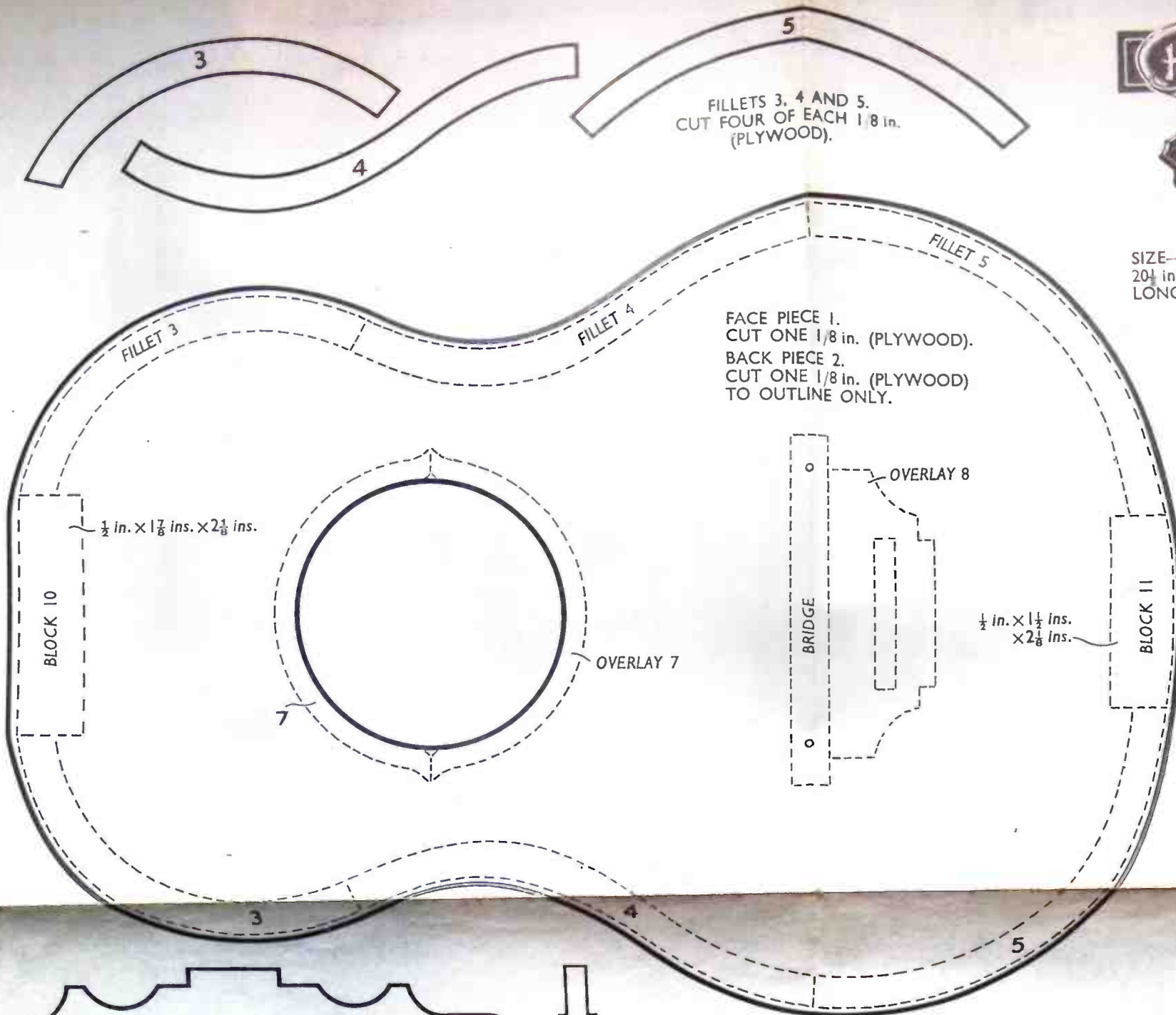


UKULELE



SIZE—
20½ ins.
LONG.

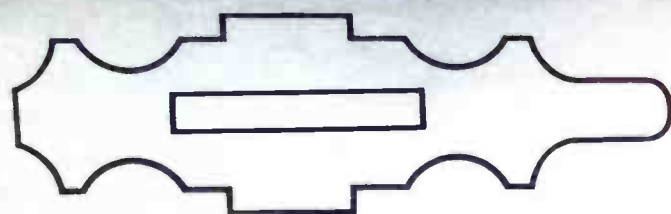


A KIT OF MATERIALS FOR MAKING THIS DESIGN IS SUPPLIED BY HOBBIES LIMITED, DEREHAM, NORFOLK. PRICE ON APPLICATION.

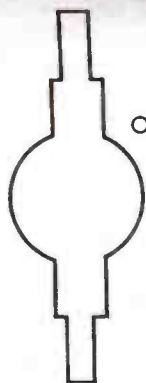
Use Croid POLYSTIK

IT'S DESIGNED FOR THE JOB

A cold liquid PVA adhesive combining increase grip with immense and lasting strength. Clean to use, non-staining. In polythene bottle with spreader 2/6. AVAILABLE FROM ALL BRANCHES OF HOBBIES LTD.



OVERLAY 6. CUT ONE FROM PEARL ACETATE.



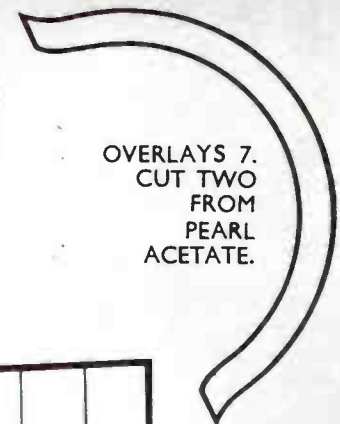
OVERLAY 9. CUT ONE FROM PEARL ACETATE.



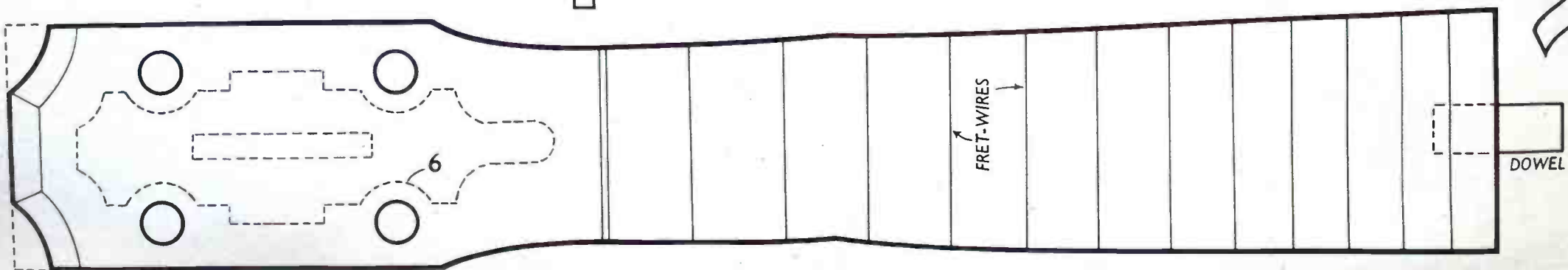
NUT. CUT ONE FROM 1/16 in. PLASTIC.



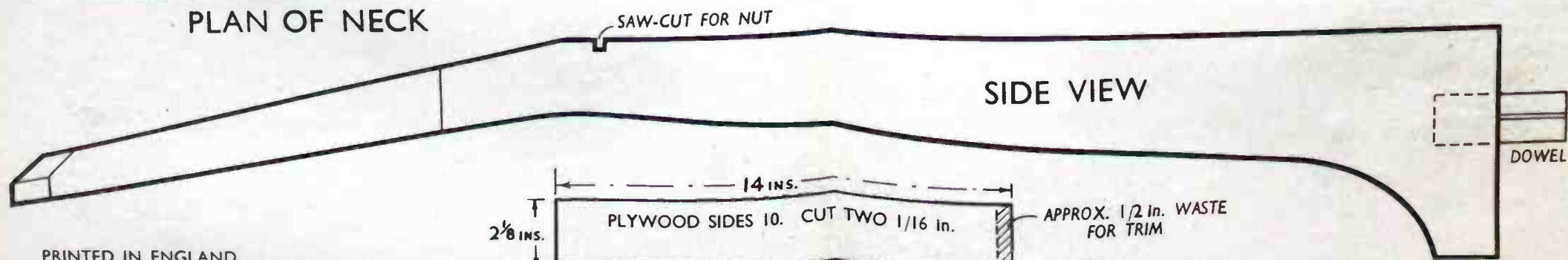
OVERLAY 8. CUT ONE FROM PEARL ACETATE.



