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NUMBER 3392

THE ORIGINAL
'DO-IT-YOURSELF'
MAGAZINE

HOBBIES *weekly*

FOR ALL
HOME CRAFTSMEN

Also in this issue:
SPECIAL ARTICLES
ON QUICKLY-
MADE CHRISTMAS
GIFTS — INCLUDING
PATTERNS FOR
CHILD'S NOVELTY
'JUMPING GYMBO'
AND A YACHT
FOR THE BATH TUB



*FREE Plan
for making . . .*

PENDANT BAROMETER AND THERMOMETER

**A FITMENT
TO GRACE
EVERY HOME**



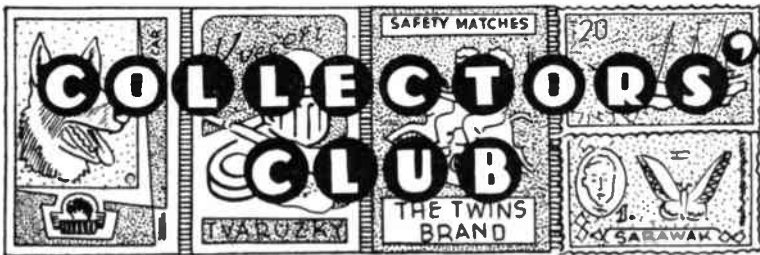
Up-to-the-minute ideas

Practical designs

Pleasing and profitable things to make

World Radio History

5^D



MANY stamps and labels are devoted to baths and bathing. Imagine a country where people have never taken baths. Explorers who have returned from Tibet have told of meeting Tibetans who had never had a bath in their lives.

At one time people took few baths unless they were advised to by a doctor. But most people through the ages have tried to keep clean in one way or another.

Bathing was a part of the religion of many ancient nations, particularly of the Egyptians and Hebrews. Water is scarce in the desert. But there's plenty of sand, which is made use of by Mohammedans many times a day.



The Romans built splendid baths. To a citizen of old Rome, the public bath was a pleasant place in which to read a book. At one time there were 850 public baths in that city. One of them could accommodate 18,000 people at once, and it had a large library.

The Greeks used herbs as a cleanser. Noblewomen of the eighteenth century took strange baths, which were supposed to make them more beautiful. Marie Antoinette bathed in donkey's milk, and Josephine, wife of Napoleon, bathed in strawberry juice.

Public tubs were wheeled through the streets of Paris in 1855, and one could 'rent' a tub for a quick dip.

Even today, some people have strange bathing habits. Some Finns take very hot baths, then roll around in the snow. Women in Turkey consider baths a social occasion, and spend an entire day at the baths.

Ever heard of soap growing on trees? In the West Indies grows a tree whose fruit makes an excellent lather, and is

used to wash clothes. The bark of a tree grown in Peru yields a fine soap. In California there is a plant whose bulbs are used in the wash tub just as we use

BATHS AND BATHING

soap. When these bulbs are rubbed on clothes a thick lather is obtained, which smells like that of new soap.

Soap and hair oil labels come in all shapes and sizes.

Indian soaps contain nature and film star cards.

Hair oil labels usually depict flowers. Collectors often include perfume labels in this group, because most scents are made from flowers.

Next time you take a dip, don't destroy the label from the bath-cube — mount it in your album on 'Baths and Bathing'.

A 'BLOTTER' HOBBY

MAYBE you have never paid much attention to a blotter. A great variety of these are manufactured, varying in size from small ones that can be tucked into a wallet to huge ones used on desks.

There are some which blot on both sides, others with cartoons, coloured pictures, or printing on one side. It is from the latter that an interesting hobby can be developed.

Lots of companies send out blotters with advertising circulars. Storing a blotter collection is no problem. A shoe-box will hold many, and they can be divided with markers, and indexed for easy reference. If you prefer, a ring binder may be used, and the blotters attached to the pages by means of gummed stamp hinges or sticky tape.

After your collection gets going, sort them out to decide your own goal. That is, are you simply after as many blotters as possible? Or would it please you

better to select blotters for their colours — perhaps arranging a wide variety of colours or shades on a large piece of board?

What about a set of blotters, one from every country throughout the world? Or one from every town in England? The possibilities are unlimited. Your friends will be glad to help you.

Remember, hobbies like this usually win blue ribbons at hobby shows.

Over 4,000 sets

Are you one of those hobbyists who collect a bit of everything? If so, write to MISS ALICE GAMMELL of Owl Ridge Farm, P.O. Box 73, Colrain, Mass., U.S. America.

'Among my many hobbies is old coverlet patterns, being the owner of one of the largest quilt pattern collections in the world', she writes. 'I have designed many newer and more modern designs, and have just completed a book on quilts and their making.'

'Secondly I have more than 4,000 salt and pepper shaker sets. Again, in this field, I have designed many designs. One which proved very popular as a novelty set was made from the common egg shell. I plan eventually to place these in a building for the public to view.'

'My third interest is playing card collecting, having more than 50,000 mounted in home-made albums. I would like to exchange with those who trade card for card, or would trade my entire seal and label collection for playing cards.'

Miss Gammell also collects stamps, coins, covers, etc.

MR F. J. BEDFORD has been collecting hotel labels for the past twelve years whilst travelling as a Travel Agency Courier. He has many labels for exchange. Write to: 36 Highbury Grove, Highbury, London N.5.

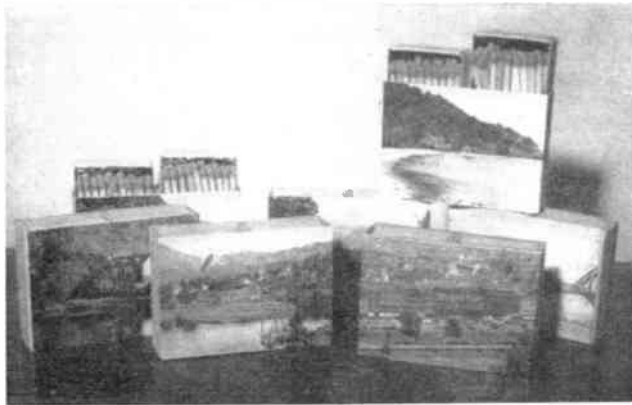
CAN WE HELP?

M R F. HALLOWS of 381 Bolton Road, Small Heath, Birmingham 10, writes:

'I make all the toys for my three sons and one daughter with the aid of a Gem fretmachine, and I like making most of all, buildings such as Swiss Chalets, Big Ben, the Musical Inn, etc. I find it really fascinating, and would be very grateful if any of your regular readers have any designs of buildings such as the Taj Mahal or Buckingham Palace, or literally anything in this line, which they could loan or sell or give me.'

If any reader can help Mr Hallows in his search, would they please get in touch with him direct.

Some Novel and Quickly-made Gifts



Souvenir matchboxes



A cut-out calendar

MANY novelty gifts can be prepared from photographs and here we have a few suggestions, all of which can be quickly made and will be very acceptable.

