this letter for a large pair of gold scales, used in the early mining days to weigh out gold dust, and later discovered that part of the scales, supposed to be gold plated, were actually of solid gold. After these parts were replaced with brass Lydn had a profit of \$1,850 on his original half dollar investment, and the scales as well. But discoveries such as these are exceptional and don't happen every day.

Collecting of one sort or another has become such a universal hobby that practically every old thing has a market value. Some people collect buttons and a large collection is apt to include 20,000 items or so. Buttons have been made of precious

Windshield Worn on Face

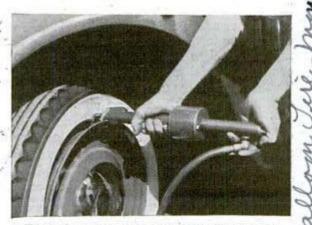
Protects Army Cyclist

Face windshield does not block army cyclist's vision

As a defense against wind, dust and rain, a transparent face shield is worn by a private of the 19th Field Artillery, Fort Custer, Mich., while he rides in a motorcycle sidecar. Made of Cellophane, the mask fully covers the face.

1226 Air-Powered Tool Removes Tires From Safety-Rim Wheels

Little physical effort is required in removing tires with the aid of a special tool operated by air pressure, and designed particularly for prying tires off safety rim wheels. Use of the tool makes it unnecessary to take the wheel off the car.



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One-Man Tiltable Stretcher Can Be Carried on Back



Here is how one man carries bomb victim on "vertical" stretcher

One man, using a "vertical" stretcher that does not have to be kept in horizontal position, is able to carry a victim from a bombed building without assistance. The patient is held firmly by straps and footrest so he cannot slip downward or sidewise even when the stretcher is tilted.

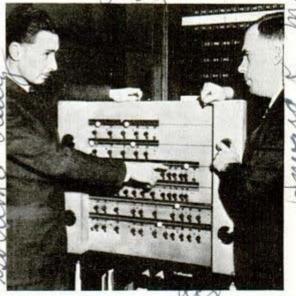
Four New Radioactive Substances Made With Atom Smasher

Smashing atoms with Prof. Ernest Or Lawrence's cyclotron at University of California has added four artificial radioactive substances to those already known, bringing the total to about 360, more than 100 of which were discovered at the university. The four new radioactive substances are specimens of germanium, an element similar to lead, and one of the last of the 92 elements to be investigated for radioactive species. Some of the radioactive elements have proved valuable in medical and biological research. For instance, radio-phosphorus is being used in experiments on the treatment of leukemia. How teeth and

bones grow is being studied by use of radioactive strontium, and radioactive iodine is revealing facts about the thyroid gland. Plant growth and nutrition are studied by feeding a solution of radioactive elements and following their course through roots, stems and leaves.

Block System" for Airline Shows Planes in Flight

Airline dispatchers will be able to tell quickly the exact position of any airplane in flight with the aid of an "automatic block signal" completed recently by aviation engineers. It is a panel consisting of a series of straight tracks for all of the airline's routes with the cities indicated in their proper places. Each plane, while in flight, is represented by a miniature ship moving along a track at the same relative speed. The "blocks" are separated by slots, and if a pilot fails to report his position before the miniature ship reaches the slot, it will drop into the slot and sound an alarm, warning the dispatcher to check by radio with the pilot. When the pilot sends in his report, the dispatcher closes the slot so the tiny ship may pass into the next block. One airline plans, to install five block systems.



Tiny planes moving on board show location of planes

POPULAR MECHANICS

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The CRAFTSMAN

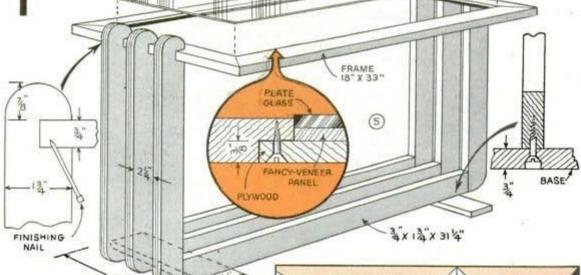


DOWELED JOINTS MAY BE

USED INSTEAD OF MORTISE AND TENON IF DESIRED three U-shape legs which should be made identical in size. The notches at the top of the legs should fit the frame snugly. It is best to test these first with a scrap of stock to see that they do not fit too tightly. The three pieces of each leg may be joined together with a mortise and tenon as in Fig. 3, or fastened with dowels. At this stage, the rounded ends at the top of the legs are sanded to shape as in Fig. 4, but it is best not to round the lower corners until after gluing. The outer edges of

each cut from the face side of the work, and note that the g ain of the spline should run across the joint for strength. After gluing, the portion of the spline extending into the frame opening is cut away.

To assemble the table, slide each leg assembly in place over the edge of the frame and space them 2½ in. apart. Finishing nails may be used to fasten the legs at the top, while at the bottom screws are used in attaching a base piece at each end. The screws are driven up from the bottom as shown in the detail to the right of Fig. 5, being careful to see that the three legs are parallel. A beautifully figured panel should



the legs may be reeded or left plain. Fig. 2 shows how the beads are cut quickly on a shaper, but if the work must be done by hand, a combination plane fitted with a reeding blade can be used along the straight edges, and then continuing the beads around the curved ends with a file. When assembling the side and bottom pieces of the legs, a spreader strip placed between the legs at the top will keep the sides from being forced inward when clamping pressure is applied at the bottom.

Prepare the rabbeted top as you would a picture frame, mitering the pieces accurately to form perfect-fitting corners. Fig. 6 shows how a spline is fitted at the corners in a saw groove run in each end as in Fig. 7. Make

GUT OUT AFTER GLUE DRIES.

8 SPLINE

POPULAR MECHANICS

be used under the glass top and it may be finished the same as the rest of the table, or in contrast. Although plate glass is preferable for the top, double-strength window glass is satisfactory. The edges should be ground and polished.

When the original table, which was made of walnut, was finished, walnut paste filler was applied first. No other stain was used. After 48 hrs.,

MATERIAL LIST

6 pcs. 34 x 134 x 1715 in.—Legs 3 pcs. 34 x 134 x 3315 in.—Legs 2 pcs. 34 x 2 x 33 in.—Top frame 2 pcs. 34 x 2 x 18 in.—Top frame 2 pcs. 34 x 3 x 1315 in.—Base 1 pc. 14 x 15 x 30 in.—Veneer panel 1 pc. 3/16 x 14 x 29 in.—Glass

two coats of transparent lacquer sealer were sprayed on and allowed to dry thoroughly, after which the wood was sanded lightly with No. 7-0 paper, dusted, and then two wet coats of clear lacquer, cut to a 50-50 proportion, were applied. After this had dried for 24 hrs., rubbing was done with 3F pumice and water; then with fine pumice and oil, used on a thick felt pad.

EVERYBODY IS AN INVENTOR

Nearly everybody has discovered some kink or shortcut to solve one of those seemingly trivial problems encountered in every home or in a person's work, hobby and play. But the solution may have saved time, money and energy. We pay for such ideas. Submit a sketch or photo and a brief description to our Homecraft Editor. If acceptable for publication, we will send you a check promptly and if we cannot use it, the material will be returned.

Entrance Gate of Iron Wheels Adds Novel Rural Touch



Discarded farm-implement wheels and belt pulleys welded together in progressively smaller sizes form an attractive gate with a rural touch at the entrance of a Minnesota country club. The gate is made in two parts and is pivoted to the posts supporting the club sign over the entrance driveway. Similar gates of smaller wheels will add an unusual touch to farms, summer camps, etc.

Abrasive on Ink Bottle Makes It Slipproof

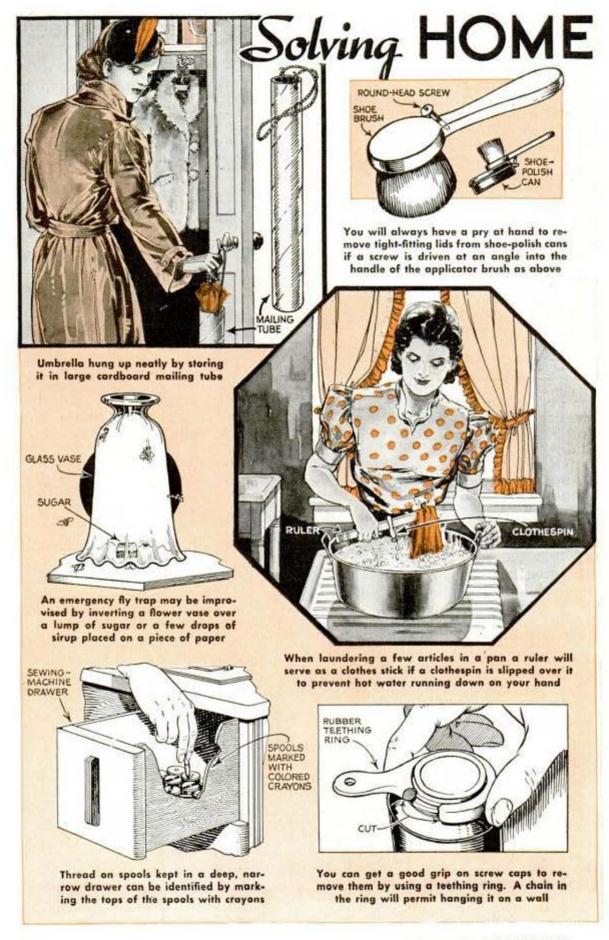


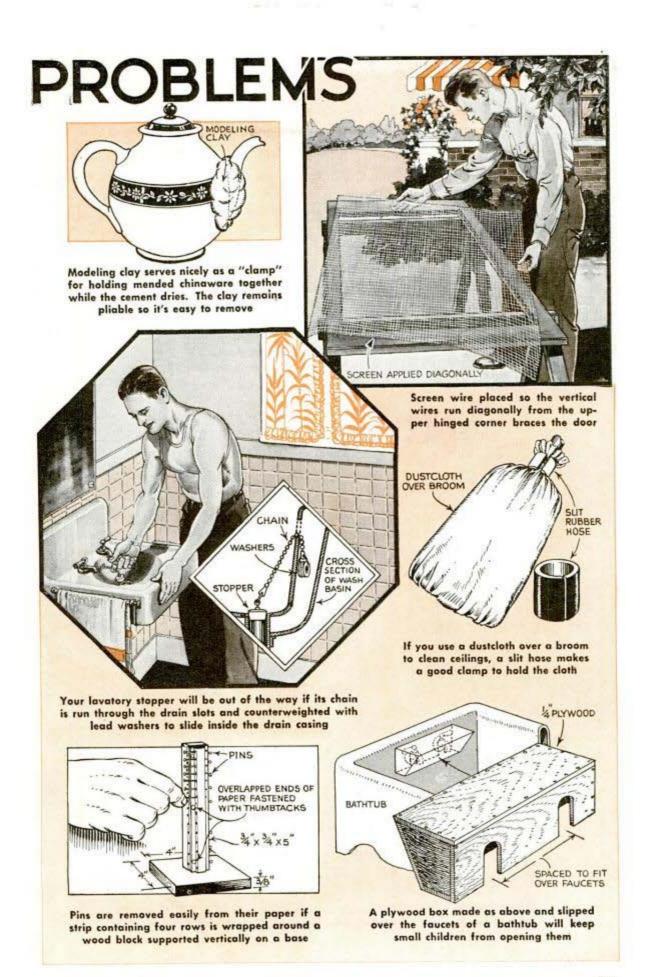
A good way to keep an ink bottle from slipping off of an inclined drawing board is to cement a disk of abrasive paper to the bottom and tack another piece of paper at the upper corner of your drawing board. Then when the bottle is set on the paper the two abrasive surfaces prevent any tendency of the bottle to slide down the inclined surface of the drawing board.

Thermometer Floats on Cork to Check Liquids

When a thermometer must be kept in liquids for a check on the temperature, just insert it in a cork as indicated and it will float on top where it can be read at a glance. The bulb on the underside of the cork acts as a counterweight to keep the thermometer in a vertical position so that the reading can be noted at regular intervals.







Two Handles on Scrollsaw Blade To Cut Large Work

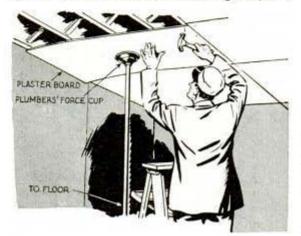


When work is too large to use a scrollsaw, try removing the blade from the frame and using spring-type clothespins as handles. If the blade is of the loop-end type, a pin set in one of the clothespin jaws will take the loop. On blades that have pins in the ends, shallow grooves cut in each jaw of the clothespin will serve to hold the blades.

-H. Taylor, Toronto, Ont., Can.

Wallboard Supported for Nailing With Force Cup on Pole

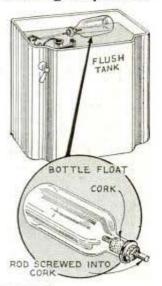
To hold sheets of plasterboard against a ceiling while it is being nailed in place, one



carpenter uses a plumber's force cup on the end of a pole of suitable length. The rubber cup can be forced against the sheet without damaging it.

Bottle Used as Emergency Float

If the float in your bathroom flush tank springs a leak or becomes damaged in any other way at a time when a new float cannot be obtained immediately, a bottle will serve as a temporary float. Cork it tightly, then make an undersize hole through the cork and screw it onto the float rod.



Jar Lid Placed in Double Boiler Warns When Water Is Low



Since very little water can be used in a double boiler, it sometimes boils a way without warning. You can avoid this by placing a jar lid in the water compartment. When the water gets low, the lid will rattle.

Curtain Prevented From Slipping Off Stretcher by Corks

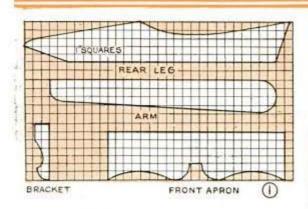
A curtain that tends to slip off the nails at the corners of a stretcher, can be kept in place by pressing small corks over the nails after you have put the curtain over them. A



cork on each corner nail usually will be sufficient.—Wm. Swallow, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A Colonial Touch on the LAWN CHAIR





SCROLLWORK on the apron and back of this chair provides the touch necessary to make it fit in well with your colonial-type home. The chair can be made of white pine, although cypress is better due to its resistance to weather. Fig. 1 gives the sizes and shapes of the major parts, while Fig. 2 shows the layout for the decorative scroll on the back. Assembly of the chair is given in Fig. 3. The back is built as a separate unit and is screwed to the arms and legs, which are first assembled in two units and then tied together with the scrolled apron. If care is taken to assemble the back at the angle given, the chair will be comfortable for most users. After sanding, shellac all knots and apply one priming coat and two finish coats of flat white paint.

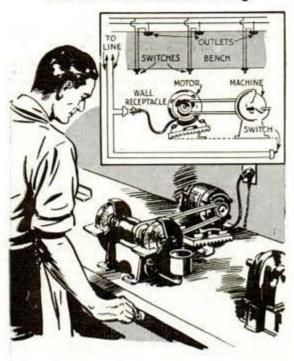
ROUNDED

NOTCHED TO RECEIVE ARM



SIDE

Each Machine Has Its Own Switch In This One-Motor Shop



One home workshop owner who operated several machines on a bench with one motor by moving the motor on a track from machine to machine as required, rigged up this switch arrangement so that the motor could be controlled from each machine. Besides ease of control, this method avoids possible damage to the motor or machine from inability to stop the motor quickly in case of accidental overloads. Back of each machine a wall outlet or receptacle is provided, into which the cord of the motor is plugged. The separate switch for each outlet is mounted on the front of the bench near the machine it controls.—G. L. Witte, Pondosa, Ore.

Small Model Parts Picked Up With Looped Pin in Handle



Handling of tiny wood parts when making and assembling models is simplified by using this little tool. It consists of a pin having a loop formed near the pointed end and then stuck into a dowel for a han-

dle. The parts are picked up by inserting the pin in them, and they are released by pressing down the handle so that the loop acts as a fulcrum to pry out the pin.

Cap Removed Without Damage When Opening Bottle

When removing the cap from a bottle that you want to close again, place a metal disk on top of the cap before using the opener. This will prevent the cap from being



pried out of shape and it can be pressed on the bottle again to reseal it.

Handles on a Heavy Outboard Make It Easier to Carry

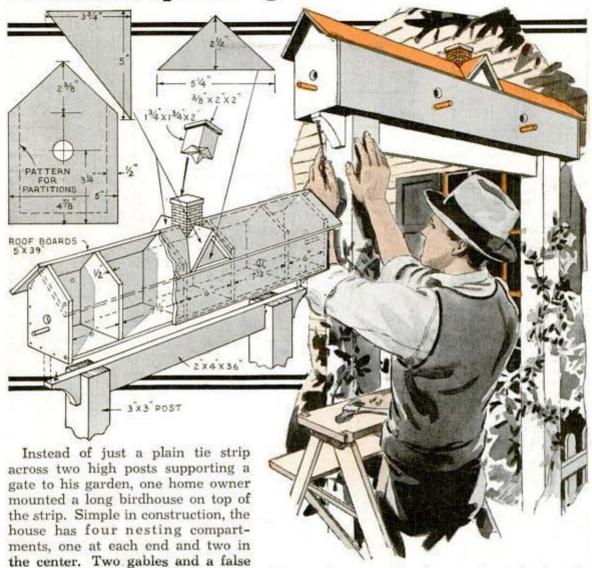
Fastened to the sides of a heavy outboard motor under the motor bolt heads, a couple of iron handles make it easier to carry or to attach or remove the motor from a boat. Your local blacksmith can shape the handles at little cost if you give him the correct dimensions.

-Herb Saltford, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.



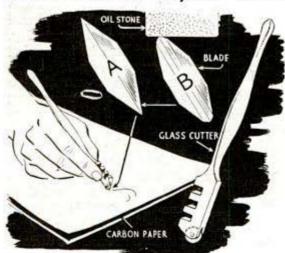
POPULAR MECHANICS

Birdhouse Spans High Posts of Garden Gate



chimney at the center tend to break up the plain lines of the house and give it a more realistic touch. Screws through the tie strip and house bottom hold it in place.

Glass-Cutter "Stylus" Makes Fine Lines When Tracing



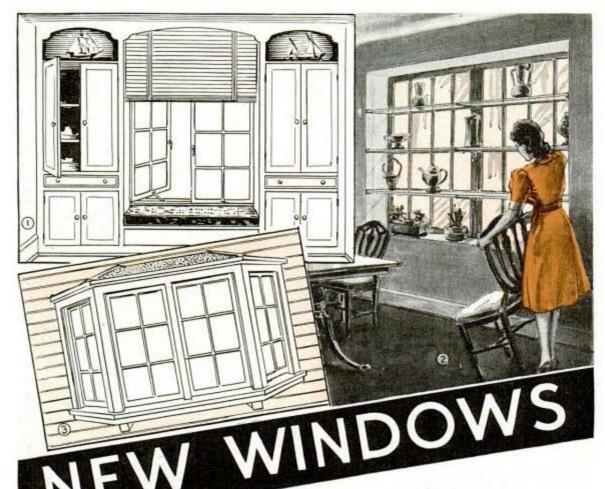
en stove for lifting hot pan lids, turning or pulling pans from the back of the oven and lifting fruit-jar lids from boiling water when sterilizing them for canning.

paper in tracing a drawing or design, try a cheap glass cutter as a stylus. One that can be purchased for a dime will do. If the cutter wheel is shaped as at A, blunt the cutting surface on a stone as at B so that it does not cut the paper. Then go over the lines that are to be traced with a firm, uniform pressure.

Keep a spring clothespin near the kitch-

To avoid fuzzy lines when using carbon

105



DETAIL OF DOOR PANEL

DETAIL OF DRAWER FRONT

SOLID OR GRILLE PANELS

PLYWOOD

BRAD

ADJUSTABLE

OPEN

UNITS SCREWED 4

TOGETHER

PLYWOOD

By R. O. Buck

In Modernizing your home, windows play a dominant part in the decorative scheme. Besides their prime purpose of admitting light and air, they also serve to enhance the appearance externally and provide centers of interest inside. The changes involved are relatively simple so that the average craftsman can do the work himself, bringing his house up to date at comparatively low cost. Often the addition of a few easily constructed cabinets placed

around a window as shown in Fig. 1, will do wonders in improving the appearance of a dining or living room. While casement-type windows are shown, double-hung divided sash also would be effective. Unless otherwise desired, soft wood may be used in constructing the cabinets as shown in Fig. 6 and then enameled. The manner in which the raised door panels are assembled is given in Fig. 4, while Fig. 5 shows how a beading is used around the drawer

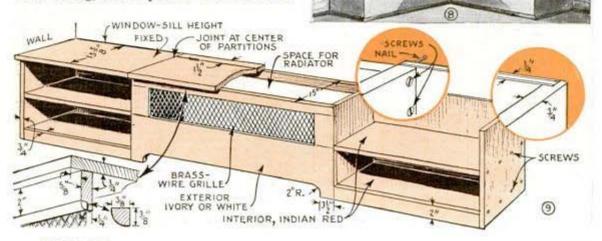
VARIABLE



fronts. The chest, the top of which forms a window seat, may be used for storage purposes or to conceal a radiator.

"Picture windows" are used where the window will command a view of an attractive garden or landscape. How effectively such a window may be used is shown in Fig. 7. The drapes are of the draw-cord variety and reach entirely across the room. Fig. 9 gives the construction details for the cabinets.

Steel sash are weathertight, admit the maximum of light and air and are in every way desirable for a brick or brick-veneer house. They are generally used without a wood casing, as the plaster is returned at



ENLARGING WINDOW OPENINGS IN BRICK WALLS



wall above. On larger openings a brace is suggested as shown in Fig. 10. A hole is made at the top to insert the brace before the enlarged opening is made. Note that the bricks are not removed in a straight line at the top, but that the opening is "stepped" so the new frame may be inserted before removing the brace. A study of Figs. 11 to 14 inclusive, will give you an idea of how a window frame is bricked into a building. On narrow windows a steel angle called a lintel, is used across the top to support the bricks in front of the frame. The inner bricks simply rest on the top of the frame. For wide openings, two steel lintels are used as shown in Fig. 11 to carry the weight of the bricks above the window.

