

30th MARCH 1960

VOL 129

NUMBER 3355

THE ORIGINAL
'DO-IT-YOURSELF'
MAGAZINE

HOBBIES *weekly*

FOR ALL
HOME CRAFTSMEN

Also in this issue:

DOLL'S HOUSE
FIREPLACES

APRIL HINTS
FOR GARDENERS

COLLECTORS' CLUB



* YOUR FRETWORK *
* PROJECT IS ON *
* page 471 *

ROOFING WITH
ASBESTOS

A.B.C. OF SPRING
CLEANING

NOVELTY AND
MODEL PROJECTS

ETC. ETC. For the

modern kitchen ...
CABINET UNIT

Full
instructions
for making
**A BABY'S
BASKET**



Up-to-the-minute ideas

Practical designs

Pleasing and profitable things to make

World Radio History

5^p



MR D. M. SEATE of 36 MacDonald Street, Timaru, South Canterbury, New Zealand, has sent the Health stamps (illustrated). Two native birds are shown. The Tete or Grey Teal appears on the 2d. and 1d., and the Poaka or Pied Stilt on the 3d. and 1d. values.

HEALTH STAMPS

This popular series, which has been issued annually since 1929, was based on the Christmas seal system which has been adopted by many countries. Originally the proceeds from the surcharge were intended for the upkeep of sanatoria and for other health purposes, and the stamps were inscribed 'Charity'. However, as the funds were being used for the maintenance of camps where children were receiving remedial treatment, this term was not truly descriptive of the objects of the stamps. So, in 1932 and all subsequent issues, the inscription was changed to 'Health'.

The Health Camp Movement in New Zealand which started at Turakina, near



Wanganui, has become an important factor in promoting children's health.

Everyone interested in stamps has some knowledge of the red and blue boys which were the two values in the 1931 set. Prominence has been given to this set because it was issued at the height of

a world-wide financial depression and, consequently, sales were small. In later years, when the popularity of the Health stamps was established, it was found that the demand for the 'Boys' was greater than the supply, and prices began to soar.

The 1938 stamp showing children at play is of some interest, as one of the children is shown as being left-handed. Actually this is a composite design taken from two photographs of the same child.

But because of the difficulty in obtaining a suitable pose to fit the design, the photographic negative was reversed, and so the child appears to be winding the engine with his left hand.

If you need a New Zealand pen friend, write to Mr Seate.

THE MONTH OF APRIL

THE word April has many suggested derivations. The most likely one is from Aphrodite, the Greek name for Venus, for the first of April was consecrated by the Romans to Venus (shown, on the Greek 1937, 80 lepta stamp) 'the goddess of love and beauty'.

Symbol for the month is a young girl robed in green, and wearing a wreath of myrtle and hawthorn buds, holding in one hand primroses and violets (on Austrian stamp of 1948, 10 groschen), and in the other the zodiacal sign of Taurus the Bull.

The first day of the month is 'April Fool Day'. In France, the 'fools' are called *Poissons d'Avril* (April Fish). In Scotland the custom is known as 'hunting the gowk'.

Franklin D. Roosevelt died on 12th April 1945. Several countries besides America have issued stamps and labels to commemorate the President.

Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21st April 1926. A pleasing reminder of the

Royal occasion is the 1953 stamp of New Zealand, depicting Her Majesty on horseback in military dress.

The famous Mutiny on the 'Bounty' took place on 28th April 1789. On Pitcairn Island stamps of 1940 you will see Christian of the 'Bounty', also Lt. Bligh, and the 'Bounty'.

This month sees the end of the Association Football season. Two racing classics are run, the Two Thousand and the One Thousand Guineas.

'Stamps: Bolivia 1951, 1 Boliviano 40 cent — Football. Same issue, airmail 20 cent shows Horse-jumping'.

 ★ Readers are reminded that all ★
 ★ correspondence relating to collect- ★
 ★ ing hobbies must be addressed to ★
 ★ the Editor, Hobbies Weekly, Dere- ★
 ★ ham, Norfolk, accompanied by ★
 ★ stamp for return and reply coupon ★
 ★ cut from page 471. ★



Illustrated on front page

MAKING A BABY'S BASKET

THIS is a worthwhile project for the young married family man. Baby's nappies, powder, safety-pins, brushes, etc. can all be kept together ready to hand when required, in this neat basket. It is light and easily moved, and does not present any difficulty in construction. It can be made with a minimum of tools, and at a low cost. Since the wood is not thicker than 1 in., it can all be cut with a fretsaw.

The materials you require are one piece $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. square for the base, one strip of wood 6 ft. by 1 in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for the legs, two blocks of wood 6 in. by 2 in. by 1 in., 15 ft. of thin cane,

and a quantity of thin reeding.

Commence by cutting the four legs 18 in. long, as indicated in Fig. 1, but do not as yet cut the slope on the ends. Now scribe a 13 in. circle on the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood base, and cut out with a fretsaw. Glue the 6 in. blocks on the underside, as seen in Fig. 2. The legs are screwed to the sides of the 6 in. blocks, and they must, therefore, be spaced 6 in. overall at the top (Fig. 3). Splay them to about 12 in. at the bottom, and secure with a screw. The slope on the ends of the legs is now determined and cut. Screw and glue the legs in position. If you think that the legs need any further strengthen-

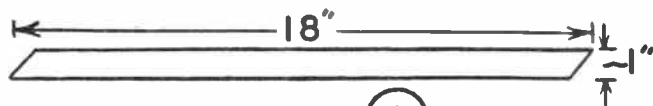
ing, two cross braces of 1 in. by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wood may be added, as shown in the finished picture. If the screwing and gluing have been carried out carefully, this will not normally be necessary.

Round the edge of the base, space out forty holes, to be drilled to a depth of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ in. If you make a depth gauge, as shown below, the drilling will be done accurately. The holes will be approximately 1 in. apart, and will be drilled to take the thin cane.

Cut the cane into twenty pieces 9 in. long, and glue into the holes around the edge. As shown in Fig. 4, the ends are spaced four holes apart. Thus the first piece goes in holes 1 and 4, the second piece in 3 and 6, carrying on right round the circumference. The reeding is now interwoven round the framework, ending approximately threequarters of the way up the canes.

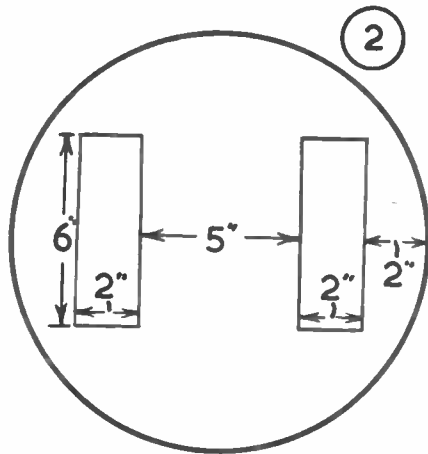
Finish off by smoothing with fine glasspaper, and painting in a pastel shade such as pink, or pale blue. Apply coloured transfers to the inside of the basket, and attach small rubber feet.

(M.h.)



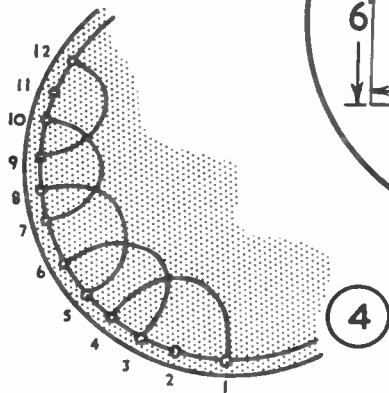
THE LEG

①



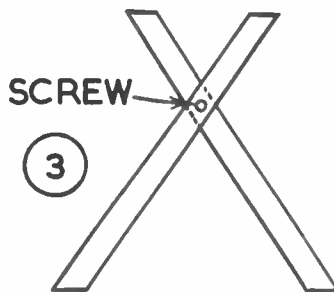
THE TOP

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STAGES IN CONSTRUCTION

④



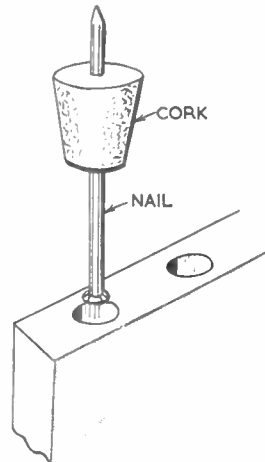
SCREW

③

A DEPTH GAUGE FOR DOWELLING

THIS easily adjustable dowelling gauge is made from a wire nail and a cork. Place the cork in a vice, and drill with a $\frac{1}{16}$ in. or $\frac{1}{8}$ in. bit, then drive the nail through. A 4 in. nail will be long enough for most jobs. If the nail is a tight fit, it can be moved as required and yet be tight enough to remain in position. Keep it with your drill bits and it will always be ready for use.

(M.h.)



EXPERIMENTS WITH A SIPHON

FILL a long rubber tube with water, place a finger over each end, then dip one end under water in a bucket. Remove your finger from under the water. Drape the other end of the tube over the side of the bucket in such a manner that the still covered end of the tube is well below the level of the water within. When you take away your finger, water will begin to flow out of the bucket, via the tube. You will have made a siphon, one of the simplest pieces of scientific apparatus, and yet an article of many uses.

