

VOL. 49.  
No. 1272.

OUR FRETWORK DESIGN.  
Egyptian Letter Pocket.

FEBRUARY 28.  
— 1920. —

**T**HE subject of the Supplemental Design Sheet with which we present our readers this week is a characteristic piece of Egyptian decoration, and very effective it is in appearance. The article is a Letter Pocket of very useful proportions, as illustrated in the centre of the page. It is designed to mount the head of Isis as a metal embossed overlay.

**The Material and Dimensions.**

The overall dimensions of this Letter Pocket are 13 ins. high, by 8½ ins. wide, and 2¾ ins. from back to front. In its construction there are only two different thicknesses of wood required, viz., ¼ in. and 3-16 in. A special parcel of wood is made up by Hobbies Ltd. for making this Letter Pocket, and it is referred to in the small type price paragraph to be found at the end of this descriptive article. No moulding is needed for this design. The only fitting consists of the embossed head of the Egyptian goddess Isis, in an excellent bronze finish, and it will add materially to the appearance of the article, forming as it does its central feature.

**The Preparation of the Patterns.**

It has been found possible to print the whole of the pattern sections in full and independently, so that it will be possible for the fretworker to go right ahead with the work without any delay in the direction of the duplicating or tracing of parts of the pattern.

The Paper Design Sheet will accordingly be cut up, and each section of the pattern affixed immediately to the piece of wood intended for it. Care must be taken to see that the paper patterns are affixed the right way of the grain of the wood as indicated by the arrow marks to be found upon each section printed upon the Design Sheet. The matter is simplified to those who secure one of Hobbies Special Parcels of wood as referred to above, because each piece will have been cut the right way of the grain at Hobbies saw mills and therefore the



No. 1272.  
Egyptian Letter Pocket.

paper pattern section will have to go on the way the wood has been prepared.

**The Cutting.**

There are features to be cut in this design



# THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

## Wood Mosaic.

SOME wonderful work may be done by means of wood mosaic, the finished effects being of great beauty if the pattern has been well thought out and arranged, and providing suitable varieties of wood have been used in combination. Not only can the tops of chess tables be produced, but occasional tables, stools, fancy boxes, and numerous other articles can be decorated in this manner. Nor is it the futurist only who would admire such designs as are possible with wood mosaic, for the general public always appreciate the rich effects of a mosaic pattern. With the amateur craftsman the chief difficulty which presents itself in the creation of wood mosaic is the production of the numerous parts with a sufficient degree of accuracy to enable them to fit together perfectly, while if a perfect fit is not secured the result would only caricature the mosaic principle.

The difficulty is overcome by the employment of the correct type of appliance and machine. For the production of wood mosaic the only machine that we know to be suitable is that specially designed light circular saw with a special angle fence which is manufactured by Hobbies

Ltd. While this machine is suitable for any ordinary light cutting, it was in the first instance specially designed for the purposes of wood mosaic. The reason for its original design was the desire to find some means of turning the hundreds of little scraps of waste fretwood to good account; in other words, to make such apparently useless scraps into a valuable by-product by the creation of a wood mosaic hobby. The machine in question possesses a finely graded angle fence which may be quickly set and re-

set to any desired angle, thus making it possible to produce mosaic easily and quickly, with every line cut true and straight. Fretworkers who can afford to go in for one of these handy machines would find it a great asset in many directions, for all the plain straight line cutting which occurs in the making of fretwork articles can be executed in a quarter the time by a circular saw, while every scrap of fretwood waste is used up to advantage.



THE SUBJECT OF NEXT WEEK'S DESIGN SHEET.

## The Importance of Finish.

The importance of finish in all craft work cannot be over-estimated. As we have before remarked, it is the finishing touch which always brings success and its lack, failure. This is a principle which is true in whatever way it is applied, and to any subject. We know the temptation which always exists to hurry over the final stages of the work in the desire to see the completion of the article in order to show it to friends as an achievement of one's own, but beginners should restrain the feeling—they should drown it, as it were, in a sustained endeavour to produce the best, and never the second best of which they are capable. In regard to surface finish, which makes such a difference, the full use of the sandpaper-block should al-

ways be made; not just a slight rub merely in order to remove the remains of the paper pattern, but a good vigorous rubbing in order to make every part of the surface smooth and clean, so that the whole of the frays, if any exist, are removed from the cut edges of the frets. More than one coarseness of paper should be used upon every article, but the change from very coarse to fine is readily effected if the worker is employing one of Hobbies sandpaper-blocks.

