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IN THIS ISSUE

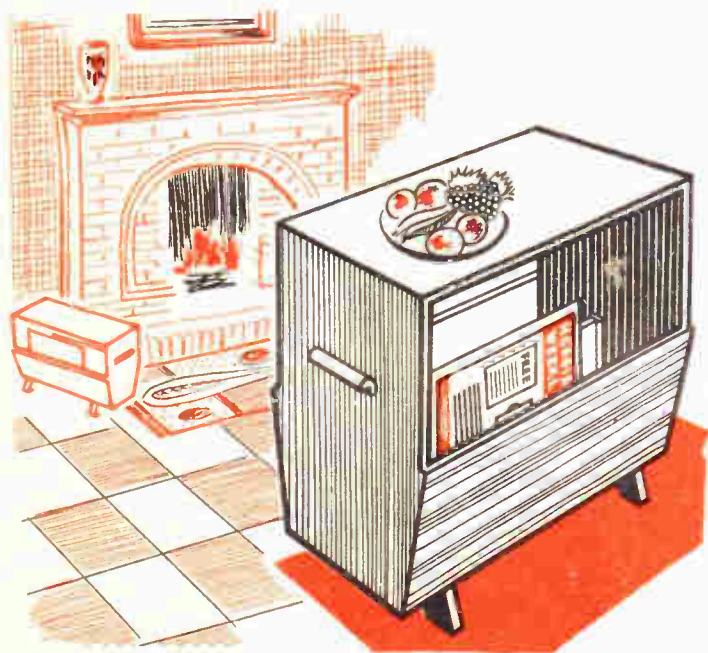
	Page
Magazine Rack	145
Painted Vases	146
Matchbox Furniture	147
'Tortoise' Key Rack	147
Tool for Shaping Ironwork	148
Cures for Wet Window Boards	148
Try Colour Photography	149
Weather Vanes	150
Win a Watch	150
Budgerigars . . . and Tortoises	151
Christmas Cut-Outs	152
Wich Rod and Line	154
Is This Your Problem?	156
Patterns for 'Tortoise' Key Rack	159



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

MAGAZINE RACK

*Useful as a
SMALL
TABLE*



THIS useful piece of occasional furniture fulfils a dual need. It is not only a convenient storage place for newspapers, magazines and periodicals, but also a table for light refreshments which television enthusiasts will find a boon. Simple in construction, with choice of finish, it can be quickly made from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. plywood.

Two sides measuring 1ft. 3ins. by 9ins. are prepared as shown in Fig. 1, tapering at the base. Next we require a piece for the top 1ft. 6ins. by 9ins., and one for the bottom 1ft. 6ins. by 7ins. The feet supporting the rack are prepared from 1in. deal, tapered, to produce the modern splayed effect, and trimmed as in Fig. 2. Finally, we need two pieces for the fronts, each 1ft. 3ins. by 9ins. and a piece for the division of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. stuff measuring 1ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 7ins.

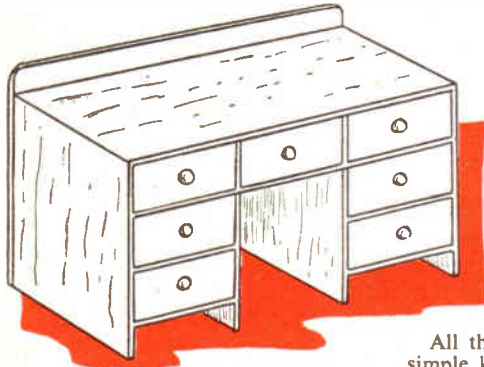
It will be noticed from the above that the division is made from thinner material, smaller than the fronts and is held in position by strips of quarter

145

FOR ALL HOME CRAFTSMEN
Over 60 years of 'Do-it-Yourself'

4¹/₂^D

MATCHBOX FURNITURE



permit folding around each side. This strip is also a little deeper than the boxes to give the appearance of legs. Moreover, you will also note that the card is deeper still in the central section to allow for a rail at the back of the desk top.

Score the card at the corners, gluing to the sides, and keeping in position with rubber bands until the glue sets. Finally, two strips of card are required on the insides of the drawers to provide the inner 'legs'.

All the drawers are provided with a simple knob made from either a brass

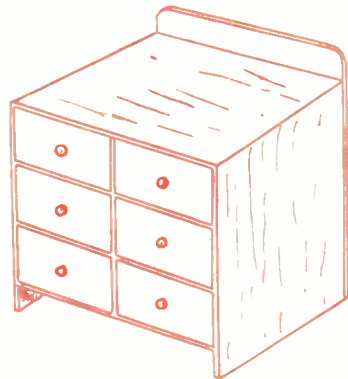
advisable to glue a piece of gumstrip inside the drawer to cover the legs of the fastener and to keep them quite firm.

The chest is similarly made from six boxes glued together with a piece of card top and bottom, and a piece wrapped round as in Fig. 1, although the measurements will differ slightly.

If you wish the cardboard may be covered with a little wallpaper, either the fancy variety or wood grained to give a dainty appearance; or if cardboard from an old carton is used, one or two coats of varnish will greatly improve. Incidentally, you may always draw in the graining with a lead pencil before varnishing to give a realistic effect, but if you have used plywood,

NEAT doll's house furniture, or compact miniature drawers and desks may be made quite easily from empty matchboxes and additional strips of cardboard. Of course, if you wish to make a more substantial toy, thin plywood may form the top, back and sides. Chests so made provide handy sets of drawers for keeping small things such as collar studs, drawing pins, pen nibs, paper fasteners, rubber bands and similar oddments which are easily misplaced.

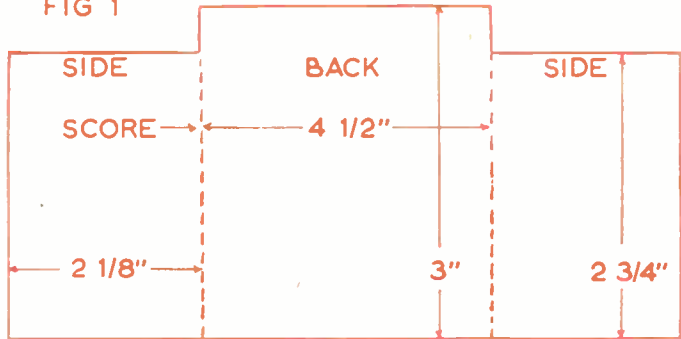
The desk illustrated requires seven empty match boxes. Remove the strips of sandpaper along the sides, gluing three boxes side by side between two strips of cardboard of suitable dimensions, thus forming a top.



Now glue two pairs of boxes together, one on top of the other, attaching a pair to each side. If the pairs are stood 'feet' upwards, a book may be laid across to apply pressure while the glue sets.