The principle of the siphon is not hard to understand. The weight of the water in the exit arm of the tube causes it to fall, in response to gravity, and at the same time the water tries to leave a vacuum in the tube. However, the force of atmospheric pressure does not permit a vacuum to be formed, and constantly pushes more of the water into the siphon tube. The action will continue until all of the water above the mouth of the tube, inside the bucket, has flowed away.

From a 4 ft. length of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter glass tubing you will be able to make a special type of siphon with which you

can perform several unusual experiments. Heat the glass tube in a hot bunsen flame about 3 in. from one end, whilst rotating the glass between the fingers of both hands. It will be convenient if you let the heavier end of the

By A. E. Ward

tube rest upon a pile of books while you do this. When the glass is red hot and soft, remove it from the flame, and gently pull apart the glass, to form a narrow constriction. Let the glass harden and cool. Use a sharp-edged file to make a nick in the constriction, and break the glass, to form a narrow 'jet'.

Heat the glass about 6 in. below the jet, and wait until it is soft before bending it around, to form a shape like a walking stick handle, with the jet pointing away from the line of the glass stick at 45°. In the same way bend over the other end of the tube in the opposite direction, and bend it downwards so that it is parallel with the 'stick' in the same plane.

When you bend the tubing be most careful to obtain graceful curves, and to avoid sharp angles. The diagram will make these instructions clear. Finally, cut across the end of a 1 in. length of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter rubber tubing, to form a sharp lip, and then fit this little rubber tube upon the un-narrowed end of the glass tube, as illustrated.

Stand a jar of water upon a stool, above the level of the kitchen sink, and start your siphon working as follows. Hang the apparatus over the edge of the jar, so that the rubber lip is immersed in the water and the jet hangs over the sink. Now suck through the lower part of the tube until the water starts to flow. Cease sucking, and let the water continue to flow down from the jar by siphon action. The water will leave the jet tube as a little arched fountain.

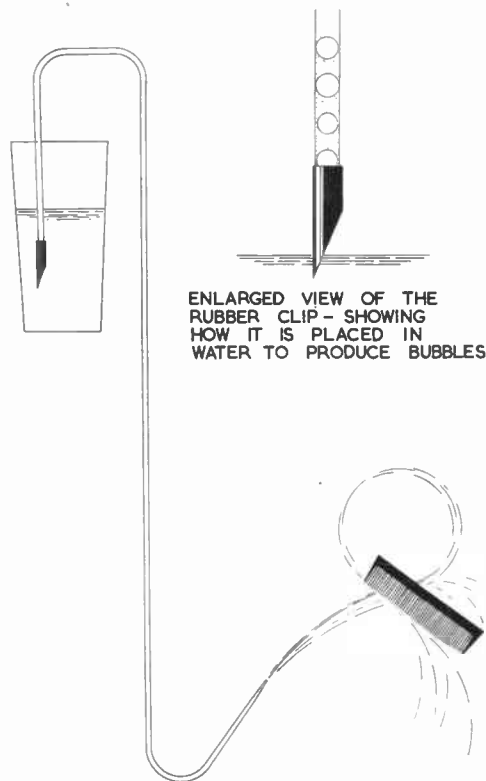
Static electricity will explain the uncanny result of the first experiment. Whilst the fountain is playing, run a comb through your hair a few times, and hold it near the spraying water. Minute droplets of water will be attracted by the negative electric charge you have induced upon the comb, and the comb will be enveloped by swirling spirals of superfine spray. When you hold the electrified comb near the highest point of the fountain, the divergent streams of water will be united, and fall as a single flow. If you place a piece of stiff paper beneath the falling water, you will notice the different sound made by the descending drops when the comb is held near the fountain. Your hair and hand must be quite dry when you use the comb. If you wish, instead of the comb, you may use a vulcanite rod or a stick of sealing wax.

Start the siphon flowing again, then carefully raise the glass tube until the rubber lip is half-way out of the water. Bubbles of air will be drawn alternately into the tube with small quantities of water. The effect is most attractive when a constant procession of bubbles passes down the siphon, and the prettiness can be greatly enhanced if you colour the water with ink or a few crystals of permanganate of potash.

A third experiment will illustrate the action of the hydraulic ram. Whilst the siphon is flowing raise the rubber lip above the level of the water, and let an 8 in. column of air enter the glass tube. Lower the lip back into the water, and watch the air pass slowly down the tube as the siphon continues to function. When the air reaches the exit it will be expelled with considerable violence, and some of the water which follows will attain the same velocity and be projected high into the air. You will be well advised to perform this experiment where the sudden rush of water can do no harm.

'TAPE-SPONDING'

WE have received a letter from 22557519 Cpl. Edwards, L. C., A.C.C. Att. H.Q. Squadron, 24 Signals Regt., Gaza Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorks., concerning an unusual hobby in which he is interested. This is called 'tape-sponding', and entails corresponding by tape, the tape in this instance being that from a recording machine. Cpl. Edwards collects sound effects of all kinds on tape, and would like to obtain some from other countries on an exchange basis. We presume Cpl. Edwards is thinking on the lines of bird calls, etc, and any reader interested should write to him direct.



HOBBYING IN LAKELAND

NEVER before have we, the great British public, been subjected to such an intensive barrage of publicity in the press, on television, and through our letterboxes persuading us, exhorting us, or otherwise prevailing upon us to take our annual vacation on this or that sunny beach, on this or that picturesque coast, in such and such a country's wonderful climes. This epidemic of 'holidayitis' with its particular emphasis on *travel abroad* may simply reflect the nation's prosperity, or more probably it may be aimed at those who, in the opinion of the travel agencies, have 'never had it so good'.

By G. Allen

Much of this high-pressure inducement may well irritate the true 'hobbyist' — the level-headed practical and creative man — for he knows from experience that real pleasure and happiness come 'from within', largely by his own imaginative and often unique efforts. Even at holiday times he is not likely to be influenced by blatant advertising; rather is he likely to find a congenial spot within our own islands (spots which, he will tell you, the holidays-abroad-brigade don't even trouble to explore), where he can exercise his individualism hand-in-hand with his own pet hobby.

Moreover, away from the crowded holiday resorts with their attendant crush, clamour, and commercialism,



Ramblers



Anglers on Rydal Water

there is in the British countryside that atmosphere of calm leisurely life which so few of us experience these days, and in this atmosphere the hobbyist can often find *new* sports and pastimes to add to his enjoyment.

That, at least, is my own conviction after spending many happy holidays in Britain's own glorious Lake District, so if *you* are on the look-out for something similar this summer, let us see what Lakeland has to offer to the man with a hobby.

Immediately you reach Windermere village, and travel along the Lake Road towards Ambleside, one of the gateways to the Lakes, and an admirable 'focal point' for the visitor, the scope for hobby number one comes into sharp focus — that of photography — particularly colour photography.

A feast of colour

Almost at every turn in a road or along a mountain path there is an exquisite picture; from a rugged fell looking towards a valley or from lake and river looking in every direction there are scenes to capture the imagination and the camera's eye. Colour and variety of subject-matter abound everywhere and these qualities, coupled with pleasant gradations of light and shade, provide excellent material, particularly for the landscape photographer in black and white — especially if he knows how to use his filters.

If the holiday is to be spent during September, or even early October, the photographer in colour will find that Lakeland is a paradise, for during these

months the scenery must surely be beyond comparison. The harmony of natural colour is truly remarkable; the tender green of the meadows; the grey, mossy rocks; the gold of standing corn; the crags and fells glowing with ferns of a dozen hues; the calm blue lakes; the brilliant yellow tints and shades of trees and foliage; the deep greens of alder and ivy on rocks and cottages. All these combine to make unforgettable pictures. One tip: an exposure meter is invaluable, for the lighting can be most deceptive.

Correct attire

But you don't have to be a photographer to appreciate the beauties of the Lake District. Perhaps rambling, and if you are more ambitious, hiking and climbing, are your main hobbies. Here again you could hardly choose a better location or even a better hobby, for the finest way to explore this lovely country is on foot.

Commonsense and experience will guide you as to the correct attire for serious walking, but in the Lakes a stout pair of shoes or brogues, metal studded if possible, are an essential. Shorts or slacks, a windcheater or pullover, an oil-skin or other weatherproof cape, a lightweight haversack and a stick, whittled from one of the hundreds of choice woods found anywhere en route, complete the list of indispensables. Don't forget to include in your haversack a small first-aid kit and, to allay those pangs of hunger before you reach that inn or return to your headquarters, I suggest you also include a slab of delicious white or brown Kendal mint

cake (as used by the Everest expedition) which can be obtained at almost every shop in the district. It's a fine 'energizer'!

To describe all the rambles around Ambleside, let alone the whole Lake District, would fill an entire volume. Suffice it to say that if you set out *in any direction*, and follow your inclinations and indulge your whims (there are no restrictions up there as to where you can go), you will head straight into an aura of beauty and charm seldom, if ever, experienced in our everyday lives.

For the cyclist

There are those who, when you mention hobbies, think of cycling. Well, the cyclist could do a lot worse than 'go wheeling in Lakeland', but because of the very nature of the terrain with its countless hills, dales, paths, and passes, there are obvious restrictions. Nevertheless there are many excellent roads in Westmorland and Cumberland; even some of the pathways off-the-beaten-track are accessible to the keen cyclist. If he combines pedalling with walking, by riding to a chosen spot, and then exploring the area on foot, returning to his machine by one of a score of devious but delightful routes, he can cover a great deal of territory beyond the scope of the ordinary Rambler, and discover for himself the true enchantment of one of this country's most cherished heritages.