Perhaps the easiest of all is the calendar. This only requires a suitable picture,

a mount and a calendar tab, along with a piece of ribbon for a hanger. The mount should be of ample size in every case and as an example we would mention that plain, whole-plate mounting boards measuring $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. are suitable for quarter-plate pictures meas-

tint of the photograph must match the tint of the mount. In other words, if the picture has been made on white paper the mount must be white, while cream or ivory based papers must have similar treatment. Nothing looks worse than a cream based picture on a white mount



FIG. 1

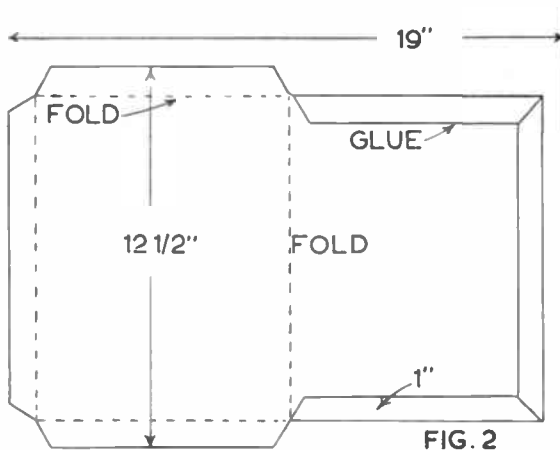


FIG. 2

uring $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. This permits a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. margin at the sides for a horizontal picture with sufficient space at the base for sticking on a calendar tab. If you decide to use half-plate pictures it is wiser to use a much larger mount, as for example a board measuring 10 in. by 8 in.

There are a few details to note when making these simple calendars. The base

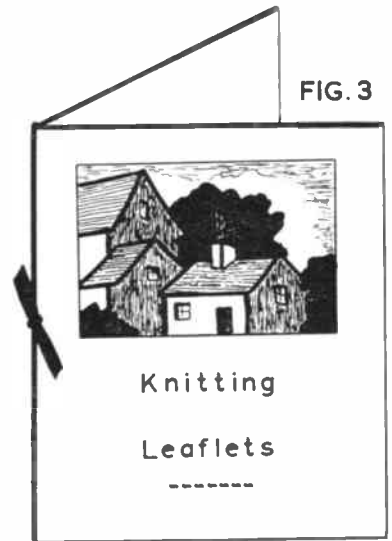


FIG. 3

and vice versa. We must also consider the colour of the calendar tab, which requires a little thought when buying.

Pictures must be mounted with equal margins at the sides and a short ribbon is attached to the back by means of paper

gumstrip to provide a hanger. And needless to say, it is essential to maintain cleanliness throughout.

If you care to take a little more trouble you may like to make a cut-out calendar as shown in the illustration. This type is usually more suitable for portraits. The idea is especially applicable for diving poses and may be either full length or head and shoulders only.

The method is to mount the picture on to a thin plywood base with a good adhesive and after cutting out with a fretsaw, smooth the edges with glass-paper. Make sure that the adhesive is dry before attempting to cut out the shape.

You may attach a hanger as before, add a leg for support like a picture frame, or a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. quadrant section may be glued at the base of the back. Finally a calendar tab is stuck on the picture itself. This type of calendar is usually welcomed by friends and relatives and well worth the trouble of preparation.

Other inexpensive gifts are souvenir matchboxes. For these you require two twopenny matchboxes, two pictures, some cardboard, and a little glue.

The two matchboxes are glued together with their abrasive sides outwards and while these are setting you may mount your pictures on thin cardboard. While we suggest the use of photographs for this purpose — either personal snapshots or views — overlapping foreign stamps look quite well if you happen to have a surplus. You may also use pictures cut from magazines if they are quite clean. Mount the pictures with a good adhesive, leaving until dry. The mounted pictures are now trimmed and glued on the outside of the paired boxes.

Other simple gifts to make are bookmarks, and once again the requirements are few. A small picture trimmed to approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 2 in. is mounted on a piece of thin card or imitation parchment prepared to the pattern shown in Fig. 1. You may add the lettering if

you are handy with a pen. Punch a hole in the top for a piece of ribbon. The bookmark itself should measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. overall.

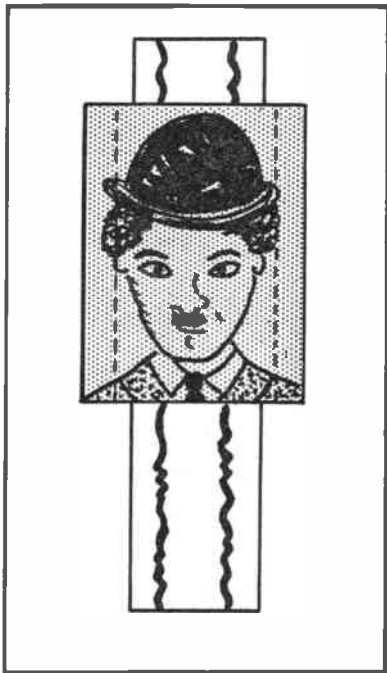
Another easy-to-make novelty is a binder for holding leaflets. An example of this type of gift is a binder for holding cookery recipes or knitting leaflets and is made from stiff pastel paper or imitation parchment. A piece of material measuring 19 in. by $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. is folded in half, the edges being turned over for 1 in. to add strength. This is shown in Fig. 2 along with details.

Decoration is again supplied by adding a photograph on the front cover and the necessary wording, which should be executed in Indian ink (Fig. 3). A piece of fancy cord is then tied around the spine for holding the leaflets.

Where we have specified the use of photographs you may use pictures cut from magazines or old books or even viewcards, while old calendars or greeting cards may be found useful. (S.H.L.)

A Toy with Roving Eyes

YOU can get lots of fun from this easily-made gadget. When you move the central tab up and down, the little man's eyes wander here and there, causing endless amusement.



You will need two plain white post-cards. From one, cut a quarter portion, and on it draw, as large as possible, a comical face. Cut out ovals for the eyes.

Now affix the drawing to the other plain card, in the position shown. It should be held with gum, applied only to a strip indicated between the dotted lines and the edge of the card. This leaves an unstuck central portion, through which the movable tab can operate.

Next, cut a strip from the card already cut, to make the movable tab. It should be of a width that allows it to slide easily up and down the space behind the drawing of the face.

It remains only to mark parallel, heavy, irregular lines, lengthways down the tab, so as to conform with the ovals of the eyes. When the tab is slid up and down, this irregular line shows through the cut-out eye pieces to give the effect of roving eyes.

Care is needed in drawing these lines. They should not be so irregular as to miss completely the eye holes in parts. To be sure this does not happen, first place the tab in position; let its top edge just pass the eye openings, and make two pencil dots on it, to the full width of the eyes. Repeat this process at the bottom of the tab. Then lightly draw pencil lines between these dots, and you have two sets of parallel lines, within which the irregular eye-line should be contained. (E.C.)

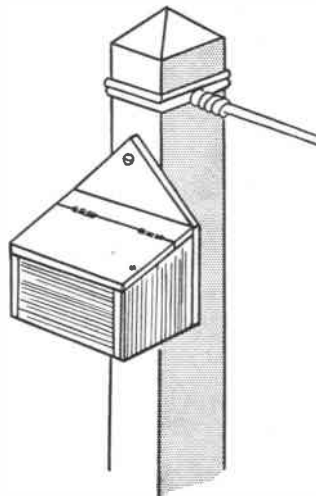
PEGS will always be at hand if they are stored in this little box shown in the illustration. It can be screwed permanently to the linen post in a position convenient to reach.