OVERLAYS 7. CUT TWO FROM PEARL ACETATE.



PLAN OF NECK



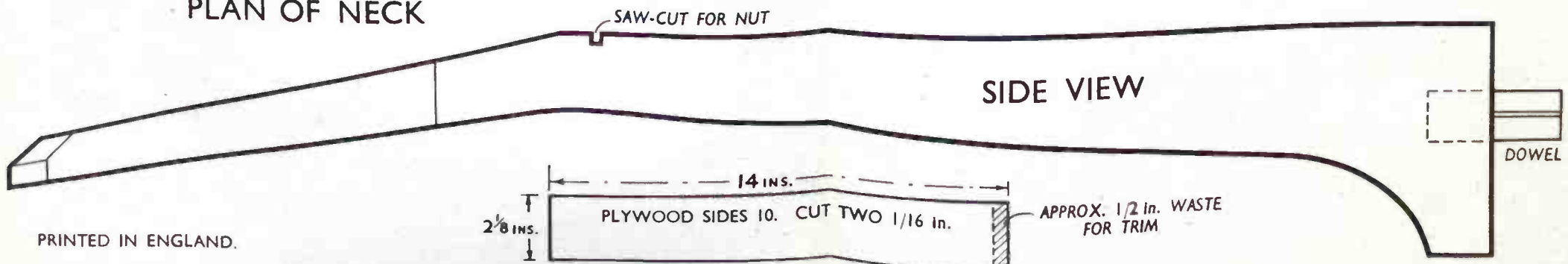
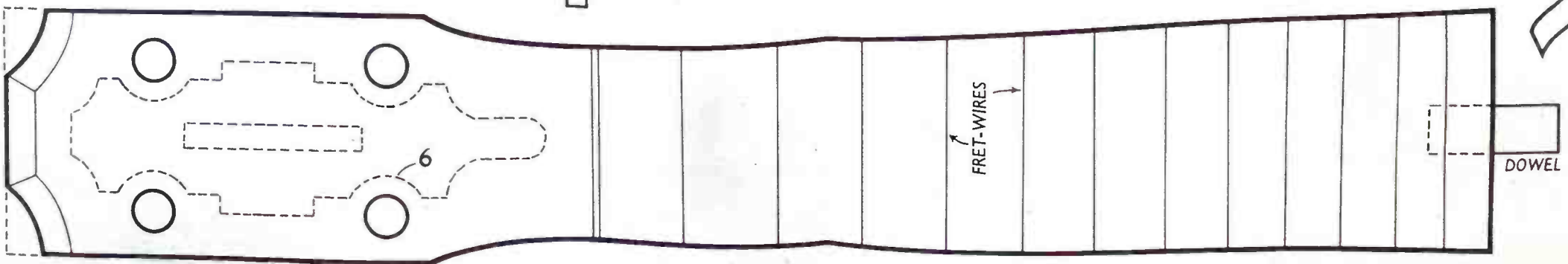
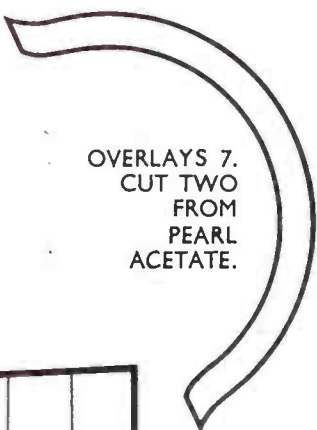
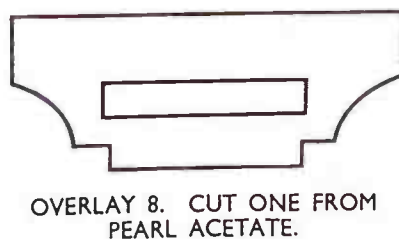
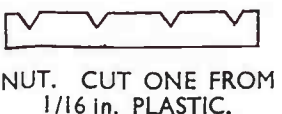
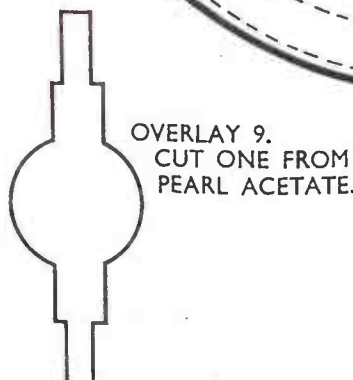
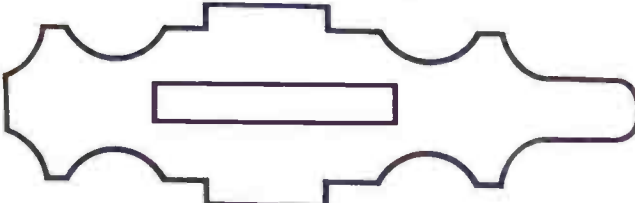
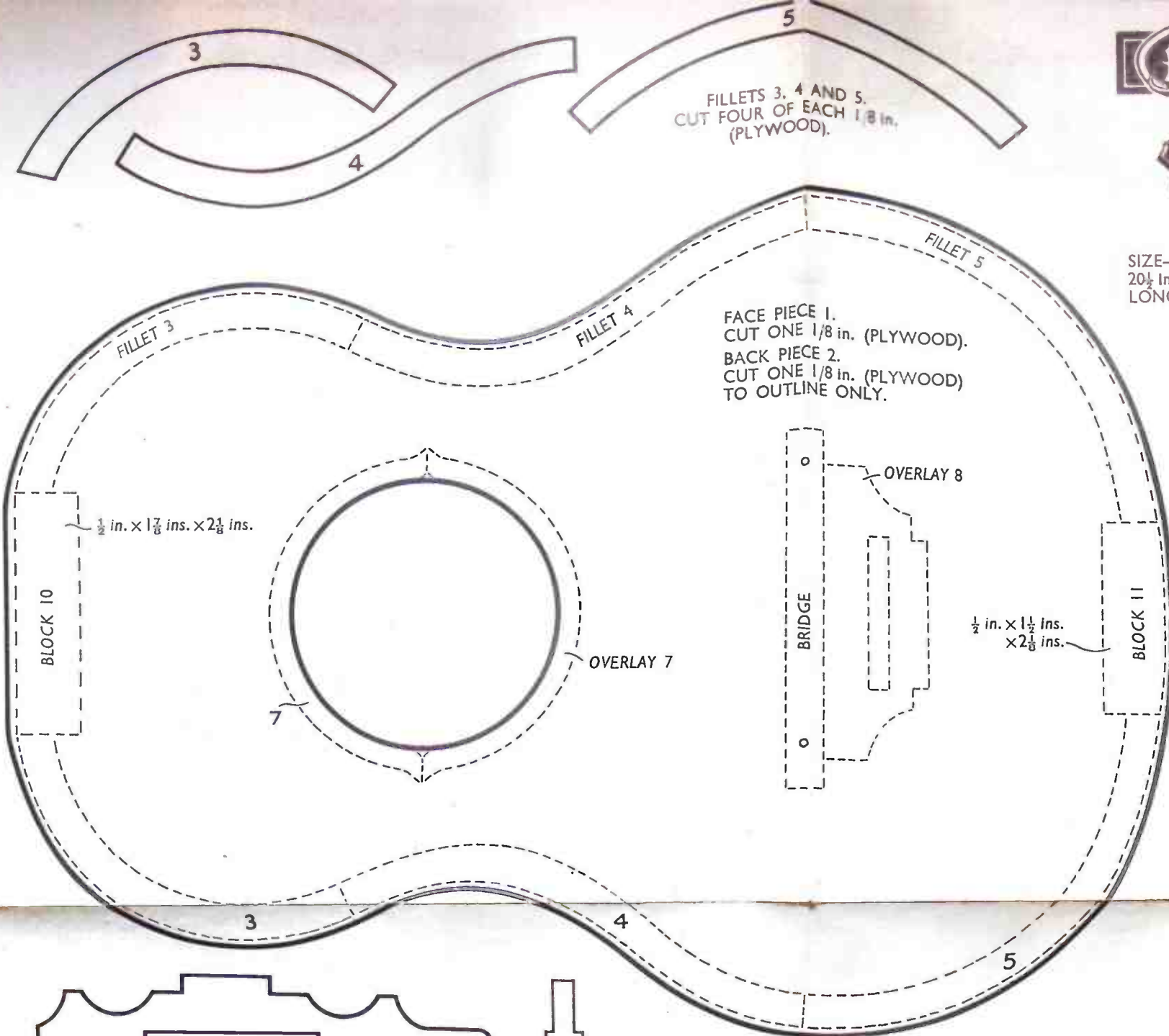
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LONG.