THE EDITOR.

# UMBRELLA REPAIRING AT HOME

## III.—*Ferrules, Metal Bands and Handles.*

**I**N the case of replacing any of the parts of the umbrella it is always done by removing the frame, and replacing it as described.

### **Ferrule.**

In cases where a new ferrule is required this should be done, as it looks neater—besides lengthening the life of the stick. It will hardly be necessary to mention that the stick should go right down to the bottom of the inside of the ferrule, or when used it will buckle up and then break off. Also the ferrule should be flush with the surface of the stick by letting the thickness of the ferrule in, and when these repairs are required they can be slipped over the ferrule instead of having to take it off if it should not be flush. Always use a ferrule with a loaded bottom, no matter how thin this may be, as the ferrule often used in repairs is a cheap punched cut sheet-brass one which has very little wear.



GOOD QUALITY  
FERRULE.

### **Broken Handle.**

A repair which is of very frequent occurrence is the breaking off of the handle at the end of the ribs. This is caused by the stick being dowelled into a piece of cane or other wood to form a handle. It is made so invisible that it is not noticed when purchased, but very often the least strain breaks it. Of course, the stick covered would be a solid one from one end to the other, but that would make it more expensive. In a case of this description the stick in the umbrella, and also the lower part of the handle has to be drilled so that a metal dowel screw can be inserted. Here care must be taken that the hole is not too wide, but just enough to allow the screw to make its own thread when being screwed in. The correct size dowel screws to be used for this purpose is the 2 by 10 for ladies' repairs, and for gent's umbrellas the 2½ by 12, but for strong jobs, where a horn handle is being fitted, use a stouter one, the 4 by 16. Now the drilling of these holes is not very simple, they must be dead straight, and it is advisable to try on another piece of wood first. It can be done with an ordinary brace, but a twist drill is the best for the purpose, using a couple of sizes smaller to make the first hole, then

follow with the right size. As a safeguard, put a piece of paper around the handle to keep it from being marked, while you bind a piece of wire around to keep it from splitting. It can, in this case, be screwed up in the bench vice, and made as rigid as possible before the work is commenced. It is not safe to part screw the dowel in and leave it as the wood may dry, and the screw fall out or get loose; so a good plan is to smear it with glue and quickly work it in, or a cement can be made of a little resin and plaster of Paris, ground together, and dropped in the holes, then the screw heated a little and put in. This sets almost at once, and is difficult to remove if correctly done. A safeguard against the splitting is to use a band of some kind also. Bands about 1 in. long in white or gilt metal are not expensive, and if this is placed on the handle end, half-way, the screw put in, and allowed to set, then heated in the gas jet and put in the stick, allowing the band to go over the stick the other half way, it will be found a strong job. The bands vary in size, but it is only necessary to quote the diameter to get the correct size. This same repair very often occurs at the extreme end of the handle, the small ornament of some kind falling off. This is caused through the hole becoming large, and the screw gets loose. It can be plugged, or a thicker screw used and cemented in the way described. If a band has become loose, or a new one is being placed on the cement used is chiefly plaster of Paris, made into a thin paste, and smeared inside, quickly wrapping the band around, and pinning or riveting it. In the case of top mounts, plaster is not good. It sets too quick and takes up too much room, besides not being liquid long enough. The best cement for filling silver and metal mounts with, is made of melted resin, adding plaster of Paris, and stirring up while heated, then filling the knob and putting it on. Of course, the stick and knob should have been prepared beforehand, and in all cases should not fit too tight, but allow a little play.



METAL  
BAND.

### **A Broken Stick.**

Another very frequent repair is the broken stick. This usually happens somewhere inside the umbrella, as if someone had sat on it, or been leaning on it, and snapped it. In a

UMBRELLA REPAIRING AT HOME.

case of this kind it cannot be repaired by means of a band, but requires a new stick, which is not such a difficult matter as one would at first expect. The first thing is to remove the damaged stick. This can be easily done if the end is placed in the vice, and bent to one side; this will crack off the end. Then the stick can be pulled through the runner, and the rivet at the notch taken out. Care should be used in removing this rivet so as not to damage the notch or spoil its shape. A good sound stick should be obtained, and the usual length of such a stick being only a part one, is about 30ins., tapered gradually



CROOK HANDLE.