If you choose Ambleside at the head of Windermere Lake as your 'base', as I have suggested earlier, it won't be long before you find yourself at the lake-side.



Sweden Bridge—two miles from Ambleside

Here, several opportunities for the lively hobbyist present themselves at once, and these are by no means confined to this one locality. Among the hobbies which you can easily pursue are boating, canoeing, fishing, water skiing, and swimming.

Sport on the water

If you have your own yacht, canoe or dinghy, you are at liberty to make use of the amenities of the lake. And when you know that Windermere is more than ten miles long and a mile-and-a-half wide, dotted with small fascinating islands, skirted by bewitching bays, and fed by lovely lazy rivers and streams, you begin to realize how vast those amenities are. If you just like 'messaging about in boats', many types can be hired quite cheaply from any of the many small concerns who have their own 'piers' around the lake's edge. Even fast speed-boats are obtainable, which are necessary if you and a friend have included water skis in your holiday gear.

Although no *official* restrictions are placed on swimming in Windermere, there are special areas set aside for the purpose in the interests of your own safety. The lake is vast and deep, with some very tricky undercurrents, and there is really no necessity to go beyond these boundaries to get full enjoyment from your dip.

Rydal Water (Wordsworth's lake), a couple of miles' glorious walk from Ambleside, and nestling in a gem of a setting, is another happy 'splashing ground' for the swimmer.

There are endless possibilities for the angler of all degrees of skill in the Lake District. There is not a stream, tarn, or lake which does not hold its own par-

ticular attraction for anyone, young or old, whose hobby is fishing. However, one or two of the places are preserved, available only to residents at hotels close to the fishing ground, or to people with permits. But the vast majority of the streams and lakes are at the visitor's disposal. Salmon, sea-trout, brown trout, pike, and perch, are the most common varieties, and are to be found, as the angler will appreciate, in differing environments. Less frequently, roach, bream, tench, and chub can be caught. Salmon, freely distributed throughout the district, are to be found in streams connected with the sea, including the river Leven, which flows out of Windermere at Levens Bridge at the southern end of the lake.

Angling equipment and accessories are easily obtainable at various stores in the villages and, as you can guess, the shops are staffed by experts!

Nature study

Of particular interest to the angler, and to the naturalist — yes, nature study is another fascinating hobby, which includes bird-watching and botany, for which Lakeland provides truly remarkable scope — is the behaviour of the char and the trout in Windermere. At the approach of the spawning season they can be seen leaving the lake together, and proceeding towards the point where the rivers Rothay and Brathay join forces (close to Ambleside), and flow into Windermere. Here they uniformly separate, almost, it seems by previous agreement, the char taking to the Brathay, and the trout to the Rothay — with never a single exception!

There are scores of excellent boarding houses, hotels, inns, and cottages



Scramblers

(to let), where the tourist can stay, but for the more adventurous and hardy hobbyist, there is always canvas! Camping in the Lake District is an excellent way of spending a holiday, particularly for the youngsters. Farmers and property owners are most co-operative, provided the laws of the countryside are respected, and I know many boys who have spent delightful holidays in the shadow of Lakeland's crags and fells. Sparkling fresh mountain water and camp-fire fuel abound in plenty, and wonderful farm produce in abundance is available, always close at hand.

Something for all tastes

One private establishment in Ambleside — there are others in different centres — which caters for a popular

hobby, and at the same time provides a special type of holiday, is Oaks Farm Riding School. Apart from being able to hire a horse from here for a ride round the district's beauty spots, the school organizes 'pony treks'. These treks are really wonderful. Your time is spent riding round the Lake District, stopping at night in country hotels and inns. A distance of up to twenty miles is covered each day, and most of, if not all the lakes are visited during any week. One rides through country made famous by Wordsworth, Coleridge, and, of course, John Peel. Age is no barrier. Some previous horse riding experience is required, however. For beginners the treks are centred in Ambleside, beginning with advice on horse riding and management; then as progress is made, day treks are under-

Next week's free Design will be for making novel 'Bird Vases'.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR COPY

taken.

Not all of the facilities in Lakeland which have a particular appeal to the man with a hobby have been covered in this article. I could have included rock climbing, mountaineering, hunting, shooting, and others, but sufficient has been included, I believe, to show what a wealth of 'pastime' interest there is in this small area of Britain; a place which foreign visitors who have travelled the globe have described as one of the most beautiful spots in the world!



As the days lengthen and ground temperatures rise, March sowings are making headway, and we can look forward to enjoying long evenings in the garden.

Outside

FIRST job is to complete the rose pruning, tying in the climbers where necessary. Plant out sweet peas which have been hardened off. Border chrysanthemums may be planted out at the end of the month. Carnations and other dianthus may also be planted this month. Other subjects which may be planted are gladioli, hardy lilies, and most kinds of herbaceous perennials. Lift and divide kniphofias (red hot pokers), and snowdrops.

ROCK GARDEN — Sow hardy annuals in bare pockets. Try a few new varieties selected from your seed catalogue. Watch out for damage from slugs, and put down slug bait. Apply top dressings of light soil around plants showing bare roots. A few minutes weeding now will save hours later on.

FRUIT GARDEN — Plant fig trees, cut out weak or dead wood from established trees. Spray apples for weevil, codlin moth, and March moth as trees come into bloom. Ask your seedsman to recommend a spray. Pick off 'Big Buds' from blackcurrant bushes and spray with lime sulphur. Outdoor grape vines should be dusted with sulphur (green) powder to prevent mildew.

VEGETABLE GARDEN — Plant potatoes, protect peas from birds with black

cotton or pea guards. Thin out overcrowded brassicas in the seed beds, also thin out parsnips, lettuces, onions, etc. Brassicas may be sown early in the month. Sow successions of lettuce and radish for tender salad crops. Prepare ground for runner beans. There is still time for planting onion sets or plants and many half-hardy annuals may be sown under cloches early in the month.

Inside — warm house

PPOT up tubers of begonias and gloxinias started earlier, repot azaleas into peat and sand (no lime for these), and continue general potting as necessary. Strike cuttings of any decorative plants such as coleus, fuchsias, etc. Sow primulas, *senensis*, and *stellata*, for next year's display.

Commence repotting cacti. Cut off damaged roots, and allow a day to callous-over before replanting. Begin to water as new growth becomes apparent, but do not give much at this time. At first sign of hot sunshine, apply shading.

Cool house

CONTINUE potting on and boxing cup seedlings as necessary. Half-hardy annuals may still be sown, and

shrubs may be hardened off by placing them in sheltered positions. Protect with sacking if frosts threaten. Fumigate regularly.

Cold house

SEEDS of half-hardy annuals may be sown now without any heat at all. Close up the house at night, and cover boxes with newspaper if frosts threaten. Lettuces may be given a little water when growth accelerates.

General

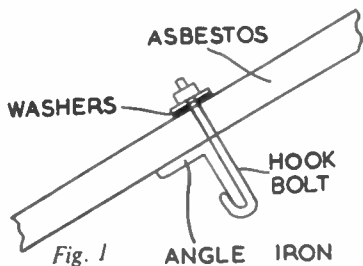
REPAIR concrete paths, make up compost heap, repair trellis work where necessary.



Roofing with Corrugated Asbestos

CORRUGATED cement asbestos sheeting is a very popular roofing material for garages, annexes, out-buildings, and workshops. When properly fixed it will provide a sound, water-tight roof covering, but being a rather brittle material it must be handled and used with care.

The sheets are normally fixed to purlins, which can either be metal angle irons or timber beams. When fixing the sheets to angle irons, special hooked bolts are used as shown in Fig. 1



nuts are positioned on top of the corrugations — never in the hollows.

To spread the pressure imposed by the fixing nuts over a larger area, metal washers of diamond shape should be used. These are generally curved to suit the corrugations on the sheets. Felt washers are also used in addition to metal washers so that each fixing is made water-tight.

When securing asbestos sheets with hooked bolts, it is best to work with an assistant. One can then be inside the building, pushing the bolts through the holes in the sheets and hooking them round the angle irons, whilst the other is on top of the roof attaching the washers and tightening up the nuts.

If the sheets are to be fixed to timber purlins, then special screw nails are used. Holes are bored in the sheets as before and the screw nails are driven 'home' with a hammer. The threads on the nails cause them to twist as they are being inserted, thus giving a firm grip of the wood. Care must be taken not to drive the nails in too far, otherwise the sheets

will fracture. This type of fixing is shown in Fig. 2.

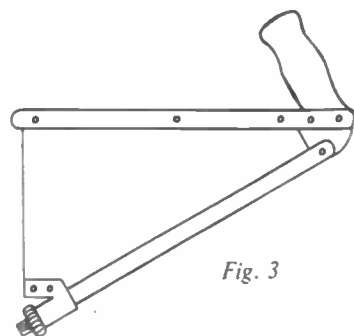
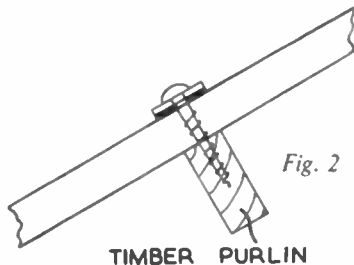
Corrugated asbestos sheets are obtainable in a variety of standard widths and lengths, so that the handyman should have no difficulty in getting material to span the full extent of the roof. If the roof is double pitched, i.e. two slopes meeting at a central ridge, then special ridge pieces must be used.