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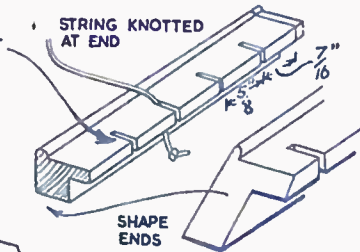
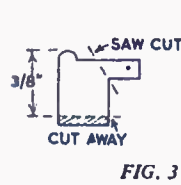
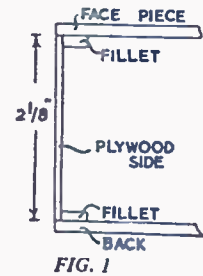


PRINTED IN ENGLAND.

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Blocks and fillets

Two end blocks of wood (10 and 11) are required. Their sizes are shown on the design sheet. They are cut from 3in. by 1/2in. stripwood and are squared up true before gluing in place. Note that block 11 is slightly rounded to conform to the curve of the body at that point. These blocks are glued to the inside surface of the back piece, being inset 1/8in. as shown on the design sheet. The fillets are glued round up to the blocks, being also inset 1/8in. to allow for the addition of the thin plywood sides as already mentioned.



indicated to take the strings. The ends are chamfered off for effect. The bridge is now glued in position as indicated by the dotted lines on the design sheet. Two fixing screws to give added strength should be inserted from underneath the face piece and into the bridge. Now glue the face piece on to the blocks, ensuring of course that the assembly is in true alignment.

Adding the sides

The strips of 1/2in. plywood to be bent round to form the sides are 2 1/2in. wide and cut to length (approximately 14ins.). It will be found that this thin ply can easily be cut to size with scissors. Find the centres of the end blocks, mark a line up with the set-square and then glue and pin the squared ends of the plywood strips to the lower end block. This joint will later be covered by a decorative overlay consisting of pearl acetate.

Apply plenty of glue to the fillets and plywood edges. Working both side pieces together, gently force them under the face and back pieces and flush up against the fillets. As the work progresses, bind round and round the instrument with plenty of string to hold the sides in shape

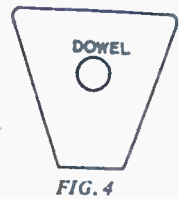


FIG. 5

Mark the positions of the blocks on the interior side of the face piece and fix the fillets round this as for the back piece. Next shape the bridge before fixing it on to the face piece. It consists of a 2 1/2in. length of Hobbies 1/2in. No. 7 picture frame moulding. This is shaped and cut as shown in Fig. 3. The height is reduced to 3/8in. and four cuts are made where

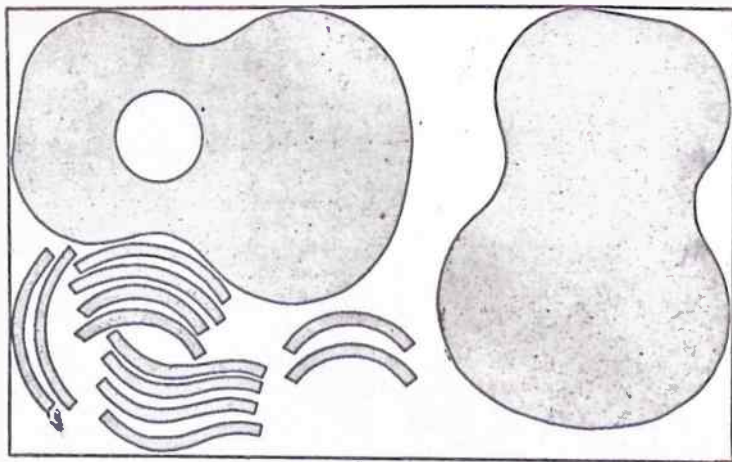


FIG. 2

while the glue is drying. It is essential that these plywood sides are fixed firmly to the fillets and workers can use their own ingenuity for binding. For instance, cut-off sections of motor inner tubes are found to be quite handy here. The use of wedges in appropriate places under the binding will also be found helpful in keeping the sides firmly in position.

Trim the plywood sides to the centre of the top block. Glue and pin the ends to the block as in starting, again ensuring a neat join, and wind binding around the whole casing until satisfied that the glue is thoroughly dry and that the desired shape has been maintained.

The neck is made from a solid block of hardwood such as mahogany or beech, shown full size on the design sheet. First mark the side view on the thickness of the wood and then saw to shape, working from each end. Keep the saw perfectly upright while cutting, securing the neck in a vice if possible.

Now mark out the plan of the neck and cut as before. Final shaping can be done with a Surform file or a wood rasp to the section and shape shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Finally plane and glasspaper the neck smooth and round off the underside to give a comfortable hold. Those who are working with a Hobbies kit of materials will, of course, have the neck practically shaped as required and only finishing is necessary.

Fret positions

The neck can now be glued to the body. Bore a 1/2in. dowel hole in the end of the neck (Fig. 6, and design sheet) and a matching hole in the block (piece 10) of the body. Pins which have been inserted for fixing the thin plywood sides should be removed if they foul the dowel position. Note that the face of the neck is in line with the face piece of the body.

Next mark off on the neck the positions of the frets. Make a cut across these with a fine tenon saw, small back saw, hacksaw or fretsaw, and tap the fret wire in position. The fret wire is inset 1/8in. from each side of the neck and should be cut accordingly. The addition of plastic wood or glue will ensure a tight fit for the fret wires if the saw cuts have been made too large.

The nut at the top of the neck is a piece of 1/8in. plastic material or bone, which is glued in a sawcut as shown in the side view on the design sheet.

Those working with a Hobbies kit will find the pegs have to be shortened, as shown in Fig. 7, and holes drilled for the insertion of the strings.

The positions of the holes for the pegs are shown on the design sheet. These holes are drilled from the underside, ensuring a tight fit in order to obtain correct tuning. It is advisable to drill to the smallest diameter of the peg and then taper carefully with a reamer, round file or the tang of a large file, checking constantly the fitting of the pegs in their holes to ensure a tight fit.

For a finish to the instrument, the bridge, head and underside of the neck can be stained black and polished or

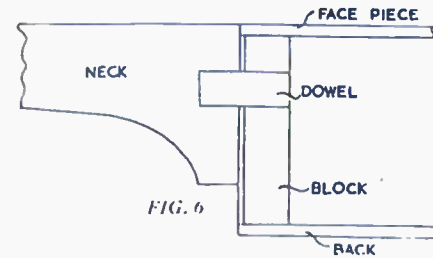


FIG. 6

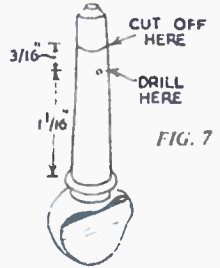


FIG. 7

painted ebony black, with the rest clear french polished. Individual workers will, of course, use their own ideas as to finish and quite a good effect can be obtained with enamel paint in varying combinations.

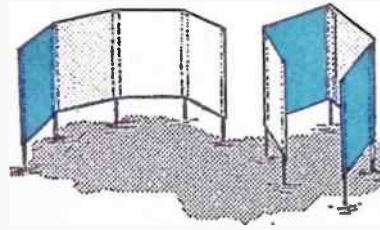
Shapes of the pearl acetate overlays (6, 7, 8 and 9) should be traced and cut with scissors, the interior portions being cut away with a sharp knife. The positions of 6, 7 and 8 are shown on the design sheet. Overlay 9 covers the join in the thin plywood at the bottom of the instrument. The overlays are added by gluing, and fret pins can also be inserted to add to the decoration and fixing. The gut strings are added as shown in Fig. 3.

A good tutor will deal with many

questions, such as tuning and playing this popular instrument.

Hobbies Kit No. 3260 for making a Ukulele contains suitable ply and other wood, partly shaped neck, pegs, fretwire, strings and decorative plastic material, etc. Kits obtainable from branches or Hobbies Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk, price 26/11 (post free).

Screen for Beach or Garden



By A. F. Taylor

MANY uses will doubtless be found for this lightweight screen. Its chief use will be for those on holiday at the seaside where it can be either a sun- or a wind-screen. For bathers who wish to undress on the beach it can very quickly be made into a small tent, while if caught in a sudden shower very little alteration is needed to turn it into a shelter.