at the ferrule end. These can be obtained with the springs already in the stick, or they can be put in by oneself if desired, and will be described later. In quoting the size that the springs are required for, it

is only necessary to state the length of the ribs, as each length has a different distance between each spring; for instance, a 23in. rib has a stick with the springs 15ins. apart, and the others in proportion. If this stick is already sprung, as it is termed, and is found to fit nicely through the runner and notch, it can then be removed and secured to the handle in just the same way as described previously, then put it back into the runner and notch, and riveted there, the cap and ferrule added, and the stopper pin secured—the pin behind the runner which is placed on the top spring, and thus prevents it blowing inside out. An easy way to make this stopper pin is to get an old spring, or any piece of hard wire, and bend it around the nose of the pliers to form a small staple, then cut each of the prongs cross-wise with the pliers to make them sharp, and then make two holes with the awl in the stick, so that this staple will fit, and knock it in gently. This is one of the most important articles in the umbrella, and if not put in correctly is the cause of most of the damage done to the frame.

Slotting and Springing.

Now in a case where the repairer desires to slot and spring the stick himself it is only necessary to ask for a shank of a certain colour

desired to fit a certain size runner and notch, then mark the surface of this the same as the one removed. This can be done quite easily by laying them together and scratching the surface with the blade of the penknife. Then get a gouge to suit the size hole desired, and cut away small chips at a time until the same shape slot has been made as is in the shank removed. If the repairer has a lathe it can be done very much quicker by means of a small circular saw, sawing well down into the stick first thing, then easing off gradually until the surface is reached. Notice should be taken that the grooves are opposite ways in each stick. The springs are then inserted exactly in the same way as was described earlier in these articles, and which also gave the method of making the spring. It is quite a natty little performance, and very often is the forerunner of making many other such odd repairs which come in very useful at times.

A Fit-up.

When the stick is broken well up the handle a longer stick will be needed, and this is termed a fit-up. The handle portion of a fit-up is usually made of a different kind of wood or cane to the remainder or body of the stick. For instance, the handle part may be of the popular partridge cane, the lower part being ordinary beech, plugged into this instead of using a dowel screw. The plug is made well over two inches long, and let into the handle part, termed the neck, then smoothed down, and polished the same shade.



CRUTCH HANDLE.

On the top of this fit-up is placed the ornamental part of the handle. This may consist of a metal or silver knob, or it may have a collar and flat circular coloured piece of horn or celluloid now very fashionable and secured by means of a small dowel screw, 1in. or 1½in. long. All these small things are easily obtained separate for a few pence, the top being nearly all the colours of the rainbow, and more or less expensive, according to taste. In the case of a gent's umbrella the loose horn handles can be obtained, the crook shape being more serviceable than the crutch shape and more popular.

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Have you anything to sell or exchange? If so, advertise it in our Sale and Exchange columns.

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# Junior Collector

## Part 6 (New Series.)

### MORE STAMPS OF NEW EUROPE.

**S**INCE the short series on the stamps of New Europe, published recently, was written many more have been added to the number collectable. Nearly all the countries have used up the available stamps of former rulers found in the different post offices of the districts taken over by new governments, and, consequently, these stamps, varied in design and values, overprinted with several new devices, give a great number of new varieties for the album, and many of them will soon be rare because the remains of the issues were few in number, and some of the errors very scarce indeed.

It will be convenient if we take these recent issues according to the countries from which they emanate, the first series under new European powers having already been described.

#### Russia.

The old collector of Russian stamps is familiar with the curious varieties of locals which are now generally omitted from modern illustrated albums. To-day the collector of new European stamps, when he examines the numerous varieties coming from former spheres of Russian influence, and from portions of that once powerful Empire, realises how it is being cut up into small republics and fair provinces torn from the parent Empire of the once powerful Czars.

#### Finland.

The first issue of separate stamps for use in Finland was made in 1856; those printed at the Finnish Treasury being now scarce. Later issues, notably those prepared at St. Petersburg, followed closely the lines of the then current Russian stamps, indeed the differences between them are so slight that young collectors often mistake their identity.

The war of 1914 came, and from that time the destinies of Finland were shaped. The Republican Government issued new stamps at

Helsingfors in 1917; these pleasing designs have the Finnish arms in an oval, the values range from 5 pennia to 10 marks.

The Red Finns at Wasa a year later brought out another set very similar, of the same values and colours, the only differences being the panel which was straight-sided with rounded tops — both issues were perforate

Quite lately a new value—the twenty-five, blue, surcharged “50”—has been added (see illustration).