The sides and back of the little desk are made from one strip of cardboard as shown in Fig. 1. The card is scored to

FIG 1



paper fastener with the legs turned sideways inside the drawer, or a ring hanger as used for pictures. In both cases it is

perhaps a coat of stain and varnish will be sufficient, but don't forget the drawer fronts need similar treatment. (S.H.L.)

'Tortoise' Key Rack

YOUR keys will never be mislaid if you make this handy rack. Cut it out with a fretsaw and colour it up ready for fixing in the kitchen or hall.

The patterns are shown full size on page 159. The backing piece (A) is cut from 1/4 in. wood and the overlay (B) from 1/8 in. The overlay, which gives the appearance of a tortoise, incorporates the word 'Keys'.

The keys are hung on dresser hooks as illustrated, or paper clips bent and fixed with drawing pins positioned as shown on pattern page.

Give two coats of plastic enamel paint and fix to the wall by means of screws and Rawlplugs. (M.p.)



PATTERNS ON PAGE

Make it yourself

TOOL FOR SHAPING IRONWORK

NOTHING looks worse than a badly shaped piece of bent iron work. Smooth graceful curves are a pleasure to look at but a scroll with an awkward bend here or a quirk or two somewhere else is a real eyesore, besides being a discredit to the maker.

Obtaining a perfect curve is an art which is easily acquired and with the aid of this shaping tool no difficulty should be experienced in the task. Using a pair of round nosed pliers is all right for small curves, and even then care is needed, but with larger work they are not so satisfactory and can produce some rather unsightly bends.

By A. F. Taylor

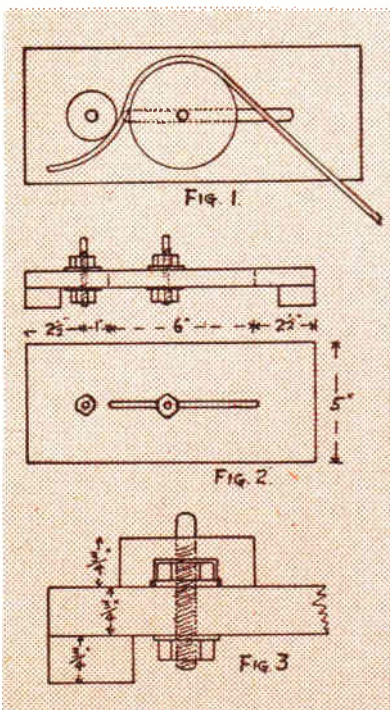
The shaping tool is suitable for ordinary bent iron work and for flat brass and aluminium strip such as that used for curtain valance rails. Certain types of plastics can also be shaped with it by warming the material and holding it against the former until it cools.

The tool consists of a baseboard on which are mounted two $\frac{1}{2}$ in. studs, one of which is movable. By altering the position of this stud different sized curves can be obtained by just slipping a wooden disc of the appropriate size over the stud and bending the material round them as shown in Fig. 1.

A strong baseboard is necessary and for this a good hardwood such as oak or beech is best. A thickness of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. should be sufficient for general work, but if you are making a larger board for bigger

jobs then it must be increased in proportion.

Cut the board 12 ins. long and 5 ins. wide and fasten strips of wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins.



wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick along each end. These will help to strengthen it but are used mainly to lift the board off the bench and give clearance for the bolts.

The fixed stud is placed $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from one end while the adjustable one moves in a 6 in. long slot starting 1 in. away and finishing $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from the other end. The hole and slot need to be slightly larger than the studs which are $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter.

The stud assembly and method of fitting them up is shown in Fig. 3. They are cut from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. bolts and must have at least 2 ins. of screw for fixing a nut on either side of the baseboard. A thin washer is slipped on first before screwing on the nuts.

Next cut a number of wooden discs of varying sizes to suit the type of work you are undertaking. Make these of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hardwood starting with a diameter of say 1 in. and increasing by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. or $\frac{1}{2}$ in. as required.

Drill a hole in the centre of each just large enough to slip over the stud and cut a recess so that it will fit snugly over the nut and washer.

You can work with a small disc on the fixed stud and a larger one on the movable stud or vice versa according to the size of the curves, or you may have the same sized disc on each. For some work you may find it best to have both discs close together while for a long curve it may be easier to have them parted more.

By using this tool it is a simple matter to duplicate the pattern and to be sure that they are all exactly the same shape. Besides forming perfect curves it is possible to make various angle bends by using an appropriately shaped former in place of a round disc. Hexagon or octagons should prove useful but it is not advisable to use too sharp an angle.

Cures for Wet Window Boards

IN wet weather it is sometimes found that a pool of water has collected on a window-board. This kind of trouble is usually confined to the case-ment type of window, and the householder consequently dreads any heavy fall of rain.

If the pool of water is constant, whatever the state of the weather, then the cause may be of a very different nature from that due to the type and construction of the window. Probably it may prove that condensation of moisture on the glass is taking place to such a great extent that it is resulting in pools of water on the surface of the window-board.

However, in most cases, it will be discovered that the window itself is the

sole cause and a careful examination of the casement and the frame will reveal the type of construction.

Should the section of the sash and frame be of the simple type, it is highly probable that the water seeps in between the frame and the sash, especially by driving of rain through a gap increasing in size by the shrinkage of the members.

To remedy the trouble it is worth trying the method of screwing either thin hardwood or rubber strips to the face of the sash on the outside of the opening so that the strip will overlap the joint between the sash and the frame.

Fill the gap on the hinged side by folding a strip of rubber where a hollow

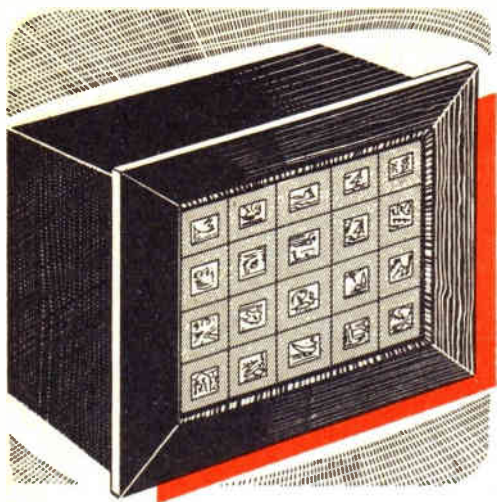
bead projects on the outside. The strip must be fixed one part to the back of the sash and the other to the rebate of the frame, the bead being severed at the hinges.

An alternative to using a folded strip of rubber on the hinged side is to use a special strip of hardwood, having a round bead, which can be fitted up to cover the gap. To ensure that the sash will work easily around the bead, the bead should be 'tried out' before fixing the strip in position.