It is most probable that the sheets will have to be cut to size and this can be done with an old fine-toothed handsaw. Don't use a good saw for cutting cement asbestos because it will play havoc with the teeth. A special type of hacksaw for cutting these sheets is illustrated in Fig. 3. It uses ordinary sized hacksaw blades and is designed so that the top bar does not get in the way when cutting.

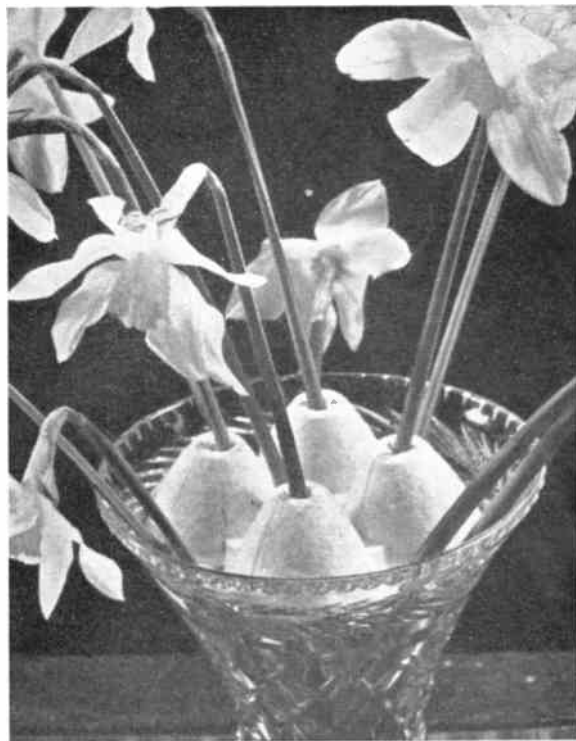
If you are not too keen on their natural grey colour, then why not paint the sheets? Special paints are now manufactured for this purpose, and can be obtained from paint stores. Ordinary paint is not satisfactory.

(F.K.)

Floral use for egg trays



Our picture shows how a section of egg tray can be used in floral decoration. The tray, which can be tinted, is placed above the water level in the vase and pierced for the flower stems. (C.A.C.)



The hooked part is slipped around the iron and secured with a fixing nut on top of the sheet. When making the holes in the asbestos sheets to receive the fixing bolts, use a brace and drill. Don't try to punch the holes with a sharp tool. This tends to break away the lower surface, thus reducing the effective thickness of the sheets. Always ensure that the fixing

A JIG FOR SHARPENING TOOLS

ALL woodworkers know the value of a truly-honed cutting edge, and the results of using this easily-made sharpening jig have to be experienced to be believed.

Construction is simple, and needs no description other than that the spindle hole of the cotton reel will probably need smoothing with glasspaper wrapped round a piece of dowel. The jig should be about 2 in. wide, and the side pieces can be of plywood or aluminium. The plane cutter is screwed down to the jig by a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. bolt and washer, as shown in the

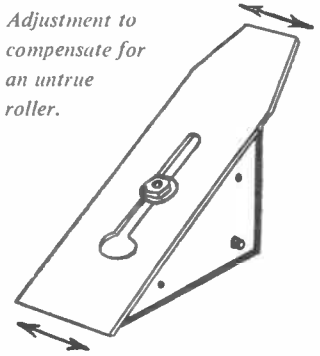
diagram, and adjusted to the correct angle by sliding the blade up or down as necessary, using the card template to ensure accuracy.

By R. N. T. Burke

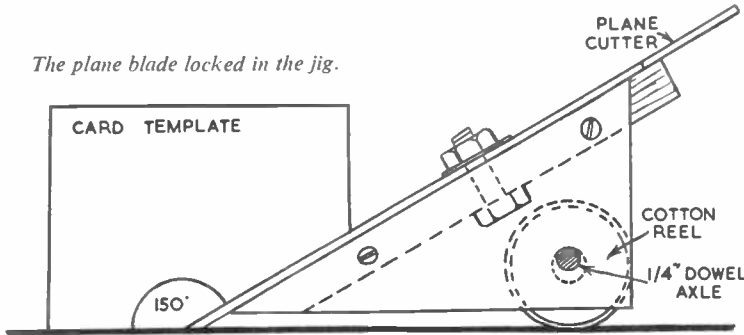
If the axle of the roller is not quite true, this can be compensated for by pivoting the blade slightly about the securing bolt. Owners of a lathe can turn a barrel-shaped roller which compensates automatically.

Hold the blade firmly with the whole edge flat against the oilstone whilst honing, and most important, use only a

Adjustment to compensate for an untrue roller.



The plane blade locked in the jig.



perfectly flat stone. Chisels are sharpened by trapping them under one side of the nut and washer, and not forgetting that many chisel blades taper, check the cutting angle against the template.

The fifteen minutes or so spent in making this little accessory for your workshop will soon be regained in saved planing time.

'Tower of Hanoi' Puzzle in Wood

FEW people can resist the challenge to solve a problem if it is presented in an interesting fashion. A good puzzle, well designed to try your wits, will keep you tantalized for hours, and will be a considerable source of pleasure and pride when you finally discover the solution. 'The Tower of Hanoi', reputed to have originated in the East Indies, is easy to construct, and will provide a great deal of amusement. Select a piece of scrap wood, roughly of the dimensions 20 in. by 5 in., with which to make a baseboard.

Bore three $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter holes, 5 in. apart, in the middle of the baseboard, into which three 4 in. lengths of dowel rod can be inserted in vertical positions. Round over the tops of the rods, using fine grade glasspaper, before gluing them securely into place, as illustrated.

Next you must make a set of six discs to fit neatly over one of the dowel 'pegs', to form a pyramid, progressing upwards towards its apex, by regular 'steps'. These may be cut out of plywood, using a fretsaw, or can be a series of carefully selected tin lids. Bore holes in the centres of the discs, so that they will slip easily on to the pegs. Finally, paint the

apparatus in bright and contrasting colours.

The object of the puzzle is to shift the 'tower' of six discs from the left-hand to the right-hand pegs, in as few moves as possible, whilst adhering to two rules.

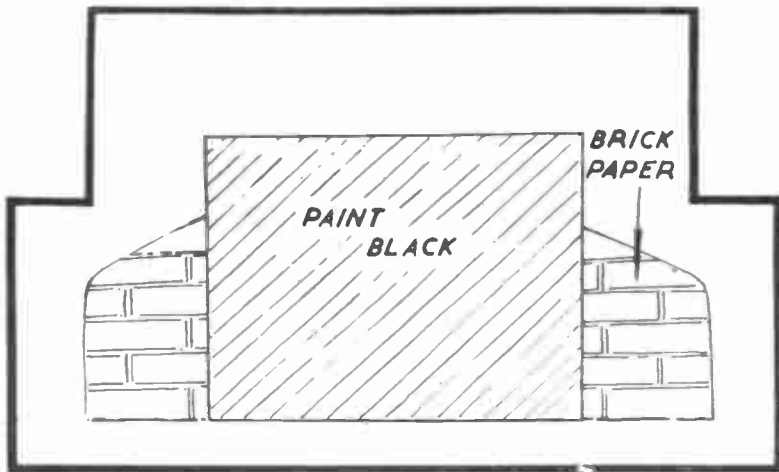
By A. E. Ward

Firstly, you must only move the discs singly, and secondly, you must never place a large disc upon a smaller one. Obviously, the discs will be piled up, in the same order, at the commencement and finish of your manipulations. A minimum of sixty-three moves will be necessary, so that any score which exceeds this number cannot really be

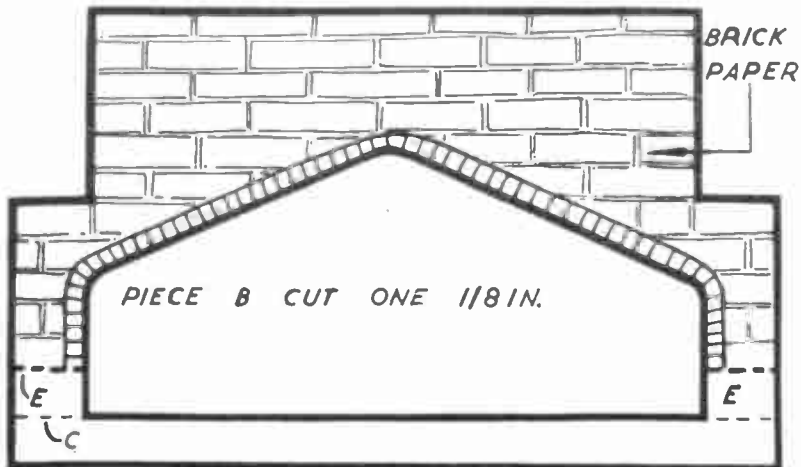
regarded as the proper solution to the puzzle.

There is a curious legend associated with the problem. The story relates that, somewhere in the East, there is a Hindu temple which houses an elaborate version of this puzzle, made up of a hundred beautifully carved ivory discs and three pillars encrusted with precious stones. Day and night, for hundreds of years, priests have been at work shifting the tall pyramid of discs between the first and third pillars. The discs are moved strictly in accordance with a mathematical formula, so that no moves are wasted. Even so, with a hundred discs, it will take thousands of years for the immense number of moves needed to be completed. The legend goes on to say that on the day that all the discs have been shifted across, the world will come to an end!