The box is made from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. or $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood, and is pinned and glued together. Use waterproof glue.

The overall size should be about 6 in. by 4 in., but this may be changed to suit wood available. The lid is divided and hinged, as indicated. The back is provided with a hole through which a round-headed screw is inserted into the post.

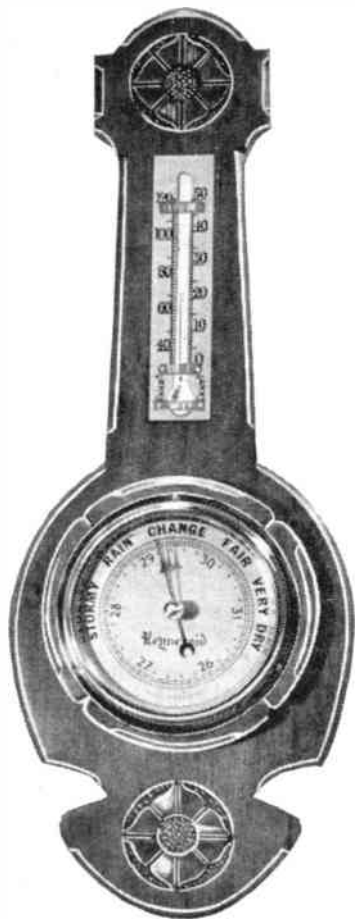
Clean up the box and give one undercoat and two top coats before fixing in position. (M.h.)

Clothes Peg Holder



Instructions for making . . .

BAROMETER AND THERMOMETER



A COMBINED barometer and thermometer is a worthy and desirable fitment for every home. Our photo shows such a project designed on very pleasing lines, which can be undertaken by the handyman with every confidence.

Care in adding the decorations and applying the finish is, of course, most necessary in a project of this nature, but as our photograph shows, the result will give every satisfaction for the care expended, and provide a really expensive-looking instrument. Designed for hanging on a wall, the fitment is 18 in. long, with a maximum width of 6½ in.

Alternative decorations

Three alternatives are given for adding the decorations from which workers can make their choice. Nos. 3 and 4 on the design sheet are suitable for cutting out as overlays and sticking to the back (piece 1) in the position indicated. Decoration No. 5 should be fretted from piece 1 with a fretsaw, and slightly

carved as indicated by the shading, while No. 6 has been designed for carving entirely.

The photograph shows our prototype, in which the decoration was obtained by carving. This was done quite easily with the appropriate tools. An X-acto 1001 general purpose knife, and a No. 5 knife using router C, were found quite adequate for the purpose. The background (shown by dots) was matted by using a blunted 4 in. wire nail which was tapped over the wood with a hammer, giving the necessary indentations.

Hobbies kit for making this design includes sufficient suitable hardwood and first-class instruments which are desirable for such a superior project. The efficient aneroid barometer has very clean lines, and is enclosed by a chromium plated casing, while the high grade thermometer gives fahrenheit and centigrade readings.

Marking on the wood

The design sheet shows all parts full size, but it will be noted that we have been forced to break the drawing for piece 1 into two parts in order to get it on the sheet. Piece 1 is, of course, cut from one piece of wood after the drawings have been joined up and the complete outline traced on to the wood. It should also be noted that the four pieces 2 are cut so as to show no end grain on the circumference, giving greater strength, and providing for a more satisfactory finish.

All parts should be traced and transferred to their appropriate thicknesses of wood by means of carbon paper as applicable, depending on the process to be used for adding the decorations. For instance, fretcutting will take place on piece 1 after the outline has been cut, and if working with overlays these will be cut out separately. It will be seen that ¾ in. wood has been suggested for the overlays, which will also be suitably carved down. Thinner wood of a contrasting shade might be used here, if available, or pearl acetate if preferred.

Glue the four pieces 2 together, so as to form a circle, but do not fix them to the back at this stage. Complete the carving or fretcutting as applicable, and chamfer all the edges, as indicated on the photograph. After cleaning up, the work can then be polished and assembled. Workers will use their own

You can make this elegant fitment from Hobbies Kit No. 3392, which includes all materials, barometer and thermometer. Kits from branches, etc., or post free from Hobbies Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk, price 61/-.

choice of finish, and in this instance varnishing can also be satisfactory. If overlays are being used these will also be finished before gluing in place.

The 'ring' (pieces 2) is now glued around the circle cut in piece 1, and secured with screws from the back. The wall hanger is laid flat on the back at the top, and its position marked. Drill and rout out the hole which will take the hanging screw before finally affixing the plate. Finally screw the barometer to the circle, and fix the thermometer in position, as shown, after gouging slightly to allow a snug fit for the bulb and top of the glass thermometer tube.

Hobbies Runabout 'Zip'



CONSIDERABLE interest was shown at the Do-it-Yourself Exhibition in London last September in Hobbies prototype runabout 'Zip'. Skinned with hardboard, this can be made up at very reasonable cost to give many pleasurable hours on the water. It is intended to be used with an outboard motor.

In view of the big interest in boating and projects of this nature, we shall be detailing the makeup of 'Zip' in issues of *Hobbies Weekly* commencing 4th January 1961. So make sure you order a regular copy of this magazine from your newsagent, as that is the only way of ensuring that you do not 'miss the boat'.

FESTIVE BOTTLE STOPPERS

GIVE a gay look to your bottles at party time this year by providing amusing stoppers in the form of cheerful peg top puppets. Once you have mastered the simple technique of making these charming novelties you will be able to enjoy hours of creative pleasure as you invent lively faces and bright costumes for your bottle top people.

Provide yourself with a supply of clean squash and wine bottle stoppers

and a quantity of well formed old fashioned 'dolly' pegs, which can be bought for about sixpence a dozen. Other materials you will need include paints, plastic insulated wire, coloured gummed paper, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long screws and some cotton scraps. Your 'tool kit' will comprise hammer, screwdriver, pliers, scissors, a drill, and a saw, and you can use balsa cement as an adhesive.

All the puppets are modelled upon an easily made basic form. Cut both legs off

head with pliers. Now drive the 'broken' top of the screw into the hole in the peg stub by gently tapping with a light hammer. Bore a small hole in the centre of the cork top.