Where hardwood strips are used at the top and bottom and the remaining side of the sash, it will be found that this method is decidedly more suitable than the rubber strips. (E.M.B.)

Try Colour Photography

Suggests F. G. Rayer



COLOUR photography is often avoided because it is thought that it is very expensive, and also rather difficult. However, neither of these disadvantages need really arise, as will be seen: It is thus possible to have at least some colour pictures, and they are much more vivid and effective than black and white photographs. The important points in colour photography are best dealt with one at a time, and include cost, exposure, processing and viewing.

The cost

The cheapest colour film, per exposure, is that which gives transparencies which are viewed either by transmitted light, or by means of a projector. Such film is available for 35 mm. and roll-film cameras. The 35 mm. camera is cheapest to use. The prices of films vary somewhat, but are around 20/- for a film giving 20 exposures. This is 1/- per exposure. The price is inclusive, covering both developing by the maker, and fitting into card mounts for viewing. Even when mounts are purchased separately, or the film is a little more expensive, the cost need not exceed about 1/3 per exposure.

It is interesting to compare this with the cost of snaps taken with a typical 8 exposure box-camera, with processing done at additional charge, as will be the case when developing and printing are not undertaken at home. The film is about 3/2d. Developing charges are 6d. and fitting into card mounts for viewing. Even when mounts are purchased separately, or the film is a little more expensive, the cost need not exceed about 1/3 per exposure. It is interesting to compare this with the cost of snaps taken with a typical 8 exposure box-camera, with processing done at additional charge, as will be the case when developing and printing are not undertaken at home. The film is about 3/2d. Developing charges are 6d. and fitting into card mounts for viewing. Even when mounts are purchased separately, or the film is a little more expensive, the cost need not exceed about 1/3 per exposure.

16 shots on 120 film will be fairly economical, but those giving 12 and 8 exposures become very expensive, compared with 35 mm. cameras.

The camera

As 35 mm. is almost essential for colour, on the grounds of low film cost, it is worth noting that inexpensive 35 mm. cameras can give very good results. The cheaper type of 35 mm. camera is available, second hand, at a price which often does not exceed the new cost of an average folding roll-film camera. A very elaborate camera is not required, and many excellent 35 mm. cameras, with $f/4.5$ or similar lenses, and 3-speed shutters, exist.

Such a camera may, of course, be used for black and white photography, when the cost per exposure is very low indeed, and cannot be equalled by a roll-film camera.

Exposure

Wasteful failures through wrong exposure must be avoided. Fortunately, this is to some extent simplified by the fact that colour shots look brightest in sunlight, and with frontal lighting. In addition, makers such as Ilford provide a detailed leaflet giving a guide to exposures in all normal circumstances, and if these directions are followed, suitable exposures can be expected.

If an exposure meter is available, it can naturally be used in the normal way. To avoid possible error, both meter and exposure guide can be consulted. It is then possible to expose a whole film without a single spoiled frame.

Colour films are slow, usually requiring about 1/50th second at $f5.6$ in good sunlight. There is less latitude to errors in exposure than with black

and white film, but results are likely to be good, even with some error, unless awkward subjects, such as interiors, views under trees, or back-lit subjects are attempted. Instead, it is best to treat the shots rather as if a simple box camera were in use, confining exposures to normal subjects in sunshine.

Processing

Some makers include this in the first charge for the film, as mentioned. Messrs. Ilford do so, for example. The film is sent to the maker in the container provided, and mounted transparencies are received back.

Other makers, in some cases, do not include processing. It is thus wise to enquire in advance, when a film is to be bought, or one apparently cheaper may cost more in the end, when the charge for processing is added. Such films are best, of course, when processing is to be done at home.

Home developing will further reduce cost, but is not easy. It is essential to follow the maker's instructions exactly, and some manufacturers produce sets of chemicals for the purpose. Developing the average colour film requires three or four times the number of processes involved in black and white development, and is most suitable for photographers who have already gained experience with black and white films.

Viewing

Projectors are most effective, giving a large, brilliantly coloured picture. They are, however, rather expensive, though used projectors are much less costly, and the home construction of a suitable projector is not particularly difficult.

Fortunately, the small hand viewer is very inexpensive, and quite effective. The simpler type contains a frame into which the transparency is fitted, and a magnifying eyepiece which gives a large view of it, so that it has astonishing reality. The more expensive type of viewer has a battery and bulb, which illuminates the transparency from behind. Such a type illustrates this article. It can be made up for a reasonable cost by the handyman as described in Hobbies 1958 Annual.

OUR MONTHLY COMPETITION BASED ON —



FOR many years now weathervanes have been a familiar sight in this country. A form of weathervane was, in fact, used long before the Norman Conquest, although in those far-off days it was not erected to show the direction of the wind, but merely to decorate the tops of buildings. Later, when the purpose changed, the cardinal points were added.

Originally the weathervane was just a thick sheet of metal cut to outline the desired shape. In later years holes were drilled into these shapes to indicate features such as eyes. These were superseded by shapes with hollowed bodies, where the limbs were separately cut and fitted. With the cock shape this meant that the fine sweeping tail, which is still the feature of a good cock began to appear.

The cock always seems to have had a special place in the various figures used for weathervanes. This is believed to be because this bird once had a religious significance. Perhaps this also explains why the term 'cock' and 'vane' are now synonymous.

Unless part of the animal is shown out of proportion, some shapes are ill-suited for weathervanes, but even so, there is a great selection. Swans and doves can often be seen silhouetted against the sky. The horse or fox appears

RUST ON RAILINGS

IRON railings which are exposed to the weather should be kept painted, otherwise rust will form, eat into the iron (corrosion) and eventually ruin the railings which will become pitted with unsightly gashes impossible to repair.

First, flake off as much rust as you can with a hammer (but 'tap' the railings, don't knock them), then 'scale' with a scraper.

For the first coat of paint, use red oxide of lead; allow this to dry, then apply a coat of grey, and finish off with a bright coat of green, or other suitable colour. (R.L.C.)

over a stable, a sheep over a farm and the coach and horse over an inn. In the choice of insects, for some unknown reason, the grasshopper is the most frequent outline used. Among the miscellaneous forms to be seen are gates, the heraldic beasts, witches complete with broomsticks, highwaymen and Father Time with his scythe.

On occasions the weathervane is used as an advertising sign, resulting in various trade signs, including cars, ships and even people. Some of the vanes are working models which are ingeniously constructed.

In the sailing ship era knowledge of the wind direction was of primary importance, which explains why so many weathervanes are to be seen around the

old ports of England. Now, of course, the importance lies in the fact that the wind forms a basic ingredient of our actual weather forecasts.

