

HOBBIES

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FOR CRAFTSMEN OF ALL AGES

6^p





ALL THE LATEST STAMPS

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands issued a special 15 cent stamp marking the 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Netherlands Bible Society on 25th August. It shows the Christ monogram on the Bible and the picture of the dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

'EUROPA'

A special 'Europa' stamp sponsored by the European Conference of Postal Administrations (CEPT) was issued by member countries, on 14th September. The stamp marks the 5th anniversary of



the founding of CEPT. The basic design is by the French artist, Georges Betemps and represents the 22 member countries of CEPT in the form of a flower encircling the CEPT monogram. Our illustration shows the French version.

HUNGARY

To mark the National Exhibition of Peaches by Hungary in August. The designs show various kinds of peaches and apricots.

The Sports Museum at Budapest was featured on another August issue to mark the Lawn Tennis History Exhibition while in the same month there was a stamp commemorating the 10th Congress of National Forestry Federation (illustrated). The Skittles Champion-



ships held in Budapest were also the subject of a special stamp.

ISRAEL

A set to mark the Jewish New Year was issued in August and a special stamp marking the 6th World Congress of Israel Medical Association came out in the same month.

RUSSIA

Six colourful pictorials have been issued by Russia featuring agricultural products from that country. They are in the values of 2k, 3k, 4k, 6k, 10k, and 12k.

NEW ZEALAND

A 3d. stamp appeared from New Zealand on 1st May, in support of the National Road Safety Campaign. The design features a relief map of New Zealand with a road running the length of the country from Bluff to North Cape. A steering wheel with a driver's hand is shown at the left of the stamp and a caption reads 'Keep our roads safe'.

The 3s. 0d. pictorial stamp has been reprinted in multi-colour. Basically the design is the same, but there are minor variations which will be easily discernible when comparing the new stamp with the current issue.

Native Birds will again be featured on the Health stamps due to appear in August. There will be two denomina-

 NOTE TO
 CORRESPONDENTS
 All correspondence on any subject covered in this magazine must be addressed to: The Editor, Hobbies Weekly, Dereham, Norfolk. If a reply is required, queries should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and reply coupon inside back cover.

tions — 3½d. and 4d. Miniature sheets on this occasion will contain eight stamps instead of six as previously.

Instead of a Nativity painting as has been featured on the four Christmas stamps already issued, it is proposed to feature this year a reproduction of an artist's impression of the First Christian Ceremony in New Zealand which was conducted by the Rev. Samuel Marsden in 1814. This stamp commemorates the sesquicentennial of the first ceremony.

PEN FRIENDS

Sainik School, Amravathinagar, Udumalpet Tk., Coimbatore dt., Madras State, India, is a military school in which the boys are boarders coming from all parts of the country.

The home of M. G. Hari Shankar Rajan is in fact in Madras, 450 miles from the school. He and several of his school mates would like pen friends from all parts of the world who can write to them in English.

They are:

M. G. Hari Shankar Rajan, Age 13½. Hobbies; Stamps, coins, view cards, matchbox labels, football and hockey.

T. P. C. Sivakumar (14). Stamps, coins, view cards.

V. Arullapan (12). Stamps and view cards.

Y. Mohap (12½). Stamps and coins.

M. Radhakrishnan (12½). Stamps and view cards.

Franklin Anthony (13). Stamps and matchbox labels.

A boy with all-round interests is Joseph Francis, 32 Butler Crescent, Mansfield, Notts., a keen reader of Hobbies Weekly. Joseph's favourite hobbies are stamps, penfriends, gardening and sport. He would like letters from other readers.

H. M. Kamal (aged 15) of 'Babar House', East Pakistan Cadet College Faujdarhat, P.O. Box 412, Chittagong, East Pakistan is keen on stamp collecting and photography and would like pen pals from all parts of the world.

