

HOBBIES WEEKLY

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FREE Design inside for this Grand Gift for a Child

MOST children are fascinated by the noise and bustle of activity on a railway station. Whistles blowing, flags waving, signals glowing, engines impatiently letting off steam — and above all this, the shouts of porters clearing a path for their barrows loaded with merchandise as they trundle to and from the waiting trains.

for letting in the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. plywood cross pieces (B), cut to the measurements given to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. at intervals as indicated. Also on the handles it will be noted that provision is made for letting in pieces (E) to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ in flush. This is also shown in Fig. 1. Pieces (B) should be fixed firmly in position with countersunk screws, and the assembly at this

A TOY PORTER'S BARROW

And what a great mass of goods these barrows will hold! The toy model which is the subject of our design, likewise will prove a great attraction to a youngster because of the big load it can carry. All parts are cut from stripwood and plywood, and it is a project well within the capabilities of any handyman. It makes an attractive gift and one which it would be well to bear in mind for Christmas.

The handles (A) consist of 30in. lengths of 1in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. stripwood shaped at their tops as shown on the design sheet. Provision is made in these handles

stage should, of course, be truly squared up. Pieces (E) are now screwed in flush.

The step (piece C) is cut from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. plywood and fixed by means of long screws to pieces (A). It will be appreciated that before screwing, all holes should be bored to prevent splitting the wood.

Now fix the angle brackets which give added support to the step. The arms of these brackets are 2ins. long. The axle is affixed underneath step (C) by screwing through from the top as shown in Fig. 2.

Roundhead screws into the ends of



THE IDEAL CHOICE FOR A
YOUNGSTER WHO LOVES
PLAYING AT 'RAILWAYS'

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All correspondence should be addressed to The Editor, Hobbies Weekly, Dereham, Norfolk

For Modellers, Fretworkers
and Home Craftsmen

4½^D

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For indoors or outdoors

MIDGET GOLF COURSE

MANY of us have enjoyed a game of Miniature Golf while on holiday and then wished we could make a similar course in our garden at home. Space probably would not allow such an undertaking or, maybe, we were not allowed to make holes and build up the necessary bunkers on a nice lawn.

If you want the game for use on the lawn only, the baseboards can be much larger than the indoor type, but, for all round use, about 10ins. by 18ins. will be a very convenient size. Quite thin plywood can be used or 1/4in. pulpboard is just as suitable, and the front edge must be made wedge-shape for the ball to enter easily.

A simple board to make is shown at (A), but it is not so easy to get the ball into the hole at the rear, as the board slopes upwards from the front. The necessary slope is obtained by tapering the side strips, but do not make them too severe, say, not above 2ins. The ball enters through a card tube with guard strips on either side.

The board shown at (C) is somewhat similar, but instead of sloping up, there is a gentle curve up and down, with an archway at the peak through which the ball must pass. Entrance is through a gap in the front strip. The curve can be made of card, with blocks at intervals underneath to give the necessary slope.

The castle obstacle shown at (B) is a real teaser and depends for its success on the force with which the ball is struck. It must run up the curved ramp and then jump right into the castle.

A little experimenting will be necessary here in order to get the castle the correct height and also the ramp the proper distance from the castle. Both

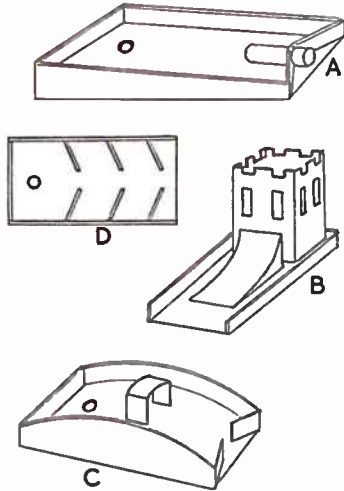
pieces can be made of card or thin ply with supporting strips and then adjusted to their correct positions and glued firmly to the base.

The next board (D) looks very much easier than it actually is, for unless the ball is aimed accurately it will hit one of the side projections and fail to reach the hole. The board should slope upwards slightly.

From the hints given in these examples it will be quite easy to complete the set with some very ingenious obstacles. Try not to make them too difficult, or the game may lose a certain amount of interest.

In order to preserve the wood or card, especially if used out of doors, one or two coats of good quality paint should be given not forgetting the underside. Green will probably predominate for the groundwork, but use some gay colours for the various obstacles to make the pieces more attractive.

Methods of play and scoring can be varied to suit your idea of the game. A good method is to have a fixed place for the ball in the centre of the lawn or room, and place the 'holes' at equal distances round the outside. When the ball fails to go into the appropriate hole it is placed in the centre again making the total strokes mount up against the player. (A.F.T.)



All these difficulties are easily overcome by making a set of 'holes' as described in this article. It can be used on any lawn, concrete yard, or if it is raining, it can be moved indoors and played in any reasonably sized room.

The game consists of hitting an ordinary golf ball with the normal club or putter into a series of holes, usually 9 or 18, the person doing it in the least number of strokes being the winner. When played indoors a table tennis ball can be used if desired.

To make the game more difficult a number of obstacles are introduced for the ball to pass into, through or over. Unless you have plenty of room it is best to confine your game to 9 holes, although you can design any number you like and have some fresh ones for every game.

Each hole is mounted on a separate baseboard of thin plywood with the appropriate obstacles glued in position, and these may be as varied and as complicated as you wish. We have not illustrated a full set but just a few to give a general idea and from these suggestions many others will, doubtless, occur to the reader.

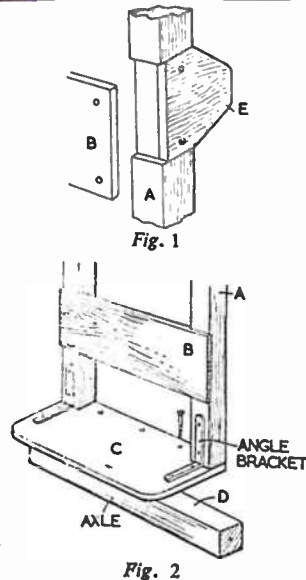
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TOY PORTER'S BARROW

axle (D) fix the wheels, which are of the rubber tyred type.

After a thorough cleaning up and glasspapering of the barrow, it can be finished as desired. Clear varnish can be applied, or if preferred, the article can be painted in bright colours such as red, yellow and green, to attract the eye of children. It is best, however, to leave the grip part of the handles just plain varnish, from which grubby finger marks can be easily wiped off.

FULL KIT AVAILABLE
For making this Toy Porter's Barrow you can get a kit for 13/6 which includes all wood, rubber-tyred wheels and brackets. From branches and stockists or post free from Hobbies Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk



YOUNG JOHN'S BIG MOMENT



John, as seen on TV, explaining a model to Huw Wheldon

THE greatest moment in the life of young John Gooding of Alford, Lincs., was when he went to the telephone to answer a call from the B.B.C. and was invited to appear in the television programme 'All Your Own'.