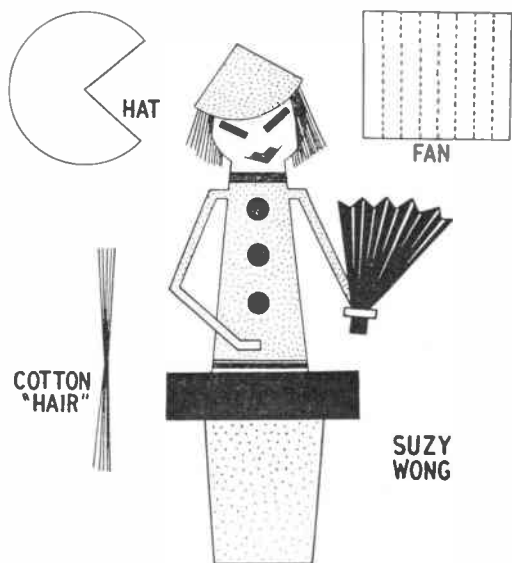
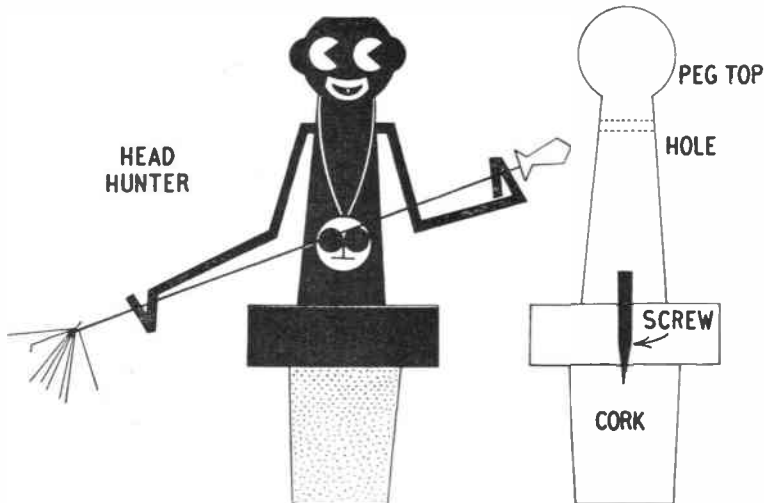
It will now be an easy matter to screw the stub firmly into the top of the cork. Paint your peg stub any colour you wish before securing it to the cork. A dab of balsa cement will render the fixture very firm. Insert a length of coloured plastic insulated wire through the hole in the shoulders and fashion this to your taste with pliers to resemble arms and hands. If you intend to make a sitting figure a second hole may be bored across the base of the body and a second length of wire may be inserted to make legs and feet. Alternatively, you can omit giving your figure arms, and later form your painted peg top into a bust or comic head only.

To inspire your own original efforts instructions for making two different puppets will be given here. The 'Head Hunter' will certainly entertain your guests and will be sure to start a light-hearted conversation going at your party. The peg stub and arms will be painted black and little black paper ears will look well if glued neatly to the sides of the head. The wide grinning mouth with a single 'canine tooth' is cut out of gummed coloured paper and stuck on to the face. The full negroid lips are bright red, and the tiny tooth is yellow. Cut out white eyes and small black pupils, and secure the parts in the appropriate places.

Cut out a little skull shape in white cardboard and mark upon it dark eye sockets and a gaping mouth, using Indian ink. Suspend this from a tiny loop of blue wool which is placed over the neck and glued into place.

Finally, fix a copper wire spear in the hands of the puppet. The shaped spear tip can be made by doubling over a piece of yellow gummed paper. Secure the two pieces, facing each other, in such a manner that they envelop the 'top' of the spear. Prepare a half dozen 1 in. long white cotton strands. Fold these in half and attach the whole bunch to the 'bottom' of the spear by bending over the end of the wire and pressing the little 'hook' tightly shut with pliers. Fluff out the cotton threads and your fierce puppet warrior will be ready for service, perched high upon a wine or lemonade bottle.

'Suzy Wong' is a pretty Oriental character who will appeal to the ladies. Paint her head and hands bright yellow and give her a gaily coloured high-necked dress. Glue on buttons made with



a dolly peg and bore a small hole across the 'shoulder' of the wooden stub. Work on the resulting 'head and body', using fine grade glass-paper, until the shape is satisfactory. Hold the stub upside down in a vice while you bore a small $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep hole into the flat base. While the stub remains in the vice fix one of the screws into the hole, using a screwdriver. Remove the screw and snip off the screw

● Continued on page 187

A strong folding Towel Rail

IN confined places it is often desirable to use a towel rail which can be folded back against a wall. Many of the commercially made ones are flimsy and unable to carry much weight, but a strong one can easily be made from odd pieces of wood, and two small brackets cut from $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. angle iron.

For the base, cut a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick plywood 6 in. long by 4 in. wide, and bevel the edges. Shape two brackets, as

shown, from a piece of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. angle iron, each 2 in. long. A piece of angle from an old iron bedstead will do quite well. Drill two $\frac{1}{8}$ in. holes in one side of each bracket, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hole in the shaped side $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the front edge.

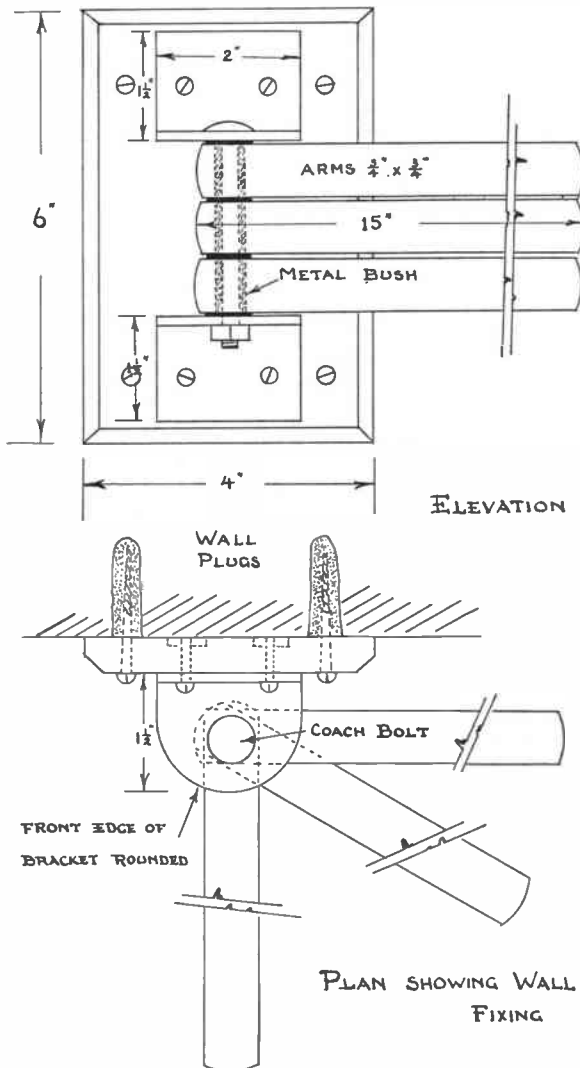
Fix the brackets to the plywood base with $\frac{3}{8}$ in. nuts and bolts. The nuts must be recessed into the wood, and the bolts cut off flush with the back of the wood base.

The arms are made from $\frac{3}{4}$ in. square

hardwood 15 in. long. Round off the ends, as shown, and glasspaper the sharp edges. Obtain a short length of metal tubing with an internal diameter of $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and make it fit over a 3 in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. coach bolt. A little filing may be necessary, but a smooth sliding fit is essential. Cut three lengths of this tubing, each $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, and bore a hole $\frac{5}{8}$ in. from the end of each arm. The diameter of these holes is the same as the outside diameter of the tubes, which must be a push fit into the wooden arms.

Square up the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hole in the top bracket so as to take the head of the coach bolt, and assemble the arms in position, using a thin washer between each of them. Bore four holes in the base to take No. 10 screws for wall fixing.