DOUBLE 2"X6"ORS"

DOUBLE 2"X

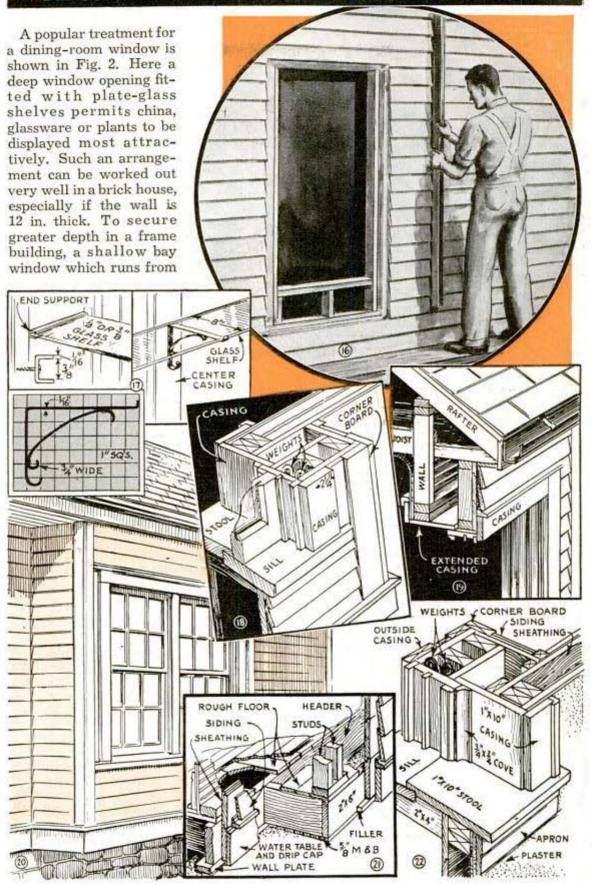
DOUBLE

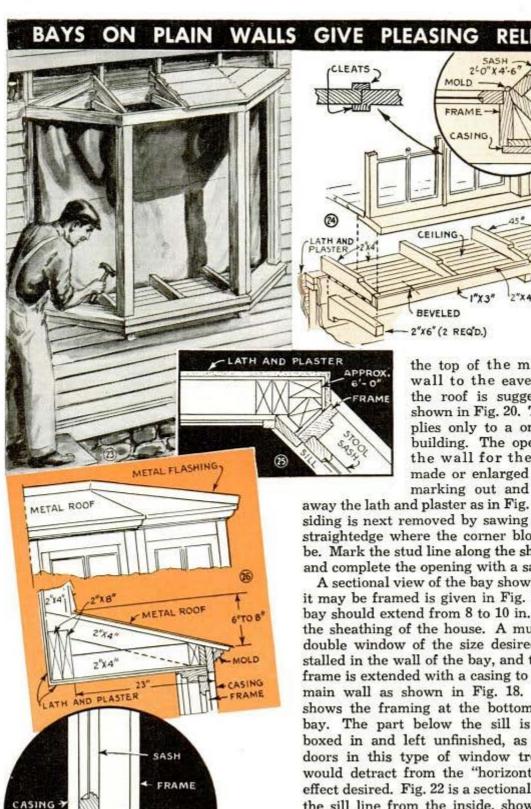
DOUBLE

SHEATHING

4"STUDS

GLASS SHELVES IN DEEP WINDOWS HOLD PLANTS





STOOL

2"x 4"

the top of the masonry wall to the eaves under the roof is suggested as shown in Fig. 20. This applies only to a one-story building. The opening in the wall for the bay is made or enlarged by first marking out and cutting

SILL

away the lath and plaster as in Fig. 16. The siding is next removed by sawing along a straightedge where the corner block is to be. Mark the stud line along the sheathing and complete the opening with a saw.

A sectional view of the bay showing how it may be framed is given in Fig. 19. The bay should extend from 8 to 10 in. beyond the sheathing of the house. A mullion or double window of the size desired is installed in the wall of the bay, and then the frame is extended with a casing to join the main wall as shown in Fig. 18. Fig. 21 shows the framing at the bottom of the bay. The part below the sill is simply boxed in and left unfinished, as cabinet doors in this type of window treatment would detract from the "horizontal-line" effect desired. Fig. 22 is a sectional view at the sill line from the inside, showing the arrangement of timbers, frame and casing. The glass shelves should be supported with metal channels at each end and by a bracket in the center as in Fig. 17.

For windows having a span of from 4 to 6 ft., a double 2 by 6 or 2 by 8-in. timber should be used. Spans from 6 to 8 ft. re-

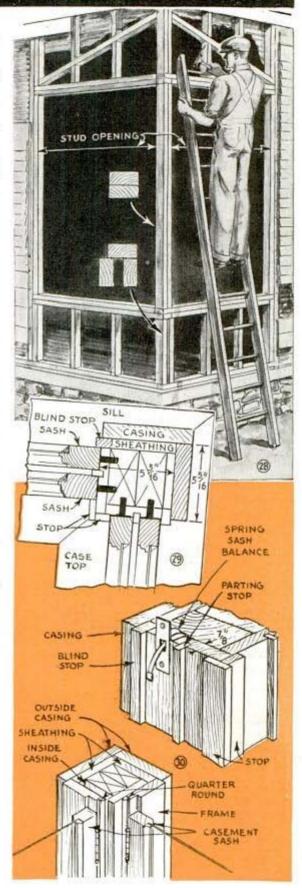
SILL

HOW TO INSTALL THE LATEST CORNER WINDOWS

quire a form of truss which is framed as shown in Fig. 15. The simplest way to determine the size of the stud, or rough opening, for a single double-hung window is to add 7 in. to the width of the sash to allow for jambs, weight boxes and clearance. Five inches are added to the height of the two sash (placed in locked position) for jamb and sill, and two inches for top clearance. For a mullion or double window an additional 51/2 in, must be added to the width. To the sash width of casement windows 3 in, are added for jambs and clearance, and 11/2 in. to the sash height for the upper jamb. In the case of sash that swing outward, 11/2 in, are allowed for the sill at the bottom, while sash that swing inward, require 2% in, for the sill. For each mullion, 3 in. must be added to the width.

No type of ornamental window has enjoyed more lasting popularity than the bay window shown in Fig. 3. Windows of this type are being used singly, or in pairs, on many new homes. The roof, Fig. 26, is covered with sheet copper or galvanized iron, and is made rather flat. A double 2 by 8-in, header spans the opening, and the bottom is closed just under the sill as shown in Figs. 23 and 24. The frame may be constructed or purchased ready-made as a complete unit, lacking only the rough framing and roof-covering material. Stationary sash are suggested for the bay, although "swing out" casements, or doublehung windows, may be used if you wish. The stud framing where the bay joins the wall, the slope of the outer and inner casings and the joint between the frame and the plaster are all shown in Figs. 25 and 27.

The corner window shown in Fig. 8 is one of the latest types of window. Fig. 28 shows how simple the framing is. The truss at the top is adequate for spans of 5 or 6 ft. on each side. For smaller windows a double 2 by 6-in, header is sufficient without a truss. Where double-hung windows are used, weight boxes are omitted and spring sash balances used instead. Mortises chiseled into the corner posts house the part of the balance that extends through the jamb, Fig. 30. A sectional plan view of the corner is given in Fig. 29. Casement windows are suitable also for use in corners. The detail, Fig. 30, shows the corner arrangement for "swing-type" casements.



Shears for Cutting Wire and Rods Made From Two Old Files

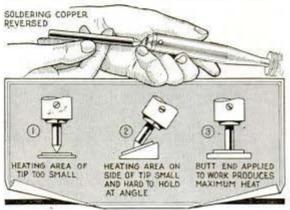


Instead of trying to cut wire and small rods with a pair of tin snips, which may be nicked or dulled by this work, make a pair of shears for the purpose from a couple of old files. Grind the ends to the same rounded contour and then grind notches of different sizes in the rounded part of one. Pivot them together near the rounded ends with a strong bolt and provide a stop at the handle ends to prevent the handles overriding each other.

-Arthur Chester, Seattle, Wash.

Bit of an Electric Soldering Iron Reversed for Sweating Jobs

Owners of electric soldering irons of the type that are fitted with pointed copper



rods held in place with a set screw can do a better job of sweat-soldering if the bits are reversed to use the blunt end of the coppers. The greater contacting surface area of the copper with the work allows heat to be transmitted with greater speed and uniformity than with the pointed end.

Rings on Handles of Small Pliers Speed Up Your Work

If your work requires considerable use of a pair of small pliers or similar tool, metal rings soldered to the handles to fit the thumb and finger as indicated will save time. The



rings enable you to use the tool rapidly, and make it unnecessary to grip the handles continuously to keep the tool from slipping out of your hands.

BeltingStrips on Top of Stepladder Hold Small Paint Cans



To keep small cans of paint from falling off a step-ladder when it is moved from place to place, just tack a couple strips of rubber belting to the top of the ladder as indicated.

When a can is inserted between them the raised flaps will hold it securely in place.

Tight-Fitting Screw Cap Removed With Adhesive Tape

When a plastic cap fits so tightly that it cannot be gripped securely enough with the fingers to remove it, try a piece of adhesive tape. Just wrap a strip of the tape around the



cap, leaving enough slack at one point to insert a finger as shown in the photo.

"Playing Card" Stepping Stones of Concrete



Wheelbarrow Boat for Use on Beach Affected by Tides



Anyone living along beaches where the rise and fall of the tides make it necessary to pull or carry small boats a hundred yards or so, can save a lot of work by equipping their boats with wheels like those used by lobster fishermen along the Maine coast. The fishermen use such boats as tenders, or to bring in lobsters from a short distance off shore where they are stored. The boats are pushed wheelbarrow fashion along the beaches single-handed. The wheel is installed by fitting a bulkhead near the bow of the boat to make room for it.—W. H. Schofield, Portland, Maine.

JUNE, 1941

X282 HEAVY SMOKE SCREEN INCINERATOR DAMPER DOOR FIREBRIC FRONT ANGLE IRON N PIPE GRATE FIREBRICK RUBBLE SECTIONAL VIEW FILL CONCRETE GARDE CHANNELS 14 X 18 FOR GRILLE ANGLE IRON BRICK AND HOT 9 X 18 FRODS WELDED TILE 30 -26 GRILLE OR HOT PLATE (3) Combining a grille with an incinerator, the attractive fireplace shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 is just the thing for those who desire the best. It is constructed of field stone and has an interchangeable grille and hot plate with wide wings at the sides 4-MESH SPARK SCREEN METAL COVER IN DAMPER SHEET-METAL COVER 22 30 DAMPER 46 RABBETED EDGE 45° 4×8×42 IRON PLATE GRILLE - 24" TOP VIEW GRATE If you want a fireplace that is not too conspicu-20" ous, the one in Figs. 4 and 5 is low and narrow.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Made of field stone too, it has a fire grate that can be removed easily for burning bulky material, such as paper and trash. A sheet-metal cover

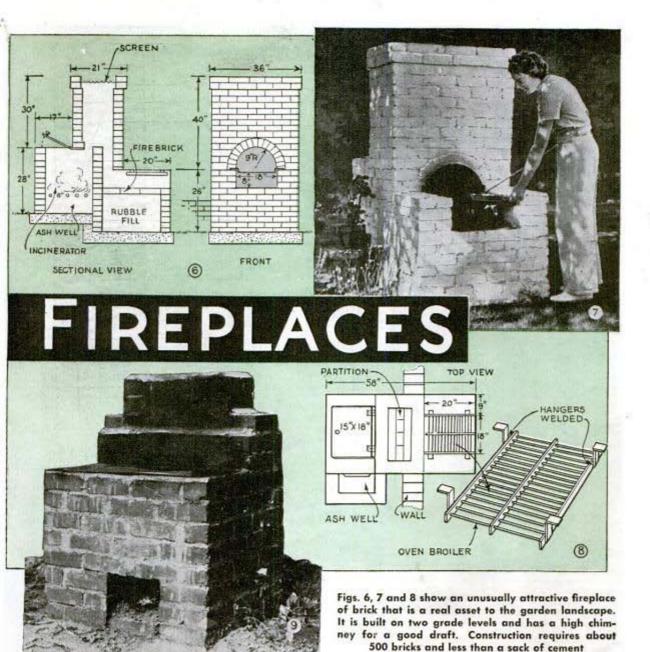
hinged at the back next to the chimney hides the

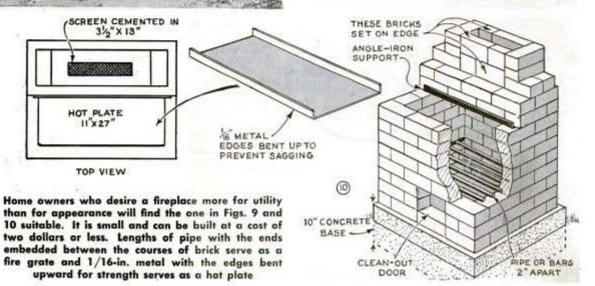
grille when the latter is not in use

CONCRETE

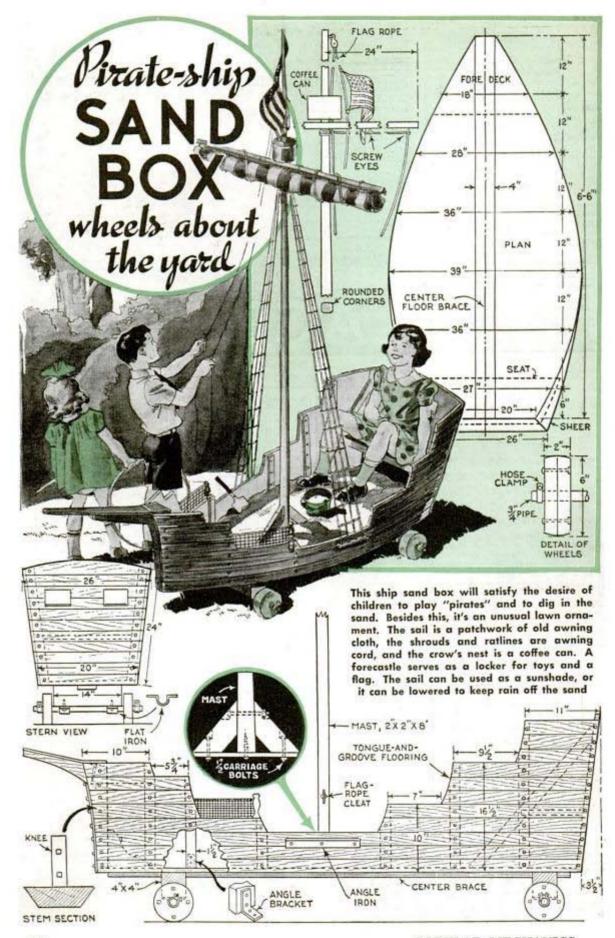
FOUNDATION

4"CONCRETE LINING AND FLOOR, SLOPE 4" PER FOOT



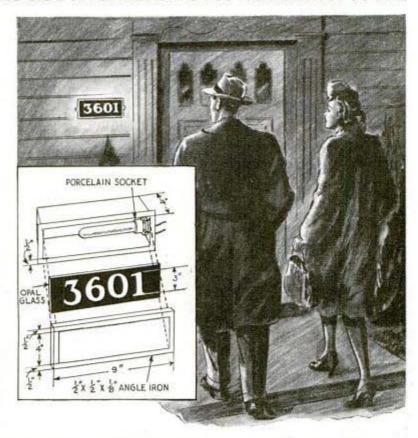


JUNE, 1941



Illuminated House Number Sets Flush in Wall

Easily seen at night as well as in the daytime, this illuminated house number sets flush with the wall. It can be wired to go on or off with the porch light, or it can be controlled by an independent switch. The lamp and socket are mounted inside a sheet-metal box. which is set in the wall much like a regular switch box. The numbers are laid out on a piece of opal glass and the surface around them is painted black so the light shines through the numbers. An angle-iron frame holds the glass against the box, and a narrow strip of sponge-rubber between them makes the joint weatherproof.-Robert E. Brittin, Lincoln, Nebr.



"Dressing Table" on Door Saves Space in Small Room

Occupants of small apartments or single rooms where space is very limited, will find this dressing table just the thing. It is



Flags Supported by Flower Pot

assembled on the back of a closet door and

is brought into use by opening the door.

When not in use, closing the door hides it. The assembly consists of a half-oval-shaped shelf and a mirror, the shelf being skirted with cloth. The mirror is held on the door by strips of molding rabbeted to

Instead of driving the staffs of several flags into the ground to support them on the lawn, place an inverted flower pot in the desired position and insert the staffs through the drain opening, as shown. The flags can be re-



moved quickly and do not have to be cleaned before they are put away.

JUNE, 1941

Guard at Back of Jointer Fence Protects the Fingers

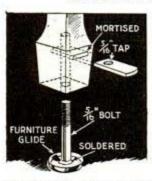


Placed over the knives of a jointer at the back of the fence, a guard like the one shown will minimize danger of getting the fingers in the knives, especially when cutting rabbets. The guard is made of sheet metal and is held in place by a U-shaped piece of flat iron bolted to the bench or stand on which the jointer rests. A slot in the top part of the guard permits adjustments to be made on the jointer.

Adjustable Caster Steadies Table

On Uneven Floors

-Frank Hegemeyer, Monterey Park, Calif.



A table that does not set level on an uneven floor, can be improved by fitting one of the legs with an adjustable caster of the type shown. To do this, saw off a piece about 3% in. from the lower end

of the leg. Then mortise it to take a piece of metal, which has been drilled and tapped for a 5/16-in. bolt. Next drill the lower end of the leg to take the bolt. The head of this

is sawed off and a furniture glider soldered on in its place. To level the table, just screw the bolt up or down as required.

-W. C. Lammey, Naperville, Ill.

Rubber Shields on Bird Perch Prevent Ends From Splitting

If you sometimes split the ends of a birdcage perch when removing it, saw off a short piece from one end of the perch and slip on pencil erasers of the type shown. Notch the ends of the erasers. These will enable you to remove the perch



from the cage easily when necessary, yet will hold it in place securely.

Waxed Paper Aids in Typing On Adhesive Tape

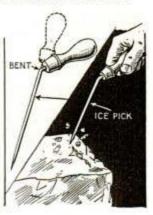


When using adhesive tape to label bottles of solutions, the labels will look neater if they are typewritten. This can be done easily by placing the tape

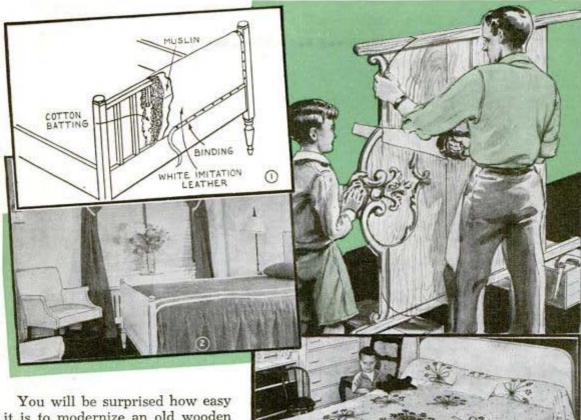
on a sheet of waxed paper to hold it in the typewriter. Several labels can be typed at one time, after which they are stripped off the paper and stuck to the bottles.

Bent Ice Pick Does Not Roll

By bending an ice pick near the handle, you can prevent it from rolling when placed on a sloping surface. Also, bending the pick in this manner will make it easier to use, especially when parting large cakes of ice.

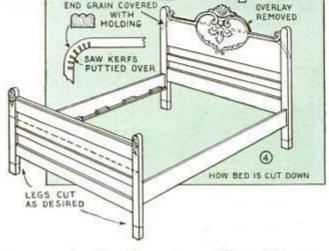


Outmoded Beds Restyled in Modern Taste

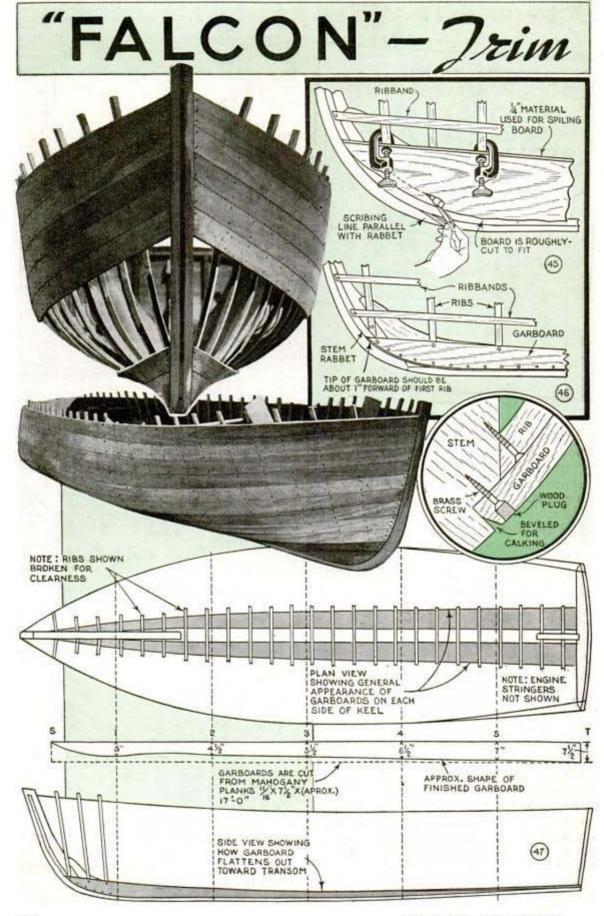


it is to modernize an old wooden bed at a cost of only two or three dollars and a few hours of your spare time. Figs. 1 and 2 show a bed that has been modernized by upholstering the head and foot boards with imitation leather and painting the wood that has been left exposed to harmonize with the other furnishings in the room. If the head of the bed is shaped, just cut the upholstering material to follow the irregular contour. If you are unfamiliar with upholstering work, it is a good idea to first do the job with muslin or other cloth, and then use this as patterns for cutting the imitation leather. In this way, waste of the more expensive material is avoided if mistakes in cutting and fitting are made. Another method of modernizing the appearance of a bed that has solid head and foot boards is to cut

them off as in Figs. 3 and 4, to eliminate all scrolls and produce straight edges, which are rounded at the corners. All overlays and other ornaments are removed, of course, after which the edges are cov-



ered with a decorative molding. Shortening the legs of high beds helps in producing a modern appearance, and the foot board should be cut off slightly below the upper surface of the springs as indicated.





ONTINUING with the construction of the hull, it is a good plan to install the floor timbers at the bow, Fig. 48, before the planking is started. These timbers, which straddle the deadwood and knee, tie together the four divided ribs, Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 as indicated in Fig. 49. By fitting these in place now, any tendency of the ribs to bend inward when the planks are applied will be prevented. The first planks to be installed are the garboards alongside the keel. Of all the planks, these are the most difficult to fit as they assume a reverse curve forward and widen toward the transom. The plan and profile views in Fig. 47 show the relative position of each garboard, and also give its approximate shape. To first obtain, and then transfer the shape of the planks to your material, you'll need two or three 1/4-in. spiling boards, which should be a little longer than the hull and 2 or 3 in. wide. These can be either of straight-grain pine, spruce or fir.