John has always loved woodwork, and to begin with used his father's tools to make toys for his small sister, and from this small beginning grew the desire to have a workshop of his own with electric tools. To earn the money to buy the tools he wanted he made a bargain with his mother to help her in the house if she would pay him a small wage for the odd jobs he performed in his spare time, and gradually the pence and shillings mounted to purchase the equipment for the workshop.

He had a little book in which he listed each job — and each successive target was the price of a certain Hobbies tool. From his hand fretsaw he

proceeded to a machine and it was a red letter day when his first electrical tool, Hobbies lathe, was installed. Now the workshop is one which any man would be proud to own, and John keeps very busy indeed, especially in the school holidays, making many attractive articles in answer to requests from many parts of the world.

Those of our readers who saw John Gooding interviewed by Huw Wheldon on the television programme will remember the excellent display of woodwork which this young hobbyist had made, and it should be a distinct encouragement to many young Hobbies enthusiasts when it is realised that what John can do, they can do also.

As John's mother has declared with gratitude to the pastime which has made her son so happy, this wonderful hobby has not only provided new furniture for the home, but it has given her son a creative outlet which has brought happi-

ness to the family and many people in all parts of the world.

Incidentally, one of John's overseas friends is his namesake, Mr. John Gooding, of Idaho, U.S.A., also a lover of woodcraft, who has received from the Lincolnshire lad a gift in the form of a musical cigarette box — one of the many hundreds of designs detailed in Hobbies 1957 Handbook, which is now on sale at branches, newsagents, etc., price 2/-. Copies of this grand 152 page Handbook can also be obtained from Hobbies Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk (2/3 post free).

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Recording Passing History



A peep into John's workshop reveals this enthusiastic hobbyist with some of his handiwork made from Hobbies designs.

subjects, such as watermills, are apt to be badly lighted owing to their surroundings, by loading the camera with a hyper-sensitive film, this difficulty is surmountable.

Such films will also enable you to photograph buildings in city streets, where the light may be poor. Alternatively you can use a film of slower speed, put the camera on a firm support, and give a short time exposure when there are no moving figures or moving objects in view.

Choosing the viewpoint and the best time of day can be absorbing. It should be done without haste, as there is usually just one standpoint which will show the subject to the best advantage.

Whilst the pictorial aspects of the work should not be overlooked, it should be remembered that the primary purpose is to make a record. The lighting will often play a big part in showing the subject clearly, and sometimes more than one visit may be necessary before everything is found to be just right for an exposure.

Careful choice of viewpoint and suitable lighting will often do much to eliminate unwanted surroundings which would otherwise mar the record value of the photograph. For instance, if the picture is taken when the background is in shadow, the main subject will stand out more vividly.

As to processing the films and making prints or enlargements, the operations may follow normal lines, but there is one vital proviso — the washing after fixing must be really thorough.

An insufficiently washed photograph may remain unstained for a few years, but it will eventually begin to deteriorate. Since the historic value of a record photograph increases with the passing years, such deterioration must be rigorously guarded against. It can be caused by failing to wash all the fixer from the photograph.

Washing is best done in gently running water, rather than in several complete changes of dish water, provided the prints are kept moving and are not allowed to stick together. As fixing solution is heavier than water, the fixer eliminated from the prints will sink to the bottom, and a useful accessory is a syphon which will draw off the wash-water from the bottom of the sink. Such a syphon can be easily made from a length of tubing shaped to U-form, and it will help to ensure that the prints are thoroughly washed.

Negatives should be kept in the special envelopes available from photographic stores, and not in paper wallets or ordinary envelopes, which may have in the paper some chemicals harmful to photographs.

Cycling hints

Be Prepared for Weather Changes

Says A. Sharp

IT is advisable to 'be prepared' when going on a summer holiday tour on a bicycle. No matter how promising the outlook when you start, a sudden change of weather may occur before your holidays are over. Again, it may be fine and sunny in one area, but dull and showery in another.

The wise thing to do is to be ready for anything, but without overloading yourself with surplus kit. Pack in your valise or pannier bag adequate covering for legs and feet, for use if rain comes. Riding in persistent rain for some hours without sufficient protection can be very damping in a literal sense! A lightweight mackintosh or a good waterproof cape, leggings, and good cycling shoes are essential.

Sometimes on tour the weather becomes very hot. Your policy then is to keep cool. Thick, tight clothing will bring discomfort. Change into shorts and open shirt. Don't have your belt too tight. Have it just a trifle slack to allow for air ventilation.

Food and drink

You will do a lot of sweating on a hot day's cycling. Eat plenty, but make your meals light. Drink plenty, but don't over-indulge in 'fizzy' drinks.

If you should be unlucky for a time and have to ride in wet weather, take all precautions to ensure keeping yourself as dry as possible. If you wear glasses you will require a hat or cap with peak to afford protection, seeing that 'specs' blurred by rain obscure the outlook on the road ahead.

Some riders take no apparent harm riding bare-headed through storm and shower. A brisk hair-rubbing when they arrive home and they are all right. If, however, you prefer head covering, then a soft tweed hat is better than a cap, although there are those who prefer an oilskin sou'wester.

The usual outfit for wet-weather cycling consists of poncho, hat or sou'wester, and gaiter-leggings or spats, or oilskin 'legs'. This outfit is carried — when not in use — in a neat container. Obtain the non-cracking, non-sticking, and non-tearing material.

Choice of cape

When selecting a cape choose one fully cut, designed to come well down over the handlebars, with full skirt, deep storm collar, and thumb loops. A skimpy cape fitting too tightly over the handlebars when pulled down over the grips, restricts steering and may be dangerous. If the cape is too short to cover the handlebars it will have to float free, so that it 'bellies' out behind in the wind, and does not afford the protection it should.

A cape, whilst giving body protection, leaves the lower part of one's legs exposed to every trickle, and soon one becomes uncomfortable. Therefore, protect your nether limbs with 'legs' or gaiters. Cycling spats are quicker to get into than ordinary leggings and are not

so hot to ride in; they may be slipped off and on easily as needs be. They are kinder to the crease in your trousers, if you are riding to business duties.

Cycling for some length of time clad in full wet-weather rig causes the cyclist to become warm and to perspire freely, especially in 'muggy' conditions. It is then wise to take off jacket or pullover and ride in your shirt sleeves under the cape — the discarded garment can be either folded or rolled up and tucked away in the pannier bag.

Efficient mudguards

Shoes for cycling in wet weather should have strap-over fronts; they will keep off the rain that is bound to try and find a way in. If the weather turns chilly with the rain, cold damp feet can be dealt with by wearing a pair of silk socks beneath the usual cycling stockings. Both stockings and shoes should be tight-fitting if you want to keep feet warm in cold, wet, windy weather.

Dust, oil and grease are enemies of oilskins, so do not carry them on the cycle without suitable covering.

