

Hobbies

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A WALL TYPE BIRD TABLE

THIS novel pattern of bird table is most suitable where some danger exists from cats, or where space is limited. People living in flats and having no garden could also instal one, securing it to the wall within easy reach of a window. It is quite simple to construct being an easy woodwork job, requiring but a little wood and that of the cheapest kind.

The main parts are shown grouped together in Fig. 1. The table, A, is cut from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood or thereabouts. As this will most likely be too wide to cut from a single board two boards should be joined together to make up the width. The following method of jointing the boards together is easily done.

The First Job

First cut the boards to length of $12\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and plane the edges straight. At about 2 ins. from each end drive in a $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wire nail, the nails being driven in the centre of the edge. Cut off the heads of these nails and sharpen the ends to a point. This is done to one board only.

Lay the second board against it and give it a blow with a hammer, just enough to drive the nails in a trifle. Separate, and where the nail marks show make small holes with a bradawl.

The edges of the boards should then be coated with paint of thick consistency and then placed on a level bench to be driven together with a mallet until closed up tight.

The diagram, Fig. 2, will show this, the boards being ready for closing together. It is a simple form of dowelling, quite effective for the job in hand. Wipe off superfluous paint and leave for a while, if convenient.

From the centre strike the circle, and also mark the central square mortise hole for the post. Now cut out and glass-paper off any roughness and splinters.

Bracket Parts

The back piece, B, and bracket, C, are cut from wood $\frac{1}{2}$ in. or more thick. At one end of C cut a tenon, and in B a mortise to suit it. The top edge of the latter piece can be bevelled off a little to the back. Fix these parts together with glue and nails.

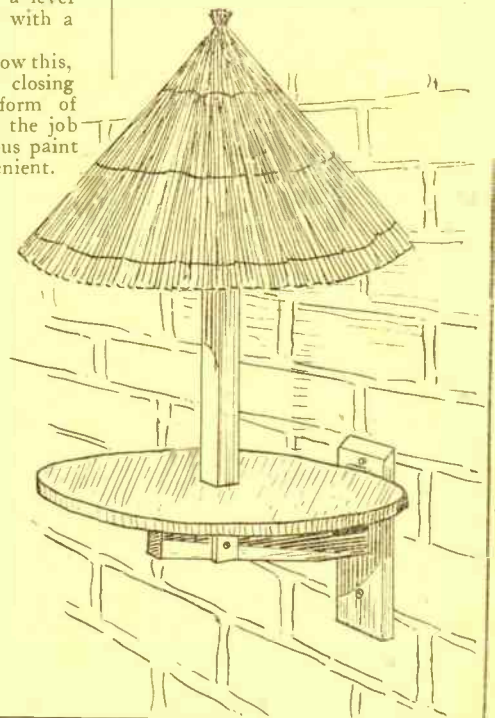
The post, D, is cut from a length of 1 in. sq. wood, or as near to that size as can be got. If larger than the

bottom end for a distance of 2 ins. should be reduced to 1 in. square to fit the mortise in the table.

This part should also have a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. slot cut out so that it fits over the bracket, C, as in detail Fig. 3.

Bracket Groove

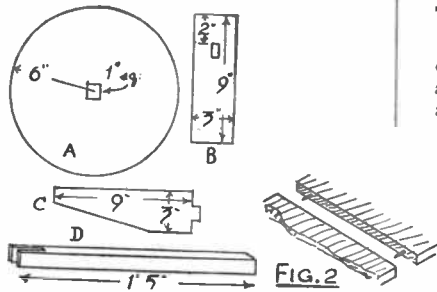
If wood thicker than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. is used for this bracket, then where the post will come a groove should be cut out each side to reduce the wood left to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thickness to let the post slide over. Push the post through the table and



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fix it to the bracket beneath with a screw. Then nail or screw the table on top to it.

It is advisable to coat the edges which join together with thick paint to seal them against wet. The inside edge of the slot in the post and the top edge of the bracket for example, not



forgetting the mortise in the table. Now clean up the whole.

To the top of the post four triangular pieces of wood are to be nailed. One of these is shown in Fig. 4. They can be cut from any pieces of deal or box wood, about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. Each is nailed to one side of the post, in succession, as in Fig. 5.

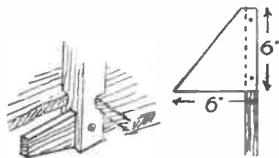
Get a piece of thin cane, or other pliable stuff, and nail round the outer edges of these parts, as shown, to

form a kind of circular ribbing to support the thatched roof.

When this is done the whole affair can be painted any colour that may be handy. The wood could be creosoted, but the result does not look pretty—certainly not nice enough for a bird table.

The Thatching

For thatching, get an armful of clean straw or hay. Hay, however, is a valuable animal food now and it seems wasteful using



it for such a purpose if straw can be got. Draw out the straws, pulling them straight, and lay in a pile.

It is wise not to comb them with the fingers (as it is tempting to do), as a nasty cut may result; the frayed edges of straw can be quite sharp.

When laid out in nice straight lengths, get a handful at a time, lay over the ribbing and tie to the top rib first. A thin string or twine will do for this. There is no need to cut

the string at each "tie," just pass it under the rib, lay the next handful on and draw the string over it passing it under and over the rib again.