#### Russian Republics.

Many collectors early seized an opportunity to secure stamps of the Republic of the Letts which were printed on the backs of German maps and sold both perforate and imperforate. These curious and very interesting little stamps afford an example of the ups-and-downs of philately, for although the general tendency of prices is to advance now and then an unexpected supply causes the market to fall. At first sold by dealers at from 3s. to 5s. each, these stamps can now be secured for the modest sum of 6d. Another instance of the reduction in price of what were thought likely to soar high is the set of Bosnian pictorial overprinted

by the Jugo-Slovak Republic {which were offered at 60s., and now can be bought unused at 17s. 6d., at which price they are an excellent investment.

From Archangel or South West Russia comes a very

interesting set of new stamps of this country. They are imperforate and cut from sheets, with wide margins. The designs are curious and emblematic (see illustration).

#### Czecho-Slovakia.

In a previous issue some of the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia have been illustrated and described. The anniversary of the founding of the new State was the occasion of the series of new stamps; on part of the series the type is a lion freeing itself from chains and fetters, the second part representing a woman—a widow—with an infant in her arms.

One by one the stamps of the new States are taking their places in the philatelic album, and very soon they will be arranged according to their issues. As in so many instances in years gone by some of the stamps have been unexpectedly found to be scarce, and prices have advanced. Now is the time to buy!

(To be continued.)



g. 289.

g. 290.

g. 291.

Stripwork  
will train  
your boys.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
Buy them  
an Outfit  
to-day.

Prices :—  
No. 1 - 15/-  
No. 2 - 25/-  
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Postage 1/-  
extra on each.

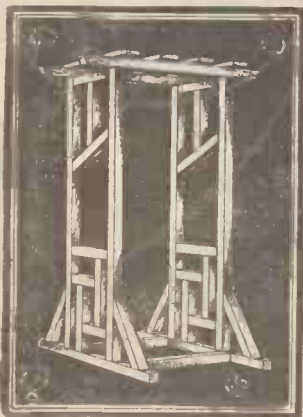


No. 3 STRIPWORK OUTFIT.

Don't let your boy be one of the crowd,

but let him be original so that he may become a leader of men, and not merely one of many.

Stripwork will bring out any originality which a lad may possess, as it will set him thinking and instil into his mind the determination to build models of his own invention. The beauty of this pastime is



that it trains the hobbyist, who all the time will be absolutely fascinated with the work in hand. It grips a boy; it is not merely a passing fancy which he will quickly tire of, as the scope is too great for it to get monotonous.

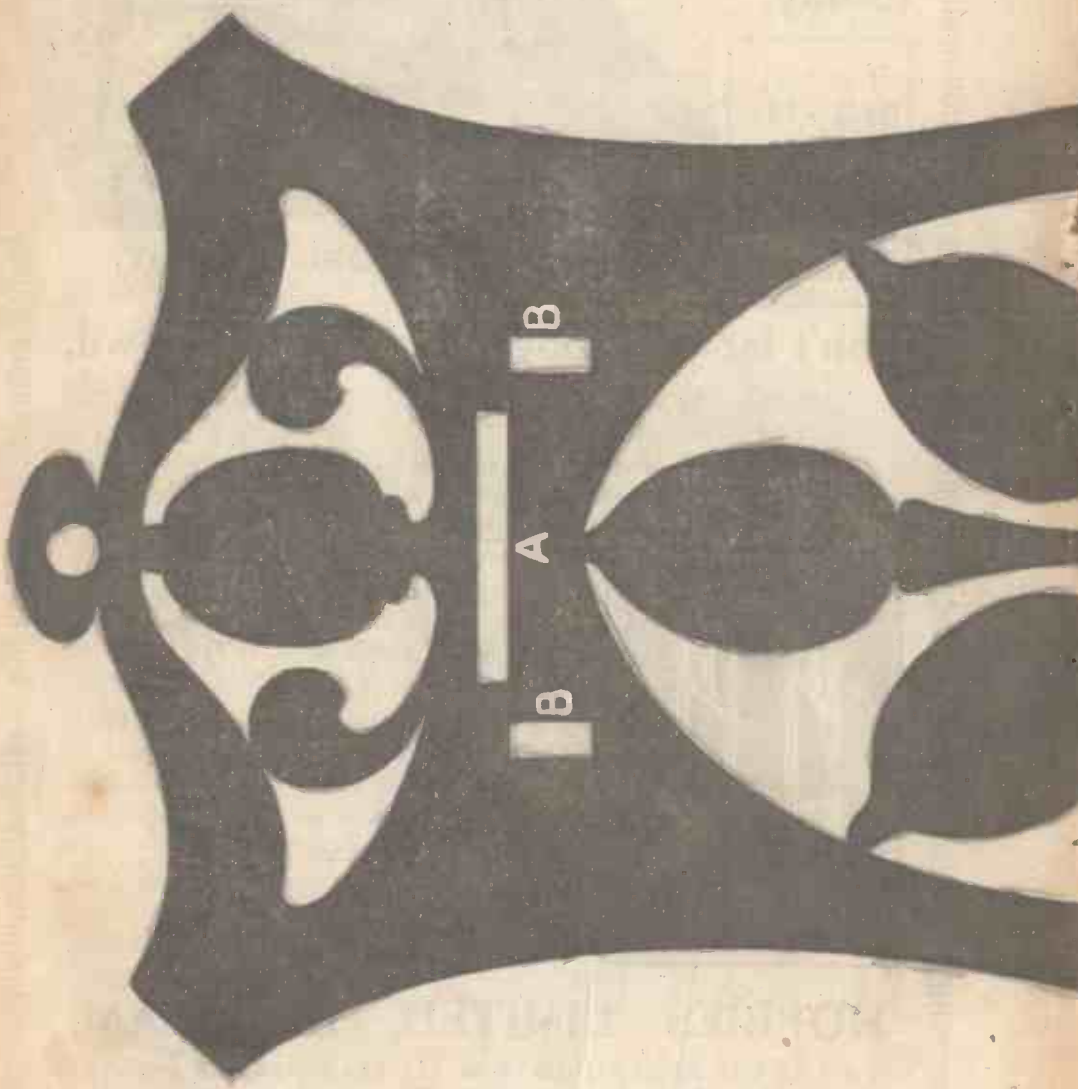
There are no dangerous tools in any of Hobbies Stripwork Outfits, so parents need have no qualms in this respect. Your boy can commence model making straight away with one of these outfits, as they are complete in themselves. The model illustrated is one of the most simple designs to tackle, but when proficient, cranes, engines, bridges, etc., can be undertaken with confidence.