I. Bodhanja, Box 33, Nylstroom, Transvaal, S. Africa, would like a pen friend who is a sailor.

A ROTARY DUPLICATOR

SECRETARIES, club officials, small shopkeepers, and many others will find a duplicator of great assistance in connection with correspondence and publicity matters. A rotary model such as described here is much speedier in operation than the conventional flat type, turning out six to ten copies per minute.

The illustration will give a general idea of construction. Detailed measurements have not been given, as these will largely be governed by the size and nature of the drum used as the stencil roller. This component could be fashioned from a 7 lb. paint tin, although any well-made tin having a diameter of not less than 3½ in. and a height of not less than 8 in., would be suitable. Quarto stencil sheets measure approximately 10 in. by 8 in., but most have sufficient margin to allow for a certain amount of trimming.

Should a suitable tin not be available, lathe owners might be able to turn a wooden roller; a section of the old-fashioned type mangle roller would be ideal, provided the surface was good.

Having obtained something suitable to act as the stencil roller or drum, the next task is to dress it around with some soft, absorbent material which will take the duplicating ink. Thick felt or baize are two suggested materials. It should be carefully cut to size, so that when draped around the roller the two ends make a perfect join, or at any rate do not overlap each other, otherwise an uneven surface will result.

The stencil roller has to bear down on what may be termed a pressure roller. A length of broom handle or curtain rod, evenly padded around with cloth, would be suitable. A rubber roller (such as a photographic squeegee) might also be used. When padding the stencil and pressure rollers, the chief point to watch is that there is no unevenness or rucks.

Both rollers must be equipped with some form of bearing spindle. These should be fitted throughout the entire length of each roller. Steel knitting needles or Meccano rods make excellent bearings.

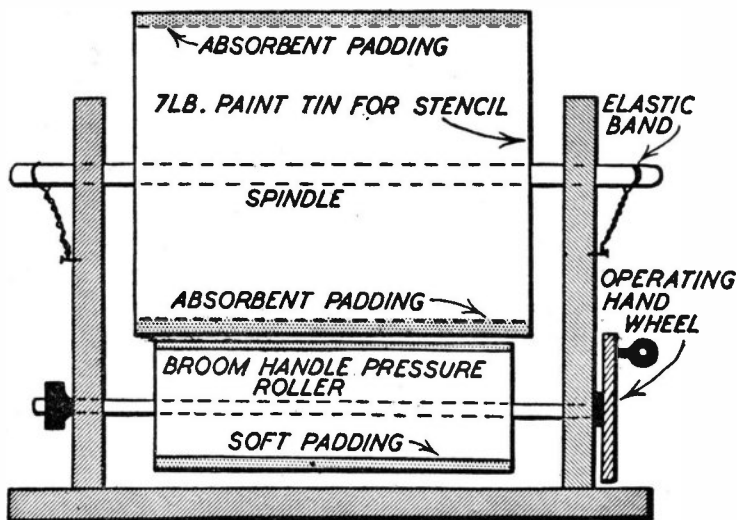
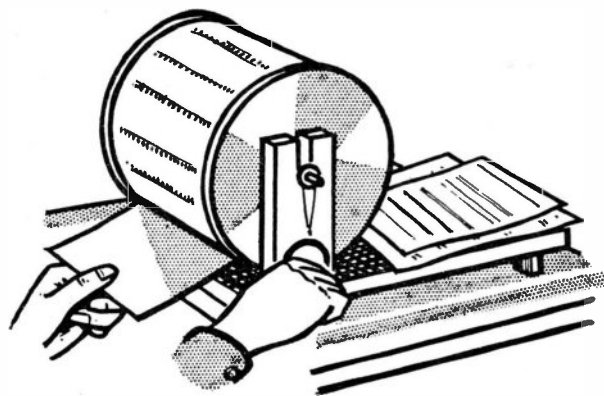
The wooden framework should now be constructed. A suggested measurement for the baseboard is 18 in. by 10 in. The height of the bearing supports will be determined by the size of your rollers. They should be fixed near the edges of the baseboard, and about a quarter-way along its length. The stencil roller, as may be seen in the sketch, has its bearings mounted in U-shaped slots cut in the top of the bearing supports.

In order that the stencil roller shall bear down firmly upon the pressure roller, two small coil springs (or elastic bands) should be fitted to the stencil roller spindle-ends. A Meccano wheel or a wheel from a child's toy, could be employed as an operating hand-wheel.

The constructional work completed, and a typed stencil sheet to hand, we can proceed towards the taking of a few trial prints. Ink the padding of the stencil roller evenly with duplicating ink, and then drape the stencil over the inked padding, the two ends of the stencil sheet being secured by gummed paper or adhesive tape.

A common trouble is too much ink, so use it sparingly at first until you can assess the correct quantity to apply to the padding.

After running off a few prints on scrap paper, you will be in a position to appreciate what adjustments are called for. You may find that greater bearing pressure is required, so the tension of the two springs or elastic bands must be increased. Moderate inking and smooth roller surfaces are the two main considerations. (E.)



TANK DEVELOPMENT TIPS

ALTHOUGH the development of films by means of a tank should not present any trouble there are often complaints about uneven development, loading and differences in the densities of the negatives. If the films have been properly exposed there is no reason why you should not produce good negatives by tank development. The following explains the procedure, and may reveal a few points you have overlooked, and the causes of some of your troubles.

By S. H. Longbottom

The tank spiral must be loaded in a darkroom, although you can use a light-proof cupboard or a changing bag. The point is that you should be able to load the spiral in the dark by touch alone.

Release the film from the backing or cassette, drawing the beginning through the slots and under the ball bearings. This end of the film is usually blind for about 2 in., and you may handle it without fear of damage. Do not unroll the complete film, but wind on the spiral until you come to the end. This avoids dust which may be in the air.

You may find the film jams or sticks. This is caused by the sharp corners at the ends of the film, and does not happen with all makes of tanks, but can be easily overcome by first trimming off the two corners with scissors. Press the two sides of the spiral inwards while loading

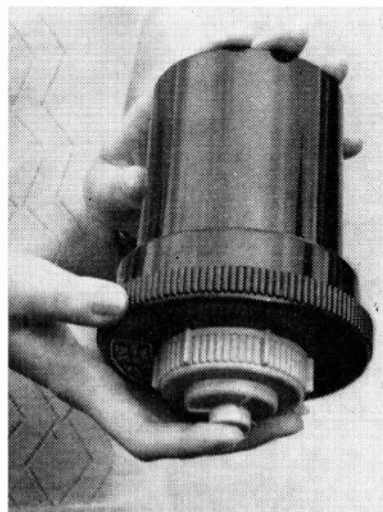
with the thumbs held over the side, so that you can feel the back of the film travelling forward. Continue loading until the end of the film has been fed on to the spiral cutting away from the end of a roll film. In other words, do not feed the gummed tape into the spiral. Moreover, see that the film is wound on as far as it will travel.

Place the loaded spiral in the tank, screwing on the lid before emerging into the daylight. Unless I am careful at this stage the lid of my tank does not always go on properly, and leaks when inverted, so make sure that the lid fits correctly on the correct threads.

We now pre-soak the film in water. This has a dual purpose, softening the emulsion which then accepts the developer immediately it is introduced into the tank, and washing away the backing colour which acts as a restrainer when dissolved with the developing solutions. It is, therefore, advisable to adopt this pre-soaking technique, giving the spindle a twirl or two, and allowing two minutes to elapse before draining. It is important to note that the water must be of the same temperature as the developer now to be used.

Development in tanks is by the time and temperature method, and tables are usually supplied by the makers of the particular developer for the class of film concerned. It is essential that the temperature be tested with an accurate thermometer, and the time verified. It is no use trying to guess the temperature, for this is impossible, and a degree or so will make a vast difference. The recommended temperature is usually 68°F, and if the developer is too cold, stand the measure in a bowl of hot water.

The time for the start of development begins immediately you start to pour in the solution. Note the time by your watch. Moreover, do *not* pour the solution down the hole in the centre. This will make a dark band on the film near the centre of the spiral. Pour in the solution down the side of the light trap while holding the tank on the tilt. This will ensure that the tank fills from the outside of the film, and if poured in slowly will avoid the creation of air bubbles on the film surface, air being



Hold the lid securely when inverting the loaded tank



Tilt the tank when pouring in the solution so that it enters at the side

expelled through the central tube. When the tank is filled give an anti-clockwise turn on the central spindle.

Most modern tanks now permit what is termed inversion agitation, that is, complete inversion of the tank to prevent the heavier chemicals falling to the bottom. After one minute has elapsed turn the tank upside down, and you will hear the loaded spiral fall. This should be a gentle turn without vigour, and only one turn must be made, reversing to the normal position just as gently.

Keep an eye on your watch, and repeat this process of inversion every minute throughout the remaining time for development. Tanks with rotary agitation only cannot be inverted, but

agitation must be regular as described. You will thus avoid uneven development.

The tank is emptied as soon as the allotted time has elapsed. If you ponder on this for a moment you will realize that development at the bottom of the tank begins when the solution enters while development at the top of the spiral continues until the solution is discarded. There is also a short interval while the tank is being filled with water for rinsing or with a stop bath.

Washing

The rinse is now drained and replaced by fixing solution and the film allowed to remain in this for about 10 minutes or so. Agitation is not quite so important here, but an occasional inversion will help. After fixing the tank lid may be removed, and the spiral extracted for washing. You may leave the film on the spiral for washing, placing in the wash basin where it should be immersed in running water for at least half an hour. Or you may leave in the tank feeding water into same by means of a rubber tube attached to the tap.

You will appreciate that there are many different developers, and films, so it becomes most important to follow the maker's instructions with regard to temperature and time of development. In some cases you may use the developer for another film, but this is not always to be recommended, chemicals taken from the previous film often acting as a restrainer, and more often than not being the cause of uneven densities.

A second development

Should you wish to develop a second film immediately note that it is essential that the spiral be thoroughly dried. If there is any moisture whatever remaining in the grooves, the film will stick, and you will have the utmost difficulty when trying to load. When a number of films are to be processed, it is better to have a spare spiral, so that one can be left to dry. It only needs a small drop of water to dampen the emulsion, which will then become an adhesive sticking to a groove.

We would mention that if you have a good darkroom and adequate safelight, you can always inspect the film for density or test purposes during the development. It is quite safe to remove the lid within the confines of a darkroom. This tip can sometimes be helpful near the end of development if you think your negatives are too dense. If you observe all of what has been said, you should be able to produce good, scratch-free and evenly-developed negatives every time.

Easily made

A CHESS SET

CHESS is a fascinating game, and it becomes even more interesting if the chess-men are unique pieces which have been made at home. Moreover, the cost of making a set such as the one described here is very small indeed, the pieces being made almost exclusively from odd lengths of dowel rod. The finish is in high-gloss cellulose, with one half of the pieces in a dark colour and the rest in a light colour.

There are 32 pieces in a chess set, and these are divided into six different types. First come the pawns, which are sixteen in number. Each pawn A is made by cutting a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick slice from a 1 in. diameter dowel rod or broomstick, a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter hole is drilled in this disc, and a 1 in. length of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter dowel rod is inserted and glued in place.

Four bishops B are required. These have bases of 1 in. diameter dowel rod, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick slices as before, but

the central hole drilled in each is $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. A 2 in. length of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter dowel rod is glued in place, then a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick section of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter dowel rod is drilled through with a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter hole, and slipped over the central rod. It is glued in place $\frac{1}{2}$ in. above the base. The tip of the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. dowel rod is slit with a vertical saw-cut, and a flat face is filed on each side of the slit to represent the bishop's mitre.

Four rooks C are made by cutting $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick slices of broomstick as bases, and drilling a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter hole in each, as before. A $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. length of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter dowel rod is glued in the hole, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter dowel rod is drilled to fit the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter rod. This section is glued to the top of the central rod, and a castellated effect is obtained by two cross-shape file cuts made in the upper surface.

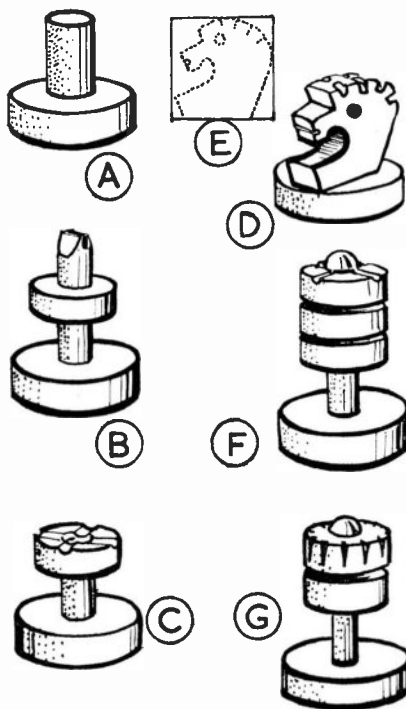
Four knights D have $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick bases as before, and a horse's head cut from a 1 in. square of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick wood E. The nicks round the upper edge of the head on each side are made with a file, and a hole is drilled for the eye. The head is then pinned and glued to the base.

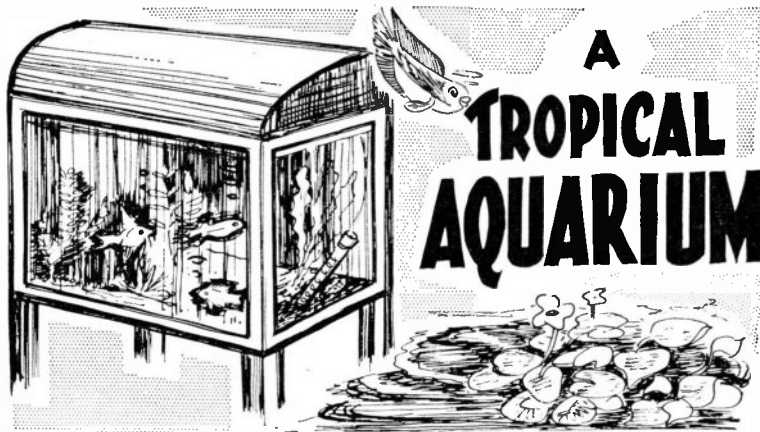
Two kings F are required. These have bases as before, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long rods of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter dowelling. The tip of the central rod is rounded off, and three $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick discs of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter dowel rod are slipped over it, and glued in place, so that the rounded tip of the central rod projects. The upper disc has a cross incised on its top with a file before it is fitted.

Lastly, two queens G are made. These are constructed in the same way as the kings, but have 2 in. long central rods. Only two discs are used on each of these pieces, the upper one being grooved as shown with a file edge.

A high-gloss finish can be obtained by using cellulose; touch-up cellulose used for cars is ideal for this, being sold in $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. tins in a wide range of colours. Several coats will have to be applied to achieve a deep solid finish. Alternatively, enamel can be used.

A board for playing on is simply made from a 1 ft. square of hardboard marked off at $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. intervals, and ruled into 64 squares. These are painted alternately black and white, starting with the square in the nearest right-hand corner as one site facing the board. This square should be white. (A.L.)





these brilliant little creatures always add a touch of exotic colour to a fish tank.

The male **SWORDTAIL** has a long spike-like projection beneath the tail. The two most common varieties are the 'red' and 'green'. The body colouring of the red swordtail is deep orange, with the sword yellowish to orange and a thin black line. The general colour of the green variety is greenish, but it has a red and yellow line running the length of the body, with a tail matching that of the red swordtail.

Very frisky

Swordtails are very frisky and are an easy species from which to breed. The males sometimes appear to be aggressive towards each other, but this is usually due to 'high spirits' and they do little damage to their opponents.

The **ZEBRA** fish rarely grows to more than 1 in. in length. The striping runs horizontally from head to tail, the bars being alternately yellow and violet, while the anal fin also carries violet coloured bands. They are hardy little fish that like to cruise around in company. Their method of swimming alternates from slow, leisurely cruising to short, sharp dashes, always in company.

Having decided the mixture of fish to be kept they may either be bought by post or locally. When despatched by post the fish arrive by passenger train in a special container, but whenever possible the beginner should buy his fish locally. They will have to be brought home in a thermos flask or similar container so as to keep the water at the proper temperature, but there must be sufficient water in the flask to prevent it being swirled round too much, and as far as possible the container must not be shaken or otherwise violently handled.

Most fish travel quite well, but they are easily frightened and if they get a rough trip they are likely to appear out of sorts for a few days after they are introduced into their new tank.

The fish should not be tipped into the tank. The whole container should be put

● Continued on page 55

THE following are a few more breeds of tropical fish in which you might be interested.

There are several members of the barb family, but one of the prettiest and most popular is the **CHERRY BARB**. As is commonly the case the male is of more attractive appearance than the female, and is golden yellow on top with a black band running the length of the body and across the tail fin. The rest of this (and all other fins) and the body below the banding, is cherry red. The cherry barb is not fussy about diet and loves to dash around in the company of its own breed.

The **GUPPY** (or millions fish) is the most popular of all tropicals with beginners, for it is an active, hardy species that breeds freely and can withstand temperature variation and so on that would soon kill off other varieties.

It would be almost impossible to find two male guppies identical in appearance. The body colour may be green, red, blue or yellow, with blotches and spots of other colour in the male, though the female is quite drab, and there are also variations in the shaping of the fins. The full grown male rarely exceeds 1 in. in length. Guppies show no preference for food or conditions, and are the cheapest of all tropicals to buy.

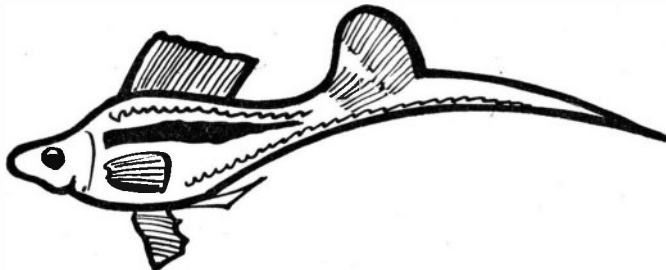
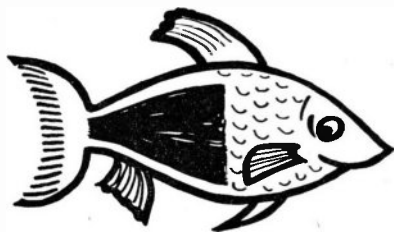
The most prominent feature of the **HARLEQUIN** fish is the black triangle at the base of the tail. The front of the body is silvery, but on the back it is brownish-green up to the point of the dorsal fin where there is a colour change to rose-pink which curves down to the black triangle. The dorsal fin and the front part of the tail fin are reddish-brown.

Part 3 — OTHER FISH TO KEEP

By N. Wainwright

This breed settles down particularly well in a community tank.

A few years ago the **NEON TETRA** was a rare and expensive fish but it is now relatively cheap and is certainly one of the most well-known of the tropicals. The breed is small and extremely active, the most distinctive marking being the fluorescent blue-green streak running the length of the body. The rear half of the body beneath the streak is of a glowing red colour. Two or three of



Body shaping of harlequin and adult male swordtail

THE FESTINIOG NARROW-GAUGE

THE Festiniog railway is the oldest public narrow-gauge railway in the world. The line was authorized in May 1832 and in 1836 it was completed and opened for the purpose of transporting slate traffic by gravity from the quarries around Blaenau Ffestiniog down to the sea at Portmadoc. For the return of the empty wagons, horses were used to tow them back.

However for working a passenger service over this 13½ mile 60 cm-gauge line four 0-4-0 tank steam locomotives were supplied by George England & Co. in 1863 and the passenger service was inaugurated in 1865 being the first ever authorized on a narrow-gauge line.

The Festiniog is also somewhat noteworthy in first introducing the remarkable double-Fairlie patent locomotives and the first Bogie passenger coaches to the British Isles, these locomotives being supplied in 1869-72. In its more prosperous days the Festiniog conveyed some 150,000 tons of freight and 100,000 passengers a year, but unfortunately its fortunes gradually declined with those of the slate industry. Many efforts were made to revive its fortunes by running summer tourist passenger trains, but these were not entirely successful, and these 'summer only' (after 1930) trains were discontinued entirely after the 1939 season, but small freight services carried on till August 1946.

In 1954 control of the line was acquired by Mr A. F. Pegler of Nottingham to-

gether with support of the Festiniog Railway Society. It had lain derelict since 1946. However enthusiasm and much hard work has now resulted in its reopening as far as Tan-Y-Blwch together with a now regular summer train service from Portmadoc Harbour 7½ miles. In 1963 no fewer than 130,000 people availed themselves of this fascinating service.

The locomotives in use include the Fairlie type 0-4-4-0's the *Earl of Merioneth* and *Merddin Emrys*, the first George England 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Tender engine the *Prince*, this being some 100 years old being supplied in 1863 together with a similar one the *Princess* (which has now been put on display at Portmadoc) and the *Linda*, a Hunslet (Leeds) 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Tender engine. There are also 2 internal-combustion units and an 0-6-0 Saddle Tank made by Pecketts of Bristol, this being obtained from the Harrogate Gas Works.

The workshops for the line are situated at Boston Lodge, one mile from Portmadoc where another locomotive is kept, this being the *Welsh Pony* a similar (but larger) engine to the *Prince*.

The Festiniog Railway Society has members in many parts of the country who provide volunteers for track maintenance and as engine drivers, firemen etc, and they hope to have the whole 13½ miles fully open again with the help of



On the Festiniog Railway at Tan-y-Blwch in early days. (The locomotive is a Double-Fairlie type)

these volunteers. Membership of the society for the under 18's is only 10s. 0d. per year which of course entitles them to travel freely at any time on the line. Full particulars of membership and for volunteer work may be obtained from Mr R. Garraway, 35 Holmwood Road, Cheam, Surrey. (A.J.R.)

● Continued from page 54

FISH FOR THE AQUARIUM

under the water and the cap removed so that the fish can swim out calmly into their new home.

Don't overfeed

The next problem is the feeding of the adult fish.

The most common mistake is over-feeding of dried food, for much of this falls to the tank bottom, rots, and affects the purity of the water.

Fish should be fed sparingly, two or three times a day, and at the same time each day.

Fish foods are divided into 'live' and 'dried', both with special virtues but it is a mistake to feed the fish continuously

on one type. Dried food as sold for goldfish and other cold-water species are unsuitable for tropicals, but the makers of pet foods offer plenty of choice of mixtures suitable for tropical fish.

When a pinch of dried food is put into the tank it floats only for a short time before sinking. Fish feed at the top of the tank, and when the food starts to sink they rarely bother to go after it. Dried food should be given in quantities that the fish can eat in five minutes only. Experience will show how much this is, according to the number, size and species of fish, but usually it is only a small pinch at any one meal.

There is no need to worry if healthy

fish do not seem to be eating considerable quantities of food. They normally eat a small amount hungrily but only take in the amount of food that they need. Fish do not suffer by missing two or three meals.

Dried food must be really dry when put in the tank. If moist in the container the food tends to rot and may cause serious digestive trouble when fed to the fish.

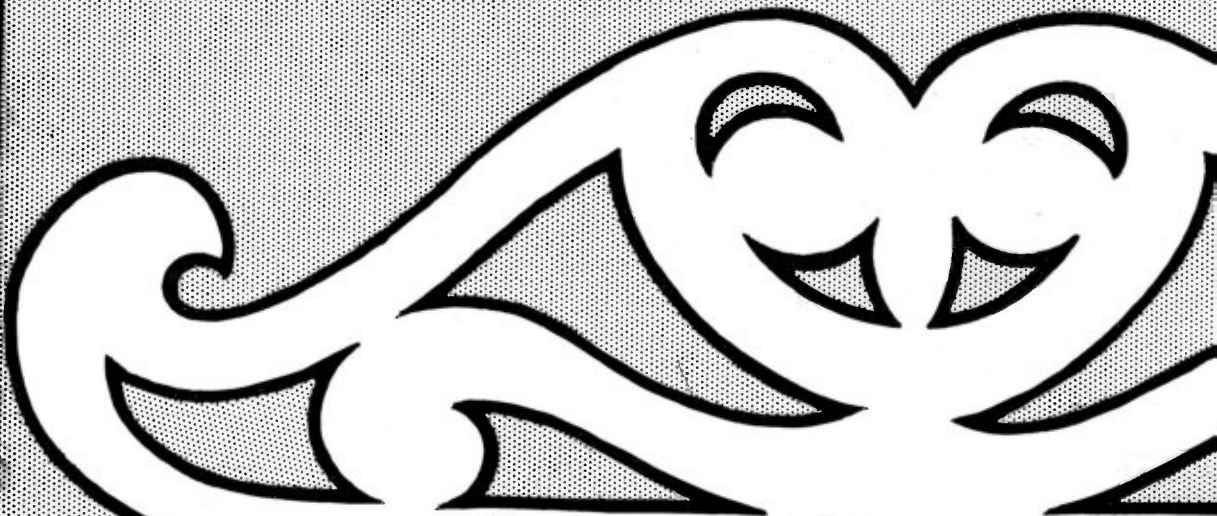
THREEPENNY PATIENCE

Just for fun, try building a tower by standing up threepenny pieces on edge, one upon the other. For the best results use new coins and stack them on a steady flat-topped bare table. Can you manage more than seven?



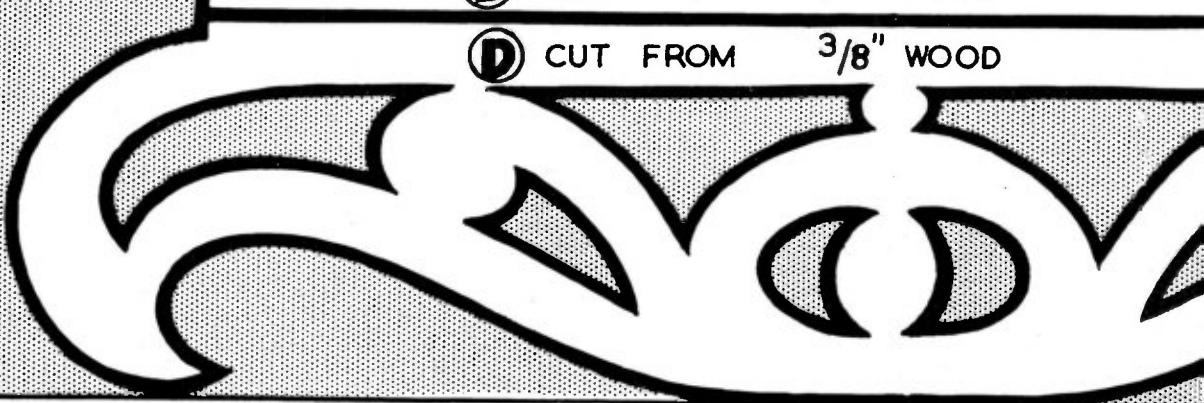
A FRETWORK PROJECT SPICE CABINET

- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (F)