Continue this until the top is covered all round, then tie and cut the string, see the ends of the straw on top intertwine with each other and so cover the top of the post leaving no gap anywhere.

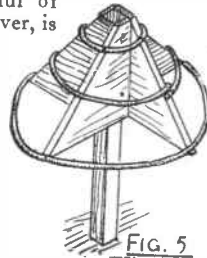
Now comb the straw straight again, using a piece of stiff wire, or a knitting needle, not the fingers. When all lay down smooth and level fasten down with string, passing it this time under and over the bottom rib.

A third row of tying can also be carried out over the middle rib to complete. Finish off this part of the work by trimming the bottom

ends of the straw level with a pair of scissors.

The completed bird table can now be fixed to the wall, any convenient height, either with nails driven through the back piece B, or screws.

Screws are preferable as they can be withdrawn and so allow the bird table to be easily removed for rethatching, but the wall must be plugged for the screws to enter. A wooden plug will serve admirably.



Some notes about the interesting hobby of COIN COLLECTING

THE question of what type of hobby to undertake, and a request for a range of suitable ones is often to be found in our mail bag. They frequently have to cover certain requirements, such as, be inexpensive or take up little room, or ones which can be enjoyed outside.

Among those which we generally suggest is the collecting of coins, because although at first sight it may appear uninteresting, there is really a great deal of knowledge to be learned and a great deal of absorbing information to be obtained.

There has, of course, been coinage in use in most countries for many centuries, but the would-be collector should decide early whether he is merely going to make a general collection or confine himself to any particular speciality.

For instance, he may think fit to keep only those of the British Isles, or he may extend it to foreign currencies, or he may desire to collect coins generally, irrespective of their origin.

Coins naturally are merely tokens in payment for service rendered, or goods obtained, and most coinage is under the control of the Government of the particular country concerned. The collector should remember, however, that in olden days there were mere tokens which could be issued by

all the localities or persons or societies.

These were not coins of the realm, but merely supplied in their own particular area or for their own particular purpose over a comparatively short period. These tokens, therefore, must not be confused with actual coins of the realm.

Medals

Again, many medals have been struck in the past which are rather confusing in their similarity to old-time coins. One must remember that in former centuries the size of the actual coin was very much larger than our present day currency. It fluctuated according to the available supply of metal just as we are now issuing 3d. bits to save the penny copper. There was the old cart-wheel, the 5/- silver piece, whilst some of the very early coins were equally large.

The collection can again, be divided into periods, and in this way forms an interesting historical record running through the ages. You may not be lucky enough to get two or three denominations in each reign, but you can at least show the monarchies in their correct sequence.

One usually commences a collection as far back as the currency introduced by the Romans. They came plentifully supplied with coins, and in

consequence many examples are available. The history of them in itself is interesting, and the collector (or numismatist as he is officially called) would do well to get some simple books of reference on the subject.

These are obtainable from any library or possibly through some other local collector with whom he may get in touch. Following the Romans, we had, of course, the Saxon coins when silver pennies were still in vogue, and when the smaller denominations were supplemented by shillings and crowns.

It was largely in the days of the 19th century that the token money was introduced—when the industrial revolution was bringing about increased activities and owners of factories were finding the need for some token money.

The coins themselves should be kept in a glass-covered flat case, so they can be seen without being touched. If possible, of course, it is best to have two of each kind so that the obverse and reverse can be shown.

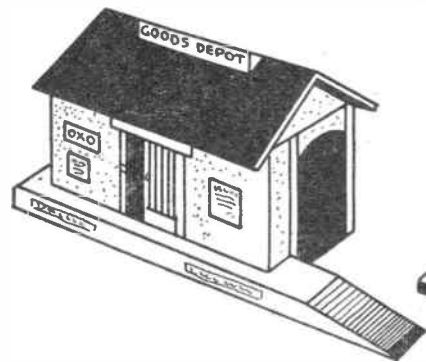
The construction of several of these specimen cases has been dealt with in the pages of Hobbies Weekly, and those interested in the making of one can obtain the dates of their publication on request. There are no full-size pattern sheets available.

Add to the miniature train set by making some GOODS TRAIN ACCESSORIES

NO train set would be complete without a few model accessories.

Six essential models are shown herewith, namely, a bridge, goods depot, loading gauge, colour light signal, a platelayer's hut and a fire hose hut.

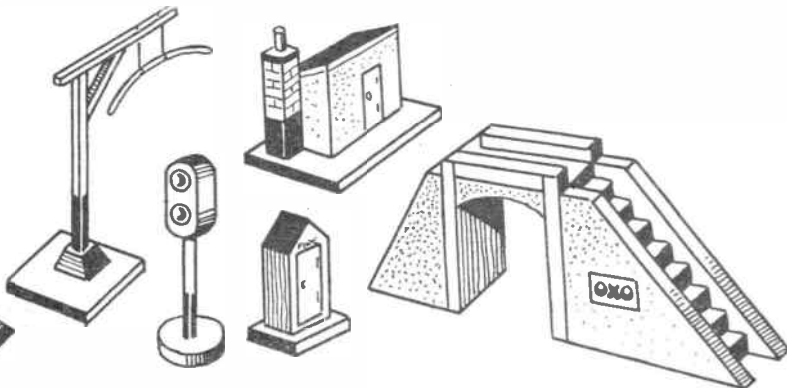
These additions will add interest



The gauge itself is a piece of bent wire, fixed to the arm with thread. To finish, paint the post, support and arm white, the wire gauge and base being done green. A portion of the post is painted black, as indicated.