Be sure that your cycle has efficient mudguards. There are various kinds of side shields, mud-splashers or mud-flaps to be had in oilskin or celluloid. These flaps are slipped on and off the mudguard quite easily when required, and protect the feet from splashes when riding on roads running inches deep in water during prolonged rain. Efficient mudguarding on a bicycle makes all the difference to one's foot comfort when riding in a downpour of rain.

much narrower than the body of the bowl.

Where at all convenient, place your bowl or aquarium in a place where the direct rays of a hot sun will not fall upon it, except for a brief period early in the day. An ideal position, of course, is in a window where the light is received direct from above. In any case, you can shade your tank or globe from the strong summer light by covering part of it with tissue paper of a kind that will exclude much of the sunlight.

Tank is best

A tank is better than a round bowl or globe, as you can have two or three sides screened, or painted on the outside. If the tank is fixed near the window,

the side nearest to it should be shaded one way or another. Plants, of course, in the tank provide shade, and it is most advisable to keep suitable kinds as Vallisneria, Elodeas, etc., in your aquarium.

Keep aquarium water as clear and pure as you can. In hot weather, changing the water, if necessary, should be done carefully. When such work is being carried out, or the water in the tank added to, it is essential to make certain that the new water is of the same temperature as the old, for quick changes in the temperatures are harmful to the inmates of the tank. Keep your aquarium free from old food deposits and other refuse, and see to it that the water is nicely aerated.

Home Chemistry

A FILTER FOR BULKY PRECIPITATES

EVERY home chemist has had experience with voluminous precipitates, which are difficult to wash and are slow filtering. Such precipitates have usually a gelatinous consistency and block the pores in ordinary filter paper, thus impeding the passage of liquid.

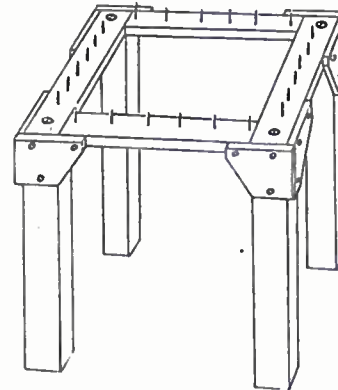


Fig. 1

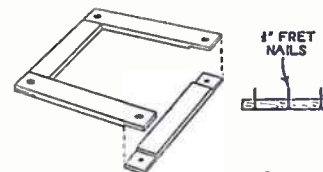


Fig. 2

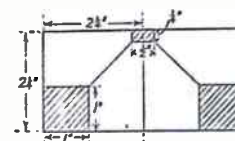


Fig. 3

The bulky precipitate is common and can slow down laboratory work immensely if filter paper is used. Washing with large volumes of water in a large bottle fitted with siphon tubes can be resorted to. Though this is a good method, it takes up time. If speed is essential, the best plan is to use fine cotton cloth for filtering, not in a funnel, but in a specially constructed stand, so that a large drainage surface is attained beneath the filter. Such a stand is easy to construct.

It consists of a small stool without a

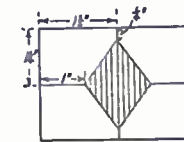


Fig. 4

seat, the top edges carrying nails on which to hang the filter cloth. Large quantities of hot water can then be poured through the precipitate, will drain off rapidly and soon clear the precipitate of admixed soluble matter. Fig. 1 shows the completed stand and can be referred to during the construction for points of detail.

The top (Fig. 2) is made from four 7in. lengths of 1in. by 1/2in. stripwood, joined by cellulose cemented half-laps. The joints are drilled and countersunk to accommodate the brass screws which will fix the top to the four legs. The legs are 7ins. long and 1in. square. At intervals, five or six 1/2in. brass fret nails are driven through each side of the top from beneath to act as filter-cloth holders. After screwing down the top to the legs, eight angle stiffeners of 1/2in. thick wood should be screwed on to give rigidity. To avoid difficult mitreing, long and short stiffeners can be made, the effect of this being shown in the positioning diagram in Fig. 4.

Figs. 3 and 4 show how the stiffeners can be marked off on slips of wood. The shaded areas are cut away as waste and the remainder cut up along the lines as indicated. The stiffeners are screwed to top and legs as shown in Fig. 1. Brass screws should again be used.

After waterproofing with two or three coats of good varnish the stand is ready for use. (L.A.F.)

The Cross Puzzle

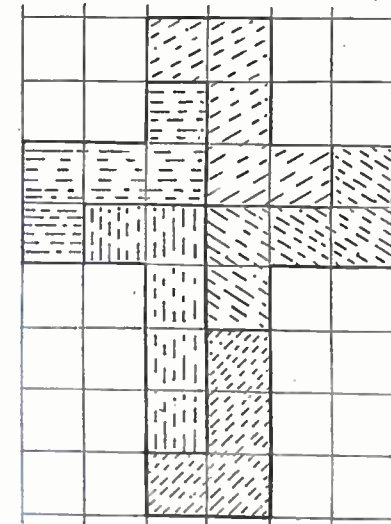
ONE of the best puzzles made from interlocking parts is, undoubtedly, the Cross Puzzle which is fairly easy to make, providing you cut the wood with real accuracy.

You require a piece of wood, thin three-ply or, perhaps, hardboard, 8ins. long and 6ins. wide. This is marked out into squares in pencil as shown in the diagram. Take care to see that they are squares, using a fine point.

Mark in the outline of the cross and the joints, cutting out the cross first. Next the cross is cut into sections as shown by the differently shaded areas and you will find that the three at the top are exactly the same shape, a factor which makes the solution so difficult.

There are five pieces in all, and when these have been cut out, smooth all the edges with a piece of fine glasspaper to remove waste left by the saw. The pencil lines must be rubbed out, or glasspapered out, and the whole given a coat of paint if desired.

When cutting out use a fine saw blade to produce clean joints, trying to avoid any overcutting of the joints. If two or three pieces of wood are clamped



together, you will be able to produce as many puzzles at one sawing. (S.H.L.)

For hard wear

MAKE A ROPE MAT

FOR hard wear there is, undoubtedly, nothing to beat a well-made rope mat.

There are very many kinds of ropes, most of which may be used for mat making. The usual and best type is made up of three strands twisted either to the right or left and this is called 'laid' to distinguish it from woven or plaited rope.

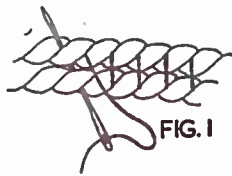


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

It does not matter which type is used for mat making, it can be either right laid or left laid, nor is it necessary to have new rope for the job. Used material will do provided it does not show very evident signs of wear.

When new rope is used it should be laid out on the floor to get rid of any kinks and twists as it is being coiled up. If this is not done you may find that when the mat is sewn up it has a permanent twist which will not allow it to lie flat.