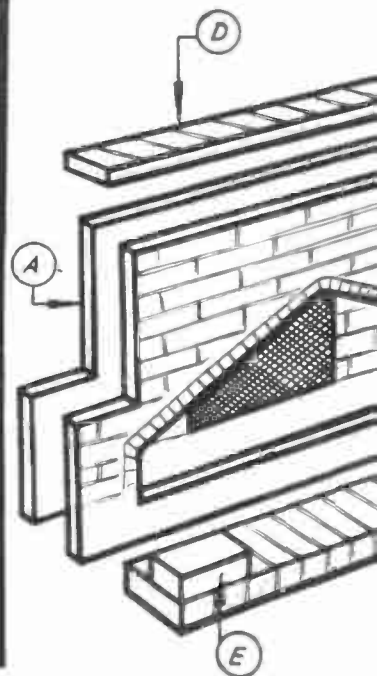
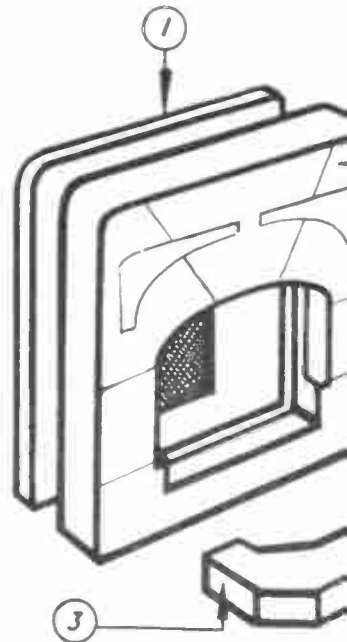




PIECE A CUT ONE 1/8 IN.



PIECES E CUT ONE OF EACH 1/4 IN.



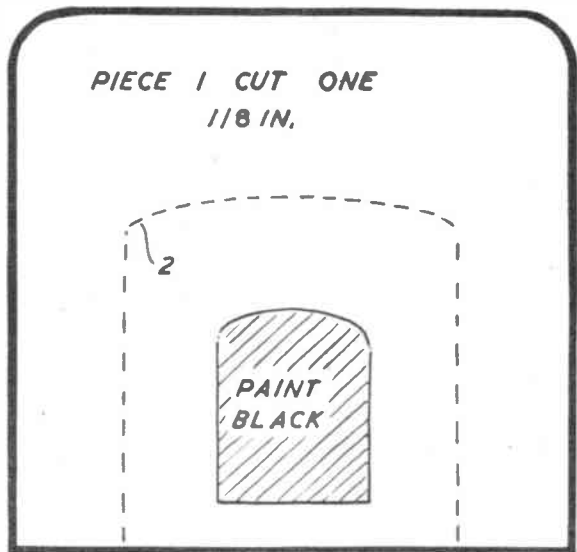
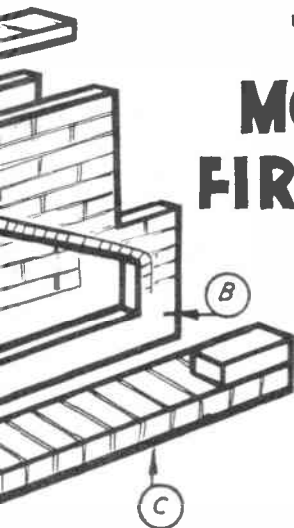


DOLL'S HOUSE FURNITURE PATTERN



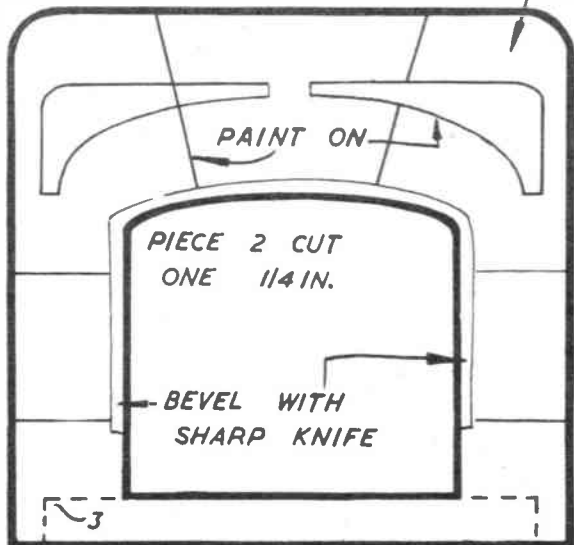
PANELS OF WOOD REQUIRED
ONE G4. TWO G2.

TWO MODERN FIREPLACES



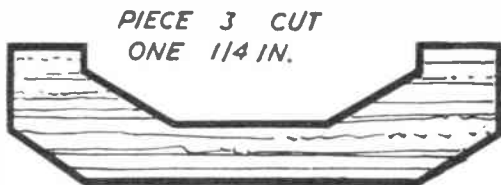
PIECE 1 CUT ONE
1/8 IN.

PAINT TO REPRESENT MARBLE



PIECE 2 CUT
ONE 1/4 IN.

BEVEL WITH
SHARP KNIFE



PIECE 3 CUT
ONE 1/4 IN.

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

CABINET WITH DRAWER

THIS simply-made cabinet is a companion to the corner cabinet described earlier in *Hobbies Weekly* but, of course, it can also be used as an independent unit. Two or three of them placed side by side along a wall would provide a most effective addition to the modern kitchen.

As with the corner cabinet, and as shown in the drawing opposite, the main structure of the cabinet is made up of prefabricated units formed by covering medium hardwood frames with hardboard.

By G. Allen

Make the back panel first. Cut a sheet of hardboard 28 in. by 18 in., and trim it true and 'square'. On the rough side mark with parallel pencil lines the exact positions of the three 1½ in. by ½ in. crosspieces and the 1 in. by ½ in. crosspiece which is level with the bottom edge of the panel. Cut the crosspieces, square the ends, and then glue and pin them in place.

The side panels are identical, although they must be 'handed' — i.e. one left-hand, the other right-hand. Each is built up on a sheet of plain hardboard measuring 28 in. by 18 in. As before, mark in pencil the positions of the uprights and crosspieces. Cut the sectioned wood to the dimensions given on the

drawing, mark the positions of the various 1½ in. by ½ in. and 1 in. by ½ in. cut-outs in the four uprights, and cut these out with a tenon saw and chisel. Glue and pin them in place as indicated. Then cut the drawer runners and glue and screw these level with the bottom edge of the appropriate crosspiece as shown.

Stand the rear panel and the two side panels upright and try them for fit. Then glue and screw them together by applying glue to back edges of the uprights in the side panels, and to the cut-outs, and screwing through the cross members of the rear panel into the uprights. Pin the edges of the hardboard to the uprights. As you are assembling the three panels do not forget to introduce the 1 in. by ½ in. crossbrace which supports the front edge of the middle shelf. This cannot be fixed at a later stage, and is glued in place at the same time that you glue the panels together.

When this sub-assembly is setting, cut out the cabinet top and the two shelves, making sure that they are perfectly square and that the cut-outs in the shelves are accurately cut. Glue and screw the two shelves in place on the appropriate crosspieces in the assembly. Follow this by gluing and screwing the three remaining 1 in. by ½ in. crosspieces in place in the front of the unit. Then glue and screw the top in place, and cover the top surface and the edges with plastic as indicated.

YOU WILL NEED

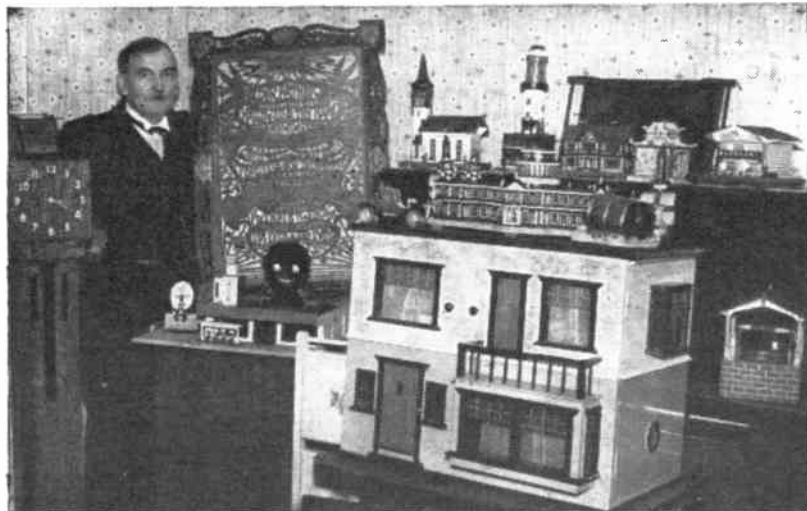
Medium Hardwood 1½ in. by ½ in.:	
4 pieces 28 in. long	Main uprights.
3 pieces 18 in. long	Crosspieces.
6 pieces 15 in. long.	Crosspieces.
Medium Hardwood 1 in. by ½ in.:	
5 pieces 18 in. long.	Crosspieces.
2 pieces 15 in. long.	Crosspieces.
2 pieces 17 in. long.	Drawer runners.
Medium Hardwood 1 in. by ¾ in.:	
2 pieces 21½ in. long.	Door uprights.
3 pieces 15 in. long.	Door crosspieces.
¾ in. Plywood:	
3 pieces 18 in. square.	Shelves and top.
¾ in. Plywood:	
2 pieces 17 in. by 3 in.	Plinth.
2 pieces 16½ in. by 3 in.	Plinth.
1 piece 17 in. by 16½ in.	Drawer base.
¾ in. Softwood:	
2 pieces 17 in. by 31 in.	Drawer sides.
2 pieces 16½ in. by 3½ in.	Drawer sides.
Hardboard:	
3 pieces 28 in. by 18 in.	Panelling.
2 pieces 21½ in. by 17 in.	Door panelling.
1 piece fluted 21½ in. by 17½ in.	Door facing.
1 piece fluted 17½ in. by 4 in.	Drawer facing.
Miscellaneous items as described.	