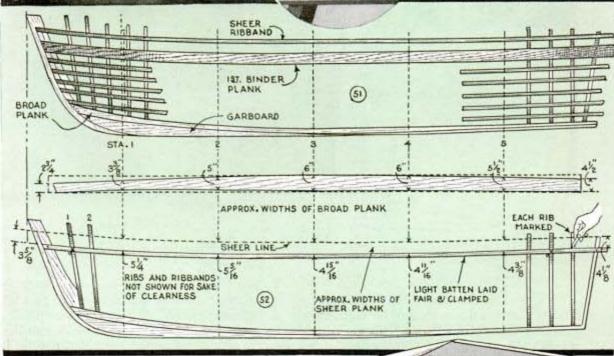
To use the spiling board in fitting the garboard, first cut the board roughly so that it will fit into the rabbet of the stem, Fig. 45, and then clamp it in place to every other rib along the entire length of the hull, seeing that the plank makes contact with each intervening rib. Now, with a compass or dividers follow carefully the line of the rabbet with one point and mark the spiling board with the other. When this is done the spiling board is removed and used as a pattern to mark the profile on a plank 71/2 in. wide. The original hull was planked with 11/16-in. dark red Philippine mahogany, but if you wish, you may use pine, cedar or cypress instead. The garboards can be cut in pairs by nailing the two boards together. When the planks have been cut, the forward ends must be steamed for about 45 mins, to make them pliable. This can be done in the box previously constructed for steaming the ribs by wrapping burlap around the plank



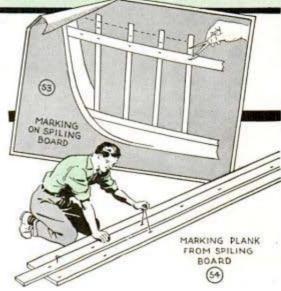
and a 1½-in. No. 9 size at the stem and transom. The screws are driven in counterbored holes and capped. At the transom five screws are staggered as shown in the circular detail of Fig. 50. Each set of planks should be installed in pairs to avoid an unequal strain that

would throw the whole framework out of line.

The second pair of planks to be fitted are the broads which lie next to the garboards.



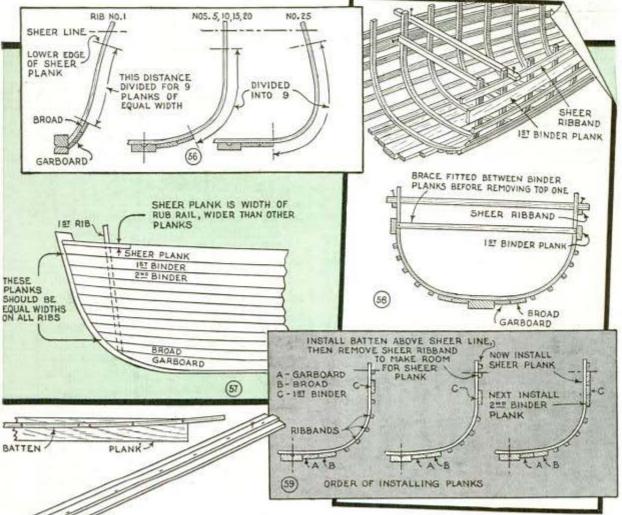
where it extends beyond the open end of the box. Then, when steamed, each plank is clamped in place while it is hot and allowed to set. It is to be expected that the plank will not fit perfectly yet. As previously mentioned, this is a tricky plank to install and requires a cut-and-trial method of fitting. You'll have to mark and trim the edge here and there, continually checking it against the keel, until a satisfactory fit is obtained. Fig. 46, and the circular detail below, show a bevel planed along the rabbet line for calking. The width of this bevel should be about one-third of the edge of the plank, and extend from the stem to the transom. When correctly fitted, the tip of the plank should extend about 1 in. forward of the first rib. Use two 1-in., No. 9 brass screws for fastening the plank to each rib,



POPULAR MECHANICS

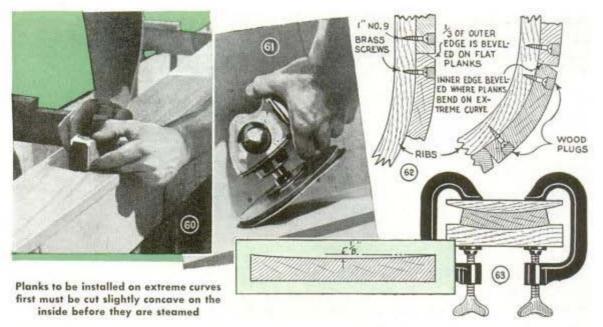
These are laid out with a spiling board in the same manner as used for the garboards, and the approximate width of the plank at various stations is given in the detail below Fig. 51. However, you may find that your broad planks fit better with some variation in these dimensions. Next in order is the third plank which is called the first binder. This is applied just below the space reserved for the sheer plank as shown in Fig. 51. To locate this on the ribs, first a ribband is removed and a straight-grain batten about ¾ by 1 in. in size is clamped to the ribs in a fair curve.

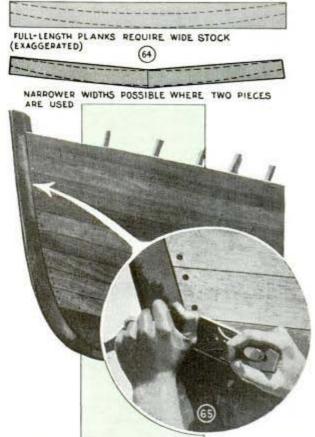




The forward end is placed about 35% in. below the sheer line at the stem, while the after end of the batten should be about 4½ in. below the sheer line at the transom. See Fig. 52. These dimensions, as well as those given for the plank at various stations, were taken from the original hull and are more or less variable. Now, each rib is marked along the top edge of the batten with a

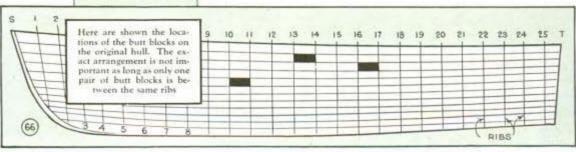
pencil, after which it is removed and a spiling board is clamped to the ribs just below the marks. Then the position of these marks is transferred to the board as in Fig. 50 and 53, and in turn the latter is removed and tacked temporarily to your material as in Fig. 54. With dividers, once more the marks on the spiling board are transferred to the plank stock and finally a light batten is curved along the marks to draw the top

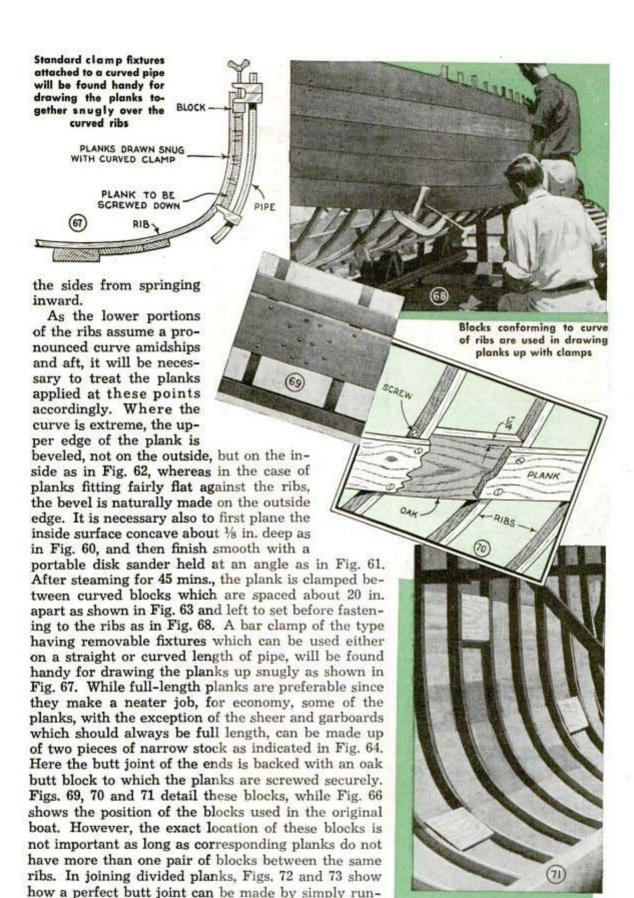




edge of the first binder plank. This same procedure is repeated later in fitting the second binder planks. For a uniform appearance, all planks between the sheer and the broad planks should be about the same width. At every fifth rib, divide this distance into nine equal spaces with a pair of dividers as in Fig. 56. A total of twelve planks should be on each side.

You will notice in Fig. 57 that the sheer plank is wider than the others, to provide space for a rub rail and yet appear uniform. Widths of this plank taken from the original boat are given in Fig. 52. Due to the flare of the bow, the plank when laid out flat assumes a somewhat puzzling profile, which must be expected owing to the inverted curve forward. Fig. 59 gives the order of installing the first four planks, and shows also how first a light batten is nailed temporarily to the ribs above the sheer line before the sheer ribband itself is removed. However, before the sheer ribband is removed, a temporary thwart brace between the first binder planks must be fitted as in Fig. 58 to prevent



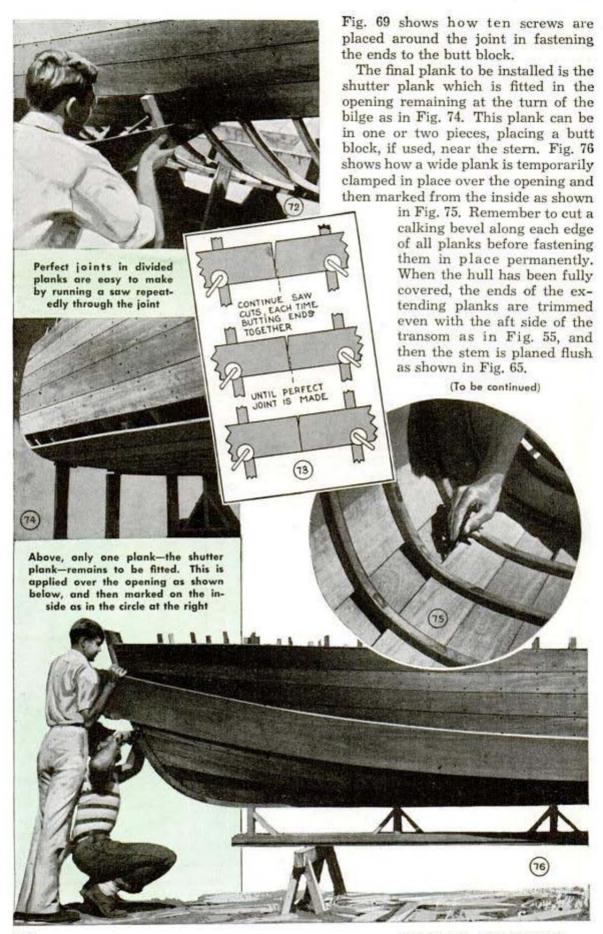


This view shows how neat the butt blocks look from the inside. They are shaped on the bottom to conform with the curvature of the ribs

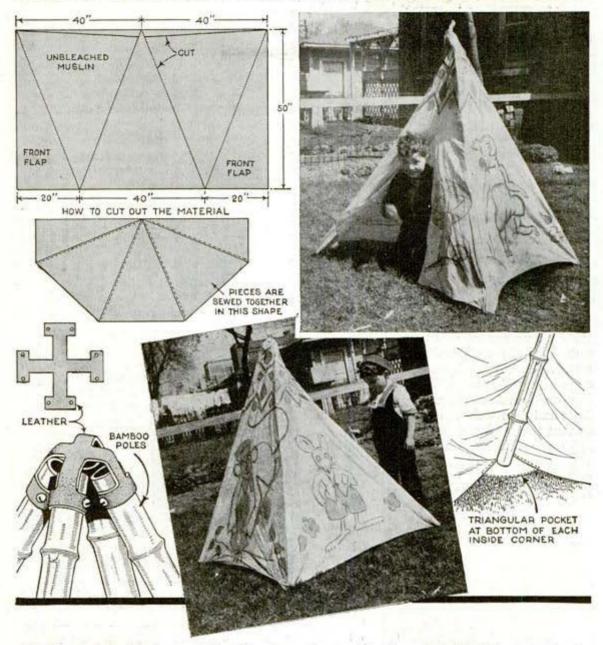
ning a handsaw repeatedly between the ends of the clamped planks. As each cut is made, the planks are

tapped together and sawed again. This procedure is

continued until no irregularity remains in the joint.



Child's Portable Tent Erected Without Stakes



Easily set up indoors or outside, this play tent folds compactly for storage, and is light enough for small children to move it about. Four lengths of bamboo fastened together at the top with leather, as indicated, serve as a support for the tent cloth, which is unbleached muslin cut and sewed together as shown. Small triangular pieces of cloth sewed to the muslin at the four lower corners hold the poles in place to keep the fabric stretched. The tent is decorated with pictures drawn with colored wax crayons. After the pictures have been drawn, the cloth is ironed between layers of newspapers with a very hot iron. The

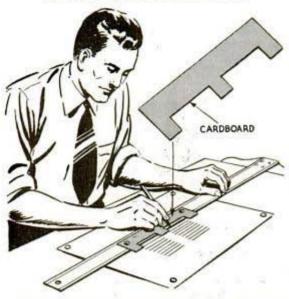
heat melts the wax, which then penetrates the cloth, the newspapers absorbing the excess wax.

—Lester Lehnherr, Milwaukee, Wis.

Corkscrew Is Handy Soap Holder

To eliminate the messy soap dish in her bathroom, one housewife turns a small corkscrew into the bar of soap and hangs it on a hook above the lavatory. The soap dries in a few minutes after being used and thus prevents excessive waste caused by a portion of it softening when laid on a flat surface while still wet.

Ruling a Series of Short Lines Aided by Notched Card

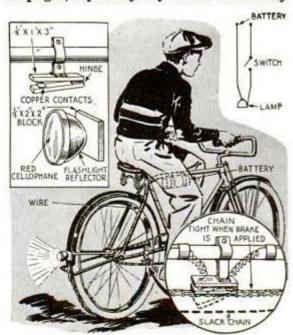


When I had to rule a large piece of paper with a number of short parallel lines, I notched a piece of cardboard to form the letter E as indicated, and tacked it to the edge of my T-square. The projections on the card served as accurate spacers for the lines and the notches measured the lengths so that the work progressed rapidly.

—G. E. Hendrickson, Argyle, Wis.

Stoplight Switch on Bicycle Operated by Chain

The safety added to a bicycle by using a stoplight, especially if you ride on heavily



crowded streets or highways at night, makes it well worthwhile to install this simple one, which flashes when the brake is applied. The light consists of a flashlight reflector fitted with a red Cellophane lens and attached to a block, which is in turn fastened to the rear fender of the bicycle. The light is wired to a dry cell as shown in the diagram, a switch being cut into one side of the circuit. The switch consists of two blocks hinged together at one end with a copper contact on each facing surface near the other end, wires from the lamp and dry cell being attached to the contacts. This assembly is fastened to the bicycle frame with a bracket. The switch is located so that its underside just clears the lower chain, or slack side when pedaling forward. In this position the switch contacts will be closed when the slack side of the chain tightens as the brake is applied.

—Jack McElwain, Trinidad, Texas.

Magnet on Box Picks Up Tacks

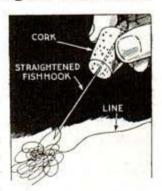


By attaching a small magnet to a tack box, one carpenter saves time in picking up surplus tacks that have been poured out for various jobs. In use, the magnet is merely brushed over the

tacks to pick them up, after which they are removed and dropped back into the box.

Fish Line Untangled With Hook

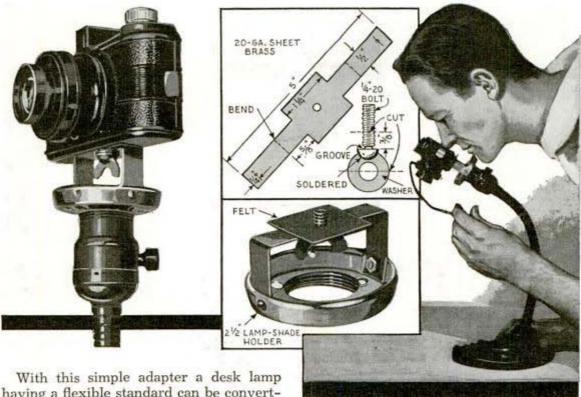
If some of your fishing line becomes so tangled that it seems impossible to straighten it out, try using a fishhook for this purpose. Just straighten out the hook and slip a cork over the end.



The barb will be found ideal for pulling out parts of the line in the entanglement.

Cellophane envelopes slipped over recipe cards will keep them from being soiled.

Converted Desk Lamp Serves as Camera Stand



With this simple adapter a desk lamp having a flexible standard can be converted into an adjustable stand for miniature cameras used in table-top photography, or for photographing objects at close range. The alteration is simple. Just remove the lamp reflector and substitute a lamp-shade holder, which screws over the end of the bulb socket. A brass strip cut as indicated

in the upper detail and then bent to a U-shape, is attached to the holder with tiny bolts as shown in the lower detail. A tripod screw, which you can make if desired, attaches the camera to the strip.

-Arthur Trauffer, Davenport, Iowa.

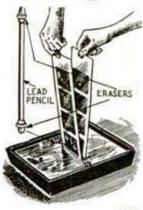
Mirror Used as Reflector Spreads Flash Over Large Area

One flashbulb will cast light evenly over a large area if a concave shaving mirror is used as a reflector. The mirror is removed from its frame and fastened on the inside of the regular reflector with small strips of adhesive tape. The "hot spot" which is apparent when most reflectors are used, will be eliminated entirely.



Pencil Wedged in Developer Tray Keeps the Film Submerged

Wedged between the sides of a tray, a smooth round pencil with a slip-on eraser on each end, will keep roll film immersed in the developer. Naturally, the uncoated side of the film should be next to the pencil.



JUNE, 1941



SHADOWS make the PICTURE



SHADOWS in a photograph go a long way in making the picture a success or a failure. It is by means of shadows that irregularities of surface, texture and design, outline and relief, form and the impression of third dimension are brought out to make pictures realistic.

A rugged scene under a noon sun may appear simple to shoot but the results are often disappointing. However, if you make the exposure while a cloud shadow is progressing across the landscape, unsuspected slopes and prominences will become plainly visible as they are outlined in shadow against sunlit portions. The picture in Fig. 1 was made at such a moment; the low mountains in the center of the picture were completely unseen until the cloud-shadow covered them, giving them visible outline.

Fig. 2 shows how shadows are used effectively to dramatize a subject. The severe lines of the columns, especially the one at the right which shows the fluting, serve to accentuate the size of the figure. The nearer column and the figure in deep silhouette also tend to exaggerate the statue's size. Exaggeration is one of the most-used methods of obtaining drama in pictures. The statue is

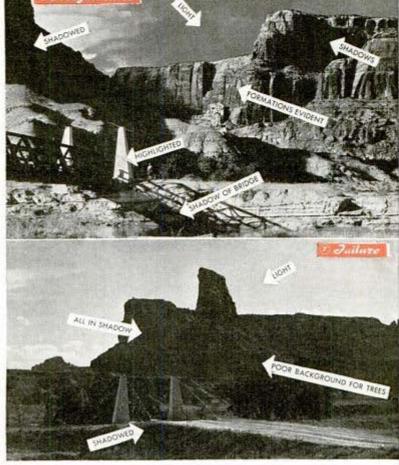


lighted from the left, and the same source produced the graduated shadows in the fluting at the right.

In such pictures as that of Mount Vernon, Fig. 3, good lighting with resulting shadow gives relief to architectural forms. The highlighted column of the broad veranda appears to stand out, and the shadowed porch seems to recede as in reality. The shadows of the early spring leaves cast on the sunlighted wall also help to make this portion stand out. A picture taken on a dull day from the same viewpoint would have been entirely lacking in this effect of relief, because there would have been no difference in the gray representing the various walls and faces of the columns.

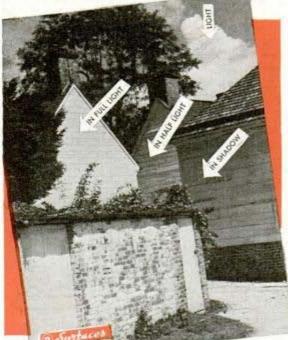
Texture of delicate surfaces such as the dogwood

blossoms shown in Fig. 4 are usually difficult to photograph. Here again use is made of shadows. In this picture, the branch bearing the flowers was pulled down until the noon-day sun struck across the blos-



soms, producing shadows of the ridges on the petals. This is the dogwood's characteristic texture and could not have been reproduced with a flat or shadowless lighting. The highlighted portions of the twigs







stand out strongly against the dark background of the dense woods.

Shadows help to provide contrast between an object and a background as in Fig. 5. The overhanging portion of a rock cliff cast a heavy shadow which provided an excellent background for the white jersey and strongly lighted face, while the dark trousers contrast with sunlit rock. The photographs in Figs. 6 and 7 illustrate the difference which two points of view, and the accompanying presence or absence of shadows, can produce. In Fig. 7 the camera is shooting diagonally toward

the sun; in Fig. 6 the camera is shooting diagonally with the sun. While backlighting is often very effective, there is nothing in this scene to warrant such treatment, and as a result, the backlighted picture Fig. 7 is a failure, the bridge columns being almost lost, while in Fig. 6 they are given prominence. Fig. 7 gives very little hint of the roughness of the rock while Fig. 6 brings this out.

Atmosphere in a photograph is an intangible something which is evident when present, yet difficult to get. Fig. 8 shows a wooded scene having an atmosphere of dreamy brightness. The leaning tree trunks

and the relaxed pose of the figure, help to produce it. Also, the shadows on the ground, on the trunks of the trees, and on the surface of the water all play their part in creating this atmosphere. Exposure was made for the shadows by using the lowest reading on a light meter at the camera position.

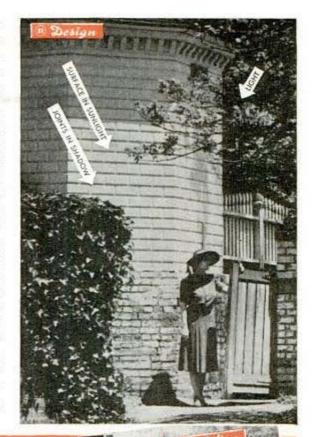
The emphasis of surface is another role of shadows. In Fig. 9 there are various intensities of light on the walls of the smokehouse, kitchen, and butler's house at Mount Vernon. The kitchen wall, in half light, shows clearly every irregularity. The wall in full shadow and the wall in full sunlight contrast strongly with the kitchen wall, and make a picture in which each surface is distinct. A sense of distance, depth, thickness, or third dimension is often difficult to obtain in a photograph, but possible if good use is made of shadows. In Fig. 10 the mountain slope in the

foreground is in shadow and acts as a setting, or as a foil, against which the distant mountain cliffs stand out in sharp contrast. Half an hour earlier the near slope was also sunlit and presented so little contrast that it merged with the distance.