Sewing the coils of the rope together is the most important operation and this needs to be done carefully if the mat is to be strong and give useful service over a period of years. The best way to learn how this is done is to take an odd length of rope, preferably soft and pliable, and experiment with the stitches as shown in Fig. 1. Another method of sewing is illustrated in Fig. 2, in which the stitches are mostly hidden to give added strength and consequently a longer life.

Marline, which is a strong two-strand thin line, is generally used to sew the mats together with, but any good twine or stout linen thread may be used. Rubbing the line with beeswax will make the job easier and help to lengthen its life. Some people find it easier to use a semi-circular needle or at least one with a curved point, but that you will soon

determine when you start on the job.

Now for a few words about the different kinds of mats which you can easily make. Once you have learned how to make the simpler type it is no trouble, whatever, to design numerous other attractive patterns. Begin with the simple coiled mat shown in Fig. 3. Bind the end of the rope for a distance of about 1/2 in. to hold the strands together and keep them from fraying out and then coil up into a circle, sewing the rope together as



FIG. 3

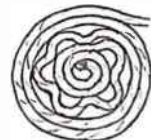


FIG. 5



FIG. 4



FIG. 6

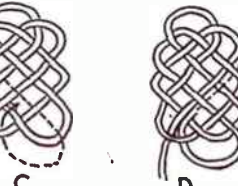
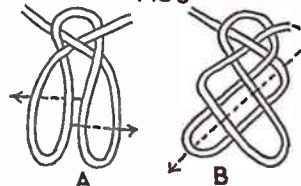


FIG. 7

you go. In order to make a stronger mat you can turn it over and sew the coils together as you have done on the other side.

Coiling the rope as shown in Fig. 4 will produce an oval or long mat, and by making the end turns at a sharper angle you will have an almost perfect rectangle.

Ornamenting the plain coil is a pleasant variation and this can be treated in a number of different ways. Start with a tight coil for a few turns, then loop up the rope as shown in Fig. 5, continuing with more plain coils or loops as you wish. Many quite attractive designs can be made very easily and the same method is used for the coil or rectangular mats.

Outstanding design

For those who prefer something different and really outstanding what could be better than that shown in Fig. 6. The centre consists of a plaited knot and round this is sewn a number of plain coils to make the mat to the size required.

Although this looks quite complicated it is really very easy to make, and if the diagrams (A) to (D) (Fig. 7) are carefully followed you cannot go wrong. Near one end of a length of rope make the loops as at (A), and cross over the two lower loops indicated by arrows, which produces (B).

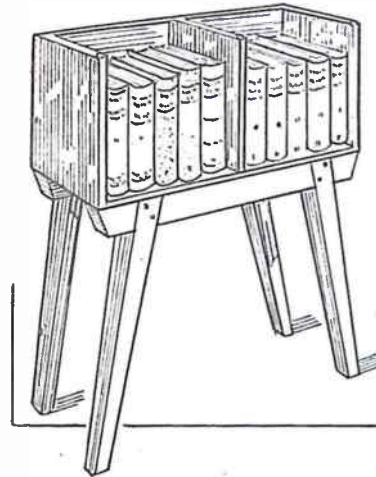
Thread through the end as shown by the dotted line and arrow (B), after which this end is left alone and the remainder of the work done with the other end of the rope. Now take this end and thread it through as shown at (C). Continue upwards as in diagram (D), which is in reality the start of the second round.

It is now quite easy to follow closely in and out until you have completed three rounds which will finish the plaited knot as shown in Fig. 6. For a smaller centre you can plait two rounds or you may make it larger by doing four or more rounds.

The outside of the mat is straightforward and needs no description. It is an advantage, however, to use a slightly thicker rope for the outside coils as the plaiting produces a somewhat thicker centre. Bind the end of the rope with twine or thread to keep it from untwisting before finishing the sewing. Should it be necessary to join the rope for any part of the job this is best done with a long splice. Not only will it be practically invisible, but there will be no ends to fray and come apart. (A.F.T.)

For large volumes

A HANDY BOOKSTAND



allow to dry. When set, lightly glass-paper, then glue a second time and panel pin the moulding. If moulding is not available, planed slips of wood, with side edges bevelled, may be used as an alternative.

By W. J. Ellson

As the weight of large volumes can be quite considerable, a stout set of legs is essential. These are fitted to horizontal members, at a splay outwards. Two such members will be required, each having a leg at each end. Cut legs and members from 2in. square timber, and half lap them together as at Fig. 2.

A front view (B) shows the angle at which the grooves for the legs should be cut in the horizontal members. When cut, the legs can be placed in, and a pencil drawn along the horizontals to indicate the angle at which the shoulders of the 'cut-outs' at the top of each leg must be sawn. Reduce the thickness to half, when the legs should fit in and be flush with the horizontals each side. Trim off the surplus at the tops of the

ENCYCLOPAEDIAS and such like books, are often too bulky to go in the bookcase, and a special stand for them becomes really necessary. The stand, illustrated, is eminently suitable for large books, holding them at a convenient height for ease of reference.

Good quality deal is used, a thickness of 1/2 in. being strong enough, and not too bulky in appearance. The length as given, can, of course, be extended to suit the number and thickness of the volumes it is to contain.

A diagram of the stand, less the legs, is given in Fig. 1, showing suitable dimensions. The sides are rebated at their bottom ends to half thickness where they join the floor of the book compartment. The middle division is grooved into the floor to a depth of 1/2 in. Both these joints are shown separately, enlarged for clarity. Nail and glue the sides to the floor, and fit the back piece, nailing it to both sides and floor. If 1/2 in. board is employed, as suggested, the quality known as 'shelving' is recommended, being obtainable in 11in. widths. When cutting the division piece remember to make it the full width of the ends less the thickness of wood used for the back. Nail and glue all joints.

Cover the top edges of back, sides and division with a half-round moulding as at (A), mitred at the corners. These pieces should be glued on and nailed with panel pins. The ends, at the front, should be sharply bevelled off. When fixing the moulding, apply a coat of glue to the parts to be covered and

CUTTING LIST

Sides.	(2).	10ins. by 9ins. by 1/2 in.
Division.		9 1/2 ins. by 8 1/2 ins. by 1/2 in.
Back.		1ft. 10 1/2 ins. by 9 1/2 ins. by 1/2 in.
Floor.		1ft. 11 1/2 ins. by 9 1/2 ins. by 1/2 in.
Horizontals.	(2).	2ft. by 2ins. by 2ins.
Legs.	(4).	1ft. 6ins. by 2ins. by 2ins.

Half-round moulding, 1/2 in. wide, 4ft. 6ins. run.

legs, and also trim the bottoms to set flat to the floor, and bevel the ends of the horizontals.

To lessen somewhat the heaviness of these legs, taper them to 1 1/2 ins. at the bottom ends, starting from the horizontal members. Taper at the front, and also from the inside as shown at side section (C). Glue and screws must be used to make a firm fixture between the legs and their horizontals. Use round-headed screws for best appearance.