As a wind-screen it can make sitting on the lawn a pleasure, while the younger members of the family will have lots of fun with it in many ways.

It is light to carry about and when dismantled can be stowed away in a very small space. Sizes quoted here are for an average screen, but these may be altered

to suit your own particular requirements.

The screen consists of a length of material with pockets into which bamboo canes are inserted at equal distances. The projecting ends of these canes can then be pushed into the sand or soil in a straight line or arc to form a wind-screen, or to form a square for a tent.

About 3 1/2 yards of canvas or similar material will be needed to make the screen as shown in the sketch and the width may be between 36ins. and 48ins. or more if needed. It is not advisable however to exceed these measurements otherwise it will be rather cumbersome and not so easy to carry about.

Five bamboo canes between 5ft. and 6ft. long should be procured before sewing up the ends of the canvas and fixing the other three pockets. You will then be able to make the canes a good fit into them, but do not make them too tight.

It is only necessary to fold over the ends not forgetting to turn in the rough edges while doing so and sew along to make a neat pocket just large enough for the cane to slide in easily. Close the top by sewing across securely to keep the canes from pushing through.

The three intermediate pockets are formed by sewing a narrow strip of the canvas or a piece of upholstery webbing

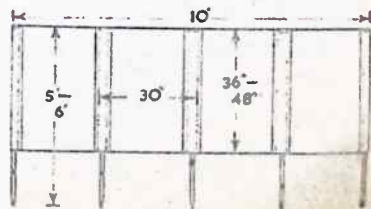
or binding across the canvas and closing the top ends as before.

To turn the tent into a shelter you will need another piece of canvas about a yard square which can be slung over the top and secured at the corners with tapes or hooks.

It is also a good idea to sew one or two large pockets on to the canvas into which many odds and ends can be slipped. Food for instance could be housed here to keep it free from sand when on the beach.

The canes are removed and the canvas folded up or the entire gadget could be rolled up and tied with a cord or straps with a handle between.

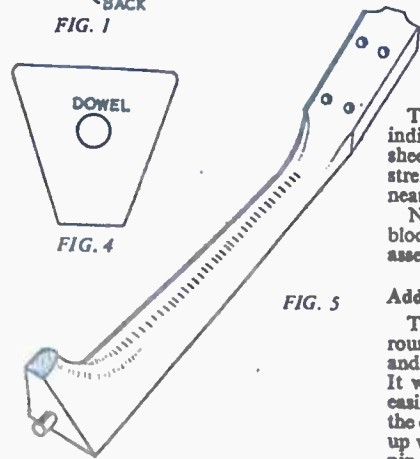
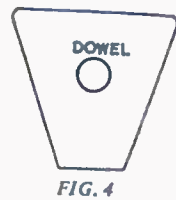
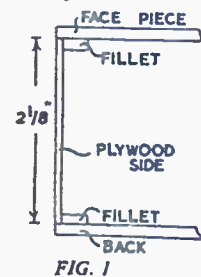
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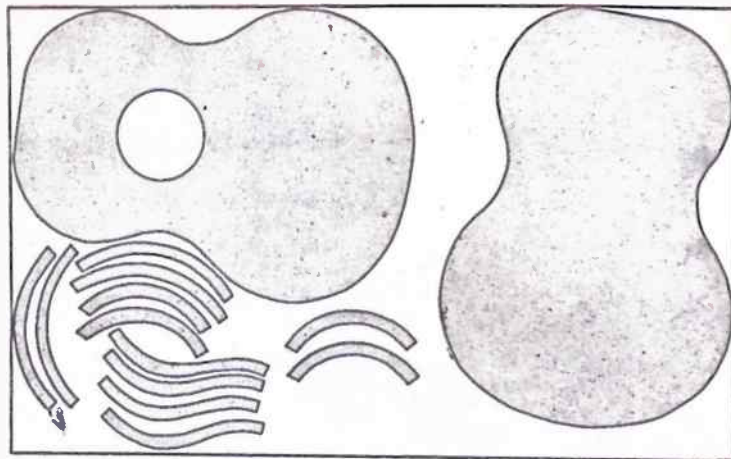


FIG. 2

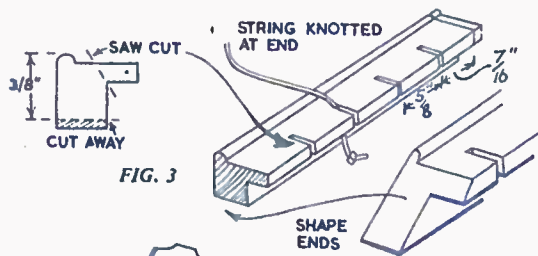


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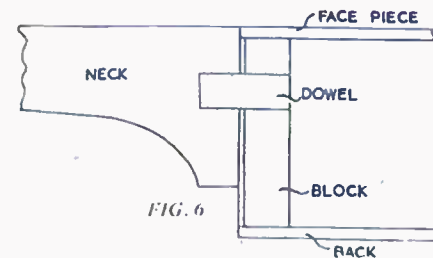


FIG. 6

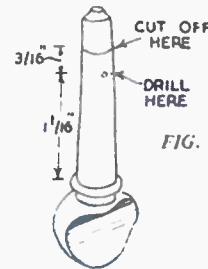


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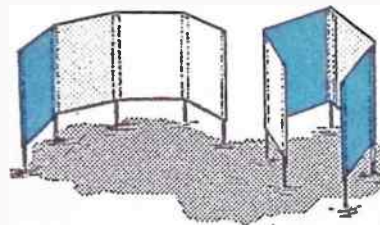
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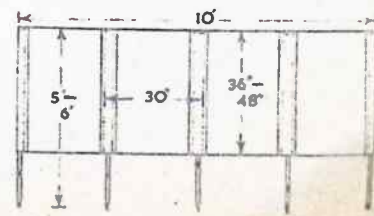
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DUAL-WAVE COILS

MOST receivers are made so that Long Waves may be tuned, in addition to Medium Waves, so as to allow a greater choice of stations. It is very useful to be able to tune the L.W. band, and this is quite easily arranged.

One method, often used, is to have entirely separate coils for the M.W. and

compact piles. For the 1in. diameter tube, 3 piles, each having 90 turns, (giving 270 turns in all) will be suitable for this L.W. section.

If the M.W. section is wound upon a tube with a diameter of other than 1in., as previously explained, then the number of turns for the L.W. section can be as follows:

Diameter of Tube	Number of Turns
1½ in.	240 (3 piles of 80).
1¼ in.	240 (3 piles of 80).
1½ in.	210 (3 piles of 70).
2 in.	180 (3 piles of 60).

A few turns more or less will make no difference to results, and 36 S.W.G. or 38 S.W.G. wire may be used.

Switching

The L.W. section is switched out of circuit when M.W. reception is required by wiring an on/off type switch from point 2 to point 3. When this switch is

closed, the L.W. winding is short-circuited, leaving the M.W. section operating.

Point 1 is taken to the fixed plates of the tuning condenser (and to detector, with crystal sets). Point 3 goes to earth.

By F. G. Rayer

(The moving plates tag of the condenser, and one wavechange switch tag, will also be wired to this point.) All turns throughout the coil must be in the same direction, as shown, and point 2 consists of two wires, one from each winding. Any of the forms of aerial coupling already described can be used to give more selective tuning.

Valve detectors

Crystal detectors can only give low volume, so valves or transistors are often used instead. The circuit for a valve

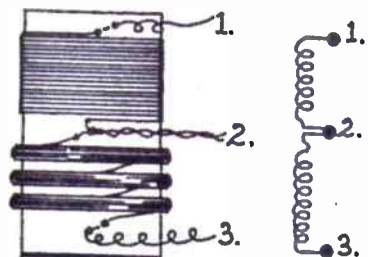


Fig. 1—Dual wave coil

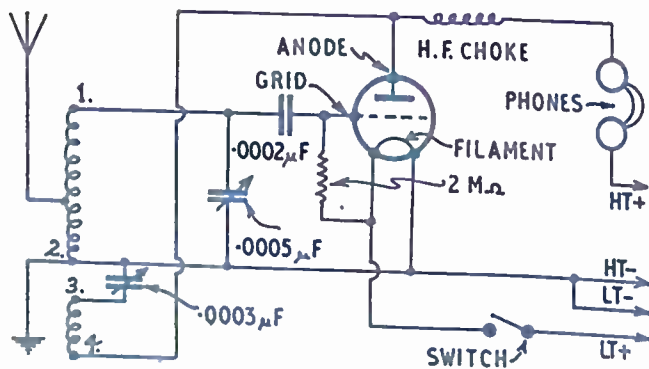


Fig. 2—One-valve circuit

L.W. bands, and to select the appropriate coil by means of a switch. Another method uses a dual-wave or dual-range coil, able to tune both wavebands. This type of coil is shown in Fig. 1 and can easily be used to replace the M.W. type of coil fitted in the crystal detector receiver.