When fixing a weathervane remember that it must be fixed firmly, and must be in an exposed position, for if it is slightly sheltered at all, then there will be a blind spot and the correct wind direction will not be given. Also, if making a weathervane, remember that one end of the shape must have a greater area than the other. If using the simple arrow, for instance, then the vane part should be about twice the area of the arrow head.

Lastly, do not forget that the weathervane itself points to the direction from which the wind is coming.

WIN A WATCH!

THE competition this month is to design and fret-cut in wood or hardboard a weathervane outline depicting your favourite hobby or sport. Ignore the cardinal points. The maximum size of entries must be 6in. square. The judges will take into account the originality of design contents as well as the standard of fret-cutting.

Prizes of wrist watches are again offered to winners of the Senior (16 and over) and Junior (15 and under) sections. Ballpoint pens will be awarded for the next best efforts in each section.

RULES

1. Entries must be received by the Competition Editor, *Hobbies Weekly*, Dereham, Norfolk, by December 31st and cannot be returned. We reserve the right to publish details of any entry.
2. Winners will be notified and prizes despatched by January 10th, 1958. Details will be published in a subsequent issue of *Hobbies Weekly*.
3. The name, full address and age of the competitor must accompany the entry.
4. An entry must be the unaided effort

of the competitor. All entries for the Junior Section *must* be accompanied by the certificate below, or a similar declaration on plain paper, signed by a parent, otherwise the work cannot be considered.

5. Because of Customs regulations and the necessity to adhere to a definite closing date, entries are confined to those from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

CERTIFICATE (for Juniors)

The entry is the unaided work of
..... aged

Signed

Relationship

Address

Looking after your pets

BUDGERIGARS . . .



BUDGERIGARS are great favourites with children and one of the main provisions for your pet is a good home. Feed them, clean their cage thoroughly as occasion arises, and keep plenty of good drinking water handy for them.

And make sure that budgie does not escape. An unwatched cage left open; a door ajar; a window unfastened; and in a flash it has gone. The trouble then is getting the bird back into its cage in safety. Sometimes you are lucky; other times the bird is only recaptured with difficulty.

Therefore, before you allow a budgie the liberty of a room, make sure that the

windows and doors are closed and fastened securely before the cage fastenings are opened. Usually I let the budgies go free for a short spell only at a time when I know it is safe to do so

~~~~~  
*By A. Sharp*  
~~~~~

— chiefly in the evening when the doors and windows are shut. And how the lovely birds do enjoy that 'fly around!'

Make sure there is no naked gaslight or stove hotplate on which the budgie can rest temporarily, no lighted gas jet; no ornaments that can be overthrown and smashed. Cover over all vases in the room, or stuff with paper. Indeed, think of anything that might cause harm to your bird. Above all, remember to close and fasten any loophole, and give suitable warning to other occupants of the house, to prevent any untoward escape of the bird or birds.

If you have a budgie that is very tame and friendly and has got used to perch-

ing on your shoulders, etc, beware that you do not unthinkingly stalk out of the room without first securing it. Many tame budgies are lost through neglect of this sort.

When engaged in cleaning out the cage and also in regular feeding of a bird, great care must be taken to avoid any injury or escape.

Do be particular with their food; feed them regularly. If the seed vessels contain sufficient seed to last several days, care must be taken to ensure that the vessels are kept full of seed; also that there is ample fresh drinking water handy.

Plenty of green food should be supplied, including chickweed, groundsel, lettuce, dandelion, seeding grasses, etc, but be sure that all green stuff is fresh. It is wise to give it a good washing before handing it to birds.

Budgies are fond of apple and other fruits, also carrots. For their general food, millet seed and canary seeds are good. These can be obtained from your dealer in bird foodstuffs. A millet spray is much liked by many budgies. Remember, uneaten foods should not be left to waste and wither on the cage bottom. Keep the cage as clean as you can.

. . . and Tortoises

WE are often asked if a tortoise sleeps, or hibernates during the winter months. Unless you keep him warm indoors and feed him regularly, a tortoise will sleep from November to April.

Tortoises are vegetarian, and eat lettuce, peas, pea-pods, green vegetables, leaves of runner beans, dandelions, clover, etc. The tortoise hates cold weather and rain. Remember, however, to keep a shallow bowl of clean drinking water handy. It could easily be sunk into the earth in a corner of the greenhouse.

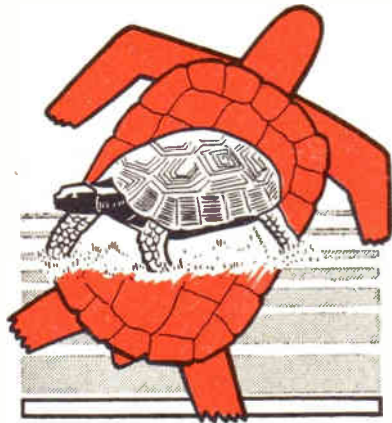
Normally, a tortoise hibernates by burying itself in the ground. The earliest signs of approaching hibernation include sluggishness, torpidity, and refusal to eat. If you have no warm greenhouse or garden frame for its winter use, store the creature in a box of friable earth, leaf-mould, and sand mixture. When your tortoise is thus lain up for the winter to sleep most of the time it will not

require any fresh food or water, though it will be ready for something as soon as it awakes in spring.

A tortoise must be either maintained in a state of hibernation for the winter, or otherwise kept in a warm place and fed. It must not be kept where the temperature is warm by day and cold by night, or it will soon die.

A tortoise will become very friendly and tame, especially if you remember to keep a bowl or shallow pan of water, and feed him through the winter period.

Let your pet roam in the garden, but take care he does not wander away — keep him fenced in. It is surprising how far a tortoise will stray, though he seems to move so slowly. We had one which disappeared during the summer, and despite an intensive search could not be traced. It was subsequently discovered in a flower-bed in the garden quite near to the door of the building he was in the habit of living in. In time a tortoise will get to know you and his home.