The horizontals are glued and screwed to the floor of the bookstand. Punch down any nail heads, and stop up all holes. Unless the stand is to be painted, use stopping coloured to match that of the stain and varnish employed.

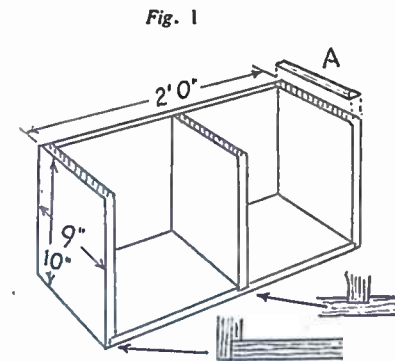


Fig. 1

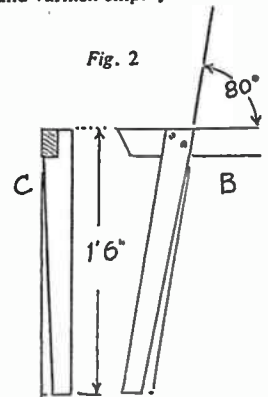


Fig. 2

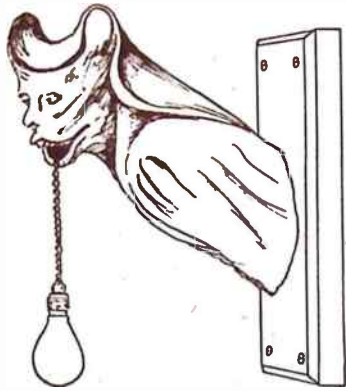
A Carver of Coal

MR. TURTON, of the little village of Hucknall Torkard, in Nottinghamshire, England, a coal-miner, was a famous hobbyist in the 1890's because of his strange pastime of carving coal. His skill at this seemingly unpleasant pursuit was quite amazing. He would select large lumps of hard, non-splintery coal, much as a sculptor selects his raw blocks of granite or marble or limestone. Then, with the minimum of tools and an infinity of patience, he would slowly but surely

carve his unique raw material into designs, pottery, ornaments, even portrait busts and animal reproductions. Many of his carvings were unsurpassed in skill and resourcefulness, but his *piece de resistance* was the fabulous large ornamented cup of the kind usually fashioned in silver. This was made for a special purpose, for Mr. Turton presented it to his local football league as an apt trophy, since most of its members were also miners. The masterpiece was used as such for many years. (D.G.)

For the wood carver

Novel Electric Wall Bracket



By A. F. Taylor

MODERN decorating is mainly responsible for the increasing use of wall brackets as a means of illuminating the room. When a room is panelled one or two light brackets can be very charming, or on a plain papered or distempered wall it helps to break the monotony and give dignity to the room.

Many delightful designs have been executed in wood and metal work and new patterns are frequently appearing to grace our homes. The subject of this article is really something quite new and offers great scope to the wood carver.

Quite a lot of different animal heads can be used and some very interesting studies are to be seen in the gargoyles on our churches. Ship figure heads, too, offer scope to the designer, all of which may be adapted for the job.

Choice of wood is important as much of the beauty of the design can be brought out by using a suitable type. Design and the furnishings of the room also play a part and the final choice must be left to your judgment.

Most of the hardwoods used by the carver are suitable and sometimes several different coloured woods may be incorporated in the design to produce some special effect. Inlaying is not difficult and if done carefully the result can be very charming.

The general idea is to have a figure with its mouth wide open for the electric flex to come out of with the bulb suspended on the end of it.

The size of the figure and the distance of the bulb from the wall will be governed to a certain extent on the size of the room. It would look silly to put a tiny figure in a spacious room or large

hall and equally out of all proportion to make a giant for a small cottage wall.

The light should not be closer to the wall than 6ins., and for an average size room probably 9ins. would be the ideal position.

Substantial backboard

All the figures will need to be mounted on a substantial backboard of not less than 3in. thick for the smaller ones and this can be increased to 1in. for larger models. The board can be cut to any shape, and the front edges bevelled or carved to harmonize with the figure.

Fix the figure to the board by first gluing it and then inserting about three countersunk screws from the back. The board is fastened to the wall either with screws in the corners or with a brass plate, so that it is hung on a nail or hook.

A switch can be incorporated in the board under the figure, in which case the board must be made somewhat longer. The electric wiring can be dealt with in several ways, the simplest being to run a length of flex to a switch plug near by.

To conceal the wires a strip of wall-paper may be pasted neatly over them, but a better method is to chip out a channel in the plaster, put the wires in and replaster to make a smooth flat surface.

Making the hole through the figure for the flex lead should not be difficult and the first part from the mouth should not be much larger than the wire. Drill this in to a depth of a few inches and then a larger hole can be drilled from the back to meet this.

Twin heads fitted on to one large board at an angle are very effective when more light is needed.

Besides all kinds of animal heads, birds make charming studies, and although somewhat ambitious, a swallow in flight could be used to make a really first class job.

Finishing can be carried out in a variety of ways. After well smoothing the model the wood can be varnished, french or wax polished, or the figure can be painted in natural colours with oil paints.

Use that Old Plastic Mac

THE only drawback to the plastic mac is that it is apt to wear out quickly, but even when its life as a coat or cape is ended it can still serve many useful purposes. Here are a few suggestions.

Washday Armlets

Have you thought of cutting off the sleeves just above the elbow if they are still free from tears or large holes? With a few inches of cord elastic sewn at wrist and elbow a very useful pair of armlets can be made. These will protect a new blouse or cardigan when washing up has to be done hurriedly.

A triangle cut from the back of the mac makes an excellent scarf with which to cover the hair when steam is rising from the washing.

Sponge Bag for Holiday Time

A strip from front or back panels of the old mac if machined neatly as a lining to a strip of bright material will make a quite satisfactory sponge bag. It can be finished off with a gilt button to give it a professional touch.

Short Apron

There is always a need for aprons and they wear out very quickly. The remains

of the plastic mac can easily be cut into the shape of a little bib apron, and a decorative effect added by machining a frill round the edges. This is merely a strip, or several strips of equal width cut from various sound parts of the mac and gathered into a frill by the machine as the edges of the apron are sewn down. A pocket could be added as a final touch.

In the Garden

A gardener I met the other day had found an original use for strips cut from her discarded plastic mac. She had machined several of these into the shape of a large and narrow envelope.

Inside this envelope she had put a thick strip of old carpet. This made an excellent and damp-proof kneeling pad for those many occasions when the gardener must go down on her knees to deal with the weeds.

Shopping Bag

A cap to fit over a bucket bag can quickly be made from a circle cut from the back of the mac. It needs merely a few inches of cord elastic threaded through a machined hem and it does ensure that the bag is completely waterproof. (R.R.)