HOBBIES LIMITED, DEREHAM.

OUTFITS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALL BRANCHES AND AGENTS.

# HOBBIES EXTRA DESIGN No. 416X. SIMPLE VASE B

Cut one of each part 3-16 in. thick. Vase No. 6003, price 10d., post free 1s. 1d





# SHEET. RACKET.

from Hobbies Ltd.,



# B.S.F. COMPETITIONS.

CLOSING DATE MARCH 31st.

EVERY fretworker connected with the British Society of Fretworkers looks forward with interest each year to these competitions, and we feel sure the subjects chosen this time will create the same healthy rivalry which has characterised previous contests of the kind. The announcement being later than usual, the closing date of the competitions will be as stated above (March 31st). The following are the subjects and prizes:—

## CLASS I.—CONVENTIONAL FRETWORK.

Open to Fellows and Members only

Subject:

Glove Box (Design No. 1263) to be cut in lacewood. An article dealing with this pleasing design appeared in **HOBBIES** dated December 27th, 1919.

First Prize: Silver-gilt Medal of the Society.

Second Prize: Silver Medal.

Third Prize: Bronze Medal.

Hobbies Ltd. supply a parcel of selected lacewood for making the glove box, together with No. 16 knob, for 3s. 3d. by post 3s. 9d. The fittings, consisting of eight British-made brass corners, Old English finish (No. 5119), cost 2s. 1½d. by post. Postage on complete parcel 6d.

## CLASS II.—HAND FRAME WORK.

Open to Members and Associates only.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS II.

Subject:

Convex Mirror Frame (Design No. 1249.) The design for this pretty Mirror Frame formed the Fretwork Supplement presented with **HOBBIES** dated September 20th, 1919, in which journal was published an article explaining its construction, the most

difficult parts being specially illustrated

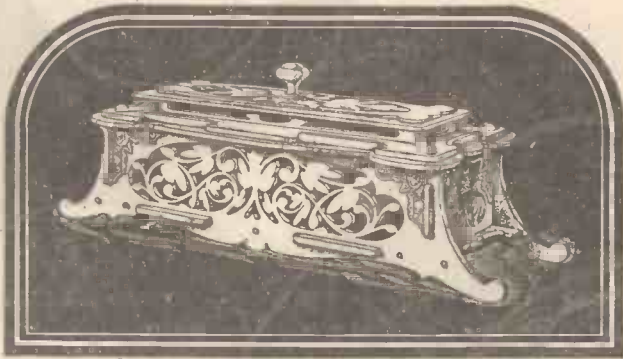
First Prize: A1 Fretwork Machine.