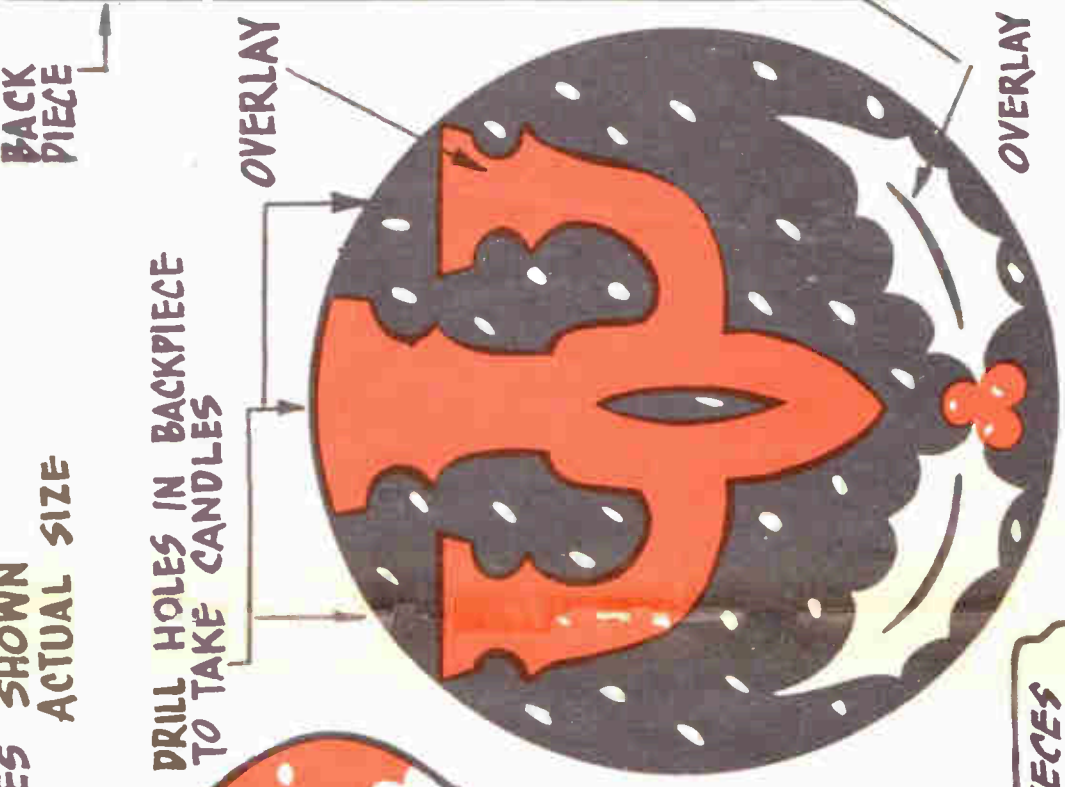
Remember, feed him on greenstuff from the garden, and do not be tempted to give him bread and milk for his meals.

When properly looked after the ordinary garden tortoise will live some years and can even attain the age of twenty.

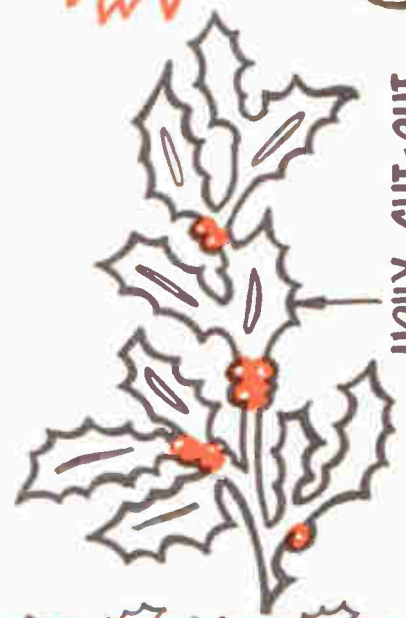
Christmas Cut-Out



ALL PIECES SHOWN
ACTUAL SIZE



"USE YOUR ODD PIECES OF FRETWOOD"