Out with your camera

Recording Passing History

ALTHOUGH it is untrue to say that the camera cannot lie, photography is the most convenient, fastest, and most accurate means of recording history — including the changes which are occurring to historic treasures up and down Britain. Despite the work of various organisations in preserving historic relics, many vanish or undergo drastic alterations each year, and collecting photographs of them before they are razed or altered is a satisfying hobby.

Not only does the actual photographic work give pleasure, but there is the gratification of knowing that the pictures grow in antiquarian value as the years go by. Their pictorial and intrinsic value, may be small, but their importance to future generations may be considerable.

Without photographs for study, the appearance of many historic structures

* * * * *
* The changing times *
* give special import- *
* ance to record photo- *
* graphy and it is an *
* interesting as well as *
* a useful branch of *
* camera work, says *
* Arthur *
* Gaunt *
* * * * *



Windmills, such as this one at Tollerton between York and Easingwold, are particularly worth recording with a camera, for they quickly decay unless they are carefully preserved.

which have disappeared in fairly recent years would already have been almost forgotten.

Today, such pictorial records of threatened relics are even more urgently needed. Town re-planning, road widening, and sheer decay are removing or altering many buildings and objects which we would otherwise wish to preserve, but they can all be put on record with a camera before it is too late.

Among subjects particularly worth attention are windmills, watermills, bridges, and all manner of roadside curiosities. Windmills especially merit a photograph whenever they are seen, for they are exceptionally vulnerable. Many have ceased to work, and a windmill in disuse soon begins to tumble, unless special measures are taken to prevent this. Indeed, only two or three years are sufficient to reduce it to a sorry state, and if such a mill stands in your neighbourhood, no time should be lost in taking a picture of it for record purposes.

Watermills, too, are disappearing at a somewhat alarming rate. Their decay often goes unnoticed, for they are usually hidden from public gaze, yet it is safe to say that comparatively few of them have been made the subject of a series of record photographs.

Road improvement schemes are sweeping away historic houses, clearance schemes in cities and towns are removing or changing old inns. Bridges are being altered to ease the flow of traffic, and toll houses are being razed to make danger spots safe.

All these occurrences provide opportunities for interesting and useful photography. One attraction of this specialised

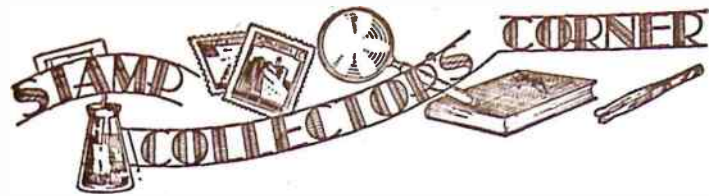
Continued on page 275



An ancient pillar at a road junction near Yeadon, a few miles from Leeds. Although it has survived so far, it is typical of many roadside relics threatened by road improvements up and down Britain.



This old toll house at Bradford was demolished five years ago, but was photographed for record purposes before it disappeared.



AFRICAN ERRORS

By R. Cantwell

THE Union of South Africa consists of the provinces of The Cape of Good Hope, Natal, The Orange Free State and The Transvaal, and since 1926, its unlimited resources, beautiful cities, rich farms and famous men, have been featured on her postage stamps.

The name Africa, which comes from a Carthaginian word meaning a colony, was probably first used by the Romans. The Greeks called the country Libya, but little was known of the continent except Egypt. Phoenicians who penetrated the interior, discovered the gold mines which they worked.

Re-discovery of these mines during the nineteenth century made South Africa one of the world's most important countries. Vast quantities of gold, silver, copper, tin, diamonds, platinum and agricultural products are exported annually.

The servants in South Africa are the natives, generally known as Kaffirs — an Arabic word meaning unbeliever. They belong to many different tribes, each group varying in appearance,

customs and language. Of these the Zulus are finest in strength and intelligence.

Nothing pleases the Kaffirs more than a varied wardrobe. They particularly admire waistcoats, often wearing five at once. They love to carry umbrellas whenever possible, except in rainy weather, considering them too precious to be taken out in the wet. No matter how ragged or torn, the umbrella is valuable to a Kaffir and carefully cherished.

Although hard to understand, the natives are kind and affectionate. Each tribe has its own songs and stories — mostly about animals — which they love reciting.

The elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, zebra and giraffe have disappeared from the 'settled' parts of South Africa. Lions and leopards are still found in north-east Transvaal. Herds of springbok are common; ostriches have been domesticated for the sake of their feathers and secretary birds are protected by law on account of the war they wage on snakes.

South African stamps with alternate English and Afrikaans (Dutch) inscriptions, are best collected in pairs. The first issue, 1913, contains many minor perforations and shades. These are fairly common but should prove a good investment. Values from 2/6 to £1 are highly catalogued. A ½d. green, doubly printed, is listed by Gibbons' at £80.

Collectors should keep a wary eye for the following items, 'just in case'. 1926 ½d. black and green — Missing '1' in fraction — very rare. 1d. black and carmine — tête-bêche (pair) — £60 mint. 1930-45 1d. black and carmine — frame omitted — £20. Ditto, 2d. slate-grey — £40 mint. Postage Due stamps, 1914. 1/- red and black, dated 19.3.15 — 75/- mint, 85/- used. 1922. 2d. black and violet — Imperf. — £10 mint. 1931-45. Pictorial — 'Union Buildings, Pretoria', with error — frame omitted — £30 mint. 1942-43. War effort, reduced sizes — ½d. green, 1d. carmine with error — roulette omitted — £12 mint. Ditto, 1½d. red-brown — £10, and 2d. violet — £20.

Interesting Facts for your Album

ALTHOUGH Chinese stamps dating from 1878 have proved a poor investment, thematic collectors will find them interesting. China is about the size of the U.S.A., yet Chinese people outnumber Americans by five to one.

Most Chinamen work hard, save their money and obey the law. Because theirs is the oldest nation, they consider themselves the best and greatest people on earth.

Ages before Christ's birth a Chinaman invented the mariner's compass. It aided Chinese sailors in navigating their ships, extended their trading and probably their battles, into unknown waters.

They were bold adventurers then. On their cruisers' bows was painted an eye to denote watchfulness; and red, their sacred colour, was displayed in flags decorating the ship.

A death blow

Chinese sea enterprise received a death-blow through the vanity of an ancient monarch. He ordered all vessels to be made in the shape of his imperial foot. This strange shape destroyed all

seaworthy qualities, and Chinese naval ambitions were extinguished.

Extremely superstitious, the Chinese believe in spirits, ghosts and spooks. Before attempting any undertaking, they consult those who pretend to understand the spirit world. They believe the earth possesses a living spirit; that this spirit, or fung-shui, is friendly in certain places, and a terrible enemy in others.

Punishment

Even today, many seek a fung-shui man's advice before building a house. He tells them if the air-and-water spirit is favourable, where to put the doors, windows and how the house must face the street.