Paint all parts with a suitable primer, and follow with the undercoat. Finish with a hard gloss enamel. (C.F.)



● Continued from page 186

Bottle Stoppers

coloured paper. Bind together a bundle of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long black cotton threads and glue the middle of the bundle across the top of the puppet's head. Cover the top of the head with a yellow coolie hat made from a disc of gummed paper. Cut a segment out of the disc, then gum together the two edges to form a shallow cone. Provide simple black slanting eyes and full red lips for the figure by cutting these out of paper and secure these in place. Arrange the straight black hair attractively at the sides of the face. Complete the little doll by giving her a tiny fan fashioned by pleating a small piece of coloured paper, and pinching together the base. Fix this in Suzy's left hand. If you are very clever with your hands you will be able to decorate the fan with tiny bits of coloured paper.

Once you have made up Suzy and the Head Hunter you will be keen to produce a whole set of bottle top figures. Try making an 'Aunt Sally' with a doleful face, straight hair, and an elaborate paper hat. A miniature clergyman with diminutive spectacles upon his hooked nose and a paper 'bible' under his arm is possible, and youngsters will love quaint little goblin-like creatures with long ears and grinning faces sitting upon their corks and smoking long pipes made by bending up the ends of the pins with pliers. A small set of the figures will make a treasured Christmas gift. (A.E.W.)

JUMPING 'GYMBO



A FAVOURITE
WITH CHILDREN

THIS design for a 'Jumping Jack' (or as we have called him, a 'Jumping Gymbo') is the one which has brought much joy to many children in hospital. It is the pattern used by Mr George Reid of 3 Shaw Park Cottages, Ballingry, Fife, Scotland.

Readers may remember that earlier this year we carried a picture of Mr Reid and an account of how he employed his leisure hours in making all kinds of toys for sick children. He says his most popular model is this 'Jumping Jack'.

The principle of the toy we now feature is, of course, well known, a figure being fixed by cords through the hands to a pair of sticks and made to jump about in all kinds of attitudes by pressure on the lower ends of the sticks. This particular model is of robust construction and the various body parts are well proportioned so as to give a large variety of fantastic poses by the comic figure.

PIECE G. CUT ONE 1/8 IN.

PIECE E
CUT ONE
1/2 IN.

PIECE F. CUT ONE
1/2 IN.

ARMS & LEGS
PIVOTED WITH
WIRE

D CUT
O ONE
1/4 IN.

PIECES B. CUT TWO
1/8 IN.

A CUT ONE
1/8 IN.

A
PIVOTED
BETWEEN
PIECES
B & C

PIECES C. CUT TWO
1/8 IN.

STRING

TIE

BOTTOM OF
THIS ARM
FIXED TO
BASE

PAINT GAILY
BLUES - RED - YELLOW
& GREEN

OPERATE BY SQUEEZING BOTTOM OF ARM

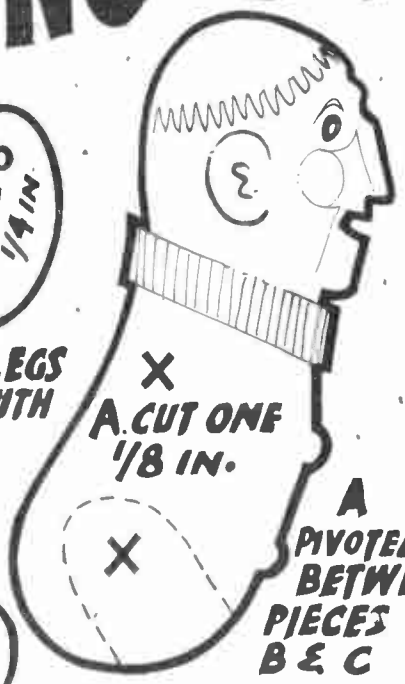
F

TRIPPING 'GYMBO

PIECE G. CUT ONE 1/8 IN.

PIECE E CUT ONE 1/2 IN.

PIECE F. CUT ONE 1/2 IN.



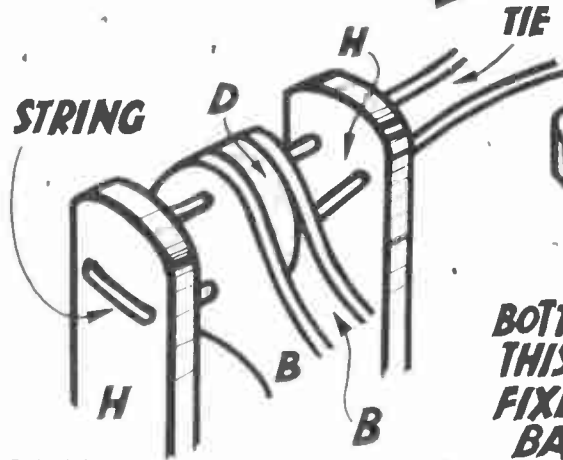
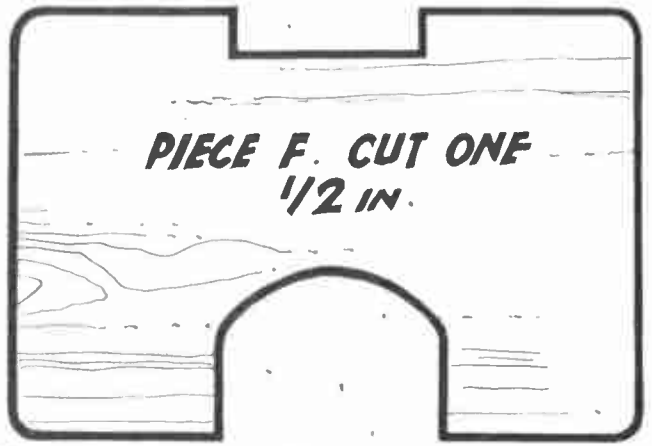
A PIVOTED BETWEEN PIECES B & C

X A. CUT ONE 1/8 IN.

D. CUT ONE 1/4 IN.

ARMS & LEGS PIVOTED WITH WIRE

X TWO 1/8 IN.