Cut the four pieces of ¾ in. plywood which form the plinth of the cabinet and screw these in place to the inside faces of the bottom four crosspieces, flush with the underside of the bottom shelf.

Next, the drawer. This is built up on a baseboard of ¾ in. ply to the dimensions given. Make sure that this is square and that the sides of ½ in. wood are kept upright when they are pinned and glued in place. Try the drawer for fit and ease where necessary with a hand plane. Face the front of the drawer with reeded hardboard, and add a decorative handle.

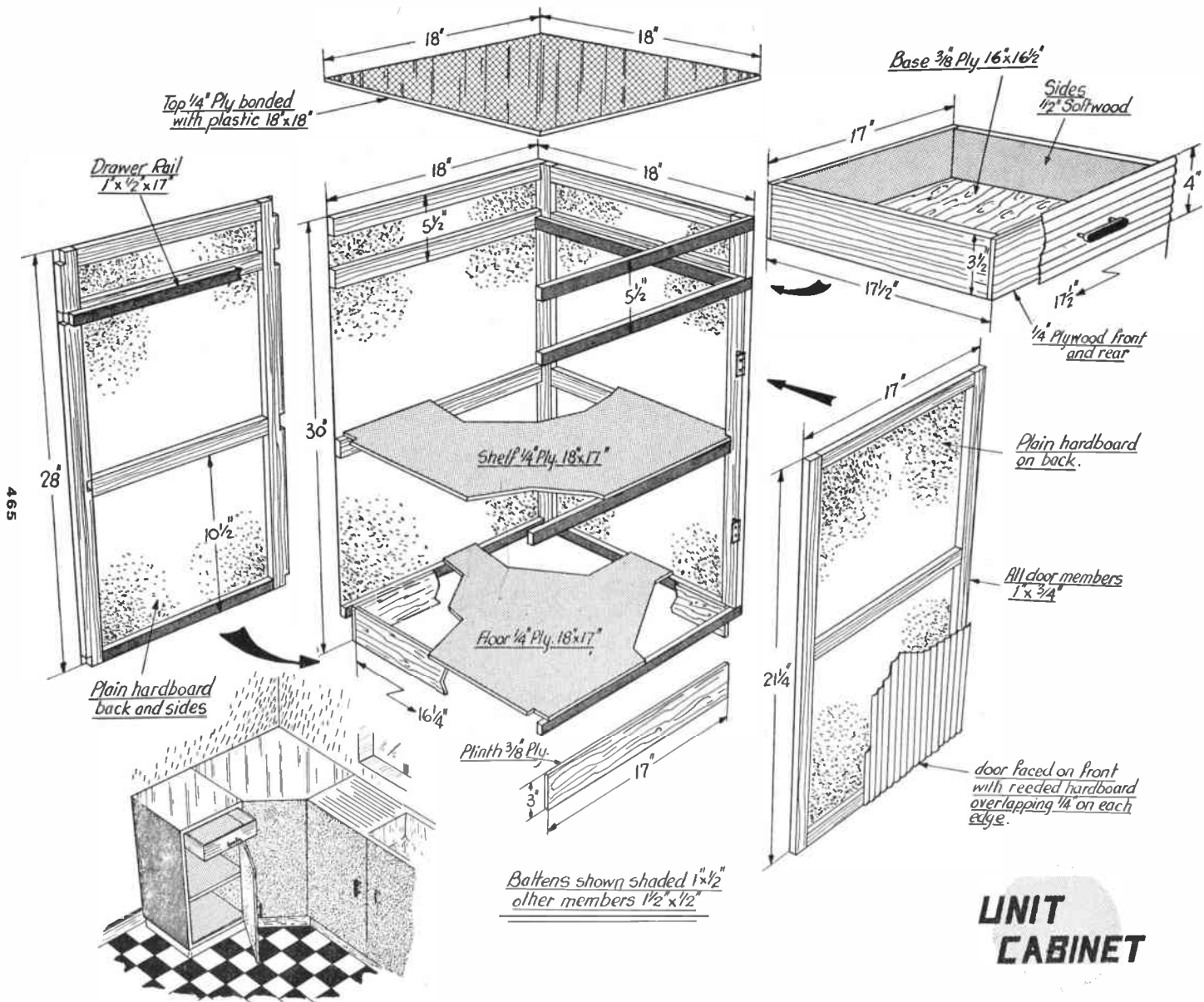
Build the door frame on a panel of plain hardboard measuring 21½ in. by 17 in., as shown, and face the other side of the frame with reeded or fluted hardboard. Then add a handle. Fix two hinges to the upright in the cabinet about 14 in. apart, recessing the leaves. Cut away the hardboard at the back of the door to accommodate the free leaves of the hinges, and screw the door in place. Fit a commercial retaining catch for the door to the centre shelf, and the cabinet is ready for painting.

Apply a priming coat to all the external surfaces and finish with a coat of emulsion paint in colours to match your corner cabinet. The inside of the cabinet may be painted also, and the shelves can be faced with decorative plastic, such as Fablon.



Mr C. Bell of 66 Creek Road, March, Cambs., aged 70, seen here with some delightful examples of his work, inspired by articles and designs in *'Hobbies Weekly'*.

How the parts are assembled



**UNIT
CABINET**

...ab evenly on the paper in
...ht and hang to dry under
...to know if you could
...I to go over the wallpan
...wish to make some play
...on the same
...mitter? (R.P.—Wolverhampton.)
...EX. for Chapel 10 would

Replies to Readers

...result
...V. and 15V
...more.)
...ity is a brush paint
...to charge a 12V. battery, as
...was made by fixing
...board over a stou

Removing Carbon-paper Marks

COULD you please tell me if there is any possible way of removing writing left by blue carbon paper on thin white paper? (T.H.—Drogheda.)

A CLEAN rag saturated with cigarette lighter fuel will remove the markings caused by blue carbon paper. With roughish papers, or in the case of heavy marking, faint blue marks will remain and there is no chemical means which will bleach these without also damaging the paper. With normal papers and markings results are very good.

Removing Colour from Prints

CAN you tell me if it is possible to clean a photograph that has been slightly coloured with water-colour paint? I want it to be its original colour — black and white. (J.K.—Killyleagh.)

LENGTHY soaking in changes of clean water, or immersion in running water should eventually remove most of the colour, especially if pure water tints were used. If fragments of coarse colour are embedded in the paper, light dabbing with cottonwool should help to remove these. Twenty-four hours in water will not normally harm a print, but it will not stand up to rubbing. If the photo. is of particular value, and cannot be cleaned of all colour, it could be copied, and new prints made from the negative thus obtained. This is done by photographing the photo. with a close-up lens or attachment. If you have no suitable camera for this, a processing firm such as Wallace Heaton Ltd, 127 New Bond Street, London, W.1, could make the copies.

Care of Paint Brushes

IHAVE some paint brushes which are stiff and hard with dried paint. Could you tell me how to make them soft enough to use again? (G.B.—Nantymoel.)

THERE are several patent cleaners on the market which would no doubt prove satisfactory. After use, brushes should be cleaned in turpentine, then rinsed in soda water, and then in clear water. They can be re-shaped with the fingers, and if they are going to be put away, moisten the bristles with linseed oil, which will keep them soft and pliable.

Guitar Amplifier

IHAVE a modern record-player which works off 220–250 A.C. mains. I would like to amplify a guitar through the record-player. I have a good pick-up on my guitar and a jack-plug holder. Could you please tell me where the leads from the jack-plug holder go? (M.M.—Jarrow.)

IF the record-player uses a crystal pick-up, follow the two leads (or screened lead) which go from the arm pivot mounting to the amplifier volume control. Wire the jack socket to these same points, using screened wire as for the pick-up. Screened wire will probably be needed from jack-plug to guitar. If so, take care to wire jack-plug side and end contacts correctly so that the screening (which usually forms one side of the circuit) goes to the braiding side of the circuit in the record-player. This will be suitable for a crystal or high impedance pick-up unit on the guitar. If some other type of unit is fitted, then a transformer coupling circuit may be needed. If the record player is of AC/DC type, or derives high tension current from direct connection to the mains, the guitar leads, etc., must be insulated so that no bare connections, etc., can be touched. If the player is for AC only, with mains insulating transformer, this danger of mains shocks does not arise.

Radio Transmitting

ICANNOT find in Hobbies Weekly a description for a transmitter-receiver for either S.W. or V.H.F. I hope you will be able to describe such a set in detail or print a circuit diagram. (R.F.—Woburn.)