The winding between points 1 and 2 is for medium waves, and can consist of 90 turns of 32 S.W.G. enamelled wire, on a 1in. diameter former. After ending the winding at point 2, a clear space of about ½ in. is left. The long-wave section, between points 2 and 3, is then wound on. As a large number of turns will be required, thin wire (36 to 38 S.W.G.) is employed, and the turns are wound in

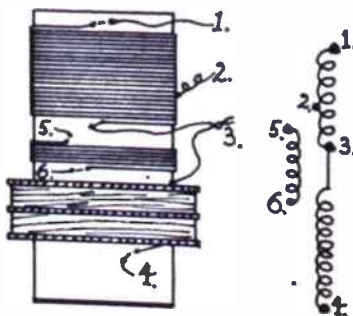


Fig. 4—Dual wave coil with reaction

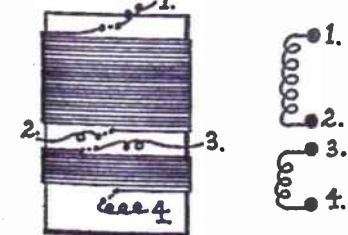


Fig. 3—Coil with reaction

detector, or 1-valve receiver, appears in Fig. 2. The coil, with 0.0005 μF tuning condenser, remains exactly as for the crystal detector. Point 1 is connected to a fixed condenser of 0.002 μF. The radio-frequency signals pass through this condenser, reaching the valve grid.

The valve itself has a filament, which is heated by current from a 1½V. or 2V. battery. The heated filament emits electrons which have to pass through the grid to reach the anode, to which they are attracted by a positive voltage derived from the High Tension battery. As a result, an amplified signal appears in the anode circuit, to operate the phones. The 2 megohm resistor allows the small voltage arising at the grid, due to rectification, to leak away. For this reason, this resistor is often termed a 'Grid Leak'.

An additional benefit also arises from the use of the valve. Amplified radio-frequency signals are present at the valve anode, and are prevented from passing

to the phones by the high-frequency choke. (This choke allows the audible part of the signal to pass.) The amplified R.F. signals thus have to pass through the coil winding shown between points 3 and 4, and through the variable 0.0003 μF condenser, to earth. In passing through the coil to earth, the amplified R.F. signals induce stronger currents in the main section of the tuning coil. This effect is known as 'Reaction' and gives a great increase in volume. The advantage is so great, that reaction is always provided in simple receivers of this kind.

Reaction coil

The crystal set cannot use a reaction winding, but it is easily added, as shown in Fig. 3. The exact number of turns is not critical, but about two-thirds the number used on the tuned winding will be satisfactory — that is, 60 turns, for a 90 turn coil. In Fig. 3 then, points 1 and 2 go to the tuning condenser, exactly as before. The reaction winding may be of very thin wire, to save space (38 SWG is satisfactory). Point 3 goes to the reaction condenser, and point 4 to the valve anode. It is important that these ends be correctly connected, or signals

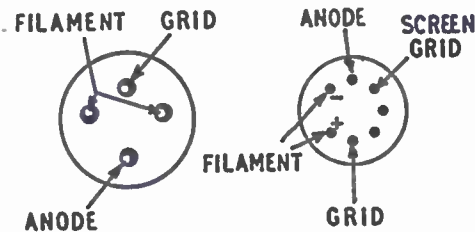


Fig. 5—Pin connections for HL2 and IT4, viewing valve from below

induced in the larger winding will be of wrong phase, so that adding reaction reduces volume, instead of increasing it. For the same reason, both windings must be in the same direction, as shown.

A solid dielectric condenser is usually fitted, for reaction control, values between 0.002 μF and 0.005 μF being normal. As this condenser is closed, volume increases, until the valve commences to oscillate. This sets the limit to the amount of reaction which can be applied. Reaction is particularly useful in building up the volume of weak stations.

Dual-wave with reaction

Reaction is also provided with dual-range coils. So as to obtain a fairly equal coupling on both M.W. and L.W. bands, the reaction winding is generally situated between M.W. and L.W. sections, its ends being points 5 and 6 in Fig. 4. With this coil, 1 goes to the fixed plates of the tuning condenser, 2 to aerial, 3 to wavechange switch, and 4 to earth. Lead 5

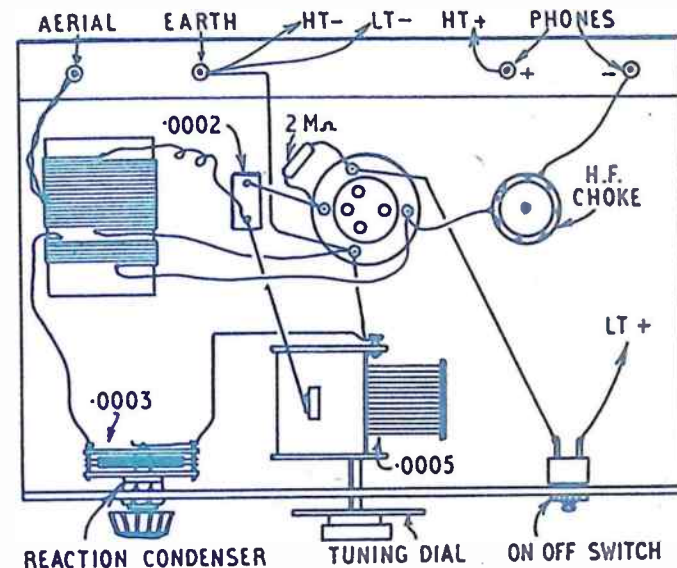


Fig. 6—Wiring plan of circuit in Fig. 2

goes to the reaction condenser, and lead 6 to the valve anode. The turns of the L.W. section are shown wound between large card washers glued to the tube, and this is a convenient method. For 3 piles, 4 card washers must be cut. But winding the L.W. section in 2 piles instead of 3 does not materially influence results.

Once again it is essential that all the windings (M.W. section, reaction, and L.W. sections) be in the same direction. It is simplest to wind the M.W. section, leave about ½ in. space, and wind the reaction section. The card washers can then be fitted, the top one being very near the reaction winding. The coil can then be finished by dividing the L.W. turns between the spaces provided, filling the top space before passing the wire over the centre washer to bottom space.

Valve connections

The valve in Fig. 2 is called a 'Triode' because it has 3 electrodes — filament, grid, and anode. Valves of this kind are not now regularly manufactured, but are easily obtainable from surplus stores, etc. They require a 2V. filament supply, which can be obtained from an accumulator, or from a dry battery. With the latter, a resistor of 10 ohms must be added, when using a 2-cell dry battery, to reduce the voltage from 3V. to 2V. Alternatively, a single 1½V. dry cell may

be used, if no accumulator is available. Pin connections for this type of triode appear in Fig. 5. It is very simple to connect up, as it only has 4 pins.

Modern valves have more pins, and usually more electrodes inside. Fig. 5 also shows connections for one of these, which will be suitable for a 1-valve receiver — the IT4. This type of valve is not intended for use with a 2V. accumulator. Instead, a 1½V. dry battery should be used, for filament supply. It will be seen that an additional electrode (the screen grid) is provided. The valve may be used exactly as a triode, by wiring the screen grid to the anode. This is always done when using screen grid valves as triodes. When triode operation is not intended, the screen grid is wired directly to H.T. positive. The screen grid is not necessary in a 1-valve set, but will serve useful purposes in complicated circuits.

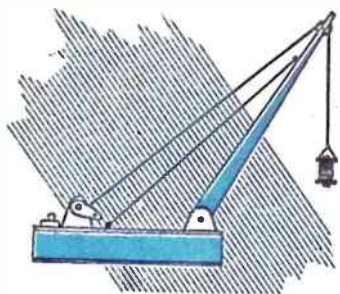
A H.T. battery voltage of about 60-65V. is usual, with a 1-valve set. It should be noted that this is very much greater than the 1½V. or 2V. filament supply. The H.T. voltage must therefore never be allowed to reach the filament for any reason whatever, or the valve will be damaged. Wrong valveholder connections, shorted leads, or similar errors, should thus be looked for, before inserting the valve.