Fig. 11 shows a study in design in that the shape and form of the bricks in the octagonal tower are brought out by strong shadows. Even the shadowed portion of the wall shows brick design, because a white wall to the left and rear of the camera position reflected a large amount of light onto this surface. The form of an object, such as the aspen trunks in Fig. 13, is very effectively brought out by lighting that illuminates half and leaves half in deep shadow. This is a form of sidelighting which reaches its maximum effectiveness when photographing rounded objects. The sun was high enough to give strong highlights on the protruding portions of bark and these highlights are strengthened by contrast with the narrow shadows cast under them. Modeling is greatly aided by a

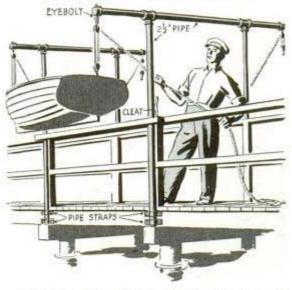
strong sidelighting that casts shadows like those on the camper's figure in Fig. 12. While highlights are important, the shadows in varying intensities give roundness to the muscles. In Fig. 14 the cloud shadow illustrates another role of shadows, that of revealing conformation. The angles made by the sides of the valley would have been difficult to guess, let alone photograph, without the cloud shadow, which in this picture is emphasized since it was taken on infrared emulsion.

Remember that two photographs of the same subject taken a short time apart will vary greatly due to the change in the position of the sun. Successful scenic photographers have learned to visualize a scene the way the camera will record it and are watching always for just the right conditions. Doubtless many scenes near you will make outstanding photos if snapped at the right time.





Sturdy Boat Davit of Large Pipe Assembled Easily on Pier



Anyone can assemble this boat davit from galvanized pipe and fittings. The vertical supports rest on the pier sills, and are kept from tipping by pipe straps screwed to the pier framework. Large eyebolts, which fit in holes drilled through the caps on the ends of the two horizontal pipes support blocks and tackle with which boats are raised or lowered.

Model Airplane Balanced to Fly With Modeling Clay

The nose of a flying model of an airplane can be weighted to establish efficient flying balance with the aid of ordinary modeling clay. A roll of the clay is pressed with the fingers over the nose block to form



a smooth, streamlined joint or the clay can be sculptured to resemble a motor cylinder block. Correct flying balance is obtained by supporting the model on the fingers at each wing tip and adding or removing the clay.—Ray J. Marran, Kansas City, Mo.

"Skipper"-Low-Cost, 14-ft. Outboard Runabout



can build this trim, five-passenger runabout, which is powered by a 4 to 24-hp. outboard motor. Its speed ranges from 9 to 24 m.p.h. depending on the size motor used. The boat has a 54-in. beam, 15½-in. freeboard, 24-in. depth, a 5-in. draft at 725 lbs., and a weight of about 275 lbs. Six plans (Nos. 1018 to 1023 incl.) showing details of building besides sheets giving material list and outline of procedure will be sent postpaid on receipt of \$1.50

At an expenditure of only \$30 to \$40 you

Other Boats You Can Build

16-Ft. Canoe—811 and 812: Canadian type. Cedar planking covered with canvas. 33-in. beam, weight 70 to 80 lbs. Two plans 50c.

Canvas-Covered Kayak—928 and 929: 17 ft. in length and weighs about 40 lbs. Two prints 50c.

"Sea Saucer"—893: Lightweight sailboat. Length 9½ ft. Beam 4 ft. Deck, bottom and sides are 3/16-in. plywood. 25c.

15-Ft. Rowboat—644: Flat bottom, all purpose. Covered forward deck. Has three seats. 25c.

12-Ft. Utility Rowboat—707: Flat bottom, four seats. Very sturdy design. 25c.

"Arrowhead" Sloop—944 to 951: A fast and able sailboat. Over all length 21 ft., beam 5 ft. 11 in. Accommodates up to 10 persons. Set of 8 prints \$2.00.



"Roamer"—765 to 770: Outboard cabin cruiser. 16 ft. long, 66 in. beam. Requires outboard motor of 20 to 36 hp. Set of six prints \$1.50.

"Hi-Ho," 14-Ft. Family Runabout—840 to 845: Powered by 11 to 22 hp. outboard or light inboard motor. Beam 58 in. Set of six prints \$1.50.

Address-Dept. 262, Popular Mechanics Press, 200 East Ontario Street, Chicago



Radio

CONCENTRATED ENTERTAINMENT

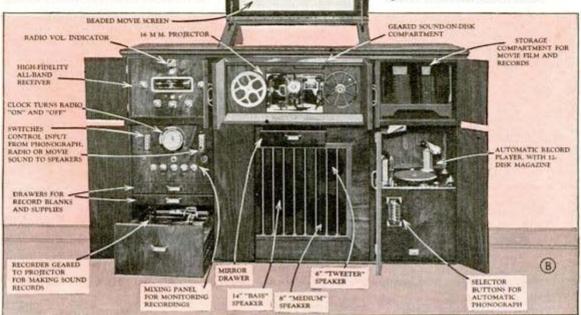
To AVOID cluttering up his home with cabinets, one California radio enthusiast has combined his phonograph, home recorder, radio receiver and sound movie projector into one instrument which he calls a "phono-cine-radio-recordo-graph."

Photo A is a close-up view of the power unit compartment and high-fidelity amplifier used to drive the three speakers which are employed in a cross-over network for all sound applications. The combination instrument in all its glory, with many of its various and sundry parts identified, appears in photo B.

Each compartment of the cabinet has its own lighting system. The radio and phonograph sections of the instrument may be operated by remote control and sound can be



switched to speakers located at remote points. The completed instrument weighs 800 pounds and required a year of spare time to assemble.



PORTABLE M AMPLIFIER

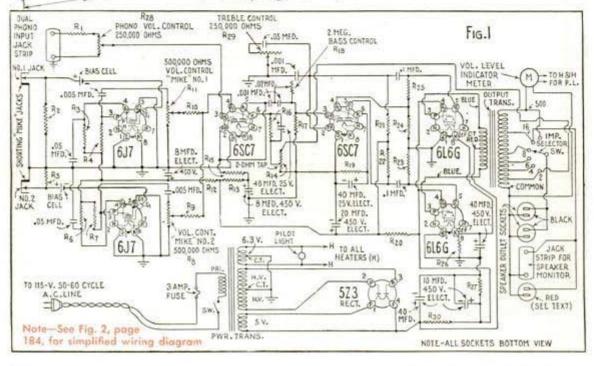


By L. M. Feiler

DESIGNED for rugged dependability, operating ease and full 20-watt output, this modern public address amplifier is easy to build and includes many features found only in high-

priced sound systems. Portable inasmuch as it is housed in a single sturdy case which separates into three units, two of which serve as speaker baffles, it is easily transported to summer camps, vacation resorts and similar locations wherever a good inexpensive sound system is required for entertainment purposes.

Input channels are provided for two high-impedance microphones and a record player. These may be used individually or all at the same time. Experienced builders will be interested in the practical and up-to-date features which include: bias cells, mixing circuit, inverse feedback, impedance selector, volume-indicating meter, monitor speaker

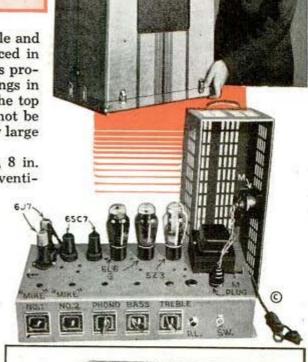


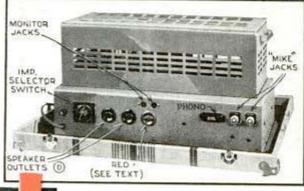
for SUMMER CAMP Twenty-Watt Output Two Speakers

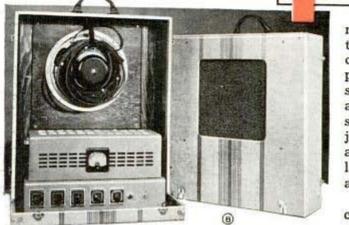
jacks and separate tone controls for treble and bass response. All controls may be placed in the top of the chassis base in the cutouts provided, see photo C, and the front openings in turn covered up, if desired. Shifted to the top and the cover in place, the controls cannot be tampered with, an excellent idea in many large group applications.

The metal chassis base is 18 in. long, 8 in. wide and 4 in. high. This base and the venti-

lated cover are available formed and drilled if desired. A schematic circuit diagram is given in Fig. 1, and a complete simplified wiring diagram appears in Figs. 2 and 2-A. This underside view of the base shows all parts in their relative positions and every connection is clearly indicated. Many parts are colorcoded so that the work can be done easily by anyone. The red outlet in the rear of the chassis base is provided as an outlet for a booster power amplifier if additional power output is ever required. The 40-10-10-10 mfd. electrolytic condenser is plainly marked but is not provided with colored leads. The color indications given are suggested as a wiring aid, and the builder should have a small supply of red, yellow, blue, green and black hook-up wire on hand before starting construction. It will be







noted that two 10-mfd. sections of the electrolytic condenser unit are connected together to provide the positive 20-mfd. (blue) lead. The small 1½-volt bias cells in holders, are easily mounted on tie point strips and the polarity should be just as shown. Cushioned sockets are used for the 6J7 tubes. Use lock washers for mounting all parts and solder connections carefully.

The microphone jacks short-circuit the input when not used and eliminate noise pickup. Photos A,

(Continued to page 182)

Crystal Receiver Is Built Into a Headset Unit

By L. B. Robbins

IF YOU have a pair of headphones, preferably the old style "Baldwin" variety with extra large Bake-

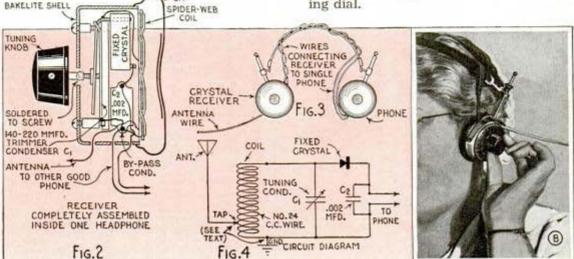
> lite shell and cap, it is a simple matter to build a good crystal receiver in one phone shell and use the other phone to receive stations.

Test the phones and select the most sensitive one for listening. Strip the other and drill a hole in the center of the shell bottom for the shaft of the porcelain-base trimmer condenser (C₁). Wind thin spiderweb coil Fig. 1, photo A, with as many turns of No. 24 c.c. magnet wire as possible, be-

ginning at center and ending about ¼ in. from the outer end of arms.

Before mounting parts in the shell, connect them for a temporary test on a small board and check coil turns, tapping off the antenna tap lead at the point for best reception, see Fig. 4, before soldering. Assemble in the shell as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The antenna and ground leads should be several feet long and terminate in small spring clips to fasten to any convenient antenna and ground. Ground connection is optional but helpful. The fixed crystal is a small, round, flat type with machine-screw terminals. Short bushings and machine screws are used to mount tuning condenser C1. Photo B shows completed set with small tuning dial.





FIBER

SPIDER-WEB

COIL FORM

HOW WIRE IS WOVEN ABOVE AND BELOW ARMS

Fig. I

3

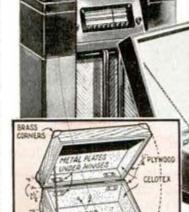
SHELL

CAPA

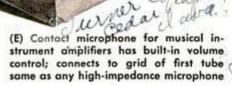
CAP

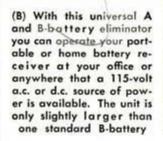


(A) Sound-absorbing case improves tone of any low-cost record player. Since most of the shortcomings of inexpensive open-type record players are mechanical rather than electrical, the performance of these popular units can be improved by operating them in an easily built sound-absorbing cabinet. General dimensions are given in Fig. 1. Built with simple tools at a cost of about \$2.00, it will house standard player units, or dimensions may be altered to meet requirements. Provide sufficient room to close lid over record player when it is in operation. The case is completely lined with 1/2-in. Celotex insulating material



Ocelio Proble







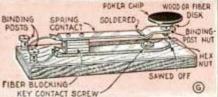
(C) Test the efficiency of your radio ground by means of a 60-watt bulb and a s.p.d.t. porcelain-base knife switch mounted as shown. Connect one side of the lamp to ground and the other side to the switch lever. A length of lamp cord with plug is connected to the outside switch terminals. For test—open switch and insert plug in wall socket. Throw switch lever to one side, if that is grounded side of line lamp will not light; thrown to other side, if lamp lights bright ground is good. If it is dim, look over connections as some resistance is causing poor ground.

(D) Loop checker gives accurate and easy-to-read indication of poor or perfect loop-antenna tuning adjustment.
 (F) Coffee-can soldering iron holder; steel wool for cleaning iron

(G) Practice key made from an old open-circuit jack and junk-box parts





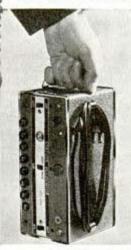


Small Communications Receiver Provides for Code Practice



Not only does this inexpensive set provide for the reception of both phone and code throughout its range of 545 kc. to 30.5 megacycles but in addition has self-contained facilities for keying and code-reading practice. With a standard telegraph key connected in series with the headphone tip jacks, the output of the receiver to the headphones will be broken up into dots and dashes as the circuit is keyed. Features include bandspread, a.v.c., standby switch, built-in speaker and three calibrated bands on main dial.

Compact Test Oscillator Unit



Aiding service men and radio dealers in the recent job of resetting push-button radio receivers for the new frequency allocations, this compact test oscillator generates a signal which is supplied to a radio as a guide for accurate station setting, and for tuning the buttons in periodic check-ups. The instrument is provided with 8 push buttons that can be set to the frequency of any 8 stations in a given locality. Easily portable, the unit weighs only 5½ pounds and operates from a.c. lines or from self-contained batteries where power lines are not available. Battery operation is also useful when the instrument is employed to reset and adjust push buttons in automobile radios. Four-hundred cycle modulation is available when required.

Miniature Four-Tube Super

Small as a ladies' pocketbook and light as a camera, this tiny set employs four of the new miniature tubes in a highly sensitive superheterodyne circuit. Loop anten-



na is housed in the plastic front coverwhich also acts as the on-off switch. The set is only 6¼ in. long, 4% in. high and 3½ in. deep. Complete with batteries it weighs 4¼ pounds.

[Blueprints covering 80 simplified radio construction articles in this and past issues are available for 25c each. Original parts lists, with manufacturers specified can be obtained from Popular Mechanics Radio Department upon receipt of postage.

NEXT MONTH—Self-Powered Four-Purpose Amplifier for Experimenters. Simple and easy for beginners to build, this inexpensive unit has almost as many uses as parts. Also—A Battery-Operated Code-Practice Oscillator. With speaker for group code practice. Extra! Seven Crystal-Set Hook-Ups for Experimenters.



SHOP NOTES

Tested Materials Assure

Good Concrete

STRONG, durable concrete requires first of all that the aggregate be of good quality. Without this, even the most careful proportioning, mixing, and curing of the concrete will not produce a good job. Therefore, practical tests for the cement and aggregate are an important help to the contractor or workman who must lay concrete.

Methods of testing Portland cement are generally too complicated to be made with simple apparatus. Generally, cement made by a reliable manufacturer and properly stored can be assumed to be satisfactory. However, cement that has been stored in a damp place is useless if it has absorbed enough moisture to damage it. Cement that contains lumps that cannot be pulverized readily by striking with a shovel, Fig. 1, is unfit for use. Any water suitable to drink is satisfactory for mixing concrete. It must be clean and free from oil, acid, alkali or strong mineral content.

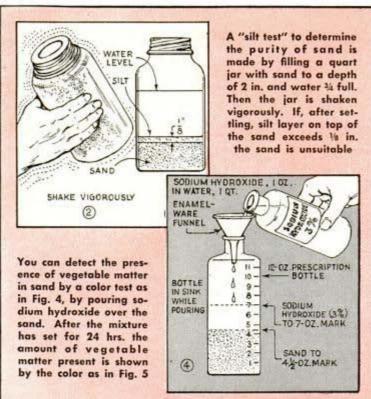
Sand and the coarse aggregate should be sound, hard and durable. Soft or flaky materials impair the strength of the concrete. Clean, sharp sand for the fine aggregates, and clean gravel or crushed rock make the best materials.

An important requirement for sand is that its content of silt, loam and similar materials be low. This can be determined by a "silt test," Fig. 2. Sand sometimes contains injurious vegetable matter, which can be detected by means of a color-reaction test. To make this test, fill a 12-oz. prescription bottle to the 4½-oz. mark with the sand, and add enough of a 3% caustic-soda solution to reach to the 7-oz. mark, Fig. 4. The caustic-soda solution is made by dissolving sodium hydroxide, 1





oz., in water, 1 qt., preferably distilled water. It should be kept in a bottle with a tight rubber stopper, and care must be taken not to spill the solution on clothes, skin, or other articles, as it is very injurious to animal and vegetable matter. After adding the soda solution to the sand, the jar is closed with a rubber stopper and shaken, then set aside and allowed to settle for 24 hrs. The color of the liquid layer at the end of that time indicates the

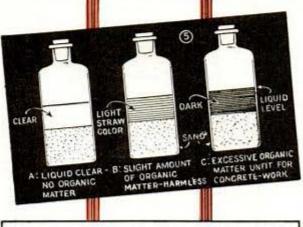




amount of vegetable matter in the sand, Fig. 5.

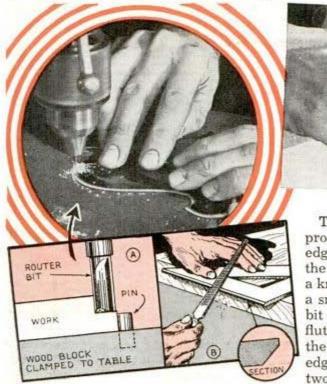
To obtain strong concrete, it is necessary to control accurately the quantity of water added. The table in Fig. 6 gives recommended total quantities of water that should be mixed with the cement and aggregates for various purposes. From this

total quantity of water, the amount of water carried by the sand must be deducted if maximum strength is to be obtained. A rough method of determining the moisture content of sand is shown in Fig. 3. Most sand would be classified as wet. The quantity of water to add to the batch is figured easily. For example, suppose a 1:2:3 mixture is to be made (1 sack of cement, 2 cu, ft, of sand, 3 cu. ft. of crushed rock) with 6 gals, of mixing water per sack of cement. Suppose the sand is wet-feels moist to the touch and leaves the hands moist after handling it. Fig. 4 indicates that such sand contains about 1/2 gal. of water per cubic foot. Since one sack of cement requires 2 cu. ft. of sand, the sand will carry a total of 1 gal. of water. This must be deducted from the total water (6 gals.), leaving 5 gals. of water which must be added. Another method is to weigh exactly 2 lbs. of the sand, then dry it in an oven or over a fire. The sand is then reweighed to find the loss of weight. Multiplying this by .4 gives the moisture content in gallons per cubic foot. For example, if the loss is 11/4 oz., the moisture content is (11/4x.4) or 1/2 gal. per cu. ft.



MIXING WATER RECOMMENDED FOR CONCRETE Total gal. of water for Kind of Work each sack of cement * Foundation walls 7 gallons Water-tight floors and foundations 6 gallons Driveways, walks, tennis courts 6 gallons All reinforced concrete 6 gallons 6 gallons Other water-tight concrete, or concrete 6 gallons subject to moderate wear or frost Topping for wearing surface in two-5 gallons course floors, pavements, walks, etc. 6 gallons First course in two-course work 5 gallons One course heavy-duty floors Concrete subject to weak acid or alkali solutions * Includes mixing water and moisture content of sand

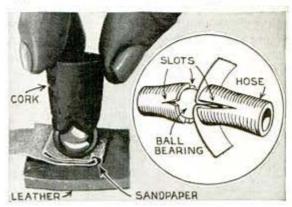
Undercut Edges Improve Drawing Triangles



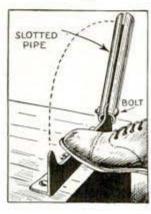
Triangles and French curves can be improved so that ink will not run under the edges when drawing, by undercutting the edges. This can be done by hand with a knife or a file, but a quicker way is to use a small router bit in a drill press. Such a bit can be made from a broken straightfluted drill of small diameter. The sides of the drill should be ground so the cutting edges are relieved, and the end beveled in two directions to form cutting edges.

Holders to Grip Ball Bearings While Polishing Them

The next time you have ball bearings to polish, try these holders. One consists of a cork having two slots cut across the lower end. This enables you to hold the ball easily while it is run over a piece of abrasive paper placed on a piece of leather to prevent slipping. The other holder consists of two short pieces of hose. One piece has four shallow slots at the end to take the ball, and the other has two deeper slots to take the abrasive paper as indicated in the circular detail.



Foot Scrapers at School House Have Shields to Protect the Children



To minimize the possibility of children being injured by falling on foot scrapers at a school house while playing, the janitor fitted each one with a pipe cover. This was slotted along one side so that it would slip over the scraper, and it was pivoted to one end. A flip of the foot removes or replaces the cover.

Tractor Running Hours Recorded on Speedometer

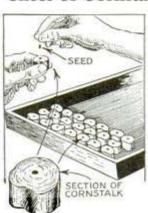
Finding it extremely difficult to keep track of the period between oil changes in his tractor because several persons use it, one farmer attached an old auto speedometer near the seat. At the end of each day, the speedometer is set to register the number of hours the tractor has run since the last oil change.

Tumbling Shields on Line Shafts Protect Your Clothing



When power-drive installations in small shops and other places are of such a design that it is difficult to shield the shafts against catching in the clothing, these tumbling shields will solve the problem. They are merely sheet-metal sleeves somewhat larger in diameter than the shafts. In use, the seams of the sleeves are opened, after which they are slipped over the shafts and the seams closed again. The shields fit loosely, allowing the shafts to rotate inside them without the sleeves moving.

Slices of Cornstalk Sprout Seeds



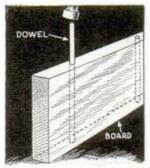
One nurseryman who often has valuable but small seeds to plant, sprouts them for transplanting in slices or disks cut from large cornstalks. A tiny hole is made in each slice to take a seed, after which the slices are placed in a container and

covered with sifted dirt. Then water is poured into the container to bring the level up about half way on the slices. At transplanting time, the slices are lifted out one at a time and set into the ground. In this way, the delicate root systems of the plants are not disturbed, and the stalk slices soon rot.

—Dale Van Horn, Lincoln, Nebr.

Boards Are Kept From Warping by Doweling Them

Boards that are used in gates, yard fences, stock racks, etc., where they are exposed to the weather and rough usage, can be prevented from warping or splitting by driving small dowels into holes

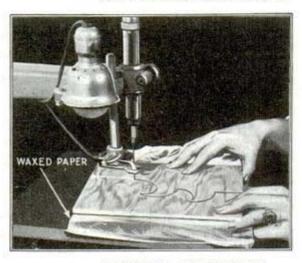


drilled at regular intervals along their lengths. The dowels should go entirely through the board edgewise as indicated. It's a good idea to dip the dowels in paint or shellac before driving them to help keep out moisture.