TRANSMITTING equipment for speech has not been dealt with because a special GPO licence is required before it can be used. The usual transmitting licence is only granted after an examination has been passed, to ensure that interference is not caused. In a few cases communication may be allowed for particular purposes, but it is of some doubt whether this would be permitted for the purpose you require. In view of this it can only be suggested that you write to the GPO, Radio Services Dept., Headquarters Building, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London, E.C.1, to obtain details of the circumstances in which they would allow transmitting equipment to be used. Usual licence requires a City and Guilds or equivalent examination pass and GPO Morse test pass.

Pick-up Transistor Amplifier

IHAVE been experimenting with transistors and trying to amplify a pick-up with three of them. Is this possible? When I connected up the speaker, the noise was 'throaty' and was inclined to fade. Would it be possible to use a resistor or transistor coupling condenser to eliminate this? It is intended for reproduction of 78 r.p.m. records and if possible a microphone. (D.F.—Hornsey.)

TRANSISTOR amplifiers may be used for such purposes, but to obtain proper results an approved circuit should be followed, with the values and transistors specified by the transistor maker. The number and type of transistors will depend on the volume wanted. For moderate volume, the amplifier circuits will resemble those used in transistor radio sets, tuning and associated circuits being omitted. Manufacturers such as Brimar, Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd, Receiver Valve Division, Foots Cray, Sidcup, Kent, issue transistor data and circuits. The suppliers of surplus transistors also supply suitable circuits in some cases.

Wall Mirror

IAM building a bathroom and have a large mirror to put in, but this mirror has no frame. Can you please tell me a way to fasten it into the wall so that the back will not flake or corrode? (P.P.—Kettering.)

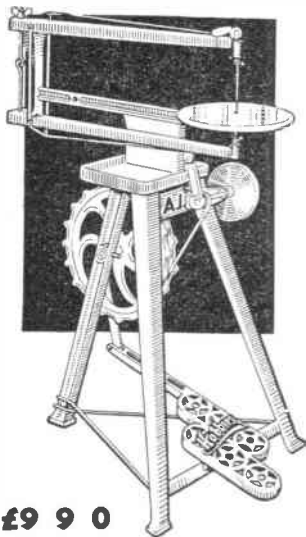
THE back of a mirror may be prevented from becoming damaged by damp if it is given two coats of ordinary paint. Fastening directly to a wall is not advisable. It is better to have a wood back. A piece of plywood about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick may be used. It should be bonded with a synthetic resin glue (either 'exterior' or 'marine' grade plywood). This should be the same size as the mirror and screwed to plugs in the wall. The mirror is fixed by metal edges for mounting frameless mirrors.

Making Cement Blocks

ISHOULD like your assistance in helping me to make some artificial stone blocks for a small wall. (W.C.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.)

FOR small artificial stone blocks you need a mixture in the proportions one of cement to three of sand. Ordinary and coloured cements may be bought from most good builders' merchants. You can get a number of free booklets on this work if you write to the Cement and Concrete Association, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1, if you ask for their garden construction leaflets and general concrete instructions.

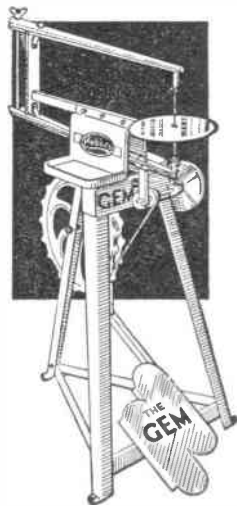
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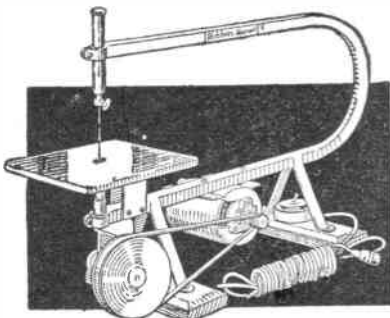
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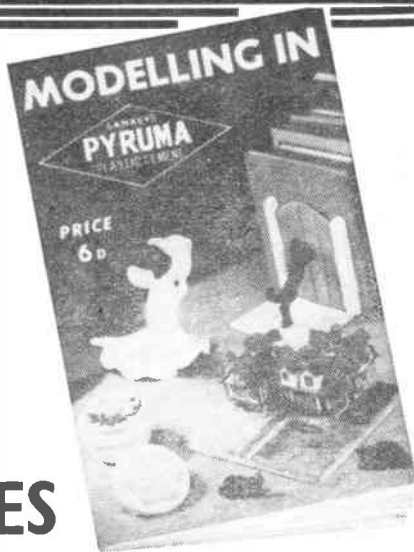
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A NEW MODELLING MATERIAL

A NEW modelling material called Modolo is sold in packs containing a roll of each of the three primary colours, red, yellow, and blue. An important feature is that these three colours can be blended together to make any desired tint, and in many cases no further treatment is required. The material dries hard after modelling — although there is ample time for manipulation — and this allows very fine details to be added in colour with a paint brush.

You will find this material very useful if you are a model railway enthusiast, for it is just the thing for making hills and cliffs, covered with green grass, and trees for placing alongside the track. Other small accessories may also be

about 1 in. wide or a table knife. Cut-out shapes can be made with the knife or empty tins of all kinds, but here the basic material must be in sheet form, achieved by rolling out with a rolling pin. Small model houses or buildings call for sheets of the modelling material about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick, and are quite substantial if supported by means of a cardboard model, or a matchbox, the texture being applied with a tool. For example, you may wish to texture the roofing slates, brickwork, doors, and windows, after the shell has been built on a cardboard model. With Modolo you can make reasonably good representations of the roofing tiles, brick, and stonework in their respective colourings.

So far as hills are concerned, other

colours. Once again the cat is reinforced by having a thin piece of stick in the body, the head being fitted on top.

Fig. 2 shows rolls of the three primary colours, and at the side is a small ornament bearing two figures. The old lady wears a pink dress adorned with small flowers. The latter are made from sheet material cut out with a knife. Wire has again been used for strengthening the arms and keeping the heads firmly attached to the bodies.

Modolo is quite easy to work in the hands, and it should be kneaded by the fingers until sufficiently pliable. In this state it will roll into balls, strips or sheets. When a different shade is needed, half of the usual quantity is required of two colours, and the following are speci-

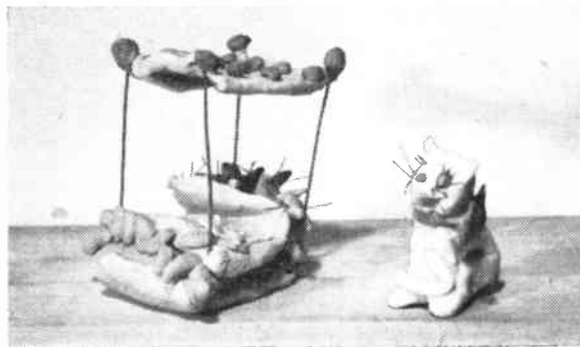


Fig. 1

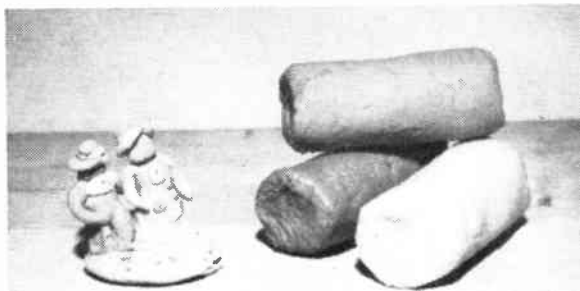


Fig. 2

made, provided they are reinforced by wire, matchsticks, toothpicks or even matchboxes, and small pieces of cardboard. Moreover, this material is very good for making small animals or objects for the miniature farmyard. It also lends itself admirably for making personal decorations such as earrings, necklaces, and bracelets, particularly with floral designs.

Fingers are used for much of the modelling, but simple tools can be improvised for textures and detail work, and these may be small sticks sharpened at one end, knitting needles, or steel pens. When the figure requires a hat, make a ball, but flatten this out into a disc, cutting out an accurate circle with a tin lid or similar tool. A pen-nib makes a tiny gouge if the point is inserted into the holder, and with a little ingenuity you will be able to fashion many other useful little tools.

Apart from the basic ball shapes, we often require cylindrical shapes or long strips, and these may be rolled out with a rolling tool — a flat strip of plywood

common materials such as pebbles, coke, or stones form the core. This not only reinforces the model in the same way as the cardboard and toothpicks, but also economizes in the material.

We should also mention the use of wire as an aid to reinforcement. Flexible wire can always be used as a base where a curve is essential, a typical example being the folded arms of a figurine. You will find that wire is a really useful accessory for such purposes, while fine floral wire also serves as a decoration. In Fig. 1 you will see a Disney-like creation of a few mice asleep in a four-poster bed, while a cat sits at the side looking very pleased with the prospects. The bed is shown in its unfinished state so that you may see how wire has been used for the posts. These can be covered with strips of Modolo wrapped round in a spiral. The mice and the cat have some nice thin wire whiskers! The canopy is made from sheet material folded over at the edges, and again reinforced by wire across the centre, while the bed itself is composed of three sheets in different

men blends: green — mix blue and yellow; orange — mix red and yellow; purple — mix blue and red. Intermediate tones can be achieved by modifying the quantities of each, the colours being kneaded together until blended. Always remember to mix sufficient for the particular job.