The signal from the detector (valve or crystal) can be increased in strength by using an amplifier stage. A loudspeaker can then be operated.

Methods of adding an amplifier are dealt with in the next article in this series.

Popular with children

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CRANE



A CRANE is always a popular toy with children and this one is especially so on account of its very attractive feature. The usual crane picks up the goods with a hook, whereas this model does it by means of electro-magnetism.

When the current is switched on the magnet will pick up any iron or steel objects, transport them to where required and then release them only when the current is switched off. All this is accomplished without any handling or having to hook the objects on and should therefore have a very special appeal for the boy or even the girl who loves a novelty.

The power to operate the electro-magnet is supplied by a two or three cell flash lamp battery which is housed in the base of the crane. A push button switch is the easiest and quickest to operate and this is also placed in the base.

Quite a load can be picked up with the small magnet used in this model, but if it is needed to pick up larger objects the size of the bobbin can be increased, more finer wire wound on and the amount of current increased somewhat. When a finer wire is used so as to get more turns on the bobbin the current should not be too strong as this may cause the wire to be burned out.

Substantial baseboard

The baseboard is made as substantial as possible so that the crane will not topple over when a heavy object is being lifted. For this reason it is made in the form of a box to house one or two flashlight batteries. It could, of course, be fitted with wheels for moving it about but these can easily be added later if wanted.

Cut two pieces of wood, either ply or hardwood 6ins. long 4ins. wide and 1/2in. thick for the top and bottom of the base. Complete the box by gluing and tacking strips 1in. wide and 1/2in. thick round the sides — two pieces 6ins. long and the

two ends 3 1/2ins. long. The bottom must of course be screwed on so that it can be removed easily when a new battery is required, and six small countersunk screws will do the job very well.

The two strips of wood for the crane arm (A) are 15ins. long, 1/2in. wide at the top and 1in. at the base. The arms may be of an even thickness of 1/2in. or they may taper off from 1/2in. at the base to 1/4in. at the top.

The crane arms may be raised or lowered at will and for this purpose are swivelled at the base on the two supports (B) cut from 1 1/2in. square wood 1/2in. thick. These are glued and tacked in the position shown on the base plan. The pivots for the arms are thin round head screws.

A small block of wood 1/2in. thick is glued to the top of the arms to separate them and leave room for the pulley. About 3/4in. diameter is a suitable size for this but do not have it much smaller.

The winding mechanism (C) is fitted well to the back of the baseboard and consists of a length of 1/2in. dowel mounted between two supports with a handle

on one end. Near to the other end is a contact disc which transmits the current from the battery to the magnet.

Start by making the two supports (D) and fixing them securely to the base with glue and panel pins. Cut them from 1/2in. wood to the sizes given and when drilling the dowel holes make them a good fit, but not too tight. You should be able to turn the handle fairly easily and yet it should remain fixed when the handle is released without letting the load fall.

By A. F. Taylor

Alternatively, the winding spindle may be made to turn easily either way with the winding gear held, when desired, by the engagement of a ratchet pin in the serrated edge of disc (H).

Fix the supports 2 1/2ins. apart measuring from the insides. The length of the dowel rod which goes through these supports is 3 1/2ins. long, but before fixing this in position you will need two wooden discs, one for each end on the inside of the supports. These are for controlling the area on to which the crane cord is wound and both have a diameter of 1in., the one near the handle being 1/2in. thick while the other one, which is also the contact disc is 3/4in. thick.

Ensure smooth contact

On to the contact disc are fitted two metal bands each 1/2in. wide and spaced 1/2in. apart. These may be of brass or copper, should be a tight fit and the join soldered flush so as to make a smooth contact when revolved against the contact levers.

Glue both discs on to the dowel rod perfectly true and with very slight side play, then cut out the handle arm as shown at (E) from 1/2in. wood and glue this in position. The handle itself is a short length of 1/2in. dowel.

Make two contact levers from sheet brass or copper 2 1/2ins. long and 1/2in. wide and bend to the shape shown at (F). Drill a small hole in the base of each and screw to the baseboard to make contact with the disc.

Now we come to the actual 'picking-up' mechanism or the electro-magnet. You may be lucky and have one already made, but it is quite easy to wind it yourself. The magnet bobbin from an electric bell will do very well, but it must be a fairly large one so that it will be heavy enough to keep the lifting line taut. Modern bells with a very small

bobbin are useless and it is much better to make a substantial one yourself.

The core of the magnet consists of a piece of soft iron such as a nail. Get a large nail of 1/2in. diameter and cut it to about 1 1/2ins. long, leaving the head on, which will be at the bottom, and form a large lifting surface. On to this wind a few turns of stout cartridge paper gluing it as you go — make this just over 1in. wide and leaving the nail projecting at each end.

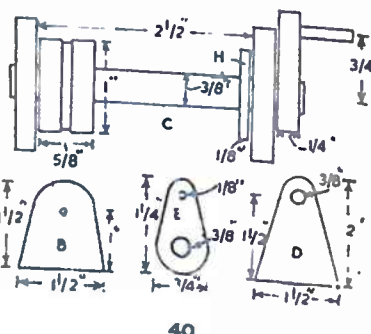
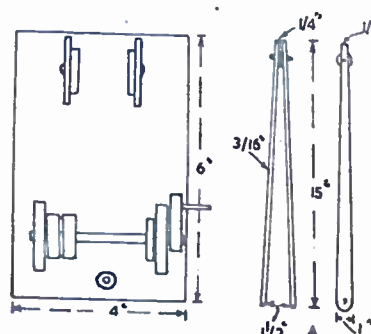
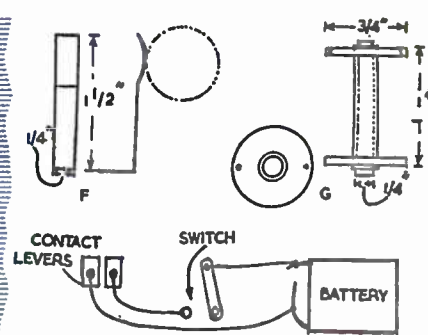
Cut two discs of thin ply 1/2in. diameter and glue on to the paper to form a bobbin about 1in. long. Drill two small holes near the edge of the top one to take the lifting line as shown at (G). We are now ready to wind on the wire, and the length and size will determine the strength of the magnet. For ordinary work use 24 S.W.G. cotton-covered copper wire and wind on about 8 to 12 layers. A stronger magnet would require more layers and the size of the wire can be decreased to say 30 S.W.G.

Before starting to wind, the end of the wire is pushed through one of the holes in the top disc leaving about 2ins. protruding, then when the winding is complete the other end is threaded through the remaining hole.

A press button switch is probably the most convenient form to use but you can have a small tumbler switch which is fitted on to the baseboard in a convenient position. A short strip of springy brass made to press down on to a round headed screw will answer the same purpose and is very easy to make. Wiring up is quite simple and requires no description, but a diagram is given in case of difficulty.

One or two cords from the top of the crane arm to the baseboard to keep the arm in the correct position will be needed and these can be either fixed or adjustable as required.

To complete the crane we need the lifting line and this also carries the current via the contact discs to the magnet on the end of the line. Very thin twin flex bell wire preferably silk covered, as this is more flexible, is required and



Try Forecasting the Answer

HERE is another simple arithmetic trick where you supply the answer before the sum is even prepared! It sounds something like putting the cart before the horse, but let us first explain the presentation.

By S. H. Longbottom

Hand your friend a piece of paper and a pencil, asking him to write down any three digit number, that is, a number with three figures as shown in Fig. 1. Take back the paper, and, after allowing sufficient space for the addition of four other numbers underneath, write in the answer. This sounds impossible, but with a little more patience and the aid of the accompanying diagrams you will soon learn the solution.

At this stage the paper will appear exactly as in Fig. 1 and you may return it to your friend for him to add the second three-digit number, underneath the first. Taking the paper again, you write in the third number and this operation will now produce a result as in Fig. 2.

Finally, the paper is returned for a fourth number and you add the fifth,

giving a result as shown in Fig. 3, where you will find that the correct answer to the sum of these numbers was originally given in Fig. 1, although you have added some like your friend. You will be no doubt wondering how we could possibly forecast the answer before your friend inserted numbers unknown to you.

The solution is quite simple. From the first number written down by your

down and when subtracted from 999 we are able to add 843. The same process was repeated for the fifth number.