STRING

TIE

PAINT GAILY BLUES - RED - YELLOW & GREEN

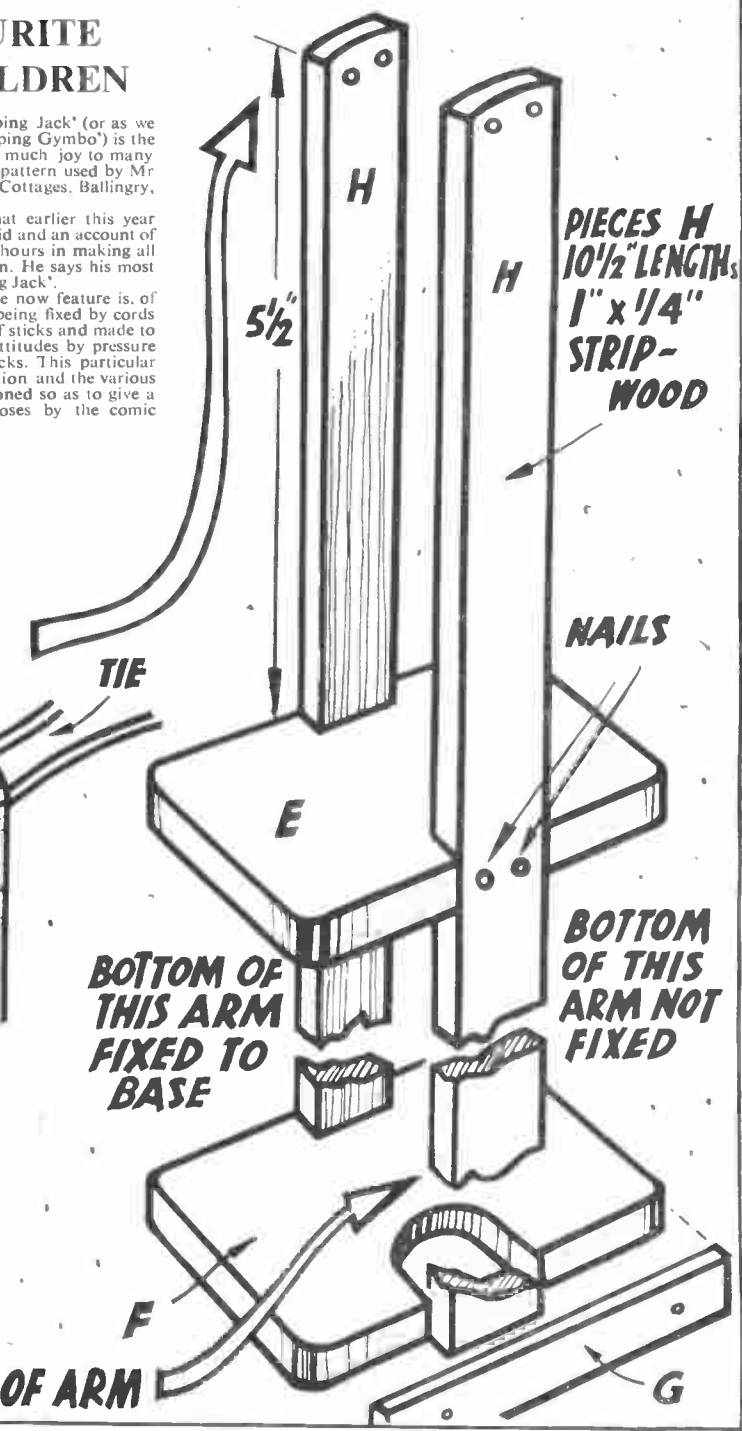
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PIECES H 10 1/2" LENGTHS 1" x 1/4" STRIP-WOOD

NAILS

BOTTOM OF THIS ARM FIXED TO BASE

BOTTOM OF THIS ARM NOT FIXED

A MODEL MULTI-STOREY GARAGE

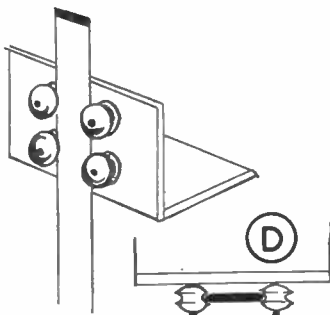
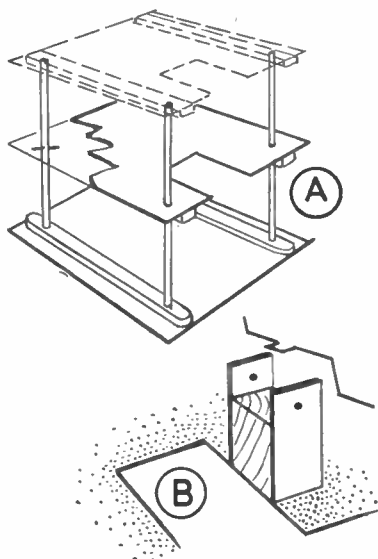
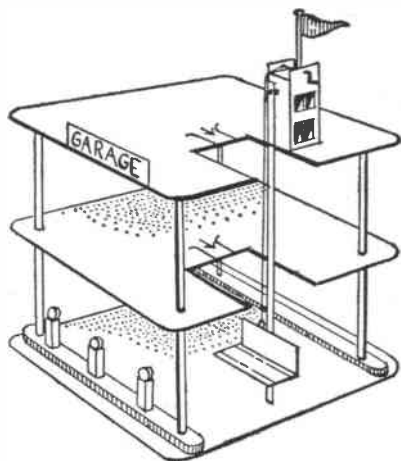
By A. Liston

A MULTI-STOREY garage, with a lift for cars, is easily made. The one shown here has two storeys, but more can be added if necessary.

Each floor is made from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. 3-ply wood. For a two-storey garage, three pieces of plywood are needed, each one 12 in. square. The corners should be rounded off, using a penny as a guide.

ing, and the first floor is slipped over the rods, flat side uppermost, and pushed down to rest on the projecting nails. It is fixed in position with a spot of glue at each rod.

Before the upper floor is put in place,



fits snugly between them D.

Next, the guide rod is fixed in position, after a small hole has been drilled in its upper end. The lower end is glued into a slot cut in the base, and the upper end is screwed to the block on the top floor, using small washers as a distance piece to let the pulley wheels clear the block as the lift reaches the top floor. The rod should be positioned so that the platform of the lift is as close to the upper floors as possible.

Raising the lift

Linon thread is used for raising the lift. One end is tied to a small eye screwed to the top of the lift, and the other is tied to a piece of stiff wire shaped as shown at B. This wire goes through the holes in the plywood strips fixed on the roof.

A plywood name-board can be glued to the roof, and a 6 in. piece of dowelling glued to the block on the roof as a flag-staff. Petrol pumps, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, are made from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square wood, with dowelling disc tops. Paint the garage grey and white, with white floor-marking guides and windows. Small details, such as petrol pumps, should be in bright colours.

Two 12 in. strips of 1 in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood are screwed to each piece of plywood, 1 in. in from each side. Two holes are then drilled in each strip, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from each end, to take the $\frac{5}{8}$ in. dowelling which supports the upper floors. The four holes in the first floor section only are drilled through the plywood also, so that the dowelling can pass through it.

Support columns

Four 9 in. lengths of $\frac{5}{8}$ in. dowelling form the supporting columns. A small hole is drilled horizontally through each rod, 4 in. from its lower end, and the dowelling is glued in position in the holes in the base.

A rectangle, 3 in. wide and 4 in. deep, is cut in the centre of one side of each of the upper floors A.

A nail, with the head removed, is pushed through each hole in the dowell-

a 3 in. high block of wood is screwed in place on one side of the cut-out section, flush with its edge. Two pieces of plywood, 1 in. wide and 4 in. high, are screwed to it as shown at B, and a hole drilled in each, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the top. The upper floor is then glued in place on top of the dowelling, again flat side uppermost. The cut-out sections in the upper floors should, of course, correspond.

The lift is made from two pieces of plywood, 2 in. wide and 4 in. long, glued together, as shown at C, and reinforced with a thin brass L bracket underneath.