Waxed Paper Under the Work Lubricates Jigsaw Blade

Placed between the jigsaw table and work, a sheet of waxed paper will act as a lubricant for the blade and increase its cutting speed. As the paper feeds into the blade along with the work, it also lessens friction between the table surface and work, which permits the operator to slide the piece with greater ease and get a more nearly perfect pattern.

-W. C. Wilhite, Carlinville, Ill.



POPULAR MECHANICS

Cup Lathe Center to Turn Centerless Shafts



armature shaft that has no center, this cup center in the tailstock of the lathe will support the end of the shaft. Made from a short piece of cold-rolled steel, the center is bored to a 60° angle, and a shank with a Morse taper turned on it is

driven into the hole at the rear end. The shank can be made from an old twist drill.

Reading Glass Magnifies Scale Graduations on Lathe



A lathe operator in a small manufacturing plant found that greater accuracy could be maintained in production work by using a reading glass to magnify the scale of graduated collars of the slide rest. A square piece of brass was drilled to take the handle of the reading glass, and was tapped for a clamping screw. The top of the lathe swivel saddle and the bottom of the brass holder were then drilled and tapped, to bolt the assembly in place. Loosening the clamping screw permits adjustment of the glass to the required position over the graduated collars. The attachment can be removed in a moment.

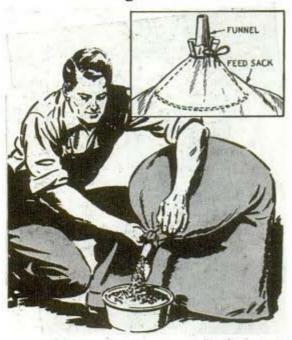
Bicycle Grip on Wrench Makes It Easy to Hold With Greasy Hands

When using a pipe wrench on jobs where your hands are likely to be greasy, try slipping a rubber bicycle grip over the handle. The rubber, having a corrugated surface on the upper side and an irregular surface on the underside to fit the fingers, gives you a better grip so that the tool is less likely to slip out of your hand.



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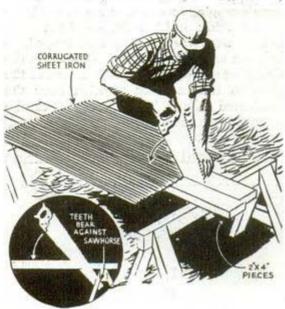
Funnel Is a Good Pouring Spout On Large Feed Sack



To prevent spilling expensive chick feed, and to avoid tying and opening a sack each time some of the feed was removed, one poultryman tied a funnel in the mouth of the sack. To remove the feed, the top of the sack was tipped as indicated.

Back of Hand Saw Used as Shear To Cut Sheet Metal

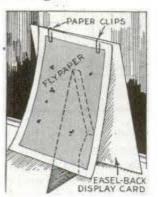
When applying corrugated sheet-iron roofing it was found that the back of a regular hand wood saw could be used as a shear in cutting the metal. To do this, the



sheet iron was laid on 2 by 4-in, pieces placed side by side across two sawhorses as indicated. Then the saw was inserted in the crack between the two pieces with the back against the sheet iron and the teeth against the underside of one of the two horse cross members. Pressing downward on the saw handle forced the back of it through the sheet iron with a shearing action.—Colin K. Lee, Bowling Green, Mo.

Flypaper Back of Window Card Is Out of Sight

Fly paper can be kept out of sight and yet be effective in window displays, if it is attached to the backs of display cards as indicated. A couple of paper clips at the top will hold the flypaper in place.



Chalk Kept on Nail in Tool Kit

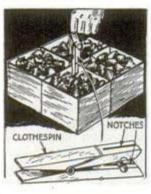


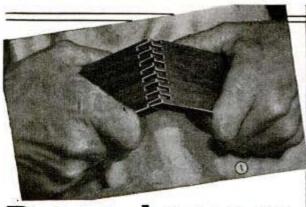
In stead of throwing a disk of carpenters' chalk around in the tool kit where it marks up the tools, hang it on a nail near the handle of the kit as indicated. It takes only a minute to drill a hole

through the chalk and to drive a finishing nail in the end of the tool box.

Four Berry Boxes Are Carried By Means of a Clothespin

As an aid to pickers in carrying a number of berry boxes in a field, one farmer sawed slots in the jaws of a springtype clothespin. This was slipped over the four boxes at the corners as indicated.



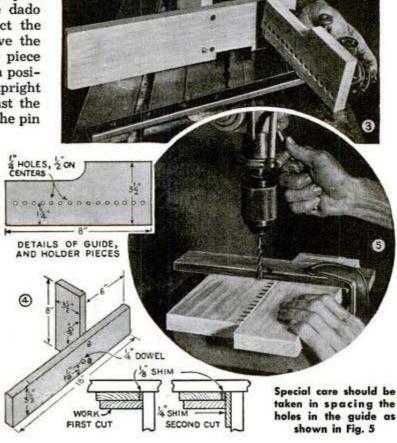


BOX JOINTS easily cut with a jig.

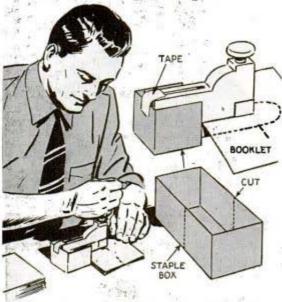
UNLESS a suitable setup is employed to assure uniform offset cuts, the cutting of box joints, Fig. 1, is a painstaking job, even though a power saw is used. But with

the two-part jig shown in Fig. 3, multiple cuts, correspondingly offset, can be made quickly and accurately. Fig. 4 details the guide which is screwed to the miter gauge, and the holder to which the work is clamped vertically as shown in Fig. 2. A single dado blade is adjusted to project the thickness of the work above the saw table. Then the guide piece is screwed to the gauge in a position to allow the vertical upright of the holder to butt against the left side of the blade when the pin

in the latter engages the first hole. Corresponding lengths of work are placed alternately in the jig, that is, the first is offset from the holder with a 1/8-in. shim, the second one isn't, the third is, etc., as indicated in Fig. 4. Then the work is passed aver the saw, shifting the holder from one hole to the next. To make the intermediate notches, a second cut is required, using a 1/4-in. shim. By using two blades spaced with a 1/8-in, collar, the second cut can be eliminated.



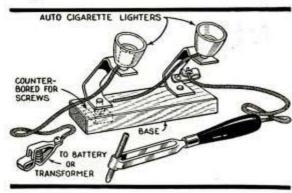
Empty Box Serves as Depth Gauge For a Paper Stapler

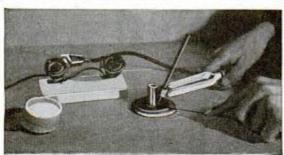


In stapling pamphlets or booklets where the staples must be inserted accurately along a folding line, the depth to insert the work can be gauged with an empty staplebox. Just slip the stapler into the box, after breaking out one end. Then cut down the sides of the box to the depth that the work is to be inserted.

Heat of Carbon Soldering Torch Regulated by Resistance Bank

As carbon soldering outfits are designed to produce their maximum heat at all

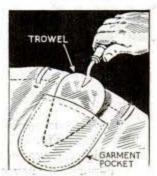




times, which is often too much when soldering or brazing tiny work, a resistance in the circuit will permit the heat to be controlled to suit the work. A couple of auto cigarette lighters will do for this purpose. These are mounted on a base and the electrode is connected so the current passes through one or both of the lighters, depending on the heat required.

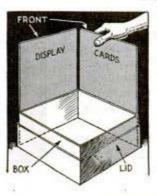
Trowel Smooths Pocket Linings Before Steam Pressing

Annoyed by the time required to smooth out pocket linings before pressing garments, one owner of a dry-cleaning shop found that a small garden trowel was ideal for the purpose. The trowel



is easy to insert in any pocket opening and a side-to-side motion smooths the cloth.

Inverted Box Supports Showcards



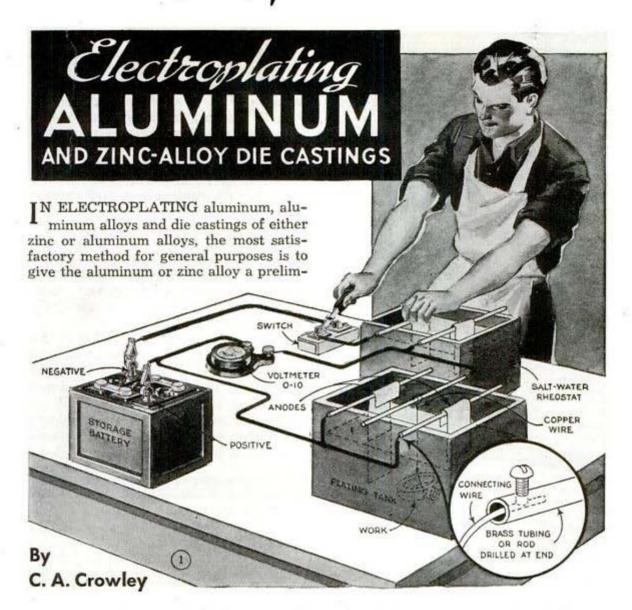
Large showcards in windows or on floor displays can be supported easily by using cardboard boxes of suitable sizes. The lids of the boxes are slipped over the bottoms and the cards inserted as indicated.

Clip Hanger Adjusts Shop Light

Handy for adjusting your shop light to any desired height, this simple hanger can be made in a few minutes by merely soldering a wire hook to an ordinary paper clip of the type shown. The hanger will also prove useful for



gripping the light cord when hooked over a pipe or rod above the work.

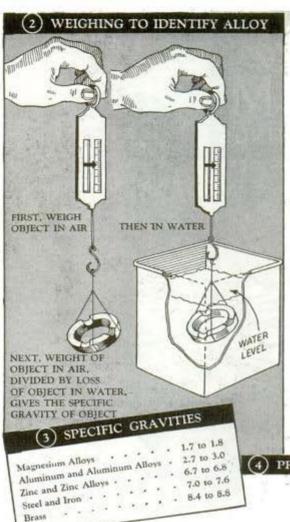


inary electroplate of nickel, after a careful cleaning and preparation. Copper, chromium, silver and other metals can be plated over the nickel by customary methods.

Identifying metals: Before electroplating it is important to be certain whether the metal is a zinc alloy, aluminum, an aluminum alloy, a magnesium alloy or some other metal. The plating methods given here are for use only on zinc and aluminum and their alloys. Magnesium alloys, which are used widely for lightweight castings, cannot be electroplated successfully, and other metals are best plated by different methods. The easiest way to distinguish zinc alloys, aluminum alloys and magnesium alloys is by their specific gravities, which are given in Fig. 3. To find specific gravity first weigh the metal object in air as in Fig. 2. For accurate results, use the most sensitive balance or scales available. Then

suspend the object in water by a light wire and weigh again. The weight of the article in air minus the weight of the article in water, is the loss of weight of the object. The specific gravity is equal to the weight of the article in air, divided by the loss of weight.

Cleaning aluminum: The first step in preparing aluminum alloys for electroplating is to clean and buff the metal thoroughly, freeing it from dirt and grease. Ordinary strong alkaline cleaners used in cleaning iron, brass, and other metals for electroplating cannot be used on aluminum or zinc alloys because they attack the metal. The formula for a satisfactory cleaner for use on any aluminum alloy is given in Fig. 5. The solution is used hot to remove all grease from the metal. After being cleaned, the metal should be rinsed in cold water. The next step with pure

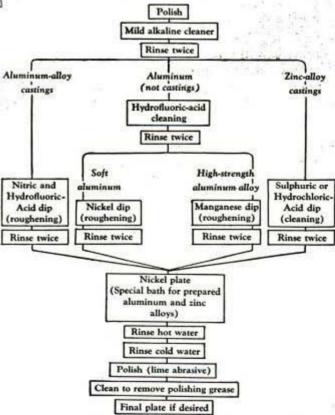


Roughening baths: The next step in the treatment of the aluminum will depend on the composition of the alloy being plated. Ordinary soft aluminum (known as "2-s," which is practically pure aluminum) should be given a "nickel dip" to roughen the surface slightly and give it a thin preliminary coating of nickel. Most sheet aluminum articles are made of this alloy and should be given this treatment. Aluminum-alloy die castings and sand castings are given an "acid dip" to roughen the surface before plating, instead of the hydrofluoric acid treatment. High-strength aluminum alloys (3-s, 17-s, 25-s, and 51-s, which contain various amounts of copper, silicon, and manganese) are given a "manganese dip" after the rinse, following the hydrofluoric acid treatment.

The formula for the roughening dip for soft aluminum is given in Fig. 7. The work should be dipped in this solution for a period of about 15 seconds to etch or roughen the surface to improve adhesion of the nickel plate, and also to give a preliminary nickel plate to the aluminum. The aluminum should leave this bath with a glossy

(4) PROCEDURE FOR CLEANING AND PLATING

ZINC AND ALUMINUM ALLOYS



aluminum and aluminum alloys except castings, is to give the metal a quick dip in an acid solution, prepared by adding 50-percent hydrofluoric acid, 1 pt., to water, 9 pts., or same proportions in smaller amounts. The work should be dipped in this solution for about 15 seconds. This solution must be used in a lead-lined container, Fig. 6, as it will attack either glass or stoneware. Hydrofluoric acid produces painful burns on the skin which are slow to heal so great care should be taken to prevent getting it on the skin or clothes. If this should happen, immediately wash off in plenty of running water. After the acid cleaning, the metal should be rinsed thoroughly in cold water and transferred to the "roughening bath."

gray coating of nickel. The time required to achieve this result will vary somewhat with the surface being plated and the strength of the dipping bath, but the exact time can be determined by experiment.

With aluminum-alloy castings it is not necessary to use the hydrofluoric-acid cleaner as described above, and after removal from the alkaline cleaner and rinsing, the work can be transferred at once to

the acid dip for roughening. Die-cast alloys should be immersed for 15 to 30 seconds in a mixture of concentrated nitric acid, 3 volumes, and 50-percent hydrofluoric acid, 1 volume. This bath should be used at a temperature of about 80° F. If the plating does not adhere properly the acid dip was too short. Too long a dip, on the other hand, makes the work too hard to buff. Since there will be some variation in the strength of the bath, and also because there is a very appreciable differ-

After first cleaning, objects

of aluminum and alumi-

num alloys (except cast-

ings) are given a 15-second

dip in a solution prepared

by adding 50-per-cent hy-

drofluoric acid, I pint, to

water, 9 pints-(or small-

er amounts of same pro-

portions)

COPPER

WIRES

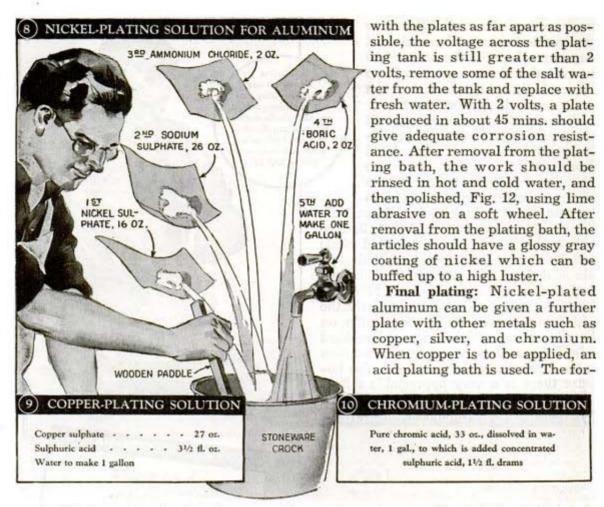
WOODEN BOX

(5) WORK MUST BE THOROUGHLY CLEANED Effective cleaner for any aluminum alloy consists of washing soda, 2 oz., and trisodium phosphate, 2 oz., dissolved in water, 1 gallon. The solution is used hot at 180° to 200° Fahr. (6) QUICK-DIP, HYDROFLUORIC-ACID SOLUTION (7) ROUGHENING BATHS ALL JOINTS LEAD-BURNED Nickel Dip for Soft Aluminum Nickel chloride, 36 oz. Hydrochloric acid, 26 fl. oz. LEAD LINING Water, 1 gallon Acid Dip for Aluminum Castings Concentrated nitric acid, 3 volumes 50-per-cent hydrofluoric acid, 1 volume Manganese Dip for High-Strength Allows Manganese sulphate, 1/2 oz., dissolved in water, 51/2 gal., to which is added concentrated hydrochloric acid, 1/2 gal.

ence in the characteristics of various aluminum casting alloys, it may be necessary at times to adjust the acid-dip time on the basis of experimental results. With sand castings, the same acid dipping solution is used and the same conditions prevail, except that the time of dipping will run between one and two minutes. As this acid is highly corrosive, it must be kept in a container which is painted with a mixture of paraffin, 4 parts, and beeswax, 1 part. Glass and stoneware are attacked by this solution, and lead will be severely attacked at the air-acid surface. Because of its corrosive nature, the solution must be kept off skin and clothes.

The manganese dip for high-strength alloys, Fig. 7, should be used at about 90° F. Generally a dip of 15 to 30 seconds is required. If too short a dip is used, the plate will not adhere properly, while too long a dip makes the plate too hard to buff.

Nickel plate: After the work has been given a roughening dip, it is rinsed well in two changes of water, and then transferred to the plating bath. Most standard nickelplating baths will work on aluminum alloys which have been prepared according to the above directions, but the formula given in Fig. 8, has been found highly satisfactory. For plating tanks, use a stoneware crock or glass battery jars. The arrangement of apparatus and wiring is shown in Fig. 1. Across the tops of the plating tanks three brass rods, or better still, lengths of heavy-walled brass tubing,

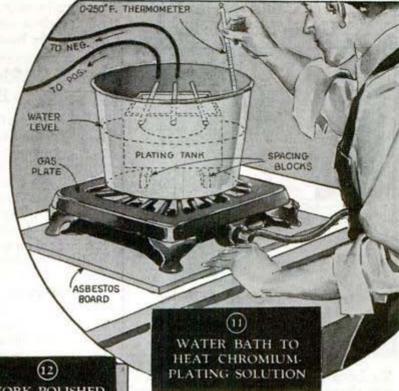


are laid. The work to be plated is suspended from the center brass rod, and two pure nickel anodes are suspended from the two outside bars. A heavy-duty radio-type rheostat, or a salt-water rheostat, also shown in Fig. 1, is connected into the circuit. Connections to the storage battery should be made with heavy spring clips. A d.c. voltmeter, reading 0 to 10 volts, is also required and should be connected as shown in the wiring diagram. If much work is being done a d.c. generator producing 6 to 10 volts will be found more convenient than a battery.

The nickel-plating solution can be used at ordinary room temperature, although it works better if it is heated to about 90 or 95° F. in a water bath similar to that shown in Fig. 11. When the work is ready for plating, it is hung by means of copper wires from the center support, and is completely immersed in the plating solution. The plates of the salt-water rheostat are moved as far apart as possible. The current is turned on and the voltage adjusted to about 2 volts, by moving the plates of the salt-water rheostat closer together. If,

mula is given in Fig. 9. The plating bath should be used at room temperature, with a voltage of 11/2 to 2 volts. Anodes of copper sheet are used. Plating for 30 mins. will give a fairly heavy plate. Chromium also can be applied to nickel-plated aluminum, using the solution given in Fig. 10. The solution should be kept at about 100° F. in a water bath, as shown in Fig. 11. Lead or steel anodes are used. The nickelplated article should be placed in the solution and current turned on. The rheostat should be adjusted to give about 4 volts. If, after a few seconds plating has not started, the voltage will have to be adjusted up or down to find the proper voltage for plating. The plating voltage is very critical and will have to be determined in any case by experimentation, as it depends on the area of the surface being plated, bath temperature, and numerous other factors. A short plating period of about 11/2 minutes is recommended on nickel-plated aluminum as longer periods may raise blisters on the plate. When using the chromium-plating solution cover the tank with newspapers to prevent the fine mist-like spray from being breathed.

Preparing zinc alloys for electroplating: Zinc allovs should be cleaned in a mild alkaline cleaning bath, for example the same cleaning bath that is described above for aluminum alloys. It should be used at a temperature of about 180° F., and the work should not be left in the cleaning solution any longer than is necessary to remove grease from the surface of the metal. Following the alkaline



WORK POLISHED
BEFORE AND
AFTER PLATING

DIRECTION OF
ROTATION

cleaning, the metal should be rinsed well in water and then given an acid dip, in a solution made by dissolving hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid, 1 pt., in water, 9 pts. The work is dipped in this solution until the first gas bubbles appear on the metal, after which the work is immediately removed and rinsed thoroughly. Then it is transferred to the nickel-plating bath. If the work is left in the acid dip too long, it becomes discolored and cannot be plated successfully.

Electroplating zinc alloys: Zinc alloys, cleaned according to the above procedure, can be given a nickel plate in the same bath as described above for aluminum. A light plate of 15 mins. to half an hour from the above bath is entirely satisfactory for

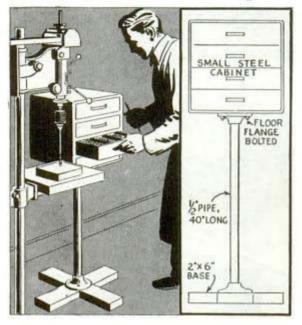
interior work, although it is not sufficiently heavy to give good corrosion protection. For a more durable nickel plate, the zinc alloy should be plated for 15 mins. in the nickel-plating bath described above, then rinsed thoroughly in cold water, after which it is transferred to a second nickel-plating bath, containing nickel sulphate, 12 oz., nickel chloride, 4 oz., and boric acid, 2 oz., dissolved in water, 1 gal. Nickel anodes are used, and the voltage is adjusted to 2 volts. A plate of about 45 mins. should be used. A handy chart for

cleaning and plating procedure on zinc and aluminum alloys is given in Fig. 4 and will be convenient to have at hand when planning your work.

Drawing Lines With a Typewriter

Typists who have to draw a line on their work can do it much easier than by the usual method of repeatedly tapping the "dash" key. Instead, just hold the key down with one hand and with the other hand, release the carriage control and pull the carriage back and forth a couple of times. This will give a straight line across the paper. If the ribbon tends to bunch up, a couple of turns of the ribbon spool will rewind it.

Accessory Cabinet Is Portable For Use in Machine Shop



To keep small accessories for a drill press, shaper, lathe, etc., always at hand, I made this cabinet so that it could be moved from machine to machine. It consists of a small steel cabinet mounted on a standard of pipe. Floor flanges attach the pipe to the cabinet and to the base.

-Fred Hood, Walton, N. Y.

Vacuum Cups Hold Guide Strings Used in Lettering Windows

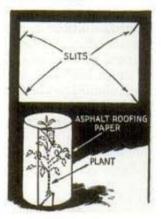
As a guide in making accurate letters on large store windows, one sign painter uses two colored strings stretched and held in place by four vacuum cups. The cups are



removed easily and are placed on the side of the glass opposite that on which the lettering is being done.