Second Prize: Briton Fretwork Machine

Third Prize: A1 Fretwork Outfit.

Sycamore being considered a most suitable wood from which to make it, Hobbies Ltd. supply a parcel of selected wood of that kind, together with sufficient Nos. 17, 18 and 21 moulding for 2s. 5d., by post 2s. 11d. Also

the required size of Convex Mirror (No. 5726), for 1s. 10d., by post 2s. 2d. The postage on the complete parcel is 6d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS I.

## CLASS III.—DECORATIVE FRETWORK.

Open to Associates only.

Subject:

Overlaid Hand Mirror (Design No. 1256.) The construction

of this article, which makes an excellent present for a lady, was explained in **HOBBIES**, Nov. 8th, 1919.

First Prize: B.S.F. Silver Medal.

Second Prize: Bronze Medal.

Third Prize: Bronze Medal.

A parcel of specially selected wood for making the Hand Mirror is supplied by Hobbies Ltd. for 1s. 10d., by post 2s. 4d.; also the required shape and size Mirror (No. 5725), 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 10d. The postage on the complete parcel is 6d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS III.

## B.S.F. COMPETITIONS.

*Hobbies*

### CLASS IV.—ANTOFRET AND INLAY.

Open to Fellows, Members and Associates.

Subject: Antofret Inlaid Box (Design No. 932A). When finished, this attractive-looking



SUBJECT FOR CLASS IV.

box measures  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in length and 5 ins. in width.

First Prize: A6 Fretwork Outfit and Certificate.

Second Prize: A1 Fretwork Outfit and Certificate.

Third Prize: Goods to the value of 5s.

Hobbies Ltd. supply the required parcel of dark walnut, together with five 1-16 in. panels for inlaying, and four No. 20 feet for 3s. 6d., by post 4s. The two brass handles (No. 5407), which are extra strong, cost 2s., or by post 2s. 3d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS V.

### CLASS V.—ORNAMENTAL FRETWORK.

Open to Members and Associates.

Subject: Fern Boat (Design No. 1245.)

The making of this handsome article was dealt with in *HOBBIES*, dated August 23rd, 1919.

First Prize: Goods to the value of One Guinea and Certificate.

Second Prize: Goods to the value of 10s. 6d. and Certificate.

Third Prize: Goods to the value of 5s.

For this design *Hobbies* will supply a selected parcel of satin walnut together with sufficient No. 21 moulding for 3s. 6d., by post 4s., and the pair of bronze chariot panels (No. 5406) for 4s. by post 4s. 2d. The postage on the complete panel is 6d.



SUBJECT FOR CLASS VI.

Subject: The Overlays of Trinket Box (Hobbies Extra Design Sheet No. 412) which appeared in *HOBBIES* dated Jan. 24th, 1920) to be cut in ivory or xylonite.

First Prize: Gold Medal of the Society.

Second Prize: B.S.F. Silver Medal.

Third Prize: B.S.F. Bronze Medal.

Both ivory and xylonite can be procured from *Hobbies Ltd.*

### Regulations.

(These Competitions are for Fellows, Members and Associates of the Society only.)

Every article sent in for Competition should be carefully packed in a strongly-made box, and addressed—The Registrar, B.S.F., 79, Walworth Road, London, S.E.

The closing date for receiving such articles is March 31st, 1920.

Entry Forms are obtainable from Members and Associates of the Society, and from the Registrar, B.S.F., Temple House, E.C., each application to be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

A Separate Entry Form must be filled in for each Class, and forwarded by post to the Registrar, Temple House, E.O., at least a week before the closing date.

Associates of the Society securing first prizes in these contests will afterwards be gazetted as Members.

Amount to cover postage or carriage for return of articles must be enclosed. If to be sent by rail the route should be mentioned.

### CLASS VI.—MINIATURE FRETWORK.

Open to Fellows, Members and Associates.