Although Chinese lords are no longer allowed to devise their own methods of punishment, wrong-doers meet severe, cruel penalties. The bamboo rod is the most common form of punishment. The number of strokes are graduated according to the nature of the crime. It is the punishment for debtors who, after a reasonable period fixed by law, fail to pay up.

Other methods include kneeling on a coiled chain, or broken crockery with

bare knees, for hours without change of position; ankle and finger squeezing and banishment from home.

A Chinaman loves the land of his birth, and the village where he was born. He hopes always to return there, or for his bones to lie beside those of his family.

In 1897 Chinese currency changed from 100 candarins = 1 tael, to 100 cents = 1 dollar; in 1948 to 100 cents = 1 gold yuan, and in 1949, 100 cents = 1 silver yuan.

Stamps of value

The only stamps among hundreds issued to show any real value are: 1897. 5 dollar on 3 cent red — £35. Ditto, inscribed 'Imperial Chinese Post', 2 dollar orange — £5 mint, £6 used, 5 dollar green and red 90/- mint, £6 used. 1913. 20 dollar black and orange — £14 mint, £25 used. 1951. South West China, 200,000 dollar blue — £6 mint.

The latest issue commemorating China's 'Five Year Plan' contains nine 8-cent values — all industrial designs and obtainable from Stanley Gibbons for 5/3 mint.

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Replies to Readers Is this YOUR Problem?

Stain on Sideboard

SOME methylated spirit has been spilled on the sideboard and left a large white stain. Vinegar and several stain removers have failed, so your advice would be appreciated. (G.P.—Nairn.)

YOU seem to have tried most remedies likely to remove the white stain on your furniture, and if it is french polished, it may be that the spirit has removed the polish itself, in which case repolishing is necessary. Before resorting to this, however, try gentle rubbing with a clean soft rag, well moistened with warm camphorated oil. If your furniture is finished in cellulose you may be able to remove the stain with Silvo, a proprietary brand of metal polish.

Kitchen Improvement

WE wish to improve our kitchen which is at present just bare brick, colour-washed over. Is there an alternative to plastering? (A.C.—Walsall.)

UNLESS the brick walls are unusually flat, it will be necessary to render them so with a coating of plaster. The least expensive method of covering the bricks would be to use wallboard, which you can purchase from any builders' stores. It is easily fixed with nails, and can be distempered or papered. As the floor is probably of brick or tile, it would be cheapest to concrete it. A one-of-cement and two-of-sand mixture, 3/4 in. thick would be about right if applied over the tiles, but if the tiles are removed, a sub-floor of one cement, two sand and three of ballast mixture, 2 ins. thick would be advisable first.

Photographic Sink

I WISH to make a sink out of wood for photographic purposes, but do not know what to coat the insides with to make them waterproof. Can you tell me the best lining to use? (P.T.—Oxford.)

YOU should apply a coat of red priming colour to the wooden sink, and follow up with two coats of black japan, Berlin black or black bath enamel. Allow to dry for 14 days before using.

Repairing a Stone Pillar

I HAVE a stone gate the pillar of which is cracked at the base. I intend to fit a wooden gate and would like your advice on the repair of the pillar. (G.T.—Southport.)

A SECURE fastening will be advisable, owing to the strain on the post through vibration and shock when the gate is closed. A strip of 3/4 in. by 1 in.

wrought iron bar should be fitted each side, extending vertically over the cracks in the stone work. These are secured by drilling screwholes in the bar and drilling holes to correspond, into the stone, the latter job easily done with a plugging chisel. Drill the holes in the stone twice the diameter of those in the iron. Fill holes with thick cement and press round-headed iron screws through bars and into stonework. Clamp round with strong cord until the cement is set hard.

* * *

Kitchen Improvement

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Imitation Rough Cast

CAN you tell me how to make a good imitation rough-cast for a doll's house wall with sawdust? (F.H.—Fareham.)

THIS can be achieved by painting with diluted glue, then sprinkling with sawdust. Another method is to paint with matt paint, or, of course, use roughcast paper as supplied by Hobbies Ltd.

Removing fat splashes

Cooking fat splashes from a distempered wall? (S.N.—Cullompton.)
YOU may be able to remove the grease spots by gentle rubbing with cleansing benzene, obtainable from

most ironmongers. Apply this gently on a clean rag pad, and repeat as necessary until all grease is removed. This should prove quite effective.

QUEER HOBBIES

Collector of Fleas

IT is said that original minds produce the most original ideas, and it is certainly true that the world's famous men have devised some very strange hobbies. The oldest collector in the world was probably the Egyptian King Tutankhamen, who collected whips and walking sticks, thereby creating a fashion. Sir Winston Churchill collects hats of every conceivable kind, from sombreros to fezz, from homburgs to military shakos. President Roosevelt once said: 'I owe my life to my hobbies — especially stamp-collecting', and his pursuit was followed by both King George V and King George VI. Stanley Baldwin collected stuffed owls, but President Truman preferred to deck the walls of his study with antique pistols of every known type. Julius Caesar collected mosaic tables, taking his favourite ones with him on all his campaigns. Delius and Sir Arthur Quiller Couch collected 'penny-dreadfuls', but multi-millionaire Baron Rothschild collected fleas — amassing 10,000 specimens from all over the world — surely the strangest hobby ever. (D.G.)

A READER'S APPRECIATION

THE following appreciation of the radio articles in *Hobbies Weekly* has been received from Mr. F. B. Logan, of 63 St. Vincents Crescent, Glasgow, C.3.

'In December last you published a design for a simple One-valve Short-Wave set. I made this up, added a L.F. stage and now have a good little Short-Wave set which tunes from 16 to 45 metres and also covers the trawler band and part of the medium wave band. I have received broadcasts and amateurs from U.S.A. and Canada, all over Europe, the Middle East and India. I used an Oxo cube box for the chassis, with hardboard for the panel, which makes a neat compact job. Most of the components are ex-W.D. surplus, or spares from old sets. The coils I made as described in Mr. Rayer's article, and although I have tried others, they don't give such good results.

'Mr. Rayer's articles are particularly good, as they explain clearly and simply just what the novice wants to know. Until I read his article on the colour code, I could never understand it.'