Self-Locking Paper Cylinders To Blanch Plants

Instead of stapling or pinning paper together to form cylinders for blanching plants, try the self-locking joint shown. With this method it takes only a second to assemble a cylinder, and after it has served its purpose, it can be easily taken apart



and stored flat for future use. The cylinders are made of asphalt roofing paper.

Lead Sinkers Eliminate Strings On Mechanic's Apron



Tying and untying of his apron every time he had to remove or put it on, was avoided by one mechanic who used lead sinkers to hold it around his waist. The strings were cut off to project

3 or 4 in., and the sinkers were tied to these. When putting on the apron, the sinkers were merely dropped into the hip pockets to hold it in place.

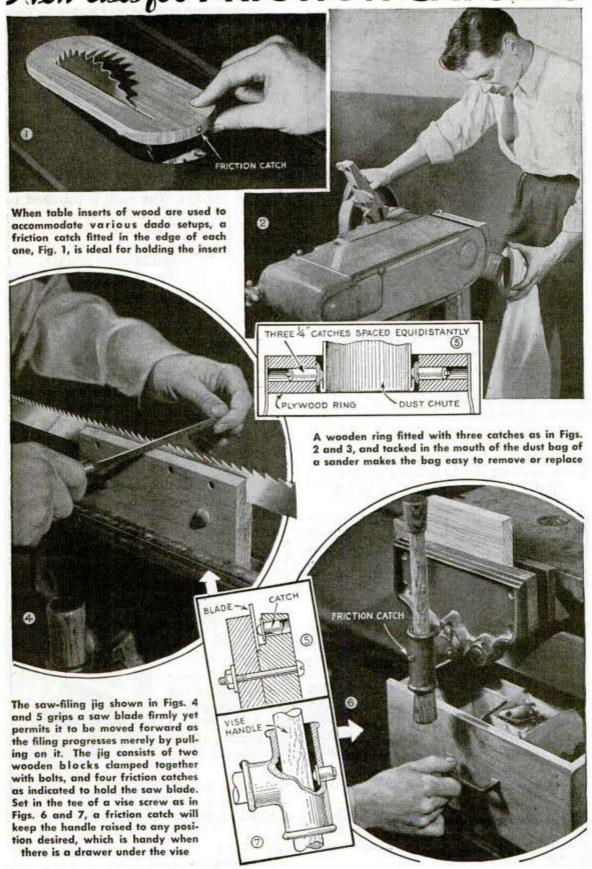
Putty Can Attached to Paint Pail

Your putty can be kept handy when doing outdoor painting by simply punching a small hole through the can so that it will slip on one end of the paintpail handle as shown. Carried in



this way, the putty is always in a convenient position for instant use.

New Uses for FRICTION CATCHES



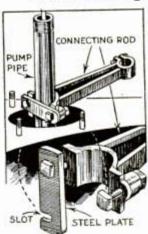
Cleaner for Pen or Pencil Points From Mohair Furniture Glide



Driven into an ink-bottle stopper or the handle of your sandpaper pencil pointer, mohair furniture glides provide good cleaners for pen and pencil points. In this position, they are always at hand, and are easily replaced when they become dirty.

-Axel Ogren, Chicago.

Connecting Rod Holds Pump Pipe When Lifting It From Well



Having to remove pump pipes from wells to repair the cylinders occasionally, one farmer made a pipe holder to assist in this work from an old engine connecting rod. The lower half of the rod bearing was replaced with a steel plate, which pivoted on one of

the bearing bolts and hooked over the other one. When clamped around the pipe as indicated, the rod held the pipe securely.

Car-Top Racks for Campers

If you are planning a camping trip this summer, whether it be just a day or two, or of long duration, one of these car-top racks will enable you to carry luggage or a boat with ease. The luggage rack shown in Fig. 1 has large capacity and is attached securely to the car, yet is taken off easily by removing six screws. Fig. 2 shows the general assembly of the rack. Sides and ends are of wood, and the bottom consists of strips of flat iron and wire. Rubber at the crossing points of the strips and around the lower edges of the ends and sides protect the car top. The rack is attached to the gutters at six points above the doors and windows. Those who take frequent short trips, and want a boat rack that is removed or replaced in a few minutes, will find the one in Fig. 4 just the thing. It consists of two lengths of pipe or conduit arched over the car top and fastened to the upper hinges of the four doors by means of special brackets as shown in Fig. 5. Each bracket is attached with a bolt, which is substituted for the hinge pin and riveted in place. Being small, the bracket remains on the car and is painted to match it. Owners of coupes will find that the canoe rack in Fig. 7 solves their problem of carrying a boat above a short length top. The rack clamps to the bumpers, and a center brace from the rear support to the seat back takes care of end movement. Pipe is used for the supports, which have wood cross members padded as in Fig. 6 to prevent chafing the back. Clamps to fit over the bumpers are welded into the lower ends of the support pipes.

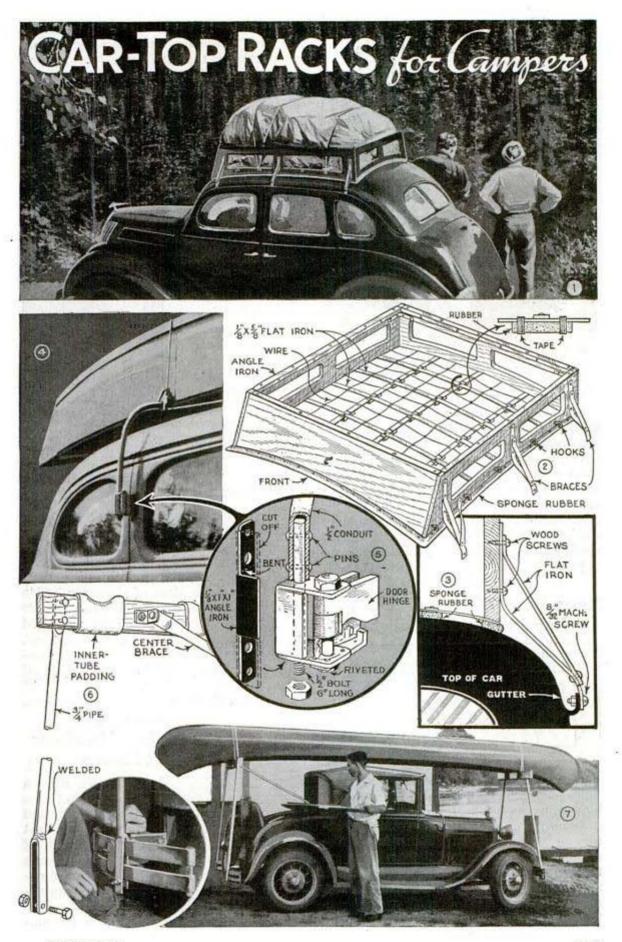
Mice Kept Out of Binder Canvas By Tar Paper in Roll

Mice that insist on living in your binder canvas can be discouraged of this habit by rolling a piece of tar paper up with the canvas before it is stored for winter. This is also a good



method to follow when storing tents or other canvas articles in a place where mice can get to them.

-Walter Krushel, Morden, Man., Can.

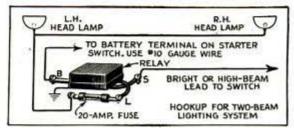


Portable Lamp Rests on Car Top And Directs Light Inside



For working inside a car, a mechanic in one garage uses a portable lamp which is supported by a weight resting on top of the car. The lamp is attached to a flexible shaft or conduit, which is in turn anchored in a concrete block. With this arrangement, the lamp can be moved or twisted about to direct a beam of light wherever needed. The block of concrete has sponge rubber on the bottom to prevent scratching the surface on which it is set.

Relay Installed in Electric Circuit Improves Old Headlights



Owners of cars not equipped with sealed-beam headlights can improve them by putting a relay in the electrical circuit to bring the current directly from the battery to the headlights. This makes it unnecessary for the current to travel through the wiring and connections of the switch and instrument panel, with the result that resistance is reduced. First, have the battery fully charged. Then remove both ca-

bles and clean the connections carefully. Be sure to remove and clean the ground connection at the car frame. Next replace any worn or oil-soaked wires. Remove the reflectors from the lamps and clean or replace them. While they are out, see that all connections inside the lamp housing are clean and tight. Then replace the reflectors and install the relay. Place it as close as possible to the headlights. Use full size wire to avoid a drop in voltage.

-W. B. Glancy, Goshen, Ohio.

Removal of Axle-Housing Cover Unnecessary to Repair Axle

When overhauling the differential
on cars that do not
have the axle
shafts locked inside the differential, it's unnecessary to spend time
removing the dif-



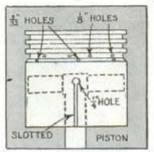
ferential cover. Instead, just pull the axles, and then remove the bolts and slip the differential carrier out from the front.

Cornstarch Aids in Waxing Car

I have found that a little cornstarch saves a lot of rubbing when waxing my car. After the entire surface has been thoroughly cleaned and wax is applied over a small area with a damp cloth in the usual way, dip a clean piece of cheesecloth into a box of dry cornstarch and rub it over the waxed surface. You'll be surprised how quickly the luster is brought out. Some white dust from the starch will remain on the car, but this can be wiped off when the job is finished.

—J. G. Schlichter, Memphis, Tenn.

Oil Pumping Reduced in Motor By Altering Pistons



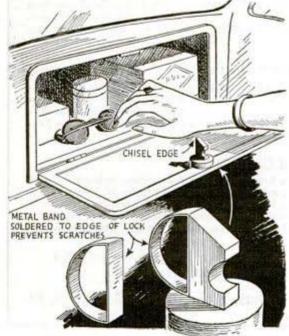
If you own a Ford V8 that uses oil excessively and do not feel that the condition of the car warrants the expense of repairing or replacing the motor, try altering the pis-

tons as shown. After removing the pistons and taking off the rings, clean the grooves carefully. Then enlarge the present holes under the oil rings to 1/8 in. and chamfer the bottoms of the oil-ring grooves. Now drill six 3/2-in, holes through the chamfered portion around each piston. Next, drill a 1/4-in. hole one side of the piston in line with the piston pin and then slot the piston skirt from the bottom to the hole with a hacksaw. This will give the piston enough natural expansion to keep it tight in the cylinder, yet not enough to score the cylinder wall. Install a set of good rings and you should reduce oil pumping to a minimum.

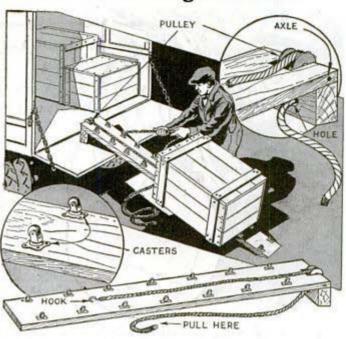
-James W. Clift, London, Ohio.

Glove-Compartment Latch Shielded to Protect The Clothing

After tearing his coat sleeve on the latch of his glove compartment when reaching into it, one motorist shielded the latch as shown to avoid this trouble. The shield is merely a piece of brass shaped as shown and soldered to the back of the latch. Installed as indicated, the shield will not interfere with the operation of the latch.



Castered Skid Loads Heavy Boxes on Truck Single-Handed



One truck driver who often had to load and unload heavy boxes single-handed used a skid like the one shown. It is nothing more than a heavy plank with two rows of trunk casters mounted near the edges of one side. In use, this is placed with one end on the tailgate and the other end on the ground. A rope passing over a pulley at the top of the skid is used to raise or lower the load.

Window-Raising Mechanism Oiled With Aid of a Wire

When the window-raising mechanism of my car needs lubricating, I do the job without removing the upholstering on the door. The upholstering is loosened at the bottom of the door enough



to insert a flashlight to illuminate the mechanism. Then the glass is lowered and a wire with a hook on the end is inserted between the glass and the window molding. Looking down this opening, the hooked end of the wire is slipped over the part to be lubricated, and oil is flowed down the wire.—W. C. Wilhite, Carlinville, Ill.

Glare From Rear-View Mirror Avoided With Shield



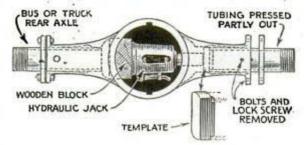
If lights of a car behind you reflect in your eyes from your rear-view mirror, a simple shield of colored celluloid slipped over the mirror will help stop the trouble. You can make the shield by first softening the celluloid in hot water and then shaping it. When not needed in the daytime, the shield can be removed from the mirror and carried in the glove compartment.

—Opie Read, Jr., Chicago.

Axle-Shaft Tubing Is Removed With Hydraulic Jack

In removing axle-shaft tubing of trucks and buses, I find that a hydraulic jack simplifies the job. After the differential and axles have been removed, a metal template is made to fit against the tube as shown to take the jack head. Then a wooden block shaped to fit inside the differential housing is made to take the base of the jack. With this setup, pressure can be applied with the jack against the inner end of the tube to force it out easily.

-Thomas L. Mino, Cincinnati, Ohio.



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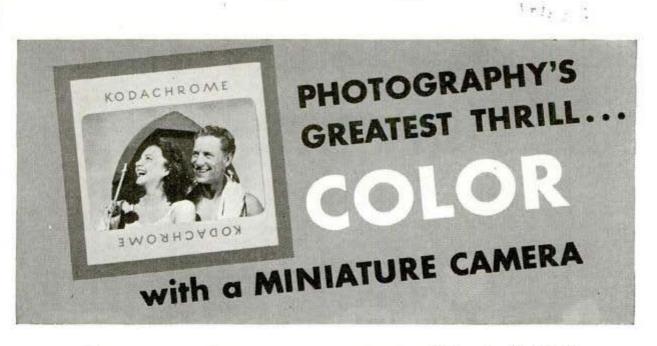
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Rainbow of Steel

(Continued from page 43)

erected the steel towers on top of the abutments and tied the top of each tower back to the massive concrete "deadmen" by means of 32 steel wire ropes 200 feet long and 1% inches in diameter. The steel skew-back shoes of the arch ribs are placed on the arch piers by means of derricks standing on each concrete approach just beneath the 130-foot steel tower, and the sections of steel rib about 45 feet long are built out successively from the skew-back shoes by these and other derricks operating two to a side.

As the various sections of steel rib are swung into position, by first one derrick above and another below, they are tied back from time to time by means of the steel cables attached to the forward ends of the section and fastened to the tops of the steel towers. In all, four sets of such tie-backs will be used to support each half of the arch.

When each half rib is in place complete. extending out 475 feet from its skew-back, the two halves of each rib will be closed by means of temporary keystone pieces, the tie-back cables slacked off and the temporary keystone pieces adjusted to correct position by means of heavy hydraulic jacks. The permanent keystone sections will follow.

After the completion of the arch ribs, it will be a fairly simple matter, by normal construction methods, to erect the remainder of the steelwork and place the concrete deck of the 1450-foot bridge with its 950foot arch.

The finished bridge will include a series of four concrete approach spans on each side of the arch span and a terminal for toll collection and customs and immigration inspection at each end. It will provide two 22-foot roadways separated by a fourfoot central mall and a 10-foot sidewalk along the south side, facing the falls. This walk will probably be called something like "Honeymoon Lane" or "The Wishing Walk."

Hon. T. B. McQuesten, K. C., who is Minister of Highways for Ontario and chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, is chairman of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, and C. Ellison Kaumeyer is secretary. Waddell and Hardesty of New York and the Edward P. Lupfer Corp. of Buffalo, N. Y., are the consulting engineers, while Waddell and Hardesty were the designing engineers.

Destruction Is Their Business

Another spectacular explosive is thermit, a mixture of iron oxide and finely divided aluminum. When ignited it produces an enormous heat and therefore makes excellent incendiary bombs. Warring nations claim great success with thermit mixed with sulphur as an incendiary bomb.

New air-compressor equipment has been developed for use of the demolition engineers. Tools included are an air drill, air saw, air shovel and pavement breaker. The drill and pavement breaker can penetrate the hardest concrete in a bridge or road; the saw will cut through strongest timber, whether it be a tree, road block or part of a bridge; the shovel removes debris with remarkable ease.

Several new methods for penetrating barbed wire entanglements have been developed. Wire cutting with torpedoes is fairly effective but it is too slow and requires too much manpower. A better system involves the use of chicken wire. Three-foot lengths are wrapped in heavy burlap, and when a section of barbed wire is encountered, explosion troops simply drop a number of these heavy mats on the wire and it falls harmlessly to the ground.

A new trench mortar promises to be ideal as a high-angle, short-range weapon to assist the advance of the infantry for meeting the "enemy" at close quarters. It concentrates fire on machine-gun areas which, because of irregularities of the terrain, cannot be reached by flat-trajectory weapons. Two main sizes are available in the new mortar-60 mm, and 81 mm.

Names and addresses listed in the index, page 4-A, show where to buy manufactured products described in this magazine. Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics.



DAISY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 546 UNION ST., PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN, U. S. A.

K1928

Trailer Blazing Through the African Jungles

(Continued from page 39)

replaceable instruments, a ruined pontoon, and a leg pulling from the whole colony.

With mixed feelings we arrive at the first break in the road, to find two scores of white people come from around the country to watch the show. Are we going to succeed, or are we courting disaster?



Introducing native to the magic of the electric light

My air of indifference is just for the benefit of the audience. Quietly I recommend that Charlie drive with his entire mind on the brake. I tell Jim to put the other trailer across the road, and the two cameramen to attach our strongest cable from the back of Charlie's trailer to the other; then to watch that our native boy lets the cable flow only as much as is strictly necessary. With my wife, I go where the leader must be—at the far end, where we may be tossed into crocodile-infested water.

I give the signal. The engine roars and the trailer begins to slide down the bank. Bang—the tractor's front wheels are on the two narrow planks uniting shore and pontoon, which begins to lift under our feet. Now the tractor's rear wheels are on the planks, and our canoe is almost entirely out of the water.

Careful, Charlie! More to the left! Slow!

The radiator is almost on me, yet the trailer's wheels have only begun to climb the planks. The wooden floor under us goes down, down. The front bumper arrives at the end of the platform.

Slow, Charlie. Only another foot to go. Heh! Stop!!

I mop the sweat, bend down to look at the trailer's wheels. They are just on the platform, though a good three feet of trailer sticks out in back.

"Wah! Wah!" exclaim our boys. The white people applaud.

"Funga! Funga!" we shout to the natives. I can relax a little, now. The pontoon moves, scrapes the river bed, tips ominously, steadies, begins to acquire speed. The problem is solved for this, and 64 more crossings—four trips each time.

"Ngufu, boys, ngufu!"

Here we are, behind the frontier but not so far from civilization, after all. For we have our own post office to supply stamp collectors' craving for rare covers. It is the home, too, of OQ5-ZZ, our short-wave station on which we talk with the "hams" of the world, especially our friends in the U. S. Our beam antenna starts from the top of this tree in the middle of camp, denuded of branches, with a platform built on for movie work.

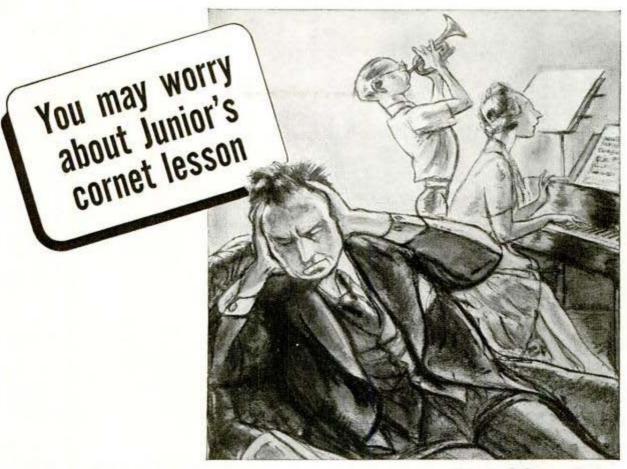
Behind the cab of each truck is a 110-volt power plant, 1,500-watts a.c. We need plenty of "juice" for cameras, drills, solderers, razors, the photo laboratory, spotlights, illumination everywhere. And for this single-wire fence encircling the camp, The transformer kicks up the voltage to 4,500. Anyone interested in it can inquire of the hippos, elephants, leopards which prowl around almost every night. Never the same ones, however. Once they try the shock of this wire they won't return.

Oh! And there is Dominick, lounging in his chair, doing nothing, saying nothing. Yet somehow he has become the trouble maker of the expedition.

A dangerous character? You bet! We'll discuss him further next month. Then, too, we must capture some Okapis; hunt with the pygmies; cross a wide river teeming with crocodiles, and face the charge of a hundred infuriated water buffaloes.

Until then, "Kwaheri!"

(Continued next month)



but here's one worry you can avoid

Junior's cornet blasts are jarring on the nerves and so are those first chassis squeaks that may tell of worn steering crank bearings, tie rods and king pins.

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CORTLAND, N. Y.

K 1453

Man's Robots of Metal

(Continued from page 69)

Since the "S.S. America" is the largest and fastest vessel ever built in this country it might be expected that the reducing gears would set some kind of a record for size. And so it is, for the main reduction gears are believed to be the largest ever built for ship use in this country, the low speed gear having a pitch diameter of 174 inches. Two of these gears transmit a total of 42,850 shaft horsepower to the propellers.

The six-foot plow manufactured to dig down deep through sand and turn up the rich peat soil beneath the surface of California farms probably has set a mark which will stand for some time. Three Caterpillar type Diesel tractors are required to pull the plow.

Another robot, a "pumpcrete," lines the interior of a tunnel with concrete. Ten of these placed 1,000,000 cubic yards of concrete in 91 miles of tunnels required by the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Demands of the national defense program have halted what appeared to be an extremely valuable survey intended to help decide a question as old as modern machine itself. The question is: does the machine increase or decrease employment?

The New York State Labor Department has prepared records covering a span of 26 years in an effort to determine whether factory employment figures would settle the question. Just now, the demand for skilled labor has become so great in the state that the statistical lines are heading right out of the tops of the charts.

During the 26 years, however, they did discover that the state factory labor employment index had declined 1.8 points per year. The survey also showed that average weekly earnings in factories rose from \$12.48 in 1914 to \$27.41 in 1939. And the average factory worker was able to purchase 40 percent more goods with his earnings in 1939 than in 1914, indicating a steady rise in the standard of living.

Since the money the workers were able to spend opened new opportunities in fields of endeavor such as service, trade, professional, etc., giving jobs to workers replaced by machines, the general conclusion is that man's robots of steel are contributing to the welfare of millions of people who have never seen a giant excavator or conveyor.





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X1431

How to Beat the Heat

(Continued from page 85)

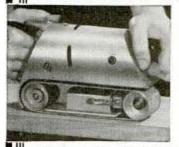
supply and a small pump, usually fandriven in the breeze of the main circulating fan, lifts water from the reservoir to the drip pipe along the top of the excelsior pad. Excess water dripping down through the pad returns to the reservoir for recirculation. Larger evaporative coolers which may be fitted into a window opening cost \$30 and up.