# OUR BOYS DEPARTMENT

## Another Fretwork Toy.

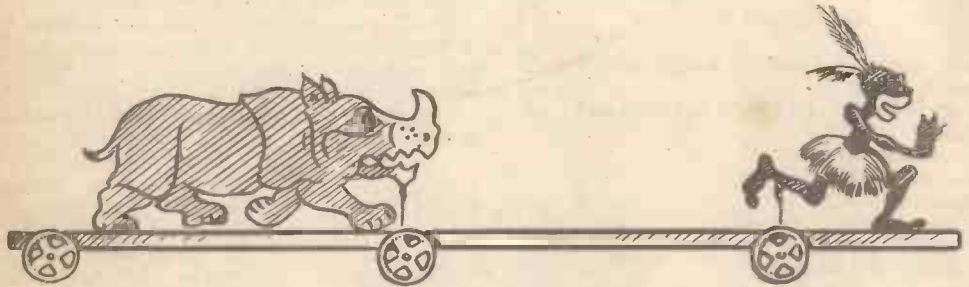


Fig. 1

**A** NOTHER amusing fretwork toy that might aptly be called the "Ravenous rhinoceros" is shown by our sketch, Fig. 1. It is one of the simple mechanical variety that works on the well-known system of the bent axle, which actuates in this case the jaw of the animal and one of the legs of the figure. The full size fretwork patterns are given by Fig. 2, the rhinoceros being cut out of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wood, and the nigger in  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. or 3-16 in. The base of the toy is shown by Fig. 3, which could consist of a strip of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. or  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. deal, measuring 1 ft. 5 in. by 3 in. Owing to the length, and in order to work the toy, three pairs of small iron wheels will be requisite. Cut two slots in the base in the positions indicated to allow room for the bent cranks, these measuring about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

### The Animal.

After the parts of the animals have been sawn out, a shallow recess should be cut with a knife in the position indicated by the dotted line in

Fig. 2, a little of the end of the lower jaw being shaved away for fitting into it (Fig. 4). Make a hole in this, and cut a peg to loosely fit it. When the lower jaw is in place, the hole should be carried right through—a little glue being applied to the holes in the enclosing piece, and the peg put through, the jaw hingeing on it.

### The Nigger.

The arms and legs of the nigger are cut separately from the body, the various parts being given. The rear leg is loosely hinged by passing through a thin nail, the end being clenched. The other leg and arms can be

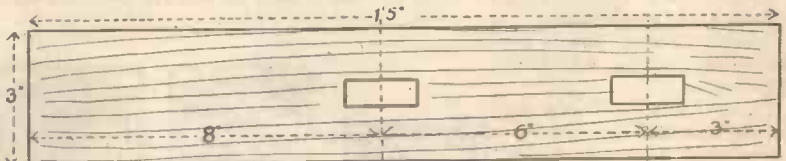


Fig. 3

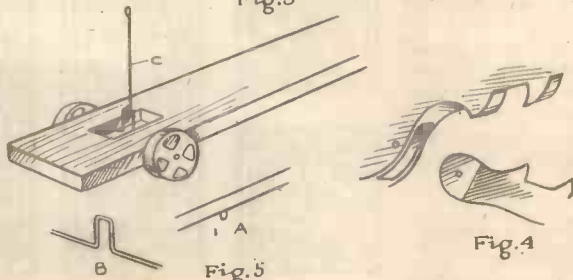


Fig. 5

Fig. 4

nailed on, and make a fixture. After the painting has been completed, a strip of fur is glued round the nigger's body and two small feathers glued into a hole in the head. After the parts have been cut out, they would be best assembled before the colouring is proceeded with. Before this is done, it will be best for a start to drive in a piece of wire into the nigger's leg and jaw of the animal, and bend it to form an eye for hooking the connect-

staples, which should be made nicely fitting. Put a small leather washer on to each end, and then fit on the wheels. The end pair coming at the rear of the animal will need a straight axle. Attach the cranks of the bent axles by means of a connecting wire shown by C in Fig. 5.

**Effective Colouring.**

The simplest method of painting, productive



Fig. 2

ing piece of the crank to. In fixing up, these eyes should be above the square holes cut in the base. Having ascertained the position for fixing the parts in place, cut small square slots to take the projections AA, Fig. 2, then glue the figures to the base.

**Wheels.**

The method of fitting the wheels is shown by Fig. 5. Drive three small wire staples, shown by A, in each side to take the axles, the shape that they are bent to being shaped as shown by B. The axles will work in these

of excellent results, is to size the woodwork first all over with glue water and whitening, and then when dry, apply the colours over this—powder colours mixed up with flake white and gum. They will then dry quite smooth, and being opaque one colour can be applied over another quite successfully. A suitable colour scheme would be:—Rhinoceros, grey with white snout and horn and a red eye; Nigger black with brown fur, and a couple of brightly coloured feathers in the head; the base green, the whole being varnished on completion.