If you wish to try the trick with four digit numbers remember add 20,000 and to subtract two in exactly the same way, and obtain your subsequent contributions by subtracting from 9,999 instead of 999 (See Fig. 5.)

Occasionally you may come across some smart person who will write down

4 3 2	4 3 2	4 3 2	0 0 0	7 8 6 5
	1 5 6	1 5 6	2 5 3	6 6 9 2
	8 4 3	8 4 3	7 4 6	3 3 0 7
		6 7 9	8 9 1	7 6 1 9
		3 2 0	1 0 8	2 3 8 0
2 4 3 0	2 4 3 0	2 4 3 0	1 9 9 8	2 7 8 6 3
FIG 1	FIG 2	FIG 3	FIG 4	FIG 5

friend you add two thousand, and subtract two, i.e., 2,430. After your friend has inserted the second number a small calculation has to be made before you can add the third number. This third number which you have to add, is the result of subtracting the second number from 999. In this case 156 was written

some peculiar figures in an effort to confuse you, but all you have to do is to remember the formulae quoted, add 2,000 and subtract 2. In Fig. 4 we show the result of such a person writing down 000, but if we add 2,000 to this, and subtract 2 the correct answer of 1998 can be written in without any hesitation.



THE United States is a country of great diversity — vast cities and small villages; roaring factories and quiet fields; busy streets and small churches for meditation. Geographically, there is variety, too — lakes and deserts; prairies and mountain ranges; rocky sea-coasts and sunbaked plains. Stamps and labels are likewise varied.

American matchcover collectors hold annual conventions and outstanding covers are exhibited. The outstanding matchcover collector of the year is presented with a plaque and his or her name is engraved on the annual honour plaque.

AMERICA —By R.L.C.

Monthly meetings often end with a Shucking Contest, a contest to see who can remove the small staple from the book of matches, flatten the cover, and neatly place the matches in a container. The one who finishes in the shortest time is declared the winner, and receives a prize, plus all the matches shucked.

The famous 'Girlie' booklets, first introduced by the 'Chicago Match Corp. of America' in 1938 are the most popular of the 'Standard Designs'. These designs are printed up in large quantities in advance — with the space for the advertisement left blank — and stored flat without the matches in them. These are then offered to small advertisers in lots as small as one case or 2,500 matches.

The advertising copy which can be used is limited but it permits the small advertiser to get a series of matches at a small investment.

Most American manufacturers issue one or two 'Girlie' sets each year. These sets are composed of six, eight, or twelve to the set depending on the type of press on which they are printed. What would appear to be sets of four, ten, sixteen, etc. are actually poses from two or more sets issued in sequence.



bands. A set coveted by collectors, portraying U.S. Presidents from Washington to Eisenhower is very rare.

Club members should save all British cigar bands for exchange with U.S. pen friends. Non-collectors can trade them for stamps or other items.

America is a paradise for hotel label collectors. Many are in colour and depict the particular hotel, or some scene characteristic of the name. For example: the present label of the Desert Inn at Palm Springs shows a desert scene, and Denver's Brown Palace Hotel — 'Where the World Registers' — a world map.

It takes a fast train, travelling a mile a minute, more than forty-eight hours to cross the Nation. Leaving from the eastern seaboard, it must first negotiate the Appalachian Mountains, then drop down to the broad, fertile central plain and skirt the outstretched fingers of the Great Lakes. Continuing westward, it winds through the Rocky Mountains, called the 'backbone of the continent', traverses the high tableland beyond,

Several collectors who specialize in the 'Girlies' have written up an index or check-list of all the poses of each set.

Other popular designs include Scenic Views of America, Hilly-Billy Jokes, Safety Slogans, Dogs, Wild Animals, Game Birds, etc.

American tobacco merchants issue some of the world's most attractive cigar

surmounts the snow-covered coastal ranges, and finally descends to the sea.

'1869. 3c. blue — Locomotive — 1/9 used. 1926. Air. 10c. blue — Map of U.S.A. — 4d. used. 1928. Air. 5c. blue and red — Air Beacon, Sherman Hill, Rocky Mountains — 1/- used. 1934. Various Views — set of 10 — 5/8 used.'

New York, the world's second largest city, with its huge sky-scrapers, busy streets and wonderful shops is the great gateway of America. In places like Fifth Avenue are the palace-houses of millionaires. In other parts of the city are great blocks of buildings like huge boxes in which swarms of poor people have their little rooms. Some of these buildings house as many as fifteen thousand people.

'1953. 3c. purple — New York in 1653 and 1953 — 3d. used.'

Washington (the capital) is a fine city and large sums of money are spent every year upon improvements. It is not a manufacturing city, but it has some of the finest buildings in America, the chief of which is the Capitol, where the National Assembly meets.

'1950. 3c. purple — Capitol — 4d. used

3c. green — The White House — 3d. used.'

Millions of Americans take part in sports. About 3 million ski. Golf claims 5 million players. And some 20 million bow at thousands of bowling alleys.

American boys and girls play many games. '1932. 2c. red — Skiing — 1/- mint. 1939. 3c. violet — Baseball — 4d. used. 1950. 3c. brown — Scouts and Badge — 3d. used.

The Stars and Stripes (American flag)

appears on a centenary stamp of 1945 — 4d. mint.

Rare stamps worthy of note include: 1847. 5c. brown — Franklin — £22 mint, £16 used; 10c. black — Washington — £65 mint, £40 used. 1851. 5c. brown — Jefferson — £110 mint, £35 used; 10c. green — Washington — £22 mint, £5 used. The above issues are imperforated. 1861. (perf.) 5c. bistre — Jefferson — £55 mint, £12 used; 15c. black — Lincoln

— £6 mint; 24c. blue — Washington — £100 mint, £13 used.

Members of the League of Hobbyists requiring thematic help or any further information on American stamps and labels should write to the Hon. Secretary, Raymond Cantwell, 48 Fourth Avenue, Slade Park, Headington, Oxford. Please enclose S.A.E. for reply.

A supply of American hotel labels are available to members only at 4/- a dozen.

'Space age' tip

The 'Space Age' is here. Stamps and labels are bound to appear soon depicting Sputniks, rockets, launching ramps, the moon, etc. Now is the time to file all press reports and take notes. Then, when the first rocket lands on the moon you will be able to stampvise the story of the century entitled 'Conquest of Space'.

Astronomy is already a popular subject among stamp designers. The following check-list should prove useful. 'Argentine 1946. 15c. green on green — Astrolabe — 3d. used. Austria 1937. 12g. green — Signs of Zodiac — 3d. used. Brazil 1890. 20v. green — Southern Cross — 4d. used. Bulgaria 1936. 1 leva violet — Meteorological Station — 1/- mint. Colombia 1946. 5c. brown — Observatory — 2d. used. Japan 1949. 8y. green — Floating Zenith Telescope — 4d. used Monaco 1955. 200f. blue — Stars and Rocket — 6/- mint.'

Advertisers' Offers

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stamps the Thematic way (i.e. by subjects) such as, airmails, animals, butterflies, sports, maps, ships, flowers, fish, music or railway engines, 1 packet of any of the above sent on approval. This month's speciality: 100 National Flags (stamp size), correct colours, 100% correct design, perforated and gummed, price 10d. post free.

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STAMPS FREE — Empire Packet including Pictorials and Victorians with approvals. Robert J. Peck, 7A Kemp Road, Bournemouth.

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Profitable pastimes

A JOBBING HANDYMAN

WITH tradesmen's bills soaring to such heights it is not surprising that more and more people each year are becoming reluctant to employ tradesmen to carry out their home repairs. There are, however, many people who, for various reasons, still like to have their odd jobs done by others, particularly by spare-time employment. A good job done at a reasonable price is all that they expect. If you are handy with your hands and are fond of working with tools then why not cash in on this and become a jobbing handyman? If you are capable of turning out a good job then you can easily build up

By Finlay Kerr

a spare-time business which would give you much satisfaction as well as being profitable.

To become a good all-round handyman it is not essential to have served an apprenticeship at a trade although if you have had some training in one of the building trades this would be an advantage. The various jobs which a handyman would be expected to tackle include, laying lino; reglazing windows; dealing with broken door locks; repointing brickwork; replacing broken sash cords; concreting garden paths; erecting garden gates; general decorating, etc. Information on how to tackle these jobs and many others can be obtained from a good 'Do-It-Yourself' book or from magazines.