More expensive to operate than evaporative coolers but more satisfactory on sticky, muggy, days are ice coolers that employ a fan or blower to draw air up through a stack of broken ice and force the cooled air out into the room. A small amount of air moving through a large quantity of ice provides better cooling than does much air that is carried over a small supply. A column that contains 225 pounds of ice provides room comfort all day long.

Some degree of summer comfort is being built into many of the latest basement furnaces, especially those that use a blower fan for forced-air distribution and that have return air ducts for circulation. In the summer time, with the heat shut off, such an "air conditioning" furnace draws its fresh air through a basement duct from the north side of the house, passes it through an air cleaner, and by means of the blower fan distributes this air through the heating ducts to the different rooms. If yours is an older design of furnace. either coal, gas, or fuel-oil fired, a sheet metal contractor may be able to install a blower unit at nominal cost. If your heating system has return air ducts, all the windows of the house should be kept closed for best results; without such ducts several windows should be left partly open ? so that the air coming up through the registers can keep moving.

To make the best of it in hot weather you should wear light clothes, drink lots of cool but not ice-cold water, use a liberal amount of salt to replace the amount lost through perspiration, and stay where there is a circulation of air. Some of the new silent electric fans can be regulated to give a refreshing breeze without the bad effects of a draft. If you use any sort of cooler, keep room temperatures within 15 degrees of the outside temperature to avoid "entrance shock" when going in or out.

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CATCH FISH!

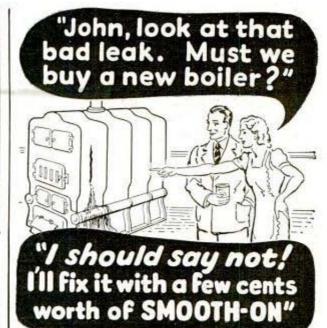
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X1269

Train Your Dog to Be a Gentleman

(Continued from page 75)

confuse it with "Lie down!" In this lesson the leash should be held so that there is little play in it. This will prevent the dog from moving backward or forward during the lesson.

When you say "Sit!", place your hand on the hind quarters in such a way that your fingers are on one side of the dog and your thumb on the other. This grip, resembling that of a pair of tongs, is very effective. By using it, the dog's hind quarters may be forced down without much effort. The average dog owner places his hand flat on the dog's back and tries to press the dog down by main force. This causes the dog to resist and spoils the whole lesson.

As the dog drops his hind quarters, keep his head up by means of the leash. In this way he will be forced to assume a sitting position. By this method the average dog can be taught to sit in a very few lessons.

Next the dog should be taught to lie down. The command for this may be either "Lie down!" or simply, "Down!"—but always use the same wording. Place the dog in a sitting position, and as you repeat the command, "Down," slowly but firmly pull his front paws forward. The paws should be held together in one hand. With the other hand hold down the dog's hind quarters, using the same "tong" grip employed in teaching the dog to sit.

The command "Stay!" is the next in importance. First teach the dog to stay in a sitting position; the command for this is "Sit-stay!" Next teach him to stay in a lying position. Naturally, the command for this is "Down-stay!"

To teach a dog to "stay," whether in lying or a sitting position, slowly walk around him, holding the leash in your hand. If the dog starts to move or get up, repeat the command "Sit!" or "Down!", follow it with the command "Stay!" and continue walking around him. After you have taught him this lesson, make sure he obeys it implicitly. A dog told to "Stay!" should remain until his master returns.

In teaching a dog to jump over obstacles, begin with a low hurdle. A box, provided it isn't too wide, will do nicely. First, lead the dog over it. Be sure you have the dog on a leash and that you step over the hurdle with him. Each time you come to the obstacle, repeat the command, "Over!"

After the dog becomes accustomed to jumping the obstacles along with you, bring him to it—still on the leash—repeat the command, but step around the obstacle rather than over it.

Next bring the dog to the hurdle—but not on the leash—and repeat, "Over!" If he doesn't jump, put him back on the leash. After the dog has been taught to jump the low hurdle alone, the height of the obstacle can be increased until the dog can make really formidable jumps.

Few dog owners know the proper way to open a dog's mouth. Usually they pry and struggle, pulling vainly at the stubborn jaws. There is a simple way to open the mouth. Take his muzzle in the tonglike grip and press your fingers into his mouth. Meanwhile, hold his head steady with the leash. His mouth will open readily.

Another problem is that of making dogs pick up metal objects. The dislike of picking up metal is natural on the part of the dog, as it is hard on his teeth. The best solution is to cover the object with something soft. This is well illustrated by a common motion-picture trick. A movie dog is often called upon to open doors. In such scenes the doorknob is covered with a tennis ball which has been painted to match the hardware. The dog readily grasps the ball, which it recognizes as a toy, and the knob is then turned from the other side by an assistant.

The rules given in this article are simple. They require no equipment. They can be taught to a dog by devoting 20 minutes a day to training. And the reward—a dog gentleman, a worthy member of society instead of an irresponsible animal whom you feed and house. Make your dog a gentleman and you'll know the true pleasure that can exist in companionship between man and dog.

Moreover, you won't be in the position of the man who came to Carl Spitz with the complaint: "I've taught my dog everything I know, and still he's a darn fool."

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Is Your Attic a Treasure Chest?

(Continued from page 95)

metals, iron, bone, ivory, porcelain, cloisonne, among other materials, and some are engraved with pictures of important scenes and persons. Campaign buttons and badges from past presidential campaigns are prized by some collectors.

Doll collecting is another popular hobby and antique dolls, both American and foreign, bring good prices. There are thousands of coin collectors who are eager to



Old lamp base like this is worth \$50 or more when wired for an electric lamp

look over coins and paper money that have been hidden away. The old silver trade dollars, issued in the 70's, are beginning to command premiums that no one would pay in the past. Some of the other things that collectors want are old disc and cylinder phonograph records, old stamps and post cards, old bottles, early circus posters, miniature tea sets and other miniatures, old maps, cigar bands, and old stereoscopic pictures.

It would be hard to mention an item for which there is not some demand although it is pretty difficult, by yourself, to determine the value of any one object. A reputable antique dealer will give you a fair estimate or will be able to refer you to someone who can appraise the old things that you dig up.



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Whipping the Whip Ray

(Continued from page 63)

ard rays are purple with white spots. Wicked, four-inch spines bristle close to the end of their tails. Lashing with its tail, the whip ray attempts to drive these spines into its enemy. These rays are sometimes called eagles because their heads are birdlike.

The tail serves as both defensive and offensive weapon. It's employed both as whip and rapier. The gray ray is armed with a single spine in the center of its tail. It thrusts this with deadly accuracy. Dr. Bowen has witnessed one strike a harpoon handle a foot out of the water. But it's the gray ray's whip that carries the dynamite. It's seven feet long and the end is thick as a man's arm, and can crush a skull when it strikes. It snaps like a shot from a gun and is just as fast. Once the thrashings of a gray ray's whip bolted Dr. Bowen from his boat and knocked Paul over.

Harpooning one whip ray on a trip is an adventure. Getting six in a single day is stupendous, yet that's what the Bowens did on a recent hunt. Each scaled around 200 pounds. Their biggest thrill, they say, was running into three rays at one time. Dr. Bowen gigged two and the third escaped. One of those gigged charged the boat's propeller, sheared off the gear pin and got away. The boat had to be towed in to shore.

Big as they are-100 to 500 poundsleopard rays are mere infants compared to the great horned manta of the Florida Keys. These mantas are truly the devilfish they are classified. Some weigh 3,500 pounds and stretch 25 feet across. A mere flip of a flipper will crush a fishing boat. Dr. Bowen and Paul are planning a manta hunt soon. They'll have a stout, high speed craft and equipment to match the cunning and the strength of these leviathans.

There's one ray Dr. Bowen doesn't care to cross. That's the torpedo ray that carries a load of storage batteries between its head and its pectoral fin. These high tension "Elasmobranchii" generate enough electric current to stun and severely shock fish or man.

See index, page 4-A, to find where to buy articles described in this magazine. Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics.



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Science Looks You in the Eye

(Continued from Coloroto Section)

images, may even cause cross eyes. The perplexing problem of deciding whether cross-eyes can be treated successfully has been solved by the development of a new testing device which determines in advance of treatment whether the eyes of cross-eyed persons can work together after they have been straightened by exercise or surgery.

The new instrument, announced by Dr. J. F. Neumueller, director of American Optical company's bureau of visual science, consists of a glass tube containing an electric wire. The current is switched on and as the wire glows the patient looks through one eye only at a red dot on the center of the tube. The tube is then turned from its horizontal position to a vertical position and the patient peers at the red spot through his other eye.

Then the light is turned off and the patient, both eyes now open, looks at a fairly bright wall. Soon he notices two dark lines, the negative after-images. If these two lines form a cross, his cross-eyes can be treated successfully. But if the two lines do not meet, chances of restoring binocular vision are remote.

Optical scientists have lately developed a unique device for developing and training proper coordination of eye muscles. An almost automatic mechanism, the stereo orthoptor forces the eye muscles to function correctly by means of a complicated arrangement of mirrors, lenses, lights and stereoscopic images. Cases of squint, or cross eyes, formerly corrected only by surgery, have been successfully treated by the stereo orthoptor. The instrument also trains the two eyes to function together after an eye operation.

Two new developments concern cataract operations which comprise approximately 25 percent of eye surgery and consist of extracting the diseased lens of the eye which makes it incapable of focusing. Optical scientists have designed special lenses to compensate for the missing lens and to restore sight. And greater efficiency in cataract operations has been made possible by the development of a magic lamp by Dr. Eliott B. Hague and American Optical Company scientists which projects ultraviolet light into the eyes and causes the crystalline lens to fluoresce. The lens be-

comes brilliantly visible and this insures total extraction of the remnants, which may cause trouble later.

Recently two instruments were introduced to assist in diagnosing and correcting defective reading habits. One, the ophthalmograph, is essentially a motion-picture camera which photographs light reflected from your eyes as you read. The resulting film, or reading graph, reveals, upon analysis, the nature of your reading habits, such as speed of reading, fixations, span of word recognition, and other data.

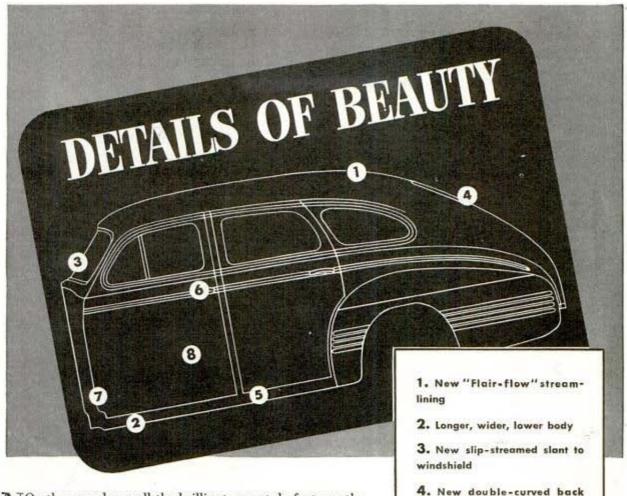
If the reading graph discloses defective reading habits, the etronoscope can be called into action. This instrument has three shutters in front which open and close in sequence, exposing words printed on a revolving reading roll. You are thereby forced to read correctly, for the operation of the instrument will not permit you to pause excessively long or to retrace in your reading. In addition, the roll can be speeded up, teaching you by degrees to increase your reading speed. Ophthalmograph reading graphs of over 5,000 subjects of all ages revealed that only 25 percent read with real efficiency.

One of the great scientific contributions to spectacle lens precision is the development of Tillyer lenses by Dr. E. D. Tillyer of the American Optical Company. Ordinary lenses vary in power from center to margin. Tillyer lenses are corrected for the full sweep of the human eye.

In a study of the causes of automobile accidents, Drs. J. B. Feldman and William Ezickson of Philadelphia, cooperating with Pennsylvania state police, examined for night blindness 75 drivers in 142 accidents. They found 48 percent of the drivers showed night blindness, 54 percent of the accidents occurred at night, and 62 percent of the night accidents occurred in the night blind group. Those suffering from night blindness require a longer interval of readjustment before they can see in the dark. The eye defect may be caused by a lack of vitamin A or by certain diseases.

In a new malingering test, light from an illuminated test chart first passes through a disk of Polaroid material. The person being tested looks through a pair of polarizing lenses, one vertical, one hori-

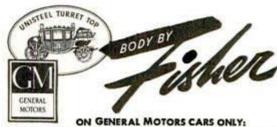
(Continued to page 178)



NO other cars have all the brilliant new style features the 1941 Unisteel Turret Top Body by Fisher provides. Some of these features are shown in the panel on the right as Fisher is '41's guide to better value"-which leads you, of course, to a General Motors car.

they apply to the Pontiae Torpedo Streamliner Eight Sedan. And even from this partial list, it's evident that no new styling job was ever more complete. Every detail has been made to conform with the new, more advanced streamlining of the entire body-from windshield to trunk back and roof to floor. So naturally, the word's going round that "Body by

"It's Another Big Year for Pontiac" - and a big reason, certainly, is its new Body by Fisher, pictured here on the 1941 Pontiac Torpedo Streamliner 8 Sedan. Sleeker yet roomier than ever, it has foam rubber seat pads, a larger loggage compartment, a 21/2" wider front seat.



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zontal. By rotating the first disk, the examiner can cut out the vision of either eye at will, so that the subject does not know with which eye he is seeing. It is thus impossible for him, if he is faking an injury in one eye, to give a reading which is consistent with the examiner's manipulation.

A normal person should be able to notice a moving object at an angle of almost 90 degrees while his eyes are fixed directly ahead. Anyone who fails in this test should think twice before driving an automobile or flying an airplane, because "tunnel" vision and accidents go hand in hand.

Latest scientific device for measuring accurately the entire field of vision is the perimeter. The perimetric test furnishes indications of great value in the diagnosis of certain eye and brain diseases. For example, the visual fields are an important guide in the diagnosis of glaucoma, serious eye disease.

Tennis Tips From a Champion Maker

(Continued from page 59)

feet behind the net. The space between these two positions is "no man's land." Stay out of it as much as possible. After a stroke, get back in position; a player out of position is forced to make too many difficult returns.

Now for the stroking. The first of three fundamentals of forehand or backhand is to turn your shoulders sideways to the ball and draw the racket back-straight backin time to allow a pause before starting the swing. Too many beginners wait until the bounce before getting ready. The second fundamental is to step into the shot. Shift your weight from back to front foot, feet parallel to the sidelines. Practicing this, you'll soon learn to hit with body weight, which steadies shots and adds power. Of course your feet won't always be in this position, because of the speed or angle of the oncoming shot, but in practice keep the position consistently. The third fundamental is to finish with the racket well up and slightly across the body; this holds the stroke in line and prevents the novice from poking at the ball. It is the surest way of keeping a consistent over-spun shot; practice it until the stroke is grooved. This one point kept Ellsworth Vines from being as consistent as Budge, for he was content to hit practically straight with a low finish, while Don's basic shot finished high.

With all Don's natural ambition, willingness to work and sound physical equipment, it took years of effort on the part of both of us to train his muscles so the reaction would always be the same under like conditions. Over and over I would demonstrate a point, and Don would make a perfect reproduction as long as he was shadow swinging, but the instant a ball was put in play he would revert to the form we were trying to change. Of course he kept at it until the new technique was mastered, but "why the length of time" continued to bother me, long after Don had become famous. One day the answer came, as I was coaching a pupil who kept up a running conversation as he persistently misstroked the ball. Finally my safety valve popped and I said: "Bill, you'd make faster progress if you would not try to think of two things at once."

I reflected that a pupil cannot concentrate on form if the ball is moving. From that reflection came my Tennis Stroke Developer—a simple mechanical device that does for tennis what the punching bag does for boxing and the tackling dummy for football. Two "captive" balls are held at variable heights for practice strokes, one high for overhead smashes and service, the other low for drives, chops, ground strokes and the rest of the gamut. The player can practice his pivots, footwork and strokes on this stationary ball until the form is correct without the necessity of timing. The difference between this and shadow swinging is that the player gets the feel of hitting the ball.

To practice the three fundamental steps of the stroke, stand a step away from the stationary ball. Practice first the pivot, then the step-in, then the finish. When this can be done with ease, practice running from various distances and angles until footwork and strokes have rhythm. There is no room for jerks and awkwardness; rhythm relaxes the player, creates confidence, increases power and control. Look at the picture of Budge, playing the approach shot in perfect balance, his left arm relaxed, denoting absolute confidence.

(Continued to page 181)

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X 462

(Continued from page 178)

The other strokes—the serve, smash and volley—can all be learned the same way, breaking them into parts until each motion becomes habit. The first motion of the serve, swinging your racket back and putting the ball up, is most important, for if the ball is placed straight above your head in the same place each time and your racket is back ready to hit, the stroke itself is rather simple. The main thing, after the toss is learned, is to spin the ball into the court. It will be time enough to learn a flat serve after this type of service has become steady.

For the smash or overhead shot, use the same stroke as for the serve. Hold your racket back early, go up for the ball and hit hard.

The volley should be learned by blocking the shot back with a slight cut. After this is achieved it is relatively easy to start stroking the ball.

In summing up, let me suggest that when trying to improve your game, take one stroke at a time and work on it until done to your satisfaction. Too many players practice all strokes and phases of the game at once, which usually ends in confusion and discouragement.

Tilden spent one entire winter on his backhand. I watched both Helen Wills and Helen Jacobs learn their game this way, one stroke at a time. I have taught this method for years.

To the average player who has been at it for years, perhaps, and has plenty of bad habits, the best advice is-don't be afraid to make changes. Study the forms and principles accepted as correct, then stay with them regardless of temporary difficulties and setbacks. Last year Sarah Palfrey Cooke changed her old soft game to a new forcing style. It took her most of the tournament season to forget the old and subconsciously direct the new style; she kept "trying to think of two things at once." Once this mental confusion is conquered and her arm and hand muscles respond habitually, relaxed, this little doubles champion will be hard to stop.

If you're really intent on putting your name high up on the challenge board, don't let discouragement stop you. Tilden, Riggs, McNeill and Budge didn't get there simply by banging the ball around the court. Work at it. Champions are made, not born.



HERE'S CONVENIENCE FOR UP-TO-DATE HOUSEHOLDERS

One of the inconveniences of running a house is the old-time fuse box in the basement. Modern householders hold up their hands and say "That's out" today.

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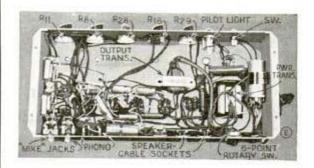
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Portable Amplifier

(Continued from page 137)

B, C, D and E show various views of the completed and thoroughly tested original model. The speakers are Jensen PM12-C type and are connected to the sockets on the back of the chassis with 30-ft, cables and 2-prong plugs. Operated from any 105 to 117-volt 50 to 60-cycle a.c. supply, this sound system will give excellent results; it also can be adapted easily for 25-cycle requirements by using a special power transformer which has a higher core stack and minor winding alterations, but fits the same cutout. The transformer used has 380 volts each side of center tap, at 170 ma.; rectifier filament winding 5 volts,



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When using two speakers in the same location, best results will be obtained if the speakers are properly phased. To do this simply place the system in operation with the speaker cones facing. Listen for a few minutes until the volume level becomes fixed in your mind. Now move the speakers apart so that the cones are not facing. If speakers are properly phased the volume will go up. If volume does not increase, reverse the plug on only one of the speakers and put a dab of red paint on the top of each plug so that there will be no difficulty in plugging them in correctly at all times. The blueprint number for this article is R-291.

(Continued to page 184)

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Want to be an ELECTRICIAN

See page 13A

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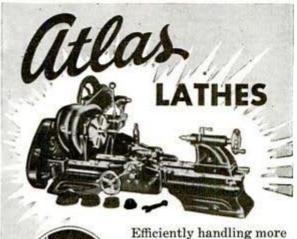


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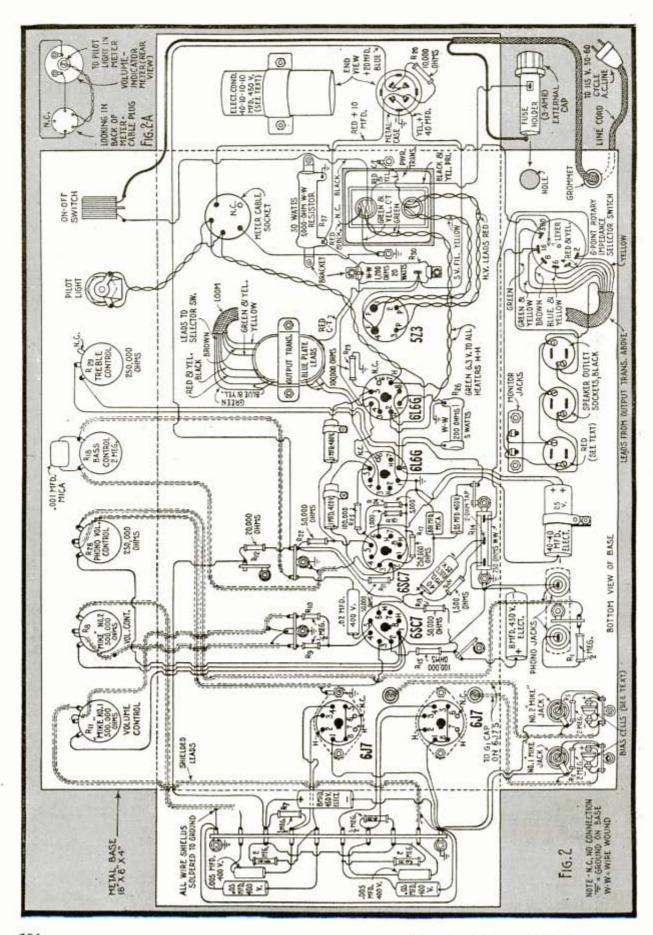




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Want to be a DRAFTSMAN

See page 13A

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Defying the Pacific in a Sailboat

(Continued from page 79)

around the top of the drawer. Into holes through the wood are fitted three-six-teenths-inch rods to hold the mulligan or coffee pot during stormy weather. If we want a one course dinner, we pull the drawer out eight inches; two courses, 16 inches; and for a special occasion, we pull it out 24 inches and light all three burners. A small oven made of two one-gallon cans works fine. In preparation for our voyage to Honolulu, we stowed 1,500 pounds of concentrated foods, fruit juices, spare gear and 18 gallons of water.

We obtained clearance papers from the customs house in Monterey. Hoisting our homemade folding anchor and stowing it and with our homemade eight-foot plywood dinghy folded and lashed to the cabin side, we began our adventure. With a light mainsail and working jib set, we were soon averaging six knots on a south-southwest course. Heavily loaded, our deck was only 13 inches above the water and we were continually wet.