The lift runs on a guide rail made from a 12 in. length of flat brass valance rod. Four small pulley wheels (grooved curtain runner wheels, or those from an old toy car with the tyres removed will do) are secured to the back plate of the lift with panel pins, so that the brass rod

Next week's issue will be a special pre-Christmas number in which we shall give you ideas for festive arrangements, including checking and fixing the fairy lights. 'Radio Mech' will also show how to make morse buzzers and oscillators.

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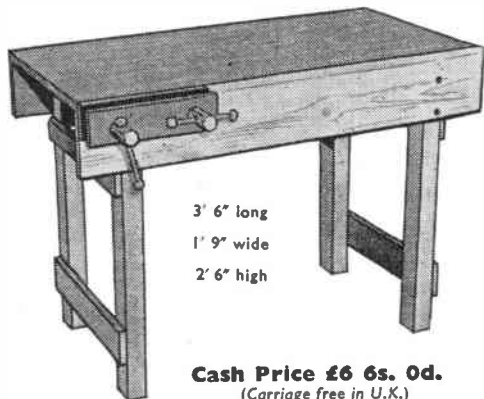
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MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE LAST FOR A FEW YEARS

WITH the price of Christmas trees becoming fancier every year, more people are trying to grow the one costly spruce from year to year. But it isn't easy unless you know how.

For one thing you must *buy* the tree with this object in mind because any tree will not settle into your back garden just by dumping it in a hole. And you must buy it at the right *time*.

Christmas trees for the trade are grown in all kinds of odd corners in Britain, from huge forests on sweeping hillsides to small estate plots specially selected for the purpose. They are cut or pulled during November to be in time for distribution the following month.

Since the first to be cut are the first to be sold, do not be in any hurry to buy a tree . . . the needles will begin to fall on the carpet and you will be left with a skeleton of thin branches.

When you do eventually go to choose a tree, however, it is useless to buy one without its own natural roots . . . it just won't make a go of it. The ones to really plump for, are the small firs which have obviously been grown in a nursery and lifted carefully by gardeners.

By W. Aitken

They have nice, tapered, brown roots which will 'dig in' easily to your plot-soil after Christmas with every chance of seeing through to next year.

But even the best-chosen tree will curl up its toes in no time indoors if neglected. Plant it in soil as near its original kind as possible, do not allow it to become over-heated (remember it has

grown in the open all its life) and make sure that the roots *never* dry out . . . keep them damp without making a puddle!

As soon as festivities are over, don't lose a moment in getting the tree into the garden . . . a day can make the difference between success and failure.

Unless the tree is planted in a sheltered spot it must be staked: remember not to put it near a window either. This sort of tree grows tall and spreads a lot once it gets going and may become an eyesore in front of the living room!

Should a frond or two become brown, don't panic. But if the whole thing suddenly changes colour, the game's up and you'll need to reach for your spade again.

Christmas trees were said to have been grown first in the Garden of Eden. You can have your own little paradise and have the pleasure of watching your tree grow for next Christmas.

An Intercom from Pigs' Bladders

YEARS ago you could walk into practically any butcher's shop, and be given a pig's bladder for the asking. They were great fun. Washed clean, inflated and tied like a balloon to the end of a stick, they made grand weapons for mock battles. They also made good Rugby balls, their oval shape lending themselves admirably to this sport.

Nowadays, you will probably have to visit six shops before you will be able to find a pig's bladder. But the search will be well worth while, for you can make a pair of intercom phones that really work. Plastic or cellophane bags have been tried as alternatives, with little success. It is some unknown quality in the pig's bladder that gives it a resonance capable of being carried.

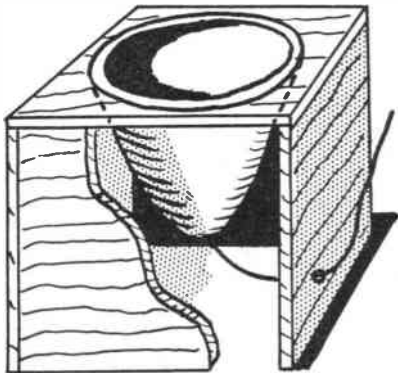
Having obtained a pair of bladders, cut off the top where they are tied as a balloon. Now trim them with scissors, so that they will fit tightly around the circumference of a suitable plate. It is intended merely to use this plate later as a template to mark out the circle to be cut into a box side, and into which the bladder will be housed.

Wash the bladder thoroughly with warm water to which a little disinfectant has been added. Next, make a suitable

cabinet, as illustrated, for the 'receiver'. A square plywood box is best. There is no lid to the cabinet.

By E. Capper

In operation, the cabinet is laid on a table or similar flat surface. In the top is



cut the circle which holds the receiver. Now use the plate to mark out the circle, and cut it with a keyhole or padsaw.

Next, inset the bladder, as shown, and with glue or adhesive tape, fit it around the circumference of the cut hole. If held with tintsacks the bladder edges should be reinforced with a layer of felt. What is important is that the bladder is sealed airtight around the hole.

When the damp bladder dries it will go quite stiff. To keep it a nice cone shape, place some weights in it whilst it is drying.

Thin copper wire is used for the transmission between receivers. There should be no break in its length, but if you have to join two lengths, seal the join with solder. A twisted-wire joint is not satisfactory.

The end of the wire should be pushed through the cone bottom of the bladder, a small circle made of the wire-end, and held to the bladder with adhesive tape.

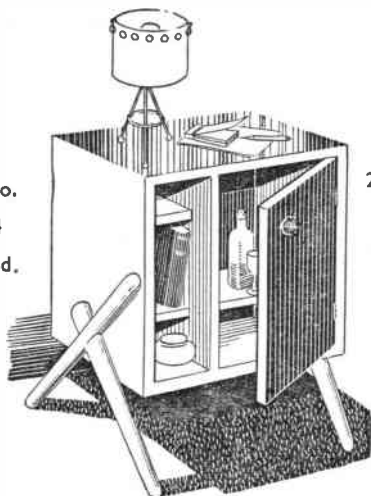
The receivers should work loud and clear up to a distance of 50 yards, and are an ideal intercom between top-of-garden workshops and the house. To operate, place your mouth as near as possible to the bladder, and speak into it.