The best tools

If you intend becoming a jobbing handyman then it is essential that you should possess a kit of tools. There is no need, however, to purchase a full kit all at once for you will find that most of the jobs can be tackled with only the basic tools. When buying tools, always get the best quality you can possibly afford. The initial cost may be a little high but you will be amply repaid in service afterwards. Don't be misled by the slick appearance of the cheaper brands of tools for you will find that cheap tools will not give you good service. Remember, it is more economical to buy 'quality' tools.

After purchasing your tools, always treat them with the utmost care. Tools which are given proper care and attention will remain serviceable for many years. Always store your tools tidily in a proper tool box or chest.

Many readers will no doubt already possess a kit of basic tools but for the benefit of those who intend building up a kit from scratch here is a list of the basic tools which should be included in a handyman's tool kit: handsaw; tenon saw; claw hammer; try-square; chisels (3in., 4in., 1in.); screwdrivers (large and small); files (half round and flat); steel plane; oilstone (medium and coarse grained); wood scraper; brace and bits; padsaw; axe; 2ft. folding rule; adjustable spanner; pointing trowel; soldering iron; decorating brushes; pliers; blowlamp; bradawl; putty knife; plugging chisel; marking gauge; and wire cutters.

In addition to the above-mentioned tools, the following materials will also be required: assorted sizes of nails; screws, nuts, washers and bolts; glass-paper; putty; linseed oil; fuse wire; lubricating oil; sash cord; solder and plastic wood.

It will be necessary for the jobbing handyman to have a workshop in which to work. True, much of the work will be done at the customer's home but some jobs will require a little preparation beforehand and, besides, you will require some place to store your tools and materials. A garden shed or a basement room having a bench and a vice would be ideal for this purpose. It is essential, however, that your workshop is weatherproof and dry otherwise you will be constantly troubled with rust.

Having dealt with the practical side of the job, here now are a few hints on the business angle.

First of all, it should always be remembered that the best way for the jobbing handyman to build up his business is by recommendations. Give good service at a reasonable cost and you will be surprised how quickly business will come to you. To obtain the first customers on your jobbing book, ask your local hardware store owner to display your card on his counter outlining your services or else insert a postcard advertisement in the window of any local shop running such a service. Shop window advertising is very popular nowadays and the cost is very small, ranging from 4d. to 1/- per week depending on the district.

Keep a record

Always keep a record of your customers and after finishing each job ask your customer to keep you in mind should he or she require other repairs carried out at a future date. One person I know who has a successful spare-time business doing house repairs always

leaves a stamped addressed postcard with his customers. By doing this, if his services are required at some future date, the postcard is sent to him asking him to call. He claims to have doubled his business by adopting this method. Why not try this idea also, or if you have a telephone, leave a printed card with your 'phone number. Remember, once you are in business always be businesslike.

You will often be asked to supply estimates for jobs and, where possible, these should always be given (free of charge of course). When building up your price, you should include a charge for your labour, a charge for the cost of the materials, a little for profit and any other expense you may have to encounter. Since your overheads are practically nil you will find that your charges will be well below those of the professional tradesmen.

A 'regular'


When buying materials for your jobs, always try and deal with the same supplier. Once you become known to him he will most probably class you as a 'regular' and allow you discount on the goods you purchase from him. This discount will mean extra profit for you.

If you are doing a job and you find that your customer requires further work done which is outside your scope then offer to find someone to do the work. You can then pass on the work to your favourite contractor, and, if you are businesslike, you will arrange to be paid a commission on all work you obtain for him.

If you follow along these lines and bear in mind that what people want is a good job done at a reasonable price you will be surprised how quickly you will be able to build up a spare-time business as a jobbing handyman.

 * Next week we shall describe *
 * how to make a handy cabinet *
 * for storing tools. Also part 1 *
 * of 'Learn to Swim' besides *
 * other usual features for *
 * modellers and 'Collectors' *
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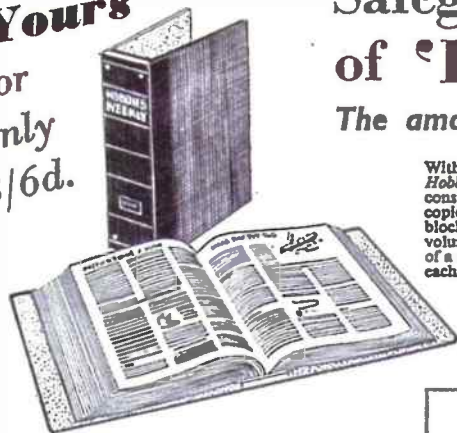
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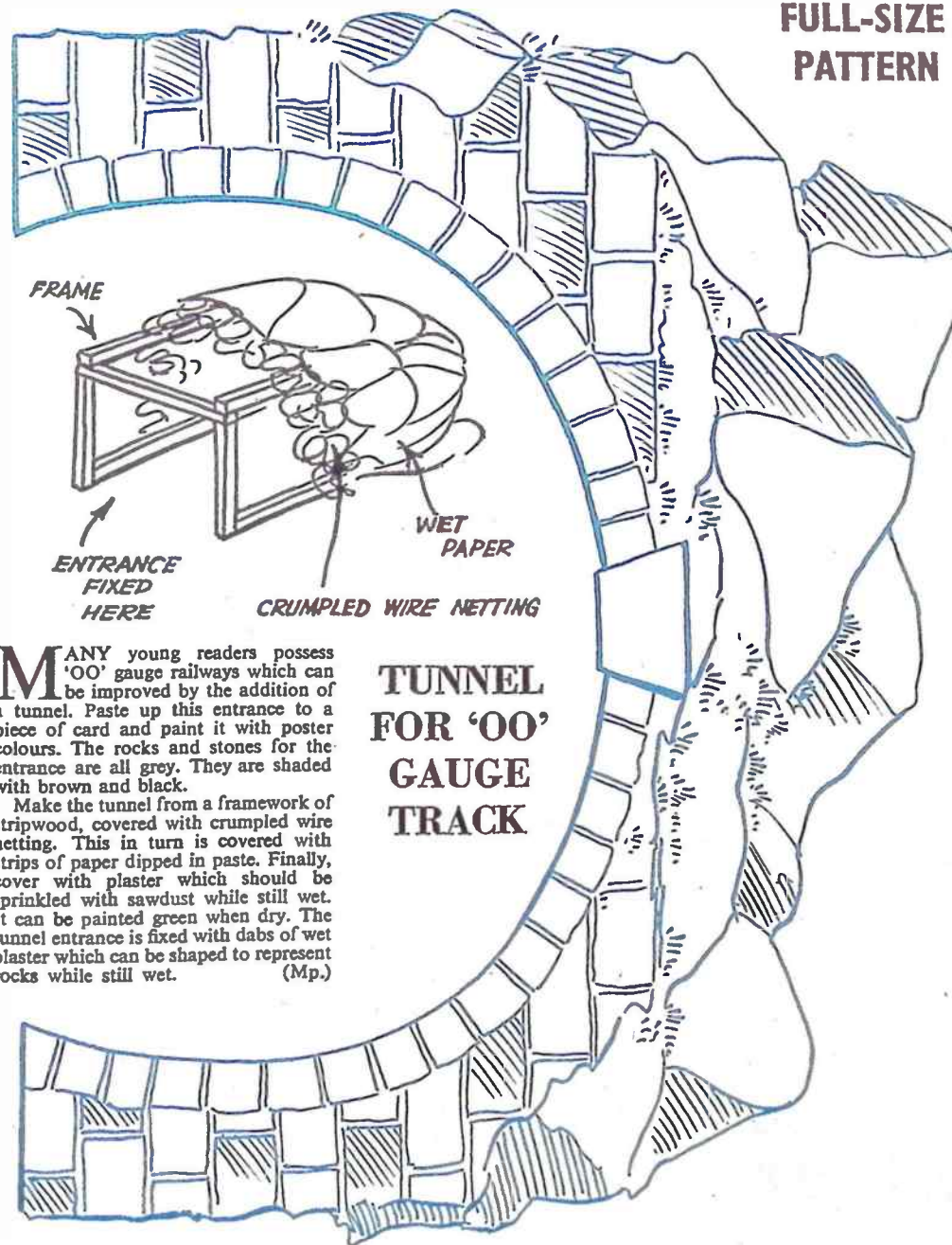
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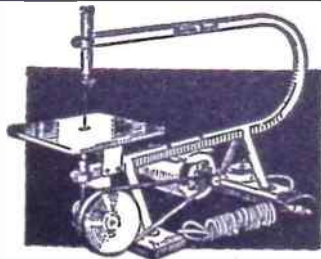
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