Three hundred miles out from Monterey. on the morning of the fourth day, blue skies gave way to scudding inky-gray clouds, the rhythm of the sea grew faster and its impact sharper. At noon, a scattering of raindrops increased to a hail like buckshot. The first huge wave curled aboard. At 2:00 p.m., we took in all canvas and tried to heave to under our navy-type sea anchor which is a steel hoop 32 inches in diameter with a conical-shaped canvas bag tapering down to an eight-inch opening. But we found that instead of taking hold of our bow and keeping her headed into it as a tail holds a kite, Confucius was held wallowing in the trough; the worst thing that could happen. We hauled in the sea anchor and let out our homemade sea anchor, which consisted of two pieces of planks one by twelve by forty-six inches long; set at right angles to each other, leaving an opening of four inches between each board, the lower board ballasted with lead to keep an even keel. With chain bridle attached, we found it had an immediate steadying effect.

At last, hove to and with everything on deck well lashed, we hung on together in the cockpit dripping wet in spite of oil-

(Continued to page 189)



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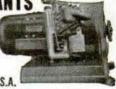
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(Continued from page 187)

skins, boots and sou'westers. For us to be among waves 20 to 30 feet high was to be in a world of wild valleys and toppling mountains, and the wind blew for 76 hours at a velocity of 50 to 60 miles per hour.

Finding it useless to stay on deck, we crawled into the cabin. Unable to cook, unable to sleep and unable to lie down, we braced ourselves and hung on. On the fourth day the seas subsided, the wind lessened and we dug out the mainsail and working jib. But we could make little progress because the wind had died away, almost to the vanishing point.

For making observations to get our bearings, we had a small sextant that Rosalie had made out of two small vanity mirrors, five pieces of hoop steel, a small 15 cent telescope and a wing screw. I used a tiny second-hand Boyce Mier. A large precision sextant is impractical on a small boat at sea due to rolling and banging. We used a second-hand five-inch compass which I had bought for \$5.00 and built into a weatherproof binnacle made of galvanized tin. For chronometer, we had three one-dollar watches set in a case hollowed out of two small pieces of old mahogany.

During the night of the twenty-third day, there was a murmuring that was almost a whisper on the water and a salt freshness in the air. At sunrise we welcomed the sight of great scudding trade clouds out of the northeast. Soon a fresh breeze sent us flying along, leaving a bubbling wake behind. Just before dusk, on our thirtieth day out, a long gray submarine appeared. We signaled for half an hour without receiving recognition.

For the remainder of the voyage, we averaged a broken stay daily, due to sudden squalls and constant rolling in the swells.

At midnight on our 46th day out, according to our navigation, we should have been 30 miles from the Island of Maui. At 12:30 p.m., the starboard stay snapped for the fifth time; having already used all of our 50 feet of spare cable, I made the spinnaker halyard fast to the chainplate and decided to come about and head straight for Kahului, Maui. And at daybreak, we saw Kahului just where we expected it to be. Carried ashore, we found the streets and houses apparently swaying, so we had to lie down for awhile, but we had made the first long jump in our tiny craft.

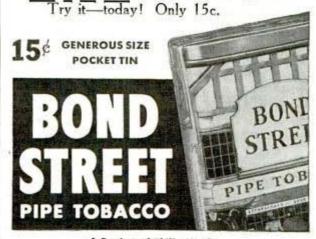


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K1358

Wonders of Under-Water Movies

(Continued from page 15)

Before each scene the actors are carefully rehearsed. If Perry is directing, he simply asks: "Ready all?" Cameraman nods, cast does likewise, they dive in and the "take" is made. Most scenes require 20 to 30 seconds; a few have taken twice as long. For instance, in the wedding scene of "Underwater Romance," it took the preacher, the bride and groom and congregation a minute and 15 seconds to file through the underwater church doorway. Perry's actors and actresses range in age from about 16 to 25. Three out of four are girls.

A good surface swimmer isn't necessarily a competent underwater swimmer. Perry would rather start with an average swimmer and teach her his methods than try to train a girl who has had quite a bit of surface swimming and imagines she's a topnotcher. Give him a good novice with sturdy heart and lungs, strong physique and a will to work and Perry is satisfied he can teach her the technique. A main requirement is that all the actors learn to hold their breath at least 45 seconds. With this in mind Perry teaches them to "bob"; that is, to take a mighty breath just before they submerge and then exhale vigorously. They're all called upon to do this 100 times in succession. For two weeks prior to making a picture they bob at least an hour and a half each day.

Next they learn a special stroke Perry has developed for underwater high jinks, a variation of the crawl that utilizes a trudgen kick, or four beats and one scissors kick.

All his girls learn to swim in unison as if they were ballet dancers. Each must learn to stay under water for at least a minute and swim under water at least 60 feet at a stretch. With a couple of weeks' training they're able to do this with considerable grace and ease. The training starts with surface dives, followed by underwater swims of 20 feet, gradually increased to 60 feet or more.

Perry insists none of his scenes are faked. In "Neptune's Daughters," one of the pupils in the undersea school (Perry's sister Aileen), wrote several lines on the blackboard. Many observers thought that scene was faked. It wasn't. She actually wrote the words on the blackboard while swimming submerged, though it did take considerable practice to make them legible.

Perry has had plenty of thrills. "I claim," he says, "to be the first swimmer in America to do fancy diving in a burning bathing suit. I did this for a Paramount News short. If the diver isn't careful the wind may whip the flames into his nose and lungs, which might prove fatal.

"Here's how I did the trick: first I put thin overalls over my bathing suit and sprinkled them with gasoline. Then, while perched on a springboard 30 feet high I set fire to the overalls and did a flip, or twoand-a-half. The stunt consumed only two seconds from the time I left the springboard until my body pierced the waves in a swan dive. I didn't even get scorched, but the fact that my eyebrows were singed was evidence of the close shave I had."

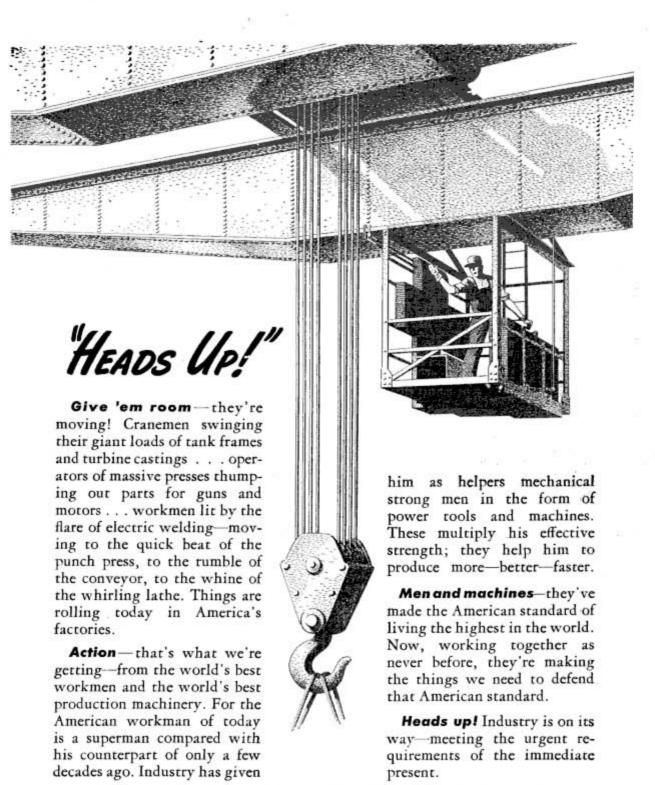
Perry had another thriller recently while making a safety movie with Elsie Davis, one of his pupils, for an automobile company.

"We were supposed to show how a person, after an accident, could break out of a 20-passenger bus lying on a river bottom," he said. "In one scene when we were 'trapped' in the bus, I was told to make the action look realistic. This wasn't difficult for actually we had a narrow escape. Several of the heavy seats were wedged against Elsie, due to a heavy current, and I had a tough time getting her free. The shooting of this scene took a minute and 45 seconds and I don't know to this day how I held my breath that long.

"While filming this same picture the cameraman was shooting a scene in which I was inside an automobile 20 feet below the surface. This was according to script, but when the doors jammed that was purely accidental. I tried to force them open but they wouldn't budge. Noticing my predicament the photographer signaled for Buddy Austin, a friend of mine who was on the bank.

"Meantime I failed to break the glass, and just as my breath seemed exhausted, Buddy placed one of his husky feet against one of the doors and forced it open."

¶Names and addresses listed in the index, page 4-A, show where to buy manufactured products described in this magazine. Say you saw it in Popular Mechanics.



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2340

America's "Sea" of Oil

(Continued from page 3)

produced by wells whose rate of flow, under a system of state regulation, is being held back. It is manufactured in refineries which are and have been operating substantially below capacity.

The petroleum industry has been called upon for continued expansion to meet growing needs in the past 20 years. Per capita consumption of oil is equivalent to eight barrels as against four. There are nearly 30,000,000 motor vehicles as against 3,000,000. There were 25,000 oil burners in homes and factories then, more than 1,500,-000 now. Consumption of heating oil is 100,000,000 barrels against 10,000,000. The tonnage of oil-burning ships is nearly 20 times that of 20 years ago. In the past 10 years the consumption of fuels and lubricants by aircraft has increased tenfold.

Increasing production for defense needs means less an expansion of existing facilities than operation of the present petroleum plants more nearly at capacity. Our petroleum industry, which is the largest and most efficient in the whole world, has discovered and now possesses more oil than any other country in the world. Annually it produces two-thirds of the world's supply. This nation has the happy advantage of being the only one in the world in which military, commercial and civilian needs for petroleum and its products simultaneously can be met, war or no war. More than 1,000,000,000 barrels of oil a year are being produced from 395,000 oil wells located in 23 of our states. There are thousands of oil fields in this country. Some 306 new fields were discovered in 1940 alone-more than in any prior year, and more than 1,200 have been found in five years. This country now has not only the largest petroleum reserve in the world, but in the past decade its petroleum industry actually has discovered more oil than it has produced. In the last six years the industry has found twice as much oil as the nation has consumed.

Crude oil is transformed into gasoline, lubricants, and thousands of other products in more than 550 refineries located in 35 states. In the field of transportation this industry utilizes every available medium, and itself operates more than 200,000 miles

(Continued to page 194)



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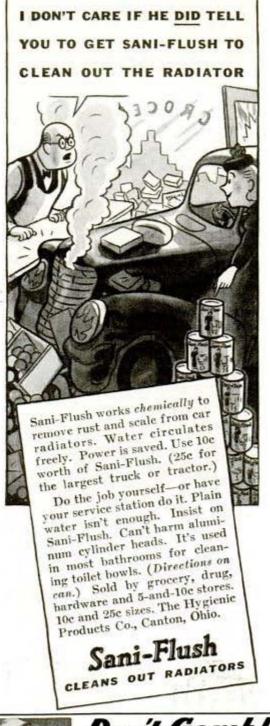
of pipe line, 140,000 railway tank cars, 75,000 highway tank trucks, and what probably now is the world's largest tankship fleet.

These operations, covering virtually the whole United States, are so decentralized that it would be a physical as well as a military impossibility to stop the industry's service of supply. Admittedly protection of stored products from bombing presents some difficulties. Yet while the industry's larger storage facilities are grouped near railway and waterway terminals, a large part of its storage is kept in widely separated bulk plants located at every sizable community throughout the country. This decentralization, an advantage to consumers in time of peace, becomes an important military asset. Just as motor vehicle operators can obtain fuel, lubricants, and service practically everywhere, so would military forces active in any section find supplies readily available.

While present warfare is different, with armies motorized, airplane fleets active, and navies more extensive, the petroleum industry has changed also. There are twice as many producing oil fields as in 1917, among them 250 with potential production above 20,000,000 barrels. Petroleum reserves are three times as large. There are twice as many refineries. Stocks and storage facilities are two to ten times as great. Marine transportation facilities are nearly 20 times as large, and those on land have been doubled. There are six times as many local storage plants, and 16 times as many retail outlets.

Remarkable progress has been made in operating techniques since 1917. Oil wells can be drilled five times as rapidly and two or three times as deeply. More than twice as much crude oil can be recovered from a field. The producing life of oil fields has been extended. Old fields can be, and are now being, restored to production. A doubled volume of refined products now is obtained from each barrel of crude oil. New refining processes unknown in 1917 and improvement in processes then employed make almost impossible a comparison of refinery efficiency between 1917 and 1941.

Developments in the field of aviation fuel provide means of measuring the progress of the petroleum industry. At least





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2340

five different processes for making superfuels for airplanes have been devised in the United States within the last few years. Already productive capacity is twice the demand, and will be ahead of demand at least for another year. These processes have given this nation not alone the largest but the only adequate available supply of super-fuels in the whole world. Within about the time it takes to build two battleships, and for even less cost, the industry's refinery capacity for producing superfuels can be doubled.

Wartime service means more to the petroleum industry than merely production of essential products. It means the delivery of those products when, where, and as needed. It means the continuation of service to the civilian population, so that people throughout the country can continue to own and operate their own motor vehicles, boats, planes, tractors, and stationary engines. It should mean much to morale, to human comfort and convenience, and even to success in war, for the citizenry to know that even in wartime the family car can be used with normal regularity.

Suppose the war period were prolonged; that actual demand for petroleum products and services exceeds estimates. Suppose this vast industry, now producing two-thirds of the world's annual output of oil, were forced to change from a routine to an emergency operating basis. Suppose the demands of war proved to be not merely a change of markets for the industry, but a real test of its capacity to produce.

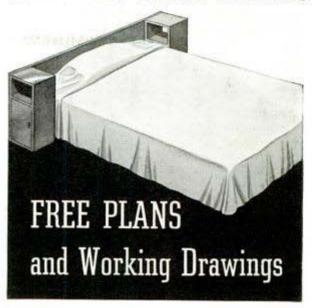
No great difficulties need be expected even under such emergency conditions. To increase the flow of the nation's oil wells would be a task only of hours. To increase the output of refineries generally would mean a stepping up of operations. So all along the line.

After the first World War, England's Lord Curzon said "the Allies floated to victory on a sea of oil." This was a tribute to the American petroleum industry's service in providing an abundant supply of petroleum products wherever they were needed by the Aliles.

Today the leaders of the industry are working with our government to make certain of the adequate production, protection, and delivery of defense petroleum supplies. To them the undertaking is a pa-

(Continued to page 197)

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(Continued from page 195)

triotic duty, yet more in the nature of meeting specific needs for which facilities are adequate than an emergency enterprise. In an industry which in 20 years has multiplied its production of gasoline nine times, its production of fuel oil three times, and its output of other products correspondingly, and which has been able to increase production of certain products by one-quarter to one-half in less than a year, the demands of defense occasion little worry to the military authorities or to the industry.

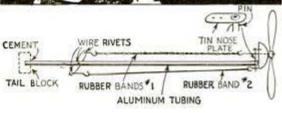
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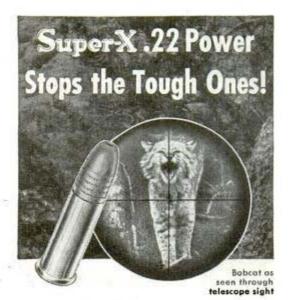
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(Continued from page 11)

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(Continued to page 201)



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1 2 208

(Continued from page 199)

the pass No. 100 pulls its long string and begins rolling downhill around the bends, the green lamps of the caboose only now and then sighted far back, across a horseshoe curve.

As the 20-mile "toboggan" starts, the engineer throws a lever. The generator fields reverse, drive wheels push against the motors, and-with somewhat the sensation and effect of driving your car down a mountain road in low gear-the reversed motors hold back the train.

Electric retarding brakes have long been used on locomotives drawing current from trolley or third rail; there the current generated by wheels turning motors can be poured back into the power line. In the Diesel-electric there is no reservoir of power. Something must be done to get rid of the generated current, so it is fed into grids in the roof of the power car and dissipated in the form of heat. In simple terms these grids are electric heaters. Fans blow the heat away through the roof.

Down the long hill from Supai the regenerative brakes hold back the 3,150-ton train pushing against the heavy locomotive. On a steep stretch it slips beyond the 20-mile-an-hour limit of the electric brake. Warning lights flash in the cab, and the engineer applies air brakes momentarily. But only momentarily; there is no stopping this time to cool air brake shoes and wheels that burn smoking hot on ordinary runs here. Usually a freight must stop three or four times in these 20 miles to cool brakes. When No. 100 does stop for wheel inspection, as required of freights every 75 miles, the steel is only warm to the touch. Costly wear and tear on shoes and wheels, and much time for inspection have been saved.

On its "premiere" trip No. 100 used its electric brake over 83 miles; in that time the electric brake absorbed 19,700 million footpounds-about one-tenth of all the energy used to move the train from Kansas City to the coast.

The old iron horse is a tough rival to beat, but the Diesel-electric is gaining. Last year in the United States 462 Dieselelectrics were ordered, and only 219 steam locomotives. Since 1935, manufacturers say no steam switch engines of 600 horsepower

(Continued to page 202)

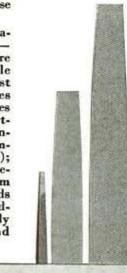


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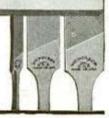




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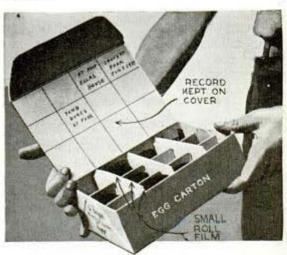
or more have been built; Diesels have preempted that field. The Diesel, available 95 percent of the time, can do nearly the work of two steam engines, which take more time for servicing. For a long time, Diesels cost three times as much as steam locomotives. But assembly-line production has cut prices.

Santa Fe No. 100—which, by the way, burned 6.05 gallons of furnace oil per mile on that first trip—pulled 3,150 tons of freight. Its twin once took hold of an 18,000-ton ore train in Minnesota and hauled it to town in eight hours where two big Mallet steam engines costing \$500,000 together spent twelve hours. The Diesel cost \$450,000.

After all, the worth of a locomotive is measured in ton-miles per year—and like old man river, the Diesel keeps on rolling; delivering the goods at speeds sure to squeeze hours, even days from the transcontinental freight schedule. With defense shipments swelling in volume, with perishable fruit and vegetables from California pouring eastward and aircraft engines and parts flowing westward in a steady stream, freight train speed is becoming ever more important. This may be the Diesel's opportunity.

Rolls of Film Filed in Egg Carton With Data Written on Lid

Twelve small rolls of film can be filed in a cardboard egg carton like the one illustrated. The inside of the lid can be ruled off in squares and information concerning each roll is written in a corresponding square.











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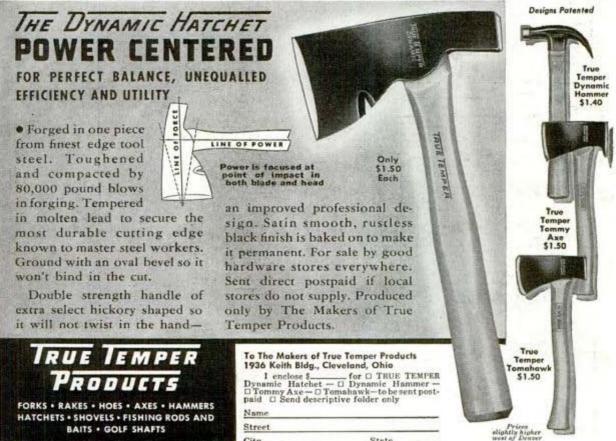
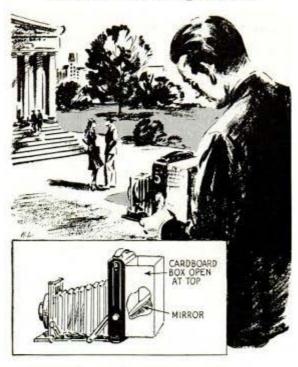


Plate Camera Reflex Attachment Focuses Low-Angle Shots



With this attachment on a plate camera, it is unnecessary for the photographer to assume an awkward position when focusing shots from a low view point. An opentop cardboard box is painted flat black on the inside and a mirror is set at a 45° angle inside the box. You can use cellulose tape for mounting the mirror in the box and for fastening the box to the camera.

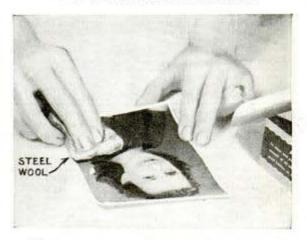
Improvised Stop for Timer

A stop for setting a darkroom timer at a predetermined number of minutes can be



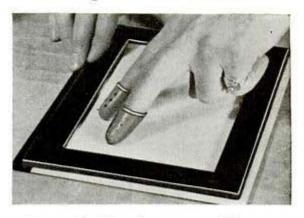
made from a thumbtack and a piece of adhesive tape. Press the tack through the tape from the adhesive side and stick the tape to the face of the timer.

Prints Rubbed With Steel Wool Are Given a Satin Finish



Glossy prints can be given a rich satin finish by rubbing them with steel wool. Use a fine grade of wool and work it lightly over the face of the print.

Rubber Tips on the Fingers Keep Marks Off Prints



A pair of rubber finger tips will keep you from getting finger prints on glossy paper while arranging it in your enlarging easel. The tips also are convenient in removing paper from the package.

—Bob Hurst, Chicago.

¶Photographic prints to be framed and hung on the wall of a home should be a trifle lighter than normal as interior illumination often is insufficient to bring out the print to advantage, especially when not viewed from a closeup position.



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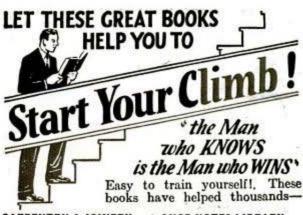
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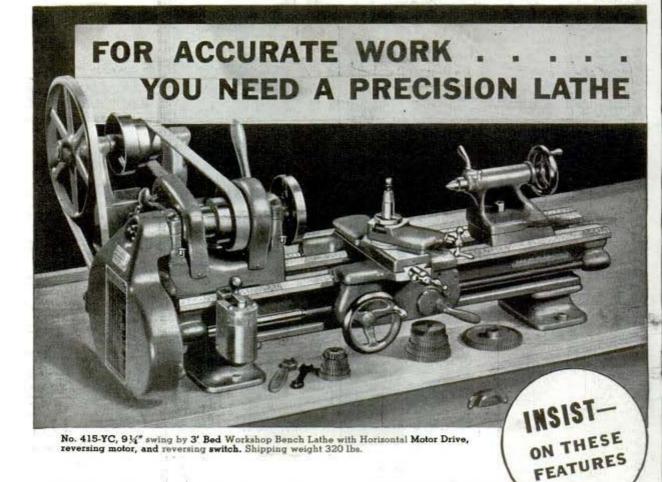
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