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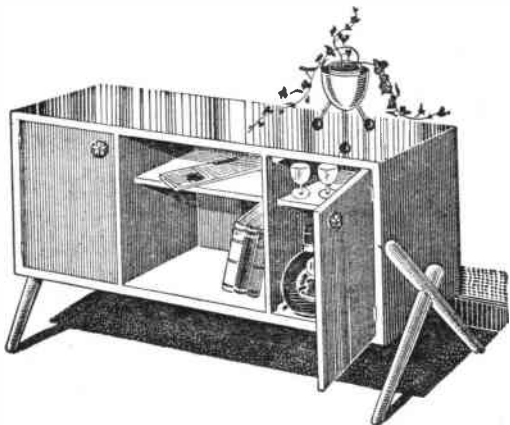
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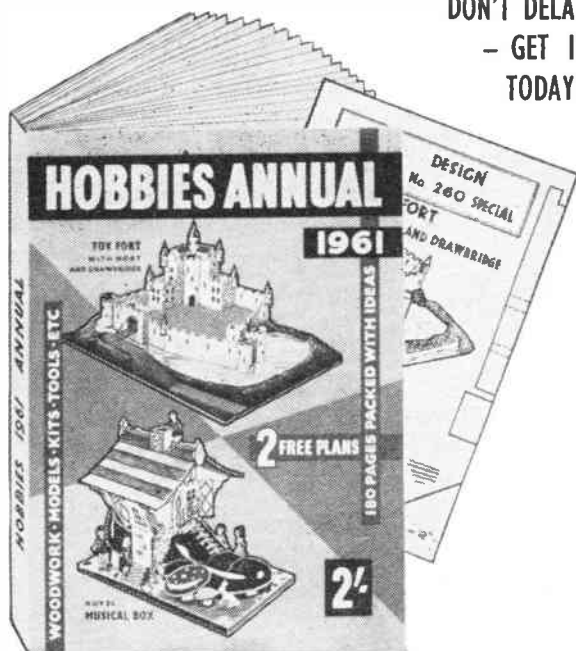
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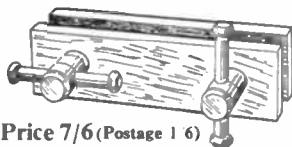
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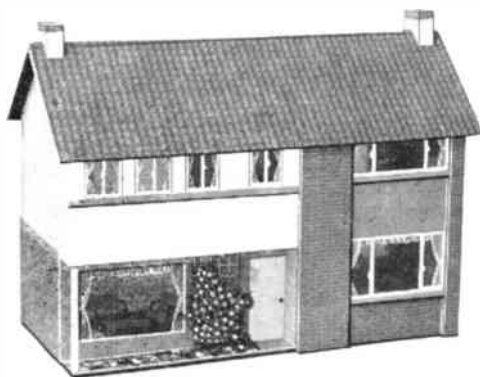
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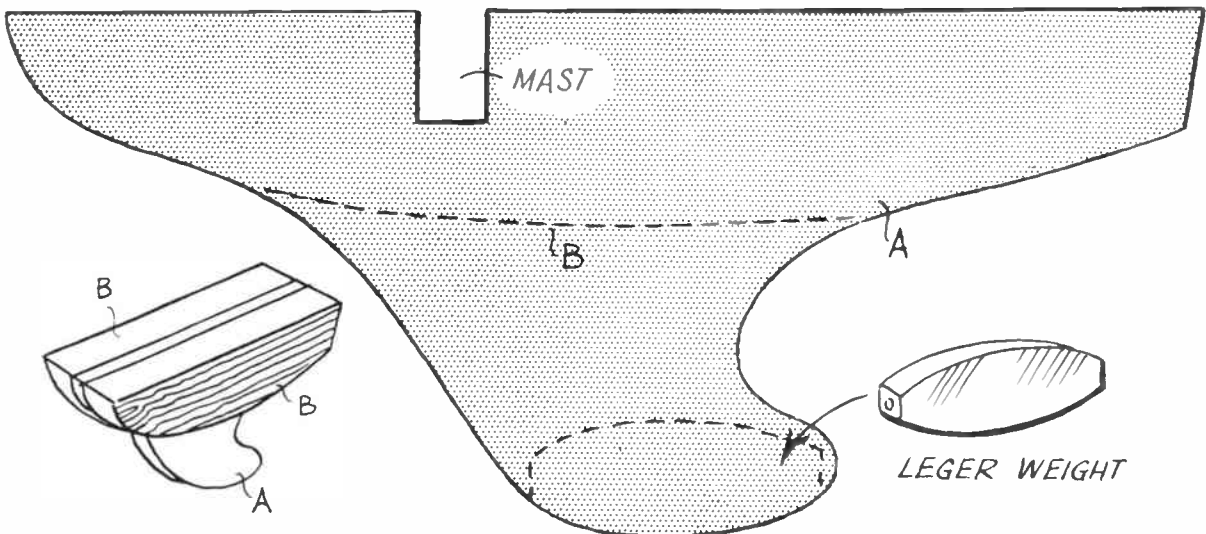
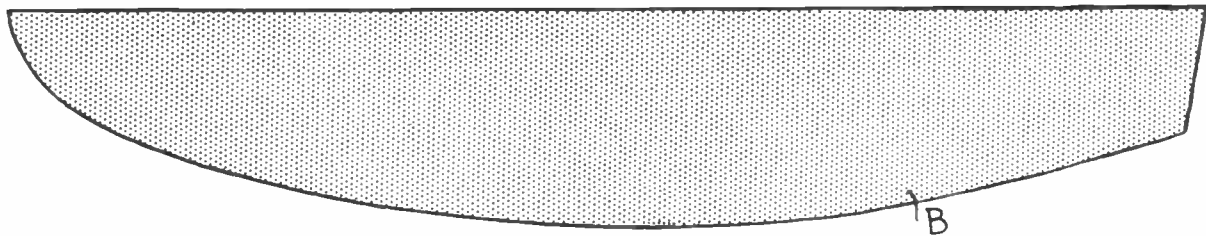
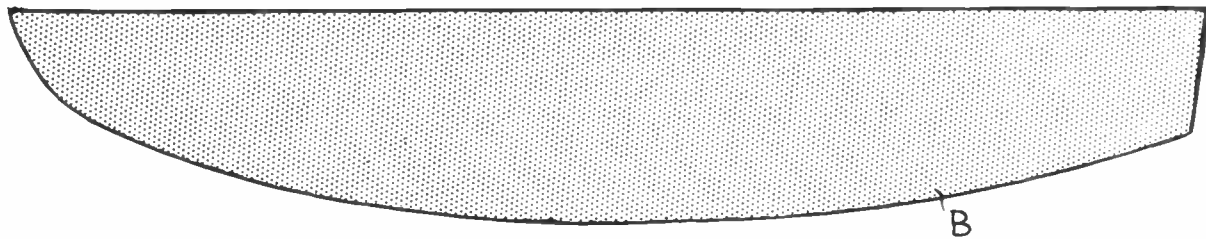
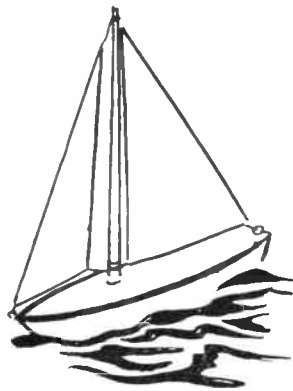
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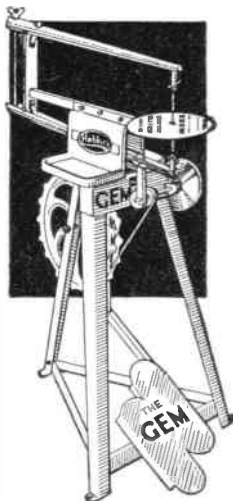
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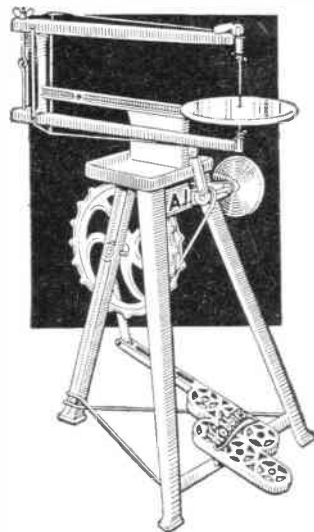
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