**HOBBIES PHOTO-STUDENTS' CIRCLE**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

To the Editor of "Hobbies," 125, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Sir.—Please enrol me as a Member of the Photo-Students' Circle and forward Member's Card.

\*Please also enter me for the series of Competitions, for which I enclose the inclusive fee of 6d.

Name .....

Address.....

No. ....

\*If Competitions are not to be entered strike out the starred line.



# THE GARDEN

## SUMMARY.

*Plant Strawberry Runners.  
Force Rhubarb. Plant Shallots.  
Finish Planting Roses.*



## THE FLOWER GARDEN.

**S**LUGS are very troublesome in the early months of the year, especially to seedling plants just above the surface of the soil. If they cannot be secured at night and killed, surround plants with soot and replenish the supply after rain falls.

Roses, shrubs and trees in general may be pruned, and any planting intended to be done should be quickly ended. Support any trees that require it, bearing in mind that March brings boisterous winds.

Liquid manure may be given to rose trees growing in pots or borders in the greenhouse, as soon as the buds appear, and may be continued throughout the summer. Green's Plant Food is excellent for the purpose.

Violets in frames will shortly cease flowering. It will then be necessary to harden the plants off gradually by exposing them to full light and air, but removing the lights in the frames entirely.

Begin to propagate coleus cuttings as soon as the growths are suitable to take off. Select them as sturdy as possible, and insert five or six by the side of the pot, using soil of some fine sifted light material.

As the flowering of Bouvardias is nearly at an end for this season, the supply of water must naturally be reduced. Stand them in a cool greenhouse to ripen the wood for the purpose of plumping up the buds forming the coming season's growth. When the foliage has dropped off the old wood must be lightly pruned back, sufficient to bring the plants into good shape. Directly they have been pruned many growers place them in a warm moist temperature to start them into growth again, but where early flowering plants are not necessary this is best left alone as the plants rarely pay for the trouble. Bouvardias prefer a medium and moist temperature, and even in the summer months will thrive in the open in warm situations.

The present is a good time to take up and replant box edgings. Old edgings should be taken up carefully, and then pulled to pieces, as possibly they will have roots. The ground to be planted should be beaten quite firm, and then have a trench made in it with a spade to put the pieces in. They should be buried so that not more than three inches of the top is above the ground. If kept moist, they will quickly become established, and will then break into fresh green growths. Box edgings, unless relaid about every fourth or fifth year, quickly become unsightly during summer, and

also make a very good harbour for slugs and similar vermin.

Thrift makes a very pretty edging plant, and as it increases rapidly in good soil it may be used freely. London Pride (*Saxifraga umbrosa*) makes an excellent edging plant for town gardens, as it does not seem to mind the smoke and filth.

Young Hollyhocks will now be commencing to grow again, and may be shifted into the next size pot until the weather will allow of them being planted out. For potting use a compost consisting chiefly of good loam and little leaf soil. Vigorous growth in a Hollyhock plant often keeps it free from disease.

## THE FRUIT GARDEN.

If the new strawberry beds were not made in autumn, they may be planted now if the beds are well prepared. The first season after being planted many take advantage of the space between the rows to grow a batch of Lettuces or Radishes. So long as this intercropping does not rob the Strawberry plants there is no harm in the practice.

## THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Force rhubarb may be obtained so cheaply now that it scarcely pays to force a small quantity. Those who wish for a home supply should place old barrels over the crowns, and then surround them with warm manure. The stalks produced in this manner will be tender, and possess a far better flavour than if forced along in high temperatures. Excellent rhubarb is often grown in cellars, or in warm cupboards by the side of a kitchen fireplace. It matters little what soil is used, as there is sufficient nourishment stored up in the roots to provide for a large amount of growth. Cocoanut fibre is an excellent substitute for placing round the roots.

Shallots may be planted now, if they are not already in. Bury them so that the neck of the bulbs just show through the soil.

This is a crop that is very little trouble, and is esteemed in most houses, yet it is by no means common except in a few districts.

Where Bracken Fern is plentiful, a sowing of radishes may now be made outdoors on a sheltered boarder. They will stand a fair amount of covering, and may easily be protected during severe frost. They should be sown thinly, and only covered when frost threatens or they will be weak and make no roots of any value.

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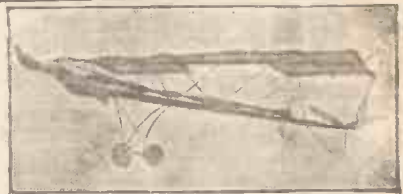
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