A model can be left to harden naturally, but if it is placed in a warm oven, it is complete in a few hours. The unused Modolo should be replaced in the plastic cover and stored in a closed tin box.

As previously stated, you can achieve direct coloured effects by careful blending of the material, and it is unnecessary to paint the models in most cases. There may, however, be instances where tiny details, such as the eyes or mouth, need painting in. Models may also be varnished for protection.

The Modolo handpack costs 2/11, plus post and packing 1/6, from Seamer Products (Sculptorcraft) Ltd., 23/27 Eastbourne Street, Hull.

(H.M.)

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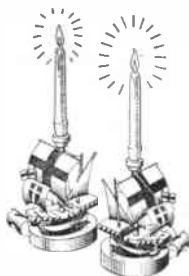
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SPRING cleaning must be tackled with a system; it is so easy to miss something important. If we take the jobs in alphabetical order, not much will be overlooked.

A—Air bricks should be cleaned out with a stick. If air does not circulate under floor boards you cannot expect to keep free from dry rot.

B—Bath (and sink) discoloration, caused by dripping taps, is cured with a strong solution of boiling water and soda. In stubborn cases use a proprietary oven cleaner. Use as little as necessary.

C—Ceilings looking shabby are revived by brushing over lightly with a solution of a blue bag in a pail of water. Protect walls with pinned-up newspaper.

Carpets need a shampoo. Mix up your own by dissolving 2 oz. soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. soda, 3 spoonfuls of ammonia in warm water. Rub in until frothy, then dab dry with cloth.

D—Dustbins should be scrubbed out with disinfectant. Fit an ozonizer under the lid to keep flies away.

E—Earthenware that is yellowing can sometimes be revived by rubbing over with a cut lemon.

F—Fireplaces of the old-fashioned metal type are improved by 'decoking' the layers of metal polish with rape seed oil. Polish afterwards with french chalk.

Furniture suffering from the same accumulation of polish can be decoked thus—for mahogany, vinegar and water; for walnut, paraffin, and for oak, old beer.

G—Gilt picture frames are cleaned with boiled onion water.

H—Hinges should receive a good oiling. And don't forget pulley wheels on sash windows. To oil a lock, dip the key in oil and turn it in lock a few times.

I—Iron mould can be removed with lemon juice. If stubborn mix $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of

oxalic acid in cup of cold water, dab on and rinse well.

Images and statuettes of marble are cleaned with soapy water. Plaster images should be brushed with a long haired stiff brush.

J—Junk. If you have accumulated quite a pile in the workshop, attic or under-stair cupboard, now is the time to have a clear-out.

K—Keyboards of pianos are cleaned with a rag dipped in milk.

L—Linoleum should be washed over with a mild soapy solution, not with soda. Protect with a silicone wax. Do not use spirit-based polish on rubber tiled floors. It will soften the surface.

M—Mildew is caused by damp or lack of air. It will recur unless the cause is traced and corrected, so make this a 'must'.

N—Noxious smells from gullies and drains should be overcome by scrubbing gratings with boiling water and soda. Afterwards, flush liberally with a strong disinfectant solution.

O—Oil paintings can be revived by rubbing over with a cut potato. Do a small section at a time. Do not let potato rubbings remain long on painting, but wash off with clean cold water immediately.

P—Paintwork should be washed down with warm water and detergent, finished off with chamois leather.

Pram coachwork is cleaned with a cloth dipped in milk.

Q—Quarry tiles should be cleaned with paraffin and wire wool. Afterwards cover and polish with a proprietary tile colour.

R—Rainwater tanks should be cleared of any accumulated scum or dead leaves, and scrubbed out with detergent-charged water. Do not scrape inside, as the galvanizing surface may be damaged, allowing rust to start.

S—Silverware responds to a swash over with a dash of paraffin in warm, soapy water. Finish with plate polish.

T—Tools, left unattended during the winter and now showing rust spots, can be cleaned with fine emery cloth or wire wool dip-

ped in oil. Next winter, remember to smear over with Vaseline before storing.

U—Upholstery of the moquette type is best shampooed with a cleaner like '1001'. Leather work enjoys a rub over with Vaseline.

V—Varnish that has dulled can be revived with a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. soap to 1 oz. borax, warmed to melting point. Apply vigorously, and clean off with cold water and chamois.

W—Wallpaper that is grimy is cleaned by rubbing over with a lump of dough. De-scale the dough as it becomes grubby. Remove grease on paper by placing hot iron over a piece of flannel on the stain (see top photo).

Dirty windows respond to a mixture of equal parts of water, paraffin, and meth. spirits.

X—Xylonite and other celluloid is cleaned with lubricating oil. Stubborn scratches can first be removed with oil and abrasive paste.

Y—Yellowing of various parts of the home fixtures, usually on cream or white paint, is a natural change made in the paint content by exposure to light. The only cure is a repaint.

Z—Zest is the spirit with which all spring cleaning jobs should be tackled.

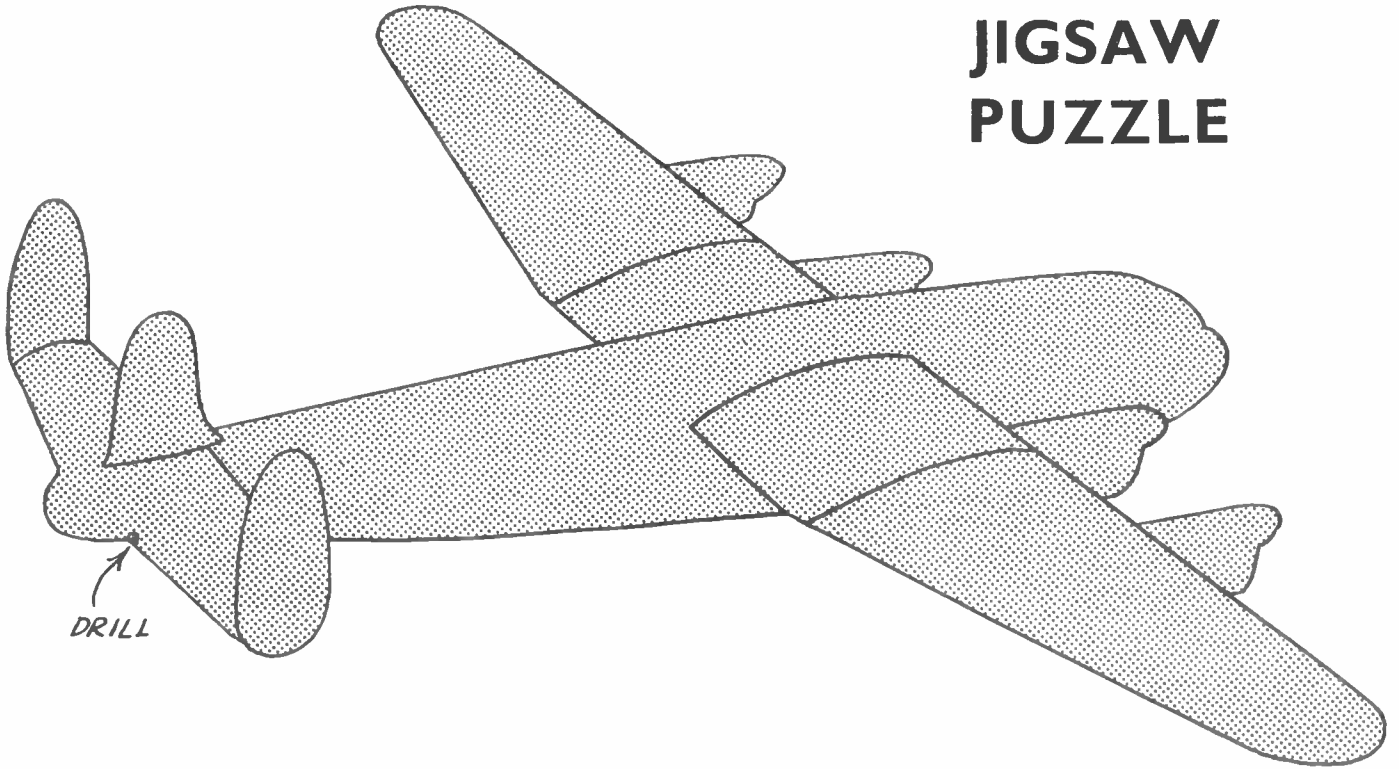
But don't try to do everything in a day. Itemize the work so that jobs requiring the same or near same treatment are done together.

(E.C.)



Clean clocks by removing back and laying on paraffin cloth.

JUNIOR JIGSAW PUZZLE



DRILL

Cut out the various pieces of the plane. Clean up with glasspaper, and paint the background blue and the plane silver. (M.p.)

TRACE the picture complete with outline, and transfer to a piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. plywood by means of carbon paper. Drill at the point marked, and thread the blade of the fretsaw through.



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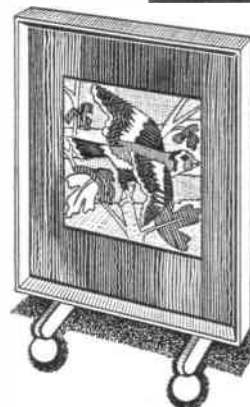
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