

Fig.1 other

THE rocking chair shown in our illustration (Fig. 1) would be just the thing for a toddler, and it can be made up simply and quickly. The wood would be inexpensive and easily worked by the home craftsman possessing the usual household kit of tools.

At the end of this article we give a cutting list of parts required.

The chair could well be used without the rockers, if desired, and a portable hinged tray could be fixed to the side arms, making the whole article doubly useful.

How to Start

Commence work by making the main side frames of the chair which consist of the rails (A), (B), (C) and (D) (see Fig. 2). All these rails are to be half-lapped and glued, and either screwed or pinned together with wood dowels.

Cut two lots of the rails to the lengths given, cutting all the ends square across at first. Lay them out on a bench or flat surface and arrange them in place to the measurements shown, allowing them to lap one over the other, temporarily, while marking out the joints. Note then the front leg (A) must be at right-angles to the arm (B); this can be set with try-square or a set square. Note also that the upright rails (A) and (C) should lie on the top of rails (D) and (B), so as to get the halvings properly placed for the righthand armrest ready for cutting in.

Take care in making the second frame—that for the left arm rest—and see that the two uprights again 'run through', making a perfect pair of frames. This can readily be understood

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when the two frames are placed flat together in the position they will ultimately take when connected with the cross rails (F) and the back of the chair.

The Halving Joints

How you can make a

ROCKING CHAIR

FOR A TODDLER

Now look at Fig. 4 which shows all the rails cut and ready for assembly. The halving joints must be carefully cut in after marking out with the trysquare. A small-tooth tenon saw is best for cutting in the halvings both across the grain and down lengthways, care being taken when cutting in the latter direction to allow for the thickness of the saw, so that the finished joint bears up a full kin.

Before assembly is started, pencil in the position and cut with the fretsaw the 4in. by 4in. mortises in the uprights (A) and (C) which receive the end tenons of the rails (F). These are shown in Fig. 2, and in detail at Fig. 4. There are four recessed halvings in

There are four recessed halvings in each frame, one each on rail (A) and (C) and two on (B). These will be cleaned away with a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. chise! after cutting across with the tenon saw.

When the joints have all been made

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perfectly, glue and screw them together or pin them with hardwood dowels tipped with glue and driven into suitable holes made for them, the projecting ends being planed or cleaned off with coarse glasspaper when the glue has hardened.

Next cut the two rails (F), form the tenons on the ends, and glue them in place in the frames.

The seat is made of the three pieces (G), and they are nailed to the seat rails (E) which go inside and are nailed to or screwed to rails (D). The rails (E) are shown in Fig. 4 and in the front view of the chair (Fig. 3). The front member (G) will have to be notched out at the ends and fitted round the upright leg (A), see dotted lines in Fig. 2.

The back rest of the chair consists of the two upright rails (H) and the three cross rails (I). The whole frame when made up fits down between the two side frames, as Fig. 3 shows. Round off

the top ends of the rails (H) to assemicircle and cut the lower ends flush with the bottom of seat rail (D). These lower ends, it will be noted, rest hard-up against the inner seat rails (E). The

	MA	TERIALS REQUIRED
(A).	(2).	14kins, by 1kins, by kin.
(B)	(2)	Ifling by Iling by lin
101.	147-	radinar od vämar od äm-
(C).	(2).	16ins, by I tins, by tin,
(D).	(2)	13kins, by 1kins, by kin.
100	22(1	
(Ŀ).	(2).	lutins, by lains, by tin,
(F).	(2).	14ins, by 14ins, by 4in.
(C)	135	1dine by line by lin
1.1.1.	100	same of ourse of fur
(H).	(2).	loins, by leins, by ein.
(D)	235	Tline by Lline by Lin
1.1.	().	roune of ringe of im-
Rock	ens-	2 pieces 24ins, by 4ins, by 7in.

tenons on the ends of rails (1) will be similarly marked and cut to those on rails (F). All tenons may be cut across and glue-edged, if desired, to make well fitting joints.

Clean off all surfaces of the rails (H) before screwing the frame in position to the rails (B), (\overline{C}) and (D). The rockers are made from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood.

How to Start a Tropical Aquarium

(Continued from page 19)

him an ever popular favourite. The wonderful colourings of the Siamese fighting fish (you must never have two males together as they will fight to the death, but alone they are quite inoffensive) provide a vivid flash of colour in their girations-just to mention a few of the many, many beautiful creatures.

The feeding of these little fish is quite simple: just a pinch of prepared food daily in your aquarium is ample. The greatest trouble results from overfeeding, and an occasional diet change

stripes and grace of movement make is good. Most tropical fish are carnivorous, therefore a little finely chopped meat or liver is a very welcome change. And do remember at least once a week use a rubber syphon and clean the bottom to remove excreta and stale food, and 'top up' with water warmed to the same temperature as the aquarium.

Your aquarium now established, it will for a long time to come provide added beauty to your home and endless interest in its constant changing panorama. (J.T.)

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FASCINATING HOBBY

How to Start a Tropical

THE recent popularity of tropical aquaria might almost be described as phenomenal. So frequently am I asked questions on this most interesting and decorative subject, which clearly indicates the number of people intending to own an aquarium, that I feel my own experience will be of value to them. Let me first of all dispel any doubts

which I have heard voiced. A tropical aquarium is not messy or troublesome at all. It is not expensive to run and is not smelly.

Restful

No matter how well it is furnished your best room will be greatly enhanced by a tropical aquarium. It is so restful to watch, with its graceful animation and silent speed, as many multi-coloured fish move in constant procession in its crystal clear waters.

Let me describe how to start an aquarium. I suggest the best size is 24ins. by 12ins. by 12ins., which I consider ideal, as it provides ample room for about forty small fish, and is not too clumsy nor too heavy. The cost of this would be about £2 10s. 0d. First decide in what position in the room you are intending to put it, because once installed it is very difficult to move. The ideal position is near an electric plug-point and not too near a window; certainly not where the sun can shine upon it. Remember it must be placed on a very strong shelf or table, as when full an aquarium of this size will weigh about 14 cwts.

Heating

1.

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Having placed the tank into position your next consideration is to provide the means of heating the water (this is very simple and economical). This consists of a small electric immersion heater of about 120 watts; a thermostat for controlling the water temperature, and lastly a thermometer for checking the water temperature. Your dealer will advise you on the best for your individual requirements, but the outlay for these three articles should not exceed 35/-.

This brings me to the cost of running; this, of course, varies according to area but it will certainly not exceed 6d. per week. The amount of current consumed to maintain the water at a temperature of about 75 degrees F. is almost negligible. The thermostat does maintain this by cutting off the current at about 75 degrees and switching on again when the water temperature falls beneath this figure. This is completely automatic in

Aquarium

operation and does not require any attention.

Sand and Gravel

Next obtain some sand or gravel which is specially selected for use in aquaria-you will require about 16lbs.. which must be well washed. The method employed to wash the sand is to place it in a bucket and continually agitate it under a running tap until the water runs quite clear. Having washed the sand you are now ready to put it in the aquarium. Well bank it up towards the back of the tank, but keep it level with the aquarium frame at the front. The reason for this is to provide a bed for your tropical plants (which you have to buy next) and to bury your heater in. Yes, you can bury your heater in this manner, otherwise it will look rather unnatural if left exposed; it will also function admirably in this position.

Next take a piece of brown paper, the same size as the bottom of the tank, and lay it on top of the sand. This will serve to hold the sand down while you pour in the water to fill the tank, which you do to within lin. on the top. When the tank is full, the brown paper will rise to the top, and you can dispose of it. It is preferable to boil the water first, particularly if your water supply is chalky' but, of course, allow it to cool before pouring into the tank.

You are now ready to buy your tropical plants, of which there are many varicties, all very hardy. These plants not only serve to give your aquarium the natural beauty so desirable, but are also vital to maintain the condition of the water and its 'finny' occupants. Therefore you must first consider plants which supply the most oxygen; they in fact maintain the natural cycle by absorbing the carbon-dioxide out of the water given off by the fish, and replaces the vital oxygen. It should be realised that the plants alone do not 'condition' the water, as actual contact with the air is necessary, so bear in mind to allow air circulation on the surface of the tank. This need only be provided with a narrow opening between your tank cover (described later) and the water surface.

Your dealer will advise you on the best oxygenating plants which are easily obtainable at reasonable cost. These can be planted in the sand, keeping them to 19

the back and sides of the aquarium; for realism some suitable stones or rocks should be placed upon the bottom. This gives some scope to your artistic ability. You should bear in mind that these tropical plants are very sensitive to temperature, so allow only a short time to elapse between purchasing your plants and planting them, making sure your water temperature has been raised to about 75 degrees by your heater.

Plant Growth

The strong growth of your plants is greatly dependent on adequate lighting of your aquarium. It is, therefore, advisable that you purchase or make a metal cover to hold a 60 watt electric lamp, which should be separately controlled with the small type of switch used on table lamps. This cover prevents over active fish from committing suicide by jumping out of the tank, and also provides a protection from dust; but it mainly provides that beautiful subtle illumination of your tank without the glare of the lamp. This light should be kept on for at least four hours a day. It will secure the perfect rich green foliage of a healthy plant and reveal the inherent beauty of underwater life, the magic fairyland of colour and movement, which is such a delight to behold.

When your tank is set out and ready you should curb your impatience and wait at least one week before buying any fish. This allows time for the plants to become acclimatised and your tank conditioned. The number and species of fish you purchase depends upon the depth of your pocket, as some of these little fellows can be quite costly. I suggest that a visit to a good stockist is the best way of deciding the future inmates of your aquarium, but do aim at a balanced tank. By that, I mean, buy your fish in pairs-male and femalenever one fish at a time.

Beautiful Specimens

There are many beautiful specimens, exotic in colouring (about 1+ins .-- 2ins. long is the maximum growth) and many are 'live bearers'. That is to say they give birth to tiny replicas of themselves, alive and active. What a joy it is to find occasional additions to your fish family. A particularly prolific little fish is the Lebistes reticulatus, better known as the 'Guppy'; the males of this species are most delightfully marked to be quite alike. The Swordtails in many colours, the Platys, the Angel Fish whose black

(Continued on page 18)



made ready for transferring the outline to the wood. Set out on a sheet of brown paper a rectangle 24ins, by 4ins,

and divide it into smaller rectangles measuring 3ins. by lin. as Fig. 5. Now, taking this illustration as a guide. proceed to draw in the outline of the curve, which may then be transferred to the panels of wood by means of carbon paper.

and a paper pattern should first be

Cut round the outline of the shapes with a coarse fretsaw and then clean up the edges and surfaces. Fix the rockers, temporarily, in position to the inside of the legs, the dotted line in Fig. 2 giving the approximate position. The chair when at rest should have a slightly backward tilt, and when the desired position has been decided upon, the rockers should be screwed firmly.

All sharp edges and corners of the woodwork should be smoothed off and all surfaces cleaned before the finishing coat of varnish or paint is applied.

SAWING STRAIGHT

Have you noticed, in attempting to use a handsaw, that although you very carefully draw a pencil line in the place where you want the sawcut to be, the saw has a way of departing from the line-generally to the right of the line as you stand over the work? This is due to your faulty position. You need to stand in such a way that the right eye, the wrist and the back edge of the saw are, as far as possible, in line. Practise this for a bit and you will find that you have less trouble than before in following the pencil lines.

Radio Transmitting and Model Control

threshold of oscillation, this happening many thousands of times per second. makes the This stage very sensitive. The third valve has so much grid bias applied that no

NY short or ultra-short wave receiver which can be tuned to the wavelength employed will be able to pick up the signal radiated by the model-control transmitter which has been described. The distance at which would cause the relay to vibrate. When the transmitter can be heard will depend upon a variety of factors. The size of the the relay closes this operates actuating mechanisms of the type already detailed. aerial used with transmitter and receiver will greatly influence range, as will the sensitivity of the receiver. For aerials consisting of about 18 ins. of stiff wire, projecting vertically, can be used. With such aerials on both transmitter and receiver, no difficulty should arise in picking up the signal at 50 or 100yds. range, with a 1-valve receiver. When more valves are used in the receiver, and more effective aerials employed, the range is greatly increased.

For Relay Control

For model control, however, the receiver has to function in a rather different manner. Operating conditions in the receiver have to be adjusted for this, and the circuit in Fig. 1 should help to make this clear.

The anode of the first valve feeds directly to its grid through the tuning coil, and consequently tends to go into oscillation. The oscillation builds up a high voltage on the grid, since the only leakage path from the grid is through the 5 megohm resistor. Consequently, the grid becomes so biased that oscillation ceases. The voltage then leaks away, and oscillation recommences, when the procedure repeats itself. As a result, the valve is drawn backwards and forwards across the

anode current flows. When the audio tone of the transmitter is received it is amplified by the second valve, the signal reaching the grid of the third valve. The peaks of the signals are of such a strength that when opposing the bias it is possible for anode current to flow. This current closes the relay, the ·1 mfd. condenser serving to damp out frequencies which

unless size is to be kept down as much as possible. If dimensions are reduced, a little space should be left round the tuning coil, which should be at least in away from other parts.

The tuning coil itself is shown in Fig. 2, and consists of 8 turns of 14 to 18 S.W.G. tinned-copper wire. A length of wire should be straightened, then wound round an object of suitable diameter (about lins.); the winding is afterwards removed and pulled out to about lin. long. Its outside diameter will be about 1¹/₄ins. Actually, other diameters may be used, but an extra turn or so will be necessary if the diameter is reduced, and vice versa. The coil is self-supporting and soldered directly to the tags of the tuning condenser.

The tuning condenser needs to be mounted upon an insulated bracket, and operated through an insulated extension spindle. No reduction drive is necessary, since the condenser is of only about .000025 mfd. capacity. Actually, other capacities can be used, provided the tuning range covers the frequency of the transmitter. However, a value over .00005 mfd. is scarcely practicable, here. This is because large tuning



Fig. 1-Theoretical circuit of the receiver

Constructional Details

Receivers for these wavelengths are best built upon a metal chassis. A simple baseplate of aluminium or similar material is used, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Tinplate or similar material containing iron is unsuitable. The valveholders for the second and third valves are mounted above lin. diameter holes, the sockets projecting below the base. The detector holder is mounted above the chassis in order to keep wires as short as possible here. (The length of wires in the other sections of the circuit is not particularly important). A base Sins. by Sins. is suitable,

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point on the model. Adjustments It will be seen that a tapping is made upon the coil, and the exact position of

this cannot be given since it was found to vary when changing the valves used in the detector stage. However, a position near the centre of the coil can be tried, to begin with. If oscillations are

the detector valve-holder, which should

be a ceramic or other low-loss type, for

preference. The on/off switch is best

mounted at some convenient external



Fig. 3-Wiring plan of the receiver

too fierce, the tapping can be moved towards the anode end of the coil. Since the lead from tapping to .005 mfd. condenser, and from condenser to filament, form part of the oscillator circuit, these wires must not be unduly long. The tapping is secured by solder-ing to the bare wire from which the coil is made. Adjacent turns must not be short-circuited.

The set may best be tried to begin with by connecting phones across the primary of the L.F. choke. Join an 18in. length of wire to the fixed plates of the tuning condenser, for aerial. Transmitter and receiver should be placed side by side, and switched on. The note of the transmitter should be heard upon tuning the receiver. If not, stray capacities may be too high, and the coil may be pulled out a little. If the tuning condenser has a high minimum capacity, a turn may require to be removed from the coil. The signal should be tuned in with the condenser almost closed. When this has been done the receiver can be moved away from the transmitter to reduce volume.

It is now necessary to adjust the detector operating conditions so that this valve is just on the point of oscillation. This is done by moving the coil tapping, as explained, and by moving the H.T.1 plug in the H.T. battery.

If the set is not upon the point of oscillation, sensitivity will be greatly reduced. If, however, the set is oscillating violently, then the oscillations may be of sufficient power to operate the relay. even with the transmitter off.

Relay Adjustments

It is now necessary to connect a milliamp meter in series with the relay. and to increase G.B.2 voltage until anode current just ceases to flow, with the transmitter off. When the transmitter is on, anode current should

begin to flow. Both receiver and

transmitter can now be adjusted very

carefully to obtain the highest possible

The relay requires to be of a sensitive type; these can be set to operate with

·25 milliamps, or less, by adjusting the

tension spring screws. If the meter

indicates a change of current, but the

relay does not operate, then the latter is

insufficiently sensitive, or not satis-

factorily adjusted. The type required is

the type of valves, and these must be in

good condition. A valve such as the

Osram HL2/K is suitable for detector,

if to hand. Failing this, a small power valve can be used. The second valve should amplify as much as possible and

deliver a good power output—a power valve is satisfactory. The third valve can be of the detector type if the relay is

sensitive; this type of valve requires

only a moderate signal before it begins

to conduct. If the relay requires a higher

current, however, a power or small

power valve can be used, with some

Since a certain amount of care is

necessary to set up the equipment, the

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most likely faults, and their causes, may

decrease in sensitivity.

Possible Faults

Results are considerably influenced by

an adjustable 10,000 ohm one.

reading on the meter.

be outlined. (It is assumed that all the valves and other components are in correct working condition).

If no signal is heard when connecting the phones, as mentioned, assure that the transmitter is actually radiating. This can be done by wiring headphones and a crystal detector or crystal diode in series with a loop made of about 12 turns of 24 S.W.G. wire lin. in diameter, and holding this a few inches from the last coil in the transmitter, when the tonal note should be loudly heard.



Fig. 2-Details of tuning

If the transmitter is working, the tuning coil in the receiver may not be covering the correct waveband, Even so, the transmitter should be audible when transmitter and receiving aerials are close together. If volume is then best with the condenser fully opened, it is necessary to decrease the inductance of the coil, as explained. If the detector valve is replaced by a different valve, re-tuning will be necessary.

Low Sensitivity

Low sensitivity (indicated by failure to hear the transmitter at longer range) can be caused by the coil tapping being too near the anode end, or by insufficient H.T. voltage at H.T.1.

If the meter in the anode circuit of the third valve indicates a decreased current when the transmitter is switched on, the detector in the receiver is oscillating violently. (The oscillations will normally be inaudible in the phones, but their presence will be indicated by a loud rushing sound and the fact that applying grid bias to the third valve does not prevent anode current flowing).

Phones and meter are removed when the circuit is set up in working order. It must be emphasised that unless transmitter and receiver are adjusted in the manner described no results whatever may be obtained. Range will increase sharply as accurate adjustments are made. The maximum range at which the equipment can be operated with reliability is about 250yds. (E,G,R)

condensers still have appreciable capacity even when the plates are fully unmeshed. As a result, it would be impossible to tune in the transmitter, with such a condenser.

The 0001 mfd. condenser should be of mica type; the 5 megohm leak can be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ watt. The coupling transformer can be any good-quality component with a ratio of 1:3 or 1:5 step-up. The low-frequency choke used in the anode circuit of the second valve must be of the type intended for L.F. coupling. The other parts are not critical, except for

Component Notes



HE modern curved lines of this miniature cabinet are unusual for a woodworking project, yet by carefully building up the parts required, construction is kept very simple and straightforward. Start first by cutting the base from in. thick material, as detailed in Fig. 1, making sure that you work accurately to these dimensions.

rounded off to a nice smooth curve. Leave the actual edges fairly sharp. Two lid sides are now cut from hin. thick material to the proportions given in Fig. 3. This curve must blend with the curve worked on the side

EASY WITH A FRETSAW

two side pieces from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. or $\frac{1}{16}$ in. thick material to

the shape shown in Fig. 2

and carefully glue in place.

When set these are also

pieces attached to the base. Make sure, too, that the two lid sides are identical in shape. Pin the two together and glasspaper down as one, when cut. They are then assembled between two blocks of wood as shown in Fig. 4.

When set, carve and glasspaper the lid assembly down until the blocks

glasspaper. Then cut the sure that the ply is glued down all around the curve of the front block. You can then lay the lid down on top of the base and finish glasspapering the assembly as one. The lid should be a nice snug fit between the two side pieces without play, but also without binding. Front and rear edges of lid and base should also line up accurately.

A Jewellery or Watch Box

All that remains to do is to hinge the lid to the base, as in Fig. 6. Use two small hinges or one long hinge, recessed into both base and lid, so that there is no gap between lid and base along the rear edge when the box is shut. To open, the lid is gripped by the sides.

The interior of the box should be lined and finished according to requirements. If used as a case to hold a watch, line both base and lid with suitable material, erect a suitable pillar or holder for the watch and cover this also



base should be smoothed and rounded off, as shown. This serves no purpose other than decoration, but carry out to each of the blocks and to the sides.

of the lid is then covered with a piece of 0.8 mm. ply, as in Fig. 5, carefully glued this simple job with care, using only fine Clamp in position until set and make

Don't neglect the Advertisement pages of 'Hobbies Weekly'. You will find them worthy of your attention.

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with the same material. Note that neither lid nor base is covered with lining around the edges, i.e. where the wood faces contact when the box is closed.

For small jewelled ornaments, brooches, etc., the base lining may be padded to raise its level and also make it possible to pin such ornaments in place.

Although a very simple project to make, the value of the finished article will depend on the quality of the workmanship put into the job. Take extreme care over shaping and fitting all the pieces and, finally, in the actual finishing of the woodwork. (R.H.W.)

Entertain your friends with An Audience-Tested Marionette

N this article we are giving instructions for making a simple marionette, 14ins, high. This model was recently the 'star' of a marionette variety show given from the stage of a school hall at a children's party, and it is not too large for use in your own home if you wish to entertain guests.

However, if you wish to construct a smaller model, it is necessary that each dimension given is reduced in pro-portion so that the correct balance between each section of the 'anatomy' is maintained. If each dimension is reduced by one half, a 7in. marionette will result, a suitable size for use with the puppet theatre, details of which were published in our issue of December 5th, 1951.

The Head

Fig. 1 shows the undressed model, minus one arm, and the several distinct stages of construction are indicated.

The head is built up from a wooden sphere, 2ins. diameter. The neck is formed from a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. dowel lin. long, which is glued into a hole drilled in the wooden ball to a depth of 4in. When the glue is dry, make the protrusion less severe by moulding plastic wood under the chin and around the sides and nape of the neck. Plastic wood is also used to suggest various features such as eyebrows, cars and nose. As the aim is to



ioint is constructed

produce a comic effect, finely modelled features are not desirable. After preparation with glasspaper, the hair, eyes and lips are painted on, over a general background of flesh coloured enamel.

The body is made from a block of wood lin. square by 4ins. long, of which 24ins. forms the upper body and 14ins. the lower body. It is essential that the body be made in two parts so that the desired waist movement is obtained.

Little work is entailed here as this part of the model will be clothed. Simply cut out a shallow recess between



the shoulders with a fretsaw or coping saw, and then, with a sharp pen-knife roughly shape the shoulders and waist, and round off the corners. Finally the two sections are prepared with glasspaper. The head and two body sections can

now be assembled. It must be remembered that there are, so far, two body movements to be assimilated, at the neck and waist. These are easy to attain by the use of four small screwrings, and the illustration shows clearly how it is done. In each case one of the small rings is prised open, inserted into its neighbour and closed up again. The neck and waist are thus allowed a limited amount of lateral rotation, and forward and backward bend.

The upper leg is made in two parts, as a more complicated joint is necessary at the knee. The larger part is simply a padded cloth sleeve, closed at the top but with an overlap which is tacked on to the FRONT of the lower body as

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shown. If this is done correctly the padded thigh should hang vertically, below, but from the front edge of the lower body. The thigh should be approximately <u>in</u>. diameter, so as to accommodate the upper part of the knee joint which is made from a piece of in. dowel, in. long. This is glued into the sleeve, or it may be secured by drawing pins, after a small mortise $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep is cut into it (see Fig. 2).

The remainder of the leg and knee joint, together with the shoe are made from one piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. dowel about $\frac{3}{2}$ ins. long. The shin, ankle and shoe are roughly shaped with a pen-knife. If preferred the shoe can be made separately and glued firmly to the ankle, before connecting the knee.

Critical Joint

The knee joint is, perhaps, the most critical part of the model. A form of lock must be incorporated so that the knee can bend in only one direction. Fig. 2 shows how this is attained. When the rounded tenon is inserted into the mortise of the upper leg and secured by a small split-pin through the hole (a), the straight shoulder (b) will prevent the knee from bending in one direction. The joint should move freely, so do not make a push-fit.

A padded cloth sleeve forms the upper part of the arm section. This tapers from about in. diameter at the bottom (which is left open), to the closed top, which is tacked on to the shoulder. The lower part and the hand are made from one piece of {in. dowel, 34ins. long. This is whittled down to



Fig. 3-Side view of the lower body, showing the ninth control point (P), and the position of the upper leg

the wrist, while the hand is rough-carved to give an impression of fingers and hollowed paim.

Before clothing the marionette various control points must be positioned. For simple control there are nine of these. Eight are as indicated (P) on Fig. 1, i.e. one just above each ear, one on each shoulder, one on each wrist and one

(Continued on page 26)

A Miniature Open Truck HEADLAMPS





SIDES C. CUT TWO 1/4 IN.

S in the case of all the miniature Avehicles already published, we have endeavoured to give a realistic model with as little detail as possible. There is a certain amount of shaping with a penknife, but the main outlines are cut with a fretsaw.

Trace the various pieces and transfer them to the wood. Odd pieces of $\frac{1}{2}$ in., in., in. and in. wood are needed. Two pieces of in. could be glued together to make the lin. piece for the bonnet.

Cut out the two pieces (A) and glue them together. These pieces form the body of the truck and should now be cleaned up before gluing the pieces (B) in place.

The bonnet (D), cut from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood, is glued in the front of the cab, which is formed by pieces (A) and (B). The spacing pieces (E) and (F) are next glued on either side of the bonnet. Piece (F) is on the left and piece (E) on the right-hand side. Shape and glue the

small piece (G) to the front of the

bonnet as shown by the section. The long pieces (C) are now glued on either side of the body in the position shown by the dotted lines on (B). These pieces form the wings and mudguards. The wings are rounded nicely after gluing in place.

The model can now be painted in

A Soup-plate Garden

I AM entering a competition for a garden in a soup plate, and wonder if you can give me any advice. (W.W.-Aveton Gifford).

WE suggest you first work out a general scheme for your soup plate garden—for example, a 'hill' at one part, with little outcroppings of rock on the hillside, with, perhaps, an ornamental lake in the centre and a few 'paths' made with sand and stone slips. Then plant out your grass-if any-(it can be kept well clipped). Small sprigs

enamel. Note that the windscreen and side windows are painted black. A small window may be painted on the back of the cab. The radiator and bumpers can be white or aluminium.

The wheels which are +in. lengths of lin. diameter round rod, are shaped and painted to match the body. The tyres The model can now be painted in suitable colours, using a quick drying are coloured dark grey. Secure the wheels with §in. round head screws. (M.)

of many bushes and shrubs look very realistic, especially if seeds or the like, in bright colours are added. Miniature flowers can best be selected by studying a good catalogue of seeds and plants and selecting 'in season' small varieties. for example, auriculas or aubretia, which can be cut back as needed. Many 'Alpines' and moss or rock plants are quite small and can be planted out in your garden shortly before the competition date.



PHOTOGRAPHIC readers who possess an old but serviceable brackets can be cut long enough to clock with a seconds hand, can extend to the back of the clock, with quite easily convert it to a second's the ends turned over to act as feet and clock for use in the darkroom. Of course, it could be used for making so keep the clock on an even keel. In the centre of the wood front glue the dial of the clock, the minute divisions of which will, in future, indicate seconds of seconds of exposure without con-version, but the smallness of the dial makes reading difficult in the subdued time. The position of the dial is clearly light of the darkroom, and the conshown by the circle of dashes in the

Fig. 2 Fig. 1 Fig. 3

version increases the size of the dial to normal. It can then be much more easily read. Here are the instructions for setting about the job.

With the clock standing upright, measure the distance between table and second's spindle, double this distance and cut a square of thin plywood to the size. In the centre of this bore a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hole through, and round off the sharp corner angles of the shape. Take the clock in hand, remove the glass, hour and minute hands, dial and second's hand, then fix the clock to the plywood square with metal angle brackets, the spindle of the second's hand being in the centre of the wood, instead of the hour hand, as indicated by the line (a-b) in Fig. 1.

The angle brackets mentioned can be cut from 4in, wide strips of not too diagram.

The hour numerals are blocked out by gumming a ring of paper over them, also the now useless seconds dial, and the divisions numbered in groups of five, to the total of 60, as in the general view of the completed clock. It is, perhaps, needless to add, that should the dial be dirty, it could be cleaned up by rubbing over with an eraser or stale breadcrumbs.

For covering in the dial cut two rings of fretwood, one in. thick and the other in. thick. Inside diameters of these should be in. less all round than the diameter of the old glass, and outside diameters fin. larger all round. Now cut a ring of the in, wood, the same diameter as the rest outside, and the diameter of the glass inside. Glue the 25

Photographers can make DARKROOM **CLOCK**

stout metal, and drilled to fit between the legs and case of the clock, at the bottom, and carrying ring at the top, with extra holes for screwing to the plywood front. Unless it is intended to encase the clock in a wood box, as it were, the bottom

1 in. ring over the dial, and the third ring over that, thus leaving a rebated recess for the glass to lie in. Keep all in place with the second ring, screwed to the rest, as in detail Fig. 2 (A). The latter ring might have its inner edge neatly bevelled.

The old seconds hand is, probably, as shown at (B) in Fig. 3. Remove the actual pointer, leaving the brass stem bare. This, of course, is a friction tight fit on the spindle of the second's wheel of the clock. It must be extended in length to reach beyond the new position of the dial, and such extension must be of light construction to avoid having any delaying act on the time-keeping. This can well be done by adopting the following method.

Cut a piece of stiff paper to about 1in. wide and 11 ins. long, and roll it round a

steel knitting needle to give it a natural curk Glue the paper, place the brass stem of the second's hand at the left end, as at (C) and roll up. Keep, the roll tight until the glue is set, then cut off any surplus part, extending beyond the left side, leaving the paper level with the open end of the stem.

A pointer can be made from a short length of wire, say, about 4ins. long.

Mark the centre of this, and shorten one half by twisting into ring form, as at (D). Fit the lengthened stem on the second's spindle, and allowing it to extend Ain, not more, above the dial, cut off the remainder. Bore a hole through the stem at {in. from the top with a darning needle, and push the pointer through to the centre mark, as at (E). Now place a drop of scaling wax on the top, and with a hot iron, melt until it

The pointer should be enamelled black or red, as preferred. The clock case might also be enamelied, especially if rather old, and the wood front varnished. A very useful and not inartistic clock will result, ready to give valuable work to the photographic enthusiest. (W.J.E.)

Here are a few TIPS FOR THE HANDYMAN

Preventing Draughts

RAUGHTS can lower the temperature of a room and cause such discomfort that it is welldraught-proof, and you will also keep - greater comfort in your home. worth the trouble of making your rooms your fuel bills low, too. The best time to do this job is when you are doing your spring cleaning and decorating.

Usually in old houses there is a certain amount of structural settlement. This causes gaps between the skirting boards and the floor. The best way to seal these gaps is to purchase some quadrant or quarter round moulding about in, wide from your nearest timber yard. This will fit snugly into the angle formed by the skirting and the floor boards, and can be nailed into position with some lin. wire oval nails. The corners should be mitred (cut at 45 degrees) so as to fit neatly into the corners. It can then be painted to match the skirting. This method not only stops draughts but also helps the cleaning of the room, as the moulding provides a round edge and prevents the collection of dirt in corners.

Draughts due to bad joints in floor boards are particularly noticeable, especially if your floors are stained and polished and not covered with linoleum. The best way of filling these cracks without showing is to soak some brown paper in water until it becomes saturated and 'pulpy' (papier maché); then press it into the cracks with a putty knife. Wait for a day or so for it to dry, then stain to match the existing floor boards.

Badly fitting doors are another draught inlet. The best treatment for these is to obtain some draught preventing rubber strip. This can be tacked round the door and should seal it completely. lin. wide strips of linoleum tacked on the door, allowing in. to

overlap on to the door frame provide another good remedy.

A careful inspection round the house will reveal many sources of draught which can be treated and so provide

Clearing Blocked Pipes

MONG the many sources of trouble in the home are the small defects which occur in drains and waste pipes. These are usually blockages which can be easily freed, yet if left can cause a lot of trouble and inconvenience. A sink or hand-basin which has a slow runaway due to an obstruction in the waste pipe can be prevented by an occasional inspection of the 'U' pipe beneath the sink. This is commonly known as the trap, and, in effect is a trap for water, the purpose of which is to prevent odours from the drain passing up into the room through the pipe; it is also a trap for small articles which might otherwise collect in a more inaccessible part of the system. The trap is fitted with a screw-cap at the base of the 'U'. Place a bucket beneath this and unscrew cap with a pair of pliers. Turn on your tap and allow some water to run down the waste pipe; this will, of course, run out into your bucket and will probably bring with it the waste matter which has been blocking the pipe. Should this still prove unsuccessful, probe with a piece of stout wire. Replace the cap, and thoroughly flush the drain. If this treatment is not effective, bring into service a rubber plunger (which can be bought at your local ironmongers).

Half fill the sink with water, stuff a wet rag into the overflow of the sink, making sure it is entirely blocked. Then hold into position with one hand while you vigorously and repeatedly plunge the rubber cap over the waste grill of the sink in an up and down pumping action, keeping constantly in contact with the waste grill. This should free the most stubborn blockage.

Cistern Adjustment

TRREGULARITIES in the action of a lavatory cistern frequently occur I in most households, and being so simple to cure it is hardly worth calling for professional attention.

It is often found that the cistern will not operate easily, or that it becomes out of adjustment and overflows.

Let us deal with the one that readily overflows into the garden, as this seems to me to be the greatest nuisance. First we remove the metal lid of the cistern in which we will find a copper ball at the end of an arm, which, while floating on the surface of the water, controls the flow and cut-off of the supply of water to the cistern. This is known as the ballcock. You will find that this ball, if defective, is not perfectly watertight, and consequently does not float properly. Therefore, it is not effective in controlling the valve which cuts off the water. A defective ball can be replaced quite easily at your local ironmongers, and remember to take the old one as a pattern for size.

The correct adjustment should be that the supply is completely cut-off when the water level in the cistern is about in. beneath the overflow outlet. This adjustment can be readily made by bending the arm supporting the ball up to allow more water in the cistern, and down to allow less water in. Care should be taken in the bending, as damage to the valve could ensue, and remember, the necessary bend is only slight to obtain correct adjustment. (I.T.)

smock and trousers in contrasting

colours, with a typical 'clown' make-up

The following is a simple test for

your completed marionette. Hold it

upright from its head so that its feet are

just clear of the floor. Now allow it to

fall. Do this several times, observing

the position in which it lies each time.

Each position should appear quite

natural and be such as any lifeless body

instructions for making a simple con-

The next article in this series will give

(C.R.C.)

has proved suitable.

might fall into.

troller, and explain its use.

An Audience-Tested Marionette

(Continued from page 23)

just above each knee joint. Fig. 3 shows the position of the ninth, and also illustrates more clearly the position of the upper leg in relation to the lower body.

Ordinary straight pins are used for the control points. Clip off the heads of the pins and form a staple by bending the pin into a horse-shoe. Tap these into the wood so as to make them as unnoticeable as possible, leaving a small loop, to which the thread is attached.

The lower arms, hands and legs should be glasspapered and painted a similar colour to the background of the face, while the shoes can be coloured as desired.

If you have prevailed upon the lady members of the family to make the clothing, you are advised to point out to them that it must all be loose-fitting to allow for completely free movement at every joint-neck, waist, hips, knees, elbows and shoulders. The simplest 26

ODELLERS Corner_

O this modern age, the ship's Figurehead is a relic of the past, but to the sailors of past generations it was something very real, regarded almost with veneration. Many incidents are depicted in the pages of our maritime history, and in the great novels of the sea, which illustrate the regard with which these adornments of the vessels were held by the men who

sailed in them. The origin of the custom of carrying a figurehead in all probability arose from one of two things-the desire to



THE STORY OF SHIPS' **FIGUREHEADS**

By 'Whipstaff'

Egypt had the stem carried up and finished in the form of a lotus plant. For a time during the middle ages the

reign of Henry VIII until that of George II, and among many famous ships to bear it were the 'Great Harry', Grenville's 'Revenge', etc. It took at this period the form of the LION GUARDANT or LION COUCHANT in the Heraldic form.

Occasionally at this period we also see the Tudor Dragon as figurehead, but rarely any other device. It is highly improbable that Drake's 'Golden Hind' ever carried a Hind figurehead as shown in some of the kits sold as representing this famous little ship.

During the reign of James I, the Scottish Lion Rampant was introduced, and although removed from use by Cromwell, it was restored to favour by Charles II.

During this period the beak-head became more modified and less like that of the galley, the decorated trail boards were given a graceful curve up to the figurehead, making one continuous scheme of decoration.

Exceptions

There were exceptions to the Lion as figurehead in such ships as the famous 'Sovereign of the Seas,' whose figurehead was an equestrian statue of King Edgar trampling on seven conquered kings. This later (at her second rebuild) gave way to the ordinary crowned Lion of the period. The 'Royal Prince' of 1610 bore the figurehead representative of Prince Henry, and according to Stow it was 'a most wonderful effort of human genius'.

The 'Naseby', obviously taking the idea from the 'Sovereign' had one of Cromwell trampling the fighting men of six nations, this being removed at the restoration and sold for firewood. The six fighting men were a Scot, Irishman, Dutchman, Frenchman, Spaniard and an Englishman, as can be seen from the costume of the figures, in contemporary illustrations.

Another famous figurehead, regarded as the finest at the time she was built, was that of the 'Royal George', a gilded figure in Roman armour, with red cloak and helmet crest and mounted on a white horse.

The famous Grinling Gibbons, who was responsible for many of our finest and most prized church carvings, was probably also the greatest of our artists in the carving of ships figureheads. Another famous artist in this craft was

(Continued on page 28)

depict one of the gods in the belief that the carrying of such a figure would bring safety and good luck, or, secondly, the idea that a fearsome figurehead would strike terror into the enemy who saw the ship approaching.

In some cases, in China for example, an eye was painted on the bow of the vessel in the quaint belief that the vessel would be able to 'see', and to denote the vigilance necessary in the crew's conduct.

In ancient Egypt the lotus plant was sacred, and most of the vessels of early

figurehead disappeared owing to the fitting of the forecastle platform for fighting purposes, although we see it fitted sometimes in the form of a serpent underneath the forecastle platform.

When the figurehead returned to favour it was not as a separate item but as an integral part of the whole scheme of decoration, port wreaths, stern, etc.

The Lion

With few exceptions the Lion became the general English figurehead from the 27

Simple Colour Mixer

disc and secure with glue.

Colour Discs

diameter dowel. Make sure that the

dowel is properly at right angles to the

A number of 2in. diameter colour

discs are then required. These are cut

from thin white paper previously

coloured in the required manner, or

from opaque coloured plastic sheet.

Each colour disc is pierced with a ±in.

diameter hole, as shown. A suitable

selection of colour discs would be red.

N elementary toy top can be used to demonstrate practical colour 'mixing' in a simple interesting manner. Younger children, in particular, are impressed and retain a vivid memory of such colour mixing effects.

Inexpensive Apparatus

The apparatus, if such an elementary object can be so termed, consists of a 3in. diameter circular disc cut from stout white card, pierced at the centre and mounted on a 24in, length of Ain.



Shipmodeller's Corner

(Continued from page 27)

trained in England but pursued his art in America during the early part of the 19th century. He was the celebrated James Brooker.

The first ship to carry the Royal Arms as figurehead was the famous 'Britannia'. a ship of 100 guns built in the reign of William III.

In 1750, approximately, the Lion figurehead went out for ships below the rating of First Rate and was replaced by the full length figure. And, as classical names (a custom probably copied from the French) became at this period more popular in the Navy, many figureheads were symbolic of the name of the ship; many people figured as subjects for the art of the ship's figure-" head carvers including princes; politicians and even in an occasional case, an actress.

The figureheads of French ships were more artistic than our own, while the Spaniards produced elaborate religious groups.

The 'Royal Sovereign' of Nelson's day carried the figure of the reigning monarch George III.

Curious Figurebeads

Among many strange and curious

figureheads was that of the privateer 'Terrible'. In this case the figurehead was the gruesome one of a skeleton.

After Trafalgar, the disappearance of the beak bow had the result of making figureheads take a more simple form.

Female Figures

It was early in the 19th century that the Merchant Navy took up the figurehead upon finding that the long bows of the clipper type were ideal for the purpose, and female figures especially became popular, the draperies merging into the line of the hull; from then on the figurehead became almost the only ornamentation on the ship's hull.

Owners of clippers ships often had figureheads representing themselves or some member of their family. Some of the more famous were the Scottish Witch of the 'Cutty Sark', the devil on the 'Styx', a Highlander in full tartan. etc.

The earlier ironclad warships had figureheads, but with the introduction of the ram bow this was replaced by the Union Jack or the Royal Arms with a scroll aft of them. This was about 1860 and they became smaller with each successive type or class of warship,

28

vellow and blue, for a start. It is important that whatever colouring is used. it must be dense.

Mixture

If two or more discs are now slipped over the dowel and the top spun, the resulting colour viewed will be a mixture of that given by each individual disc. If the colour discs are equally spaced, a nearly equal mixture of these colours will result, and so on. The colour discs retain substantially the same positions when spinning. If plastic colour discs are used, these can be made a push fit over the dowel to retain exactly their initial positioning.

The Three Primarles

Pigmented colours are not truly representative of natural light spectrum colours and so, with pigments, the three primaries will be red, yellow and blue. When the top is loaded with three discs, one in each of these complementary colours, the resulting effect will be near white. Normal 'pigment' rules follow for the production of other colours, such as green, orange, etc. (R.H.W.)

being completely abolished in the 1890's. Many excellent examples of preserved figureheads can be seen in the United Services Museum, Whitehall, and in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

In the space of this short article I have been able to give only an outline of this fascinating study, but I will be pleased to try to answer any queries regarding the figurehead of a particular model. And in a future article I shall outline methods of carving and modelling ships' figureheads, which add so much to the finished model and also serve to identify the ship.

In the sketches I have tried to give a representative selection showing the form of the ship's figurehead throughout the ages. These will help to show the wide variety of the ship carver's art. (A.)

······,

KEEP THAT ACE HEAD ON

Very often when you have put on an axe head, the wedge works loose. To prevent this, fill the slit where the wedge goes with strong liquid glue. Also put glue on the part of the handle that goes into the head. The handle should not work loose after this.

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(Continued on page 30)



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YOUR IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT



Lining a Cycle T WOULD like advice on lining a cycle frame that has been enamelled with Robbialac. What is the best type of enamel, and brushes or bristles to use? Also is it advisable to line any part of the frame first? (J.C.--Hanley Castle).

FINE lining on a cycle frame is, nowadays, generally done by applying suitable transfers, which could possibly be had from cycle dealers. Otherwise, use a long sable-haired lining pencil-a long-haired brush specially made for the purpose, and costing about 15/-. In general, the lining colour is fairly dense enamel. In your case we suggest the same make of paint as used for the main paintwork. The best order of painting is to paint first those parts which will not baffle you or cause delay when putting in the last lines. Paint so that none of the wet parts will be in your way when doing the remainder.

Magnetic Trouble

T HAVE a wrist watch which will not go L when I am wearing it, but goes aulte well in any position when not being worn. I have tried sticking a rubber patch and adhesive tape on the back, but with no different result. Is it possible to demagnetise it and could you tell me how to do this? (A.S.--Hexham).

OUR expert advises that it is possible to de-magnetise a watch,

Miscellaneous Advertisements-(Continued from page 29) DolL'S HOUSE fittings and papers; send send 2/6. Trade supplied.—Zimplan, 88 Ware Road, Hoddsedon.

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but it is a specialised job and an amateur is not recommended to tackle it. It is quite likely you would do more damage to the movement. You should first try wearing the watch on the other wrist, or with the movement on the inside of the wrist. For some unknown reason there are a few people who cannot wear a watch at all, and so far no known cure has been found. It is quite possible that the watch stops when it gets in a certain position-the hands may catch due to too much play if the watch gets shaken badly, and this is a frequent cause of trouble with a centre seconds watch. You should wear the watch and carefully note when it stops-the position of the hands and when it was wound up. If you think it is magnetised you should take it to a good watchmaker for a check-up and not attempt to do the job yourself. There are so many things that could be the matter with the watch, that it is impossible to give a verdict without seeing it, and even then there are some which are very difficult to treat effectively. To all amateur watchmakers we advise working very carefully and not attempting to make an alteration unless you know exactly what you are doing, and why you are doing it. More

Stained Tent

T HAVE a ridge tent somewhat old but untorn or patched. The only trouble is it has at some time been put away while still wet or damp. This has caused a number of blackish grey stains on the outside and the steel pegs have made three or four large red rust marks. Is it possible to remove these marks? (F.W .--Saltburn-by-Sea).

THE mould or 'fungus' (stain marks) L on the tent you have, can best be dealt with by brushing vigorously with a fairly stiff scrubbing brush, but there may be difficulty in removing all signs completely. Afterwards the parts affected should be examined and if the canvas is badly deteriorated it should be cut out and replaced with a new patch. Rust is even more difficult to erase; you could try spirits of lemon. We advise giving the whole outer surface of the tent a coating of waterproofing solution, which you can obtain in tins, with instructions as to use, from the camp stores or ironmongers. There are several good brands-Granger's Solution, Mesowax, 'Nev', etc. Work the mixture well into all the seams. See that it is thoroughly dry before you fold the tent up again.

Treating Rust

AN you please tell me how to treat U rust on steel window frames before painting? (W.H.C.-Sevenoaks).

V70U should saturate the rusted I metal with benzine and scrub with a wire brush. Repeat as may be necessary, then wash finally to remove loose rust. When dry, coat the metal with pure red lead paint before applying the finishing colour. This should stop the action of the rust continuing further, and provide a suitable undercoat for painting.

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