Colour Signal Light

The colour signal light looks like

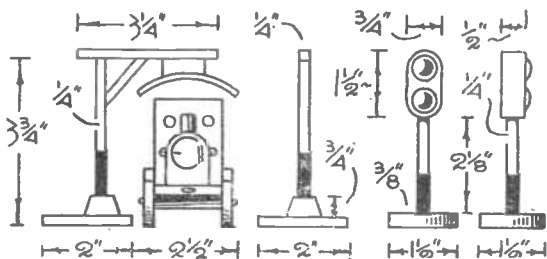


to the train model published in our issue of January 20th. All models, are, of course, not strictly true to life or to any scale in particular. We have, however, endeavoured to follow the real articles fairly closely in a simple form and the worker should find everything quite straightforward. Much of the detail work is done by means of paint and this enables the models to be made quickly and inexpensively.

The Loading Gauge

The loading gauge, when set near the goods depot, looks very impressive, this being one reason why such an article was included in the list. To make it, cut out a 2in. sq. base from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wood. The post is $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. long and is fixed in a hole bored in the base, near one side.

Pin a $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. square arm over the post to project as shown by the side view at Fig. 1. Cut, fit and glue a supporting wedge piece under the arm as shown. Remove the post from the base to fit the foot piece, same being bored, then shaped from a piece of deal $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in.



Details and dimensions of loading gauge, signal lights and footbridge

a traffic signal light, but it is really used on most railways in favour of the usual semaphore arm type. To build it, cut a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter base from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wood and drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. hole in the centre. The post of a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. dowel rod 3ins long. Glue it to the base. The upper portion is shaped from a piece of wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. hole $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep at the lower end and glue to the top of the post.

To give the appearance of glass-covered lights, tap two brass round-headed carpet tacks (upholstering type) into the head portion. To finish, paint the post white, the base and upper portion (head) yellow. The tack heads are green and red respectively, the lower end of the post being black.

The Bridge

To make the bridge, you need two side pieces 10ins. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Cut the sides to the outlines shown, the tunnel aperture be-

ing included. The inner portion needs a piece of lin. thick wood (two $\frac{1}{2}$ in. pieces glued together would serve) $9\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 4ins.

The inner portion is cut to the outlines. The top part is omitted, whilst the steps are included, these being $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. as shown. Glue and nail the side pieces to the inner

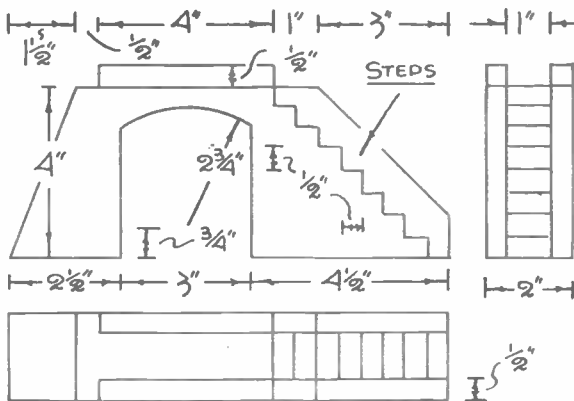
piece, finally trimming up the work with a plane and by glasspapering.

To finish, coat the whole of the model grey. To indicate stone around the entrance, paint with a stone-coloured paint. The inside of the tunnel entrance is painted black. Small advertisements may be glued to the bridge to give it realism; see what you can find in a newspaper or magazine.

The Goods Depot

The goods depot is built up in the solid. The base, as shown at Fig. 2, is cut from a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. The building itself is shaped from a block $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 2ins by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. This block can be built up from odd thicknesses of wood.

Bevel the top of it to give the roof shape. Pieces of thin wood, or card, are cut to length and width and fixed



on the roof. These should project slightly. Fix the building to its base before adding the roof covering.

A piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. angle blocking fillet $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long is glued to the centre of the roof. To finish, paint the model light grey or stone, the roof brick red, including the sides of the run-way, at the face side only.

The entrances are painted black,

The hut is a solid block of wood $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 2 ins. The roof is bevelled away to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at one side. The chimney stack is a strip of wood $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. square. The chimney pot is a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. dowelling glued in a hole bored in the end of the stack, alternatively, you could pare the pot on the wood if $\frac{1}{4}$ in. longer.

The chimney goes to the rear side

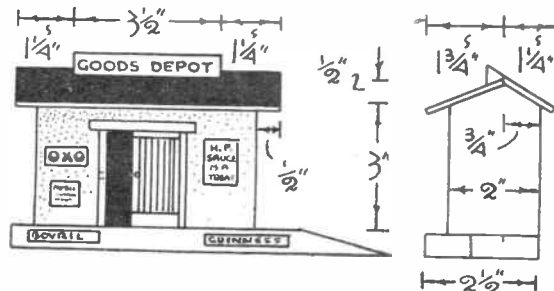
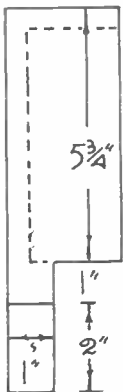
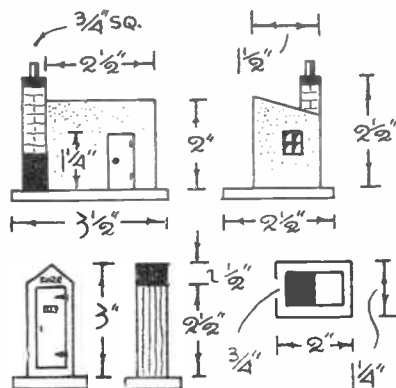
by $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. keeping it in the centre.

To finish, coat the whole of the hut red, the base being coloured grey or stone. The door is painted on with black paint, including the word "FIRE" at the door top.

Station to Follow

You can, of course, make more than just one of each of the models we have described. If you build two of each model, it would make an interesting layout for any child.

In the next article we give details



Details and views of the other miniature parts to make

to suggest a dark interior. Small notices and advertisements are pasted on here and there, as shown. Try and get the advertisements small and suitable, plain and bright. The words "GOODS DEPOT" are painted on a white background in black.

Platlayer's Hut

The chimney stack and hut are glued on a base $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

of the hut, flush at the back. The colouring is grey, with a red chimney pot. The base of the stack is done black, the door and window being painted on in black.

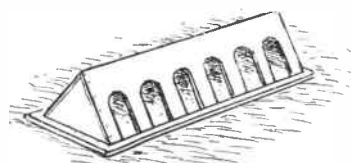
Fire Hose Hut

This is merely a piece of wood 3 ins. long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. thick. The top slopes to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep at each side. The hut is fixed to a base 2 ins.

of a small country station, semaphore signal, coal office, milk van and a signal cabin, so look out for them, as they really complete the miniature railway, with the earlier article mentioned at the beginning. A copy of that issue is still obtainable for 3d. post free.

The completed set will make a bright and interesting layout for any youngster.

AN ECONOMY CHICKEN TROUGH



ALTHOUGH a number of people have given up keeping hens there are still a good number of folks who do so. It is the shortage of feed, of course, that has been so acute, and this being so it becomes very important to see that whatever food is allowed is equally divided amongst the birds and not gobbled up by a small number of the more vigorous and pushing type.

To help in this, therefore, it is a good thing to make the simply-constructed tray and cover shown (particularly for chickens) which has the effect of keeping each bird to its own feeding division and so ensures that each will get about the same.

The cover and tray are separate parts and while the cover is for use

in conjunction with the tray it can also be used alone, if placed on any patch of ground where food has been scattered.

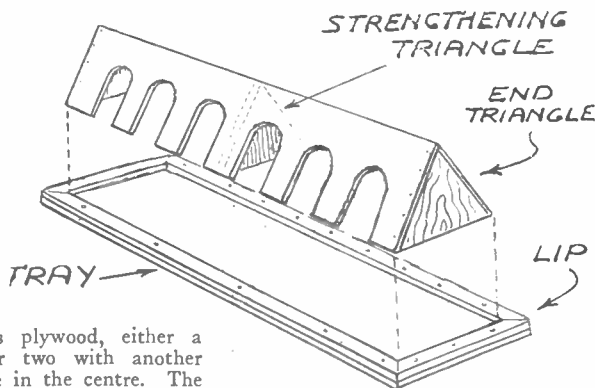
The cover is a simple V-shaped affair built on to two triangular end pieces of about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. material. The base is 6 ins. and the slant about 8 ins. Precise measurements do not matter, nor the exact shape of the triangle but it should be noted that the front face is slightly more upright than the rear.

Three feet is a good length for a number of birds and the back piece is therefore 3 ft. 9 ins. also of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. material, the extra inch being to allow of bevelling top and bottom.

The front is plywood, either a single sheet or two with another triangular piece in the centre. The

openings are 3 ins. wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high. The tops are rounded if possible but could be left square for quick making.

The tray is a simple rectangle, 8 ins. by the desired length plus 2 ins. having a lip surrounding it. This is 1 in. wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. or $\frac{3}{8}$ in. deep. The front can be bevelled down if desired. The lip is held by suitable screws all round.



A practical, straightforward and pleasing hobby making A MARKET BASKET

BASKETWORK is a both useful and attractive craft, particularly worth attention now, as the materials used can either be bought fairly cheaply, or obtained for the the trouble of picking. The osiers, used in basketwork are the young branches of the willow tree, and can be gathered in the country without more trouble than is occasioned by looking for them.

A market basket, of the type illustrated, is a good example to start on. The work is quite easy, and requires no more tools than is to be found in the household.

Preparation of Osiers

The osiers should be soaked before using them for two or three days. In the absence of a vessel large enough to hold them they can be wrapped in canvas or sacking, and kept wet with repeated waterings for the time needed.

Then they are taken out and the bark carefully peeled off. Keep the osiers for an hour or two before commencing the work to allow them to mellow.

Cut 8 pieces of osier, about 12ins. long, and lay them in two groups of 4 each, as in Fig. 1. Get a thin osier, lay one end on as at a, pass it under and over to b, then under and over to a again. Draw tight and pass the osier under to c and draw through.

Get 2 osiers, push one under a radial (as the 8 osiers tied together are called) and the other under the next radial to it. Now draw these over and under the radials in succession, crossing the osiers between each (see Fig. 2).

Forming a Wheel

This will open out the radials like the spokes of a wheel. As the osiers are used up, push in fresh ones and continue at intervals, pressing the weaving up tight. After a few rounds have been done introduce an extra radial to make an odd number.

It is quite simple to add a radial. Just cut a piece of osier, point it, and

push it between the weaving. Now work the two osiers over and under it as has been done for the rest.

While the weaving is being done, space the radials as evenly as possible, there will be 17 of them. When the bottom is large enough, and for this basket a distance of about 10ins. will be enough, cut off the surplus ends close to the weaving.

There is a tendency for the work to assume a concave shape, instead of flat. This should be encouraged so that when the bottom is turned over, as it will be when the sides are put in, it will be convex and make a stronger bottom for the basket.

Vertical Work

For the vertical osiers, or stakes, cut 17 osiers. Sharpen the butt ends of these and push them in between the weaving, alongside the radials. Bend them up, and keep them in that position with an osier, bent and tied to form a ring, at the top, as in Fig. 3.

Let them stand with a slight outward splay as the sides of the basket are required to be. The next stage is that known as "upsetting" and this is how to do it.

The "Upsetting"

Get 3 thin osiers and point the butt ends of each. Take the first one, push it in the weaving by the side of a stake (call it stake 1), bring it in front of 3 stakes and then behind the fourth.

Push the second osier in beside stake 2, bring it in front of 3 stakes and then behind the fifth. The third osier is pushed in beside stake 3, brought over 3 stakes and then behind the sixth, as in Fig. 3.

Now take the first osier again, bring it in front of 3 more stakes and behind the fourth. Repeat this with the second and third osier and continue until they reach their starting points



having completely encircled the basket. Now cut off the surplus ends.

Weaving the sides can now be done. Push an osier in, letting its butt end rest against a stake, and weave it in and out round the sides as far as it will go. Then push in a fresh one and carry on again.

At intervals, press the weaving down to make all firm. Continue the work until the sides are as high as required, or nearly so. For a small basket, a height of 6 to 7ins. will be about enough.

The Top Rim

To form the rim, bend the stake down $\frac{3}{4}$ in. above the weaving first. They will spring upright again but that will not matter—the kink will be there.

Take the first stake and carry it behind 2 stakes and bring it in front of the third. Take the second, carry it behind 2 stakes and bring it in front of the fourth, and so on for each stake in succession, right round the basket.

Now take the first stake again, and after cutting it to the right length,

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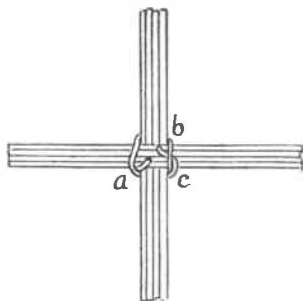


Fig. 1—The first operation

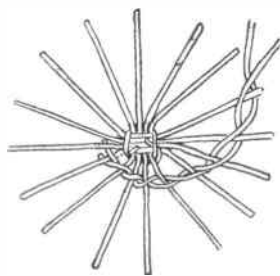


Fig. 2—The radial arms

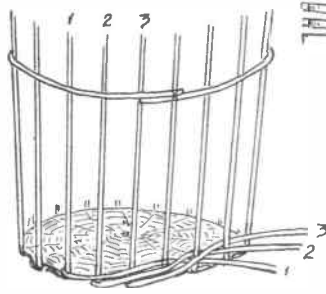


Fig. 3—Finishing the bottom



Fig. 4—Forming the rim

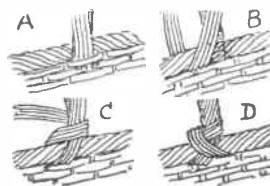
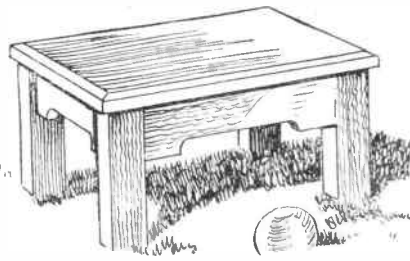


Fig. 5—Stages in making and fixing the handle

Standard panels of wood make a useful STOOL AND CLEANING BOX



HERE are two simple but useful articles that should be made for the home. One is a stool—always a handy thing to have about the house, the other, a box for keeping tidy the boot and shoe polishing outfit and brushes.

Both these articles are designed to be wholly made up from Hobbies standard panels of wood, and an example of the usefulness and adaptability of these panels is well illustrated in the articles under review.

The Stool

We will talk about the stool first. Good sturdy construction is the keynote here, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick stuff being used throughout. Commencing work on the top of the stool, we first have three OD12 standard panels and these are held firmly together by screwing two battens on the underside as shown in Fig. 1.

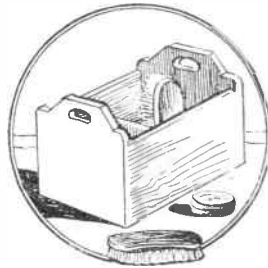
These battens are each $6\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide, and after they have been cleaned up they are placed $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in from the ends of the three panels forming the top of the stool and screwed securely.

All four edges of the top are next planed to a wide chamfer and the surfaces glasspapered.

Now for the rails and legs of the stool. It will be seen from Fig. 2 how these are made and put together. Each side rail is 13 ins. long and 3 ins. deep, and each leg 7 ins. long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide.

Halvings must be carefully marked

and cut down with a fine-tooth tenon saw as shown and afterwards glued and screwed together. The bottom



corners of each leg are next cut off and glasspapered smooth.

When the two frames consisting of a rail and two legs are complete they are glued and screwed to the underside of the top, each leg frame coming hard up against the ends of the cross battens as seen in the sectional diagram Fig. 3. Three or four screws to each rail should make a strong job.

There are two end cross rails now to be fitted to connect up the pair of legs. These end rails are $6\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long and 3 ins. deep, and they must be carefully cut to right angles to fit accurately between the legs.

In fixing the rails in place, first coat

the outside long edges of the cross battens of the top with glue and screw the rails well to these and to the leg rails as seen again in Fig. 3.

In finishing the stool some sort of wood preservative should be given to all parts, care being taken to see all screws or nails are let into the wood.

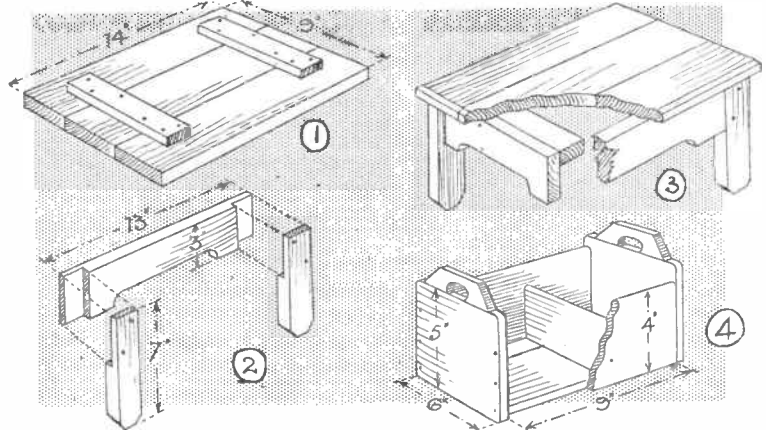
The Cleaning Box

Our second article—the box, needs but little explanation as the diagram gives details of construction and chief measurements. Two NDS $\frac{1}{2}$ in. panels are wanted for the ends of the box, the top handle sections being cut from the waste of the panels and nailed to the top edges as shown.

The partitions or partition may also be got from the waste wood from the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. panels. The floor consists of one complete GD6 ($\frac{3}{4}$ in.) panel and a part of a panel—a whole length of 9 ins. with a width of $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. to make up the necessary width of $5\frac{1}{4}$ ins.

The two sides are each from a GD6 panel nailed to the edge of the floor and to the ends as shown. The top edges of the sides must be rounded off as will the partitions inside the box.

Seven OD12 panels are required for the stool, and two NDS and two GD6 for the box. Clean off all surfaces and smooth up the edges.



Market Basket—(Continued from previous page)

point it and press it down beside a stake further on, as at d in Fig. 4. Take the second stake again, and push it down beside the next stake, c. Continue this until all the stakes are so fixed and the rim finished.

The final stage is fixing a handle to the basket. For this get a stout osier shave it to a point at each end and push the ends down the sides of the basket, between the weaving.

Pick eight thin osiers. Take 4 of them and push them in the weaving directly behind one side of the handle

on the inside, as shown at A, in Fig. 5. Twist the osiers spirally round the handle till the opposite side is reached.

Here they are carried over the rim, as at B, pushed through to the inside under the rim, and carried round the handle as at C. They are then brought over the rim again and tucked underneath, as at D. Cut off the surplus ends.

Take the remaining 4 osiers, and fix them similarly, starting from the opposite side to the first lot. Now get a sharp knife, a good clasp knife

will do, and cut off all the ends of the osiers inside the basket.

Cut very carefully, as a slip may do serious damage to the work, also, do not cut straight across the osiers but make the cuts sloping, as in pruning for example.

The finished basket can be left plain or given a coat of varnish as preferred.

The hobby of basket work like this is one which offers much scope for the handyman. There are informative books on the subject.

Keep your eatables free from flies by making A WALL MEAT SAFE

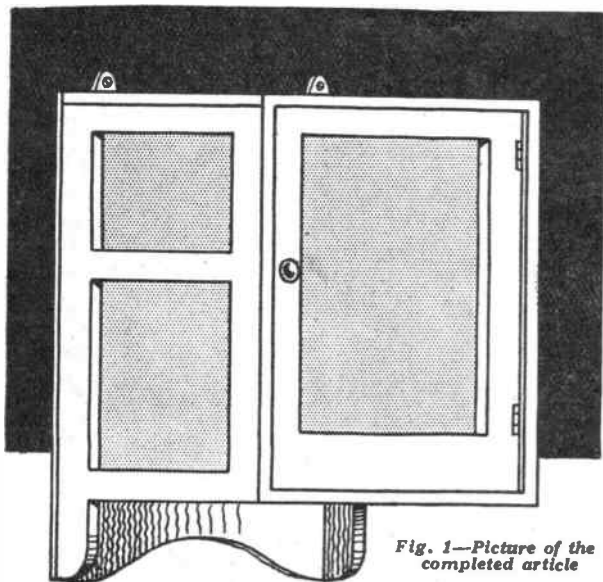


Fig. 1—Picture of the completed article

and nailed on the ends of the cross rails (see inset detail at Fig. 3). Use 2in. oval nails, by the way, as these will prevent any likelihood of the wood splitting. As an extra precaution against splitting, the nail holes should be made in the stiles with a suitable bradawl.

The front end of the back stiles can be rounded over, as shown. You could simply cut the corner away with a tenon saw. The corner must be removed, for it is liable to do a

bit of damage should one run up against it in some way.

Top and Bottom Boards

Having made the side frames, you can turn your attention to the top and bottom boards. You will observe, from Fig. 2, that the top is made from two pieces of wood 16ins. long by 5ins. wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick.

Rub-joint these boards together. For the bottom, two 15in. long by 5ins. wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. pieces are rub-jointed together. The shelf is made from a piece of shelving 15ins. by 9ins. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. This, like the top and bottom boards, could be made up

from two pieces of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. stuff $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide.

If you cannot make a good job of the join, it is possible to "connect" the boards together by means of corrugated steel fasteners $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. Hammer three fasteners, one near each end, with one in the centre, into one side of the boards; two more fasteners going in at the opposite side so that they drive between the end and central fasteners. This "locks" the boards together effectively and gets you out of a difficulty; indeed, you can start fixing the joined boards to the frames right away.

The Assembly

First of all, nail the top end of side frames. Attach the bottom board *between* the side frames. Then make the back for the work, this being a sheet of stiff cardboard or a piece of lino material. Fix it on with panel pins and trim it flush with a knife, then with a plane.

The wavy arch cut at the bottom should be done beforehand. There is no need for a backing if the safe is being hung in a shed or a wooden wall. There is still no need for it if you fix the work to a wall, providing the wall is not dirty and damp, of course.

The backing, however, helps to keep the work held square. If you have the backing material suggested, use it. One can never tell when the position of the safe may need to be shifted—perhaps to an unsuitable quarter.

The Door

The door is made from $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide lengths of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood. A 3in. wide

HERE is a simple form of Meat Safe that can be made up very cheaply. It has been designed to use little wood and the fact that perforated zinc sheeting is also scarce, should not deter the reader from contemplating the job, because fine quality muslin can be incorporated in place of perforated zinc sheeting.

Muslin, or even old pieces of fine window curtain netting, is ideal in every way. Both act as "safe" ventilators much better than the zinc sheeting, allowing only the entry of air. Small midgits, flies, etc., can usually crawl through the tiny holes in perforated zinc. Dust, too, can be blown into the safe, but the muslin, or curtain netting, is a good safeguard against all these things.

However, if you can manage to obtain the three pieces of perforated zinc required, use it, by all means. It gives, perhaps, a better, more workmanlike appearance to the safe.

The Side Frames

Commence work by constructing the side frames. These are built from $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick laths of wood. The three cross rails in each frame are dowelled to the stiles (the side rails) at the distances shown at Fig. 2.

However, if you do not possess a brace and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. bit, an alternative method of making the frames is shown at Fig. 3. You will notice how the cross rails are "let into" the edges of the stiles. The depth of the recesses (notches) is $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

To assemble, the stiles are glued

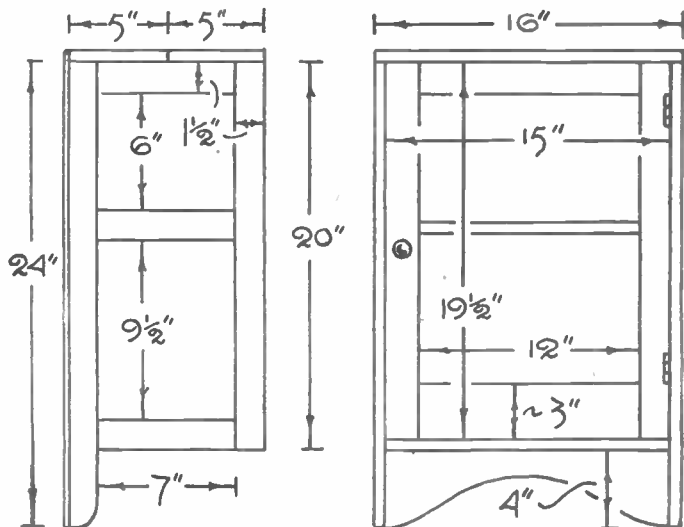


Fig. 2—Side and front elevation, with dimensions

cross rail goes to the bottom, this serving to hold the frame dead square. The dimensions are provided in the front elevation.

The laths can be either dowelled together or fixed by half-lapping and nailing or screwing at the ends. If

or slightly higher up, if desired. The door is hinged, and stopped, to show an $\frac{1}{8}$ in. break (see illustration).

Before fitting and hinging the door,

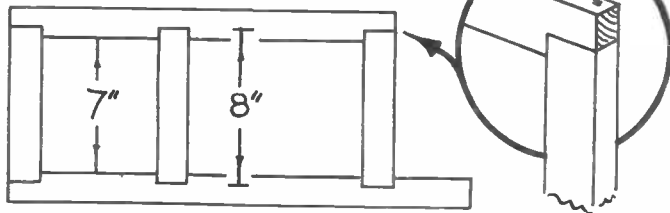


Fig. 3—An alternative construction of the side frames

the latter method is adopted, the top and bottom rails will need to be lengthened by 3 ins.

When the door frame is made, sink two $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. brass hinges in the right-hand stile, as shown. A small door knob, wood or other-wise, is attached to the lefthand stile about the centre,

fix the shelf into the safe. It can be either nailed in place or made to rest on supports of wood glued and screwed to the central cross rails.

The Netting

At the moment, cut pieces of muslin to cover the side apertures by

about 1 in. all round. Brush hot glue around the inside of the frames, spread the netting, or muslin, over the glue and stretch the material free from wrinkles as much as possible. The same procedure applies to the door frame, fixing the netting or muslin, to the inside.

Ventilation

If desired, the ventilation material could be merely fixed on with thumb tacks. If this plan is adopted, cut the stuff so it folds over to give an 1 in. wide hem. The hem prevents undue tearing. The tacking plan is probably the best one, for when the material becomes dirty, or torn, it can easily be removed and replaced.

Two brass wall hanger plates are screwed to the back, at the top, as shown at Fig. 1. To finish off, a single coat of varnish stain, or enamel paint (green is an excellent colour) is applied to the outside only. Do not paint the muslin, or netting, or even the perforated zinc, if used.

The Editor's Notebook—

A READER is badly wanting a copy of Design No. 38 Special—The Year Bracket—which is now unfortunately out of print so far as we are concerned. Any reader who can offer one should write direct to Mr. J. H. D. Sampson at Holly Lodge, Emery Down, Nr. Lyndhurst, Hants. and he will be pleased to purchase it.

I AM delighted to hear of the number of readers who are doing their bit towards making a success of "Wings for Victory" weeks in their own locality. Many of our model planes have been made and displayed and many more will undoubtedly be used before the campaign comes to an end in July. Suitable posters are issued by the War Savings Commissioners in each area, and these should be obtained through the Group Secretary or the Publicity Officer—to form a display background for the models you may be able to loan.

THERE is, as many readers will know, a Baden Powell Memorial Fund for which Scouts all over the country are raising money. One way of doing it is to arrange a local exhibition of interesting things made or collected by various Troops in the district. One such affair was held a little time ago by a Streatham Hill (London) Troop, and their endeavours gives excellent ideas. In addition to many models made by the scouts was the troop log-book dating back to the last war and giving many interesting sidelights on the

troop's progress. Also on show were several trophies brought back from World Jamborees, and an item of particular interest was a collection of maps of 17th century London, which were found among waste paper collected by the troop during the early days of the war.

IN our issue of March 3rd we had an article on the making of a Spinning Wheel which was, I learn, very popular. How such a practical piece of work can help to solve wartime clothing problem is proved by Miss A. O. Shackleton, who lives near Keighley in Yorkshire. Not only does this clever weaver, spin, design and weave her own cloth, but she even grows her own dyes! She has prepared and uses a yellow yarn which had been dyed from weld—a species of mignonette—grey lichen for fawns and leaves from the walnut tree for darker shades. So you see how the enthusiastic and ingenious reader of Hobbies can turn his or her hand to really practical money-saving purposes.

SOMEBODY—never mind his name—tried to catch me out the other day when he wrote for—as he said—a "special kind of hobby." He wanted one which would cost nothing, required no tools or materials, could be indulged in anywhere and at almost any time! Sounds a tall order, doesn't it? I rather fancy our friend was trying to catch me out. What would you say? Anyhow it didn't and I wonder how many

readers could, within the space of a minute, fit the bill. The answer is given in a paragraph further down, but it will be of interest for you to try "from now", as the radio puzzle corner told you.

I HAVE mentioned before the happiness given our men afloat by the back-number parcels of Hobbies Weekly which I send. They and any other books too—are tremendously appreciated. There is, you know, a special Sea War Library Service which undertakes the circulation of papers, books and periodicals to the Merchant Navy. This splendid organisation distributed no less than 471,835 books and magazines to British and Allied Merchant Ships during 1942. Collections by schools alone yielded 170,477 in three months.

THE number of years put in by some of my readers appears to be equalled by the lengthy period which their tools have served them in such a good cause. Mr. W. Plummer, of Stonham Aspal, Suffolk, for instance, writes to me that he is still using a fretsaw handframe he purchased from us 53 years ago.

HOW did you get on with that hobby which was wanted? How many thought of bird-watching as filling the bill? There is much pleasure to be found through knowledge gathered about local birds, their nesting, feeding, territorial rights, plumage variations, display and many other kindred subjects. The Editor.