Christmas Cut-outs

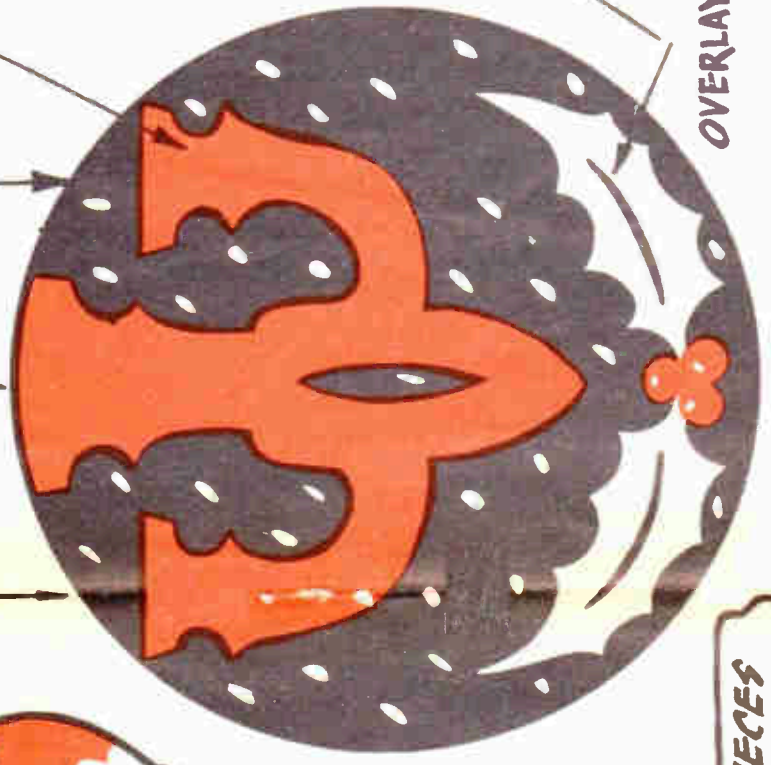
ALL PIECES SHOWN
ACTUAL SIZE



BACK
PIECE

DRILL HOLES IN BACKPIECE
TO TAKE CANDLES

OVERLAY



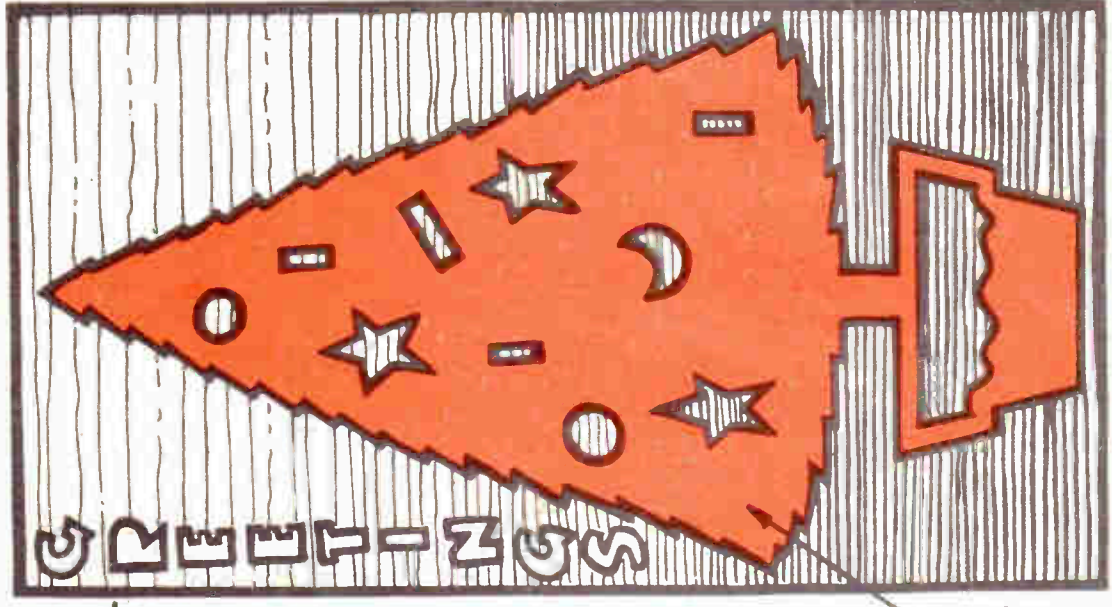
OVERLAY



"USE YOUR ODD PIECES
OF FRETWOOD"



HOLLY CUT-OUT



With ROD & LINE

WINTER is a particularly good time for pike-fishing. Whether the angler prefers live-bait or artificial lure, with his hands and feet frozen, or the exhilaration of spinning to keep his nether limbs warm at the waterside, there is no likelier time for catching a big pike. And here are some tips about baits and lures during winter.

During this period of the year — from November to March we look for pike in the more sheltered waters and places where they collect. These include reservoirs, lakes, canals, ponds, moats, mill leats, and similar waters, for pike will be found generally in all waters, from rivers like the Thames, Avon, Norfolk Broads, Witham, Nene, Ouse, Glen, Welland, etc., and many Lakes. In these and other waters we hope to find pike in deepish holes, slacks, bays, weedy corners, tails of islands, weir-pools, in reed-fringed spots, bank eddies, and backwaters. Weedy lakes are good spots for pike at this season where they resort to the deeper nooks and corners.

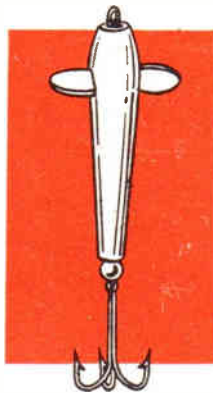
Baits are many and varied. Live-baiting is thought to be a most killing method, but it lacks the artistry of spinning with artificial baits or lures. It is a method much practised by anglers fishing in meres, lakes, moats, ponds and canals. Of course, angling with a living bait is questioned by some folk, but it is a generally accepted way of catching pike, and taking the year through, is likely to account for more and better pike than by the other methods of spinning an artificial bait or using a natural dead bait, and bottom fishing with miscellaneous baits.

Keep warm

Angling with live-bait, however, is a game of 'wait and see', and on a cold windy day with frost in the air one is often too chilled to be really happy. Once you have located a likely pitch and baited your tackle, and swung it out into the water, you wait patiently for a 'bite' and hope for a nice fish to come and sample your offering.

All the time the bait is working down under water, dragging the big cork float around, there is little to do but keep your eyes on the signal until it dips, bobs

under, plops to the surface, again goes jiggling off at a smart pace, and disappears into the depths. Then you give the pike a little time to 'turn' the bait he has taken and to gulp it down — don't be in too big a hurry to drive the hook or hooks home into his bony jaw! Give him a few seconds to make sure he has really got it down. The result will depend how careful you have been, especially if your capture is a biggish specimen of 10 lbs. or over, the soundness and strength of the tackle you are using, and your angling skill.



The Devon spinner

Live baits are many. Any small fish such as a minnow, dace, roach, bream, gudgeon, bleak, and others of from a few inches to 8 ins. and over in length. First, catch your fish baits! Keep them in a suitable bait-can, which can be submerged if it has a perforated lid — under water, with a cord to the handle and the other end to a peg in the bank for security. You can then lift up the can and secure the bait you require. Remember live baits must always be used fresh.

In addition to live-baiting with float tackle, you can try the paternoster, fishing the bait in the 'sink-and-draw' method.

Spinning baits are numerous, including plugs. Spinning is artistic when fished in the modern method of thread-

BAITS FOR PIKE

By *A. Sharp*

line angling with a short, light rod, fine line and trace, and fixed-spool reel, or a shortish rod of split cane of good action, a reel of the 'Nottingham' centre-pin pattern, about 4 ins. diameter, silk line of from 8 lbs. to 10 lbs. breaking strain (plaited lines are best) with trace and spinner.

If you go spinning for pike, then have as your slogan: 'Spin slow, spin low!' And the colder the weather and water, the lower you should fish.

For spinning artificial baits such as the Devon or phantom, the spoon, quill minnow, kidney spoon, Colorado spoon (very successful and widely used), the Norwich spoon, Baby Devon (efficient when used with thread-line reel), the silver minnow, and other artificial baits as the plug baits in wood or plastic, size from 1 in. to 3 ins. In addition there is the Vibro spinner, which flutters like a wounded fish, and can be retrieved very slowly.

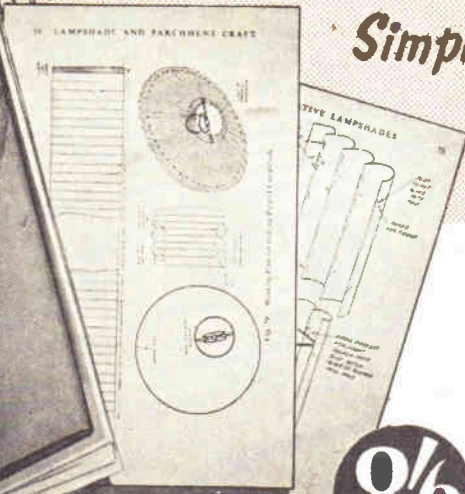
Fascinating sport

Spinning is fascinating to many anglers. Warmly clad and stoutly booted, the pikeist patrols the river bank, casting his spoon, Devon or what not — into all likely spots where pike may be foraging. He keeps on the move, thus he maintains body warmth, a consideration on a cold winter day. At any moment, as he spins the gleaming lure home, he may get a run — you never know just when a pike is likely to grab the lure. The artificial that suddenly wobbles across the pike's range of vision may prove attractive to the vigilant fish, and like a green streak he glides up behind it, makes a vicious lunge — and the fun begins!

Pike will accept a bait no matter the weather. One well-known enthusiast tells how he and the village expert started to fish on a seemingly hopeless occasion, with much cold slush flowing down the river. As they fished water froze to the punt pole. Later it came on to snow. To their joy they succeeded in gaffing eleven pike ranging from 11 lbs. to 5 lbs. in a biggish eddy, even though their lines were often cutting through a scum of thin ice!



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Imperforate Stamp

I RECENTLY bought a 2½d. stamp with only three sides perforated. I wonder if it is rare, and would be glad of your opinion. (A.I.—Warrington).

IT is unlikely you would be able to realise much on the 2½d. stamp. Had you purchased two which were joined together where the perforation should have been, then it certainly would have been rare. As it is, what is there to tell that someone has not taken a pair of scissors and carefully cut off the perforations? Further, if you look at stamps taken from a booklet, you will often find one perforation, or rather one side, practically clean-cut.

Photostat copying

IS it possible to make photostatic copies at home? (J.C.—Dungannon).

SAME-SIZE copies of black and white material are made by placing the copy flat, face upwards. On top, place document-copying paper, face downwards. Over both, place a sheet of glass to hold the paper flat. This must be done in the light of an amber or yellow photographic safelight. The exposure is made by ordinary electric light, above the glass (e.g.—over the back of the copying paper). The paper is then developed. If too dark, exposure was too long; if too weak, the exposure was too brief. Small pieces of paper may be used to find the exposure, which need not be changed if the light is kept at the same distance every time. Photostat paper may be obtained from Kodak Ltd., Kodak House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Contrast or hard printing or enlarging paper, with a contrast developer, can be used, though with less success. A second method consists of photographing the material, and then projecting or making an enlargement of the negative. This is successful with cameras with good-quality lenses.

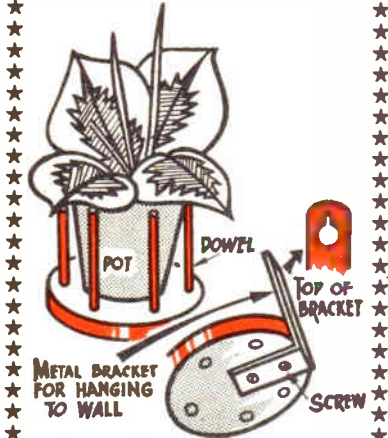
Determining SWG of Wire

IS there any simple way of telling the SWG of wire without costly instruments, such as a micrometer? (J.M.—Steeple Morden).

THE SWG of old wire can be found without a micrometer, by winding turns side by side on a pencil or similar object, and counting how many turns are required to occupy 1 in. of winding space. Dividing 1 by the number of turns will give the wire diameter, and

the SWG can be found from a table. A short table covering most used wires appeared in *Hobbies Weekly* dated January 16th, 1957.

*** Flower pot holders ***



Quite effective pot holders for small plants can be made with dowels fixed into a plywood base with metal brackets for wall hanging.

A Water Resister

CAN you tell me, please, the name of a chemical or powder which when rubbed on the hand resists water? (A.W.—Christchurch).

THE substance referred to is lycodpodium powder. When rubbed on the hand it forms a water-resistant 'glove'. It is obtainable from laboratory furnishers.

Plaster for Casting

WILL you please tell me how to mix plaster of Paris so that I can use it for making casts? I have tried mixing it several ways, but cannot get it to harden. (D.J.D.—Middleton).

IT may be that you have been using plaster which has been stored for some time in a damp place, and which has consequently lost its setting property. To ascertain this, take an eggcup half full of water and sprinkle in enough plaster to raise the water level nearly to the top. Pour off the surplus water and leave the plaster paste for an hour or two (many modern plasters are especially retarded). If the plaster does not set hard,

it has lost its setting property and a fresh supply is needed. Grease the eggcup before the test, of course. To make a casting mass from plaster, take a bowlpart full of water and sift in plaster of Paris to the amount desired. Pour off the surplus water and use the paste for casting. This method avoids balling and ensures thorough wetting. The resulting cast is normal and satisfactory in every way. There is just one other point you may have overlooked — you may have used too much water. The plaster would lack cohesiveness in this case. The method mentioned above would rectify this.

Rust Preventer

I WISH to prevent rust on steel which is exposed to damp weather. Your advice would be appreciated. (J.S.—West Ham).

HERE is a cheap simple treatment which you can make up yourself. It consists of four volumes of orthophosphoric acid and one volume of water. Orthophosphoric acid is a syrupy liquid which you can obtain from a dispensing chemist. Simply stir it with the water until an even solution is attained. Scratch brush the steel to remove existing rust if present, and immerse in the mixture for a few hours. Lift and allow to dry without rinsing. The steel blackens and may be improved by a light rubbing with thin oil.

Heat-resisting Finishes

I SHOULD be grateful if you would inform me of an enamel paint suitable for use on the metal casing of a Health Ray Lamp which gets very hot. Also any treatment for brightening reflectors for same which have rusted. Could stove enamelling be done in a domestic oven (max. 550°) and with what make of enamel? (J.C.—Isle of Man).

IT is difficult for an amateur to do stove enamelling with much chance of success — it is only reliable with expensive equipment. No ordinary brushing paint will withstand very high temperatures. Heat-resisting enamels such as 'Valspar' or 'Starlon', will withstand temperatures greater than boiling water, but may not resist the temperature of your lamp. Metallic paints have a good heat resistance, and aluminium paint, as supplied for painting stoves, would probably suit your lamp, if you find the colour acceptable. If the reflector is untreated steel, the rust can be removed by rubbing with fine steel wool and oil. This should be followed with metal polish. If the surface is badly pitted, fine emery powder on an oily rag should be used before the polish, but all traces of oil should be removed before changing over to polish.

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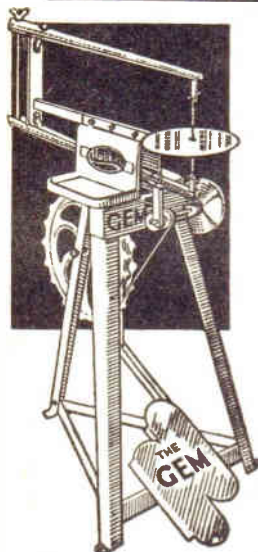
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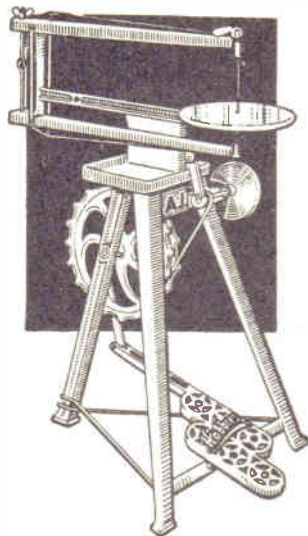
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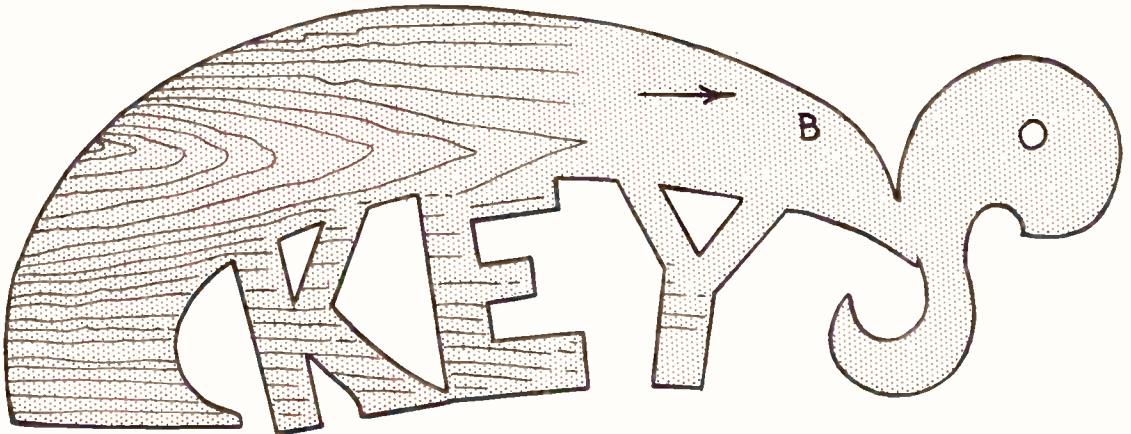
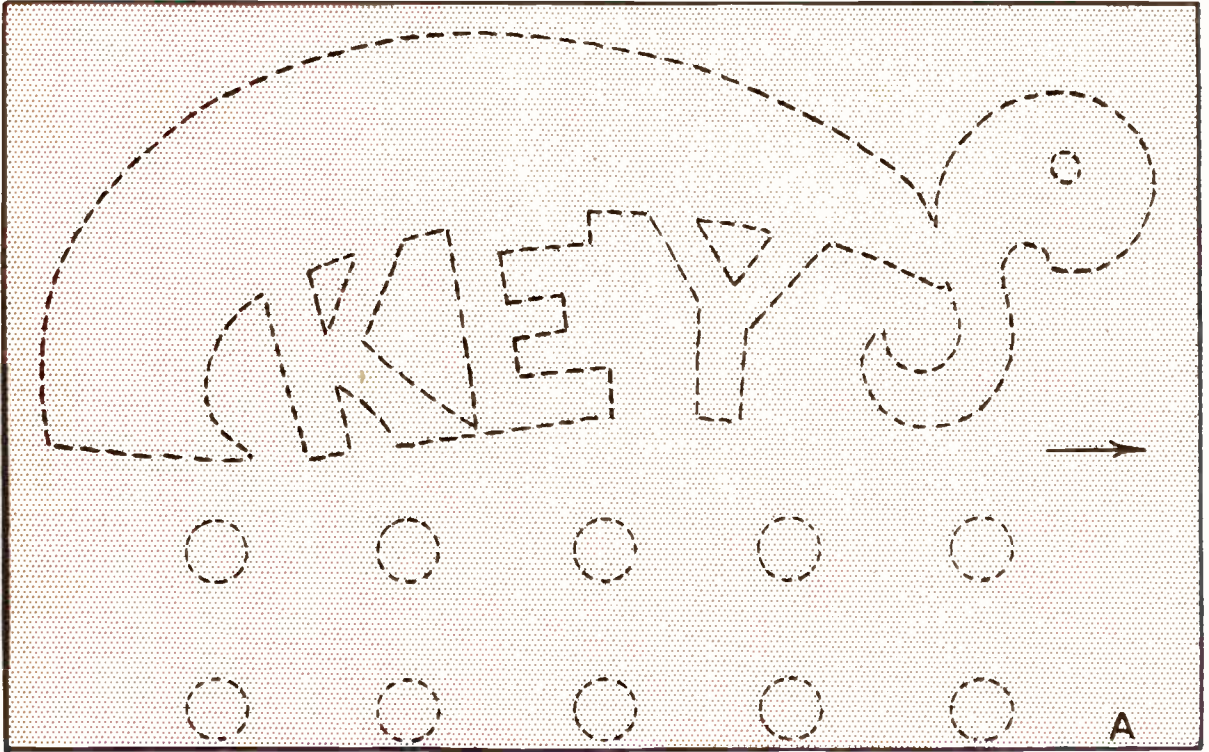
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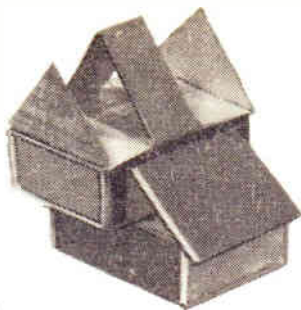
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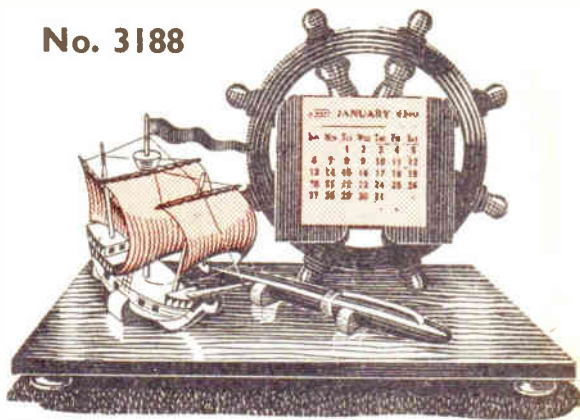
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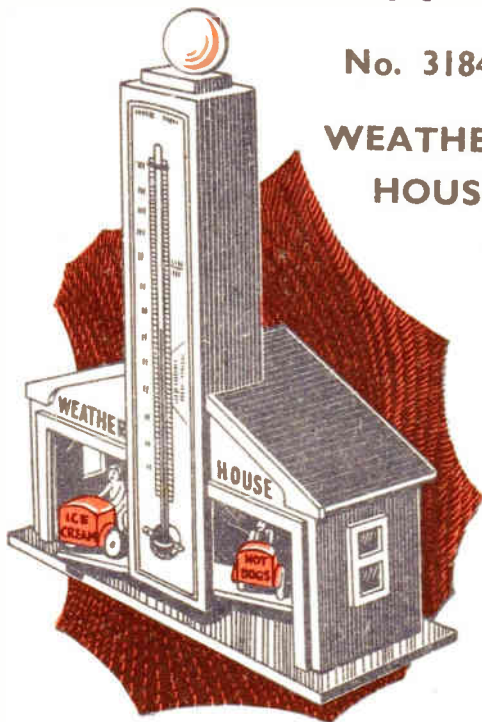
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