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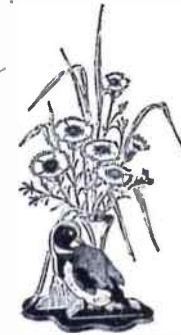


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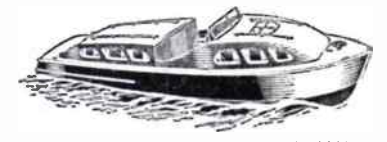


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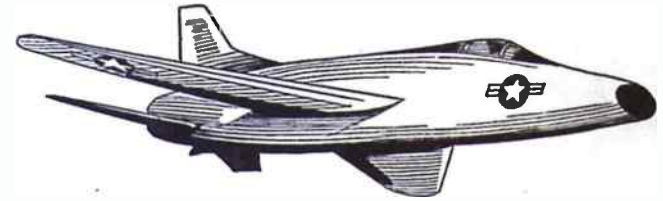
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MAKE A SUPER SABRE

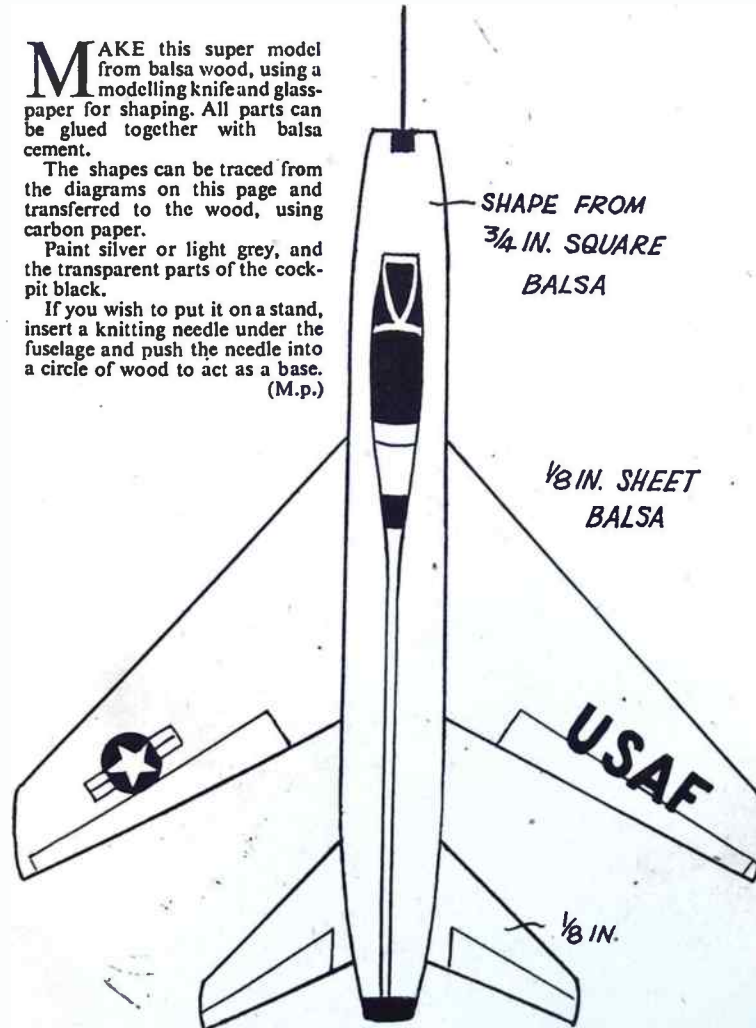


MAKE this super model from balsa wood, using a modelling knife and glass-paper for shaping. All parts can be glued together with balsa cement.

The shapes can be traced from the diagrams on this page and transferred to the wood, using carbon paper.

Paint silver or light grey, and the transparent parts of the cockpit black.

If you wish to put it on a stand, insert a knitting needle under the fuselage and push the needle into a circle of wood to act as a base. (M.p.)



SHAPE FROM 3/4 IN. SQUARE Balsa

1/8 IN. SHEET Balsa

USAF

1/8 IN.



1/8 IN.

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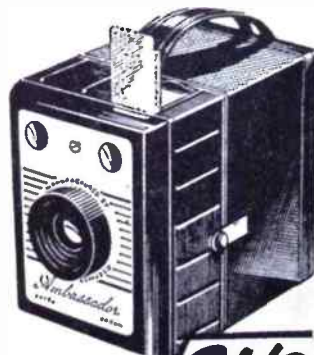
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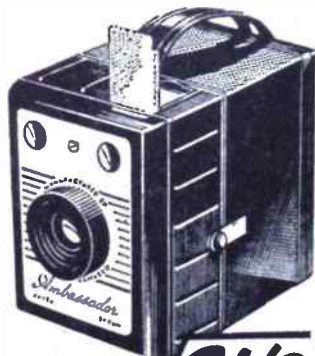
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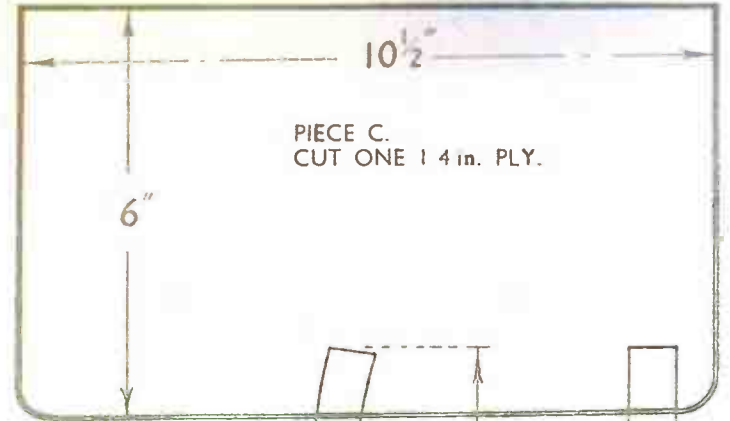
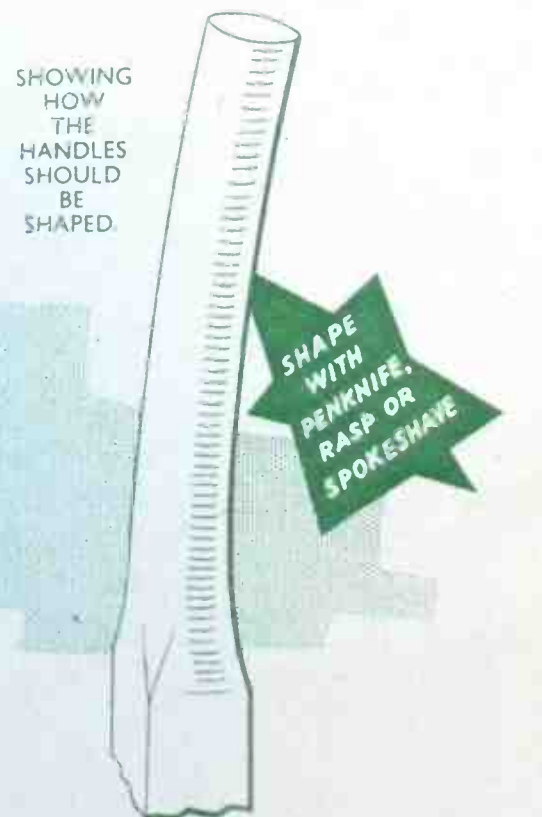
SIZE
33 ins. HIGH
13 ins. WIDE



NOTE.
READ THE
INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY
BEFORE
COMMENCING
TO
MAKE UP
THE
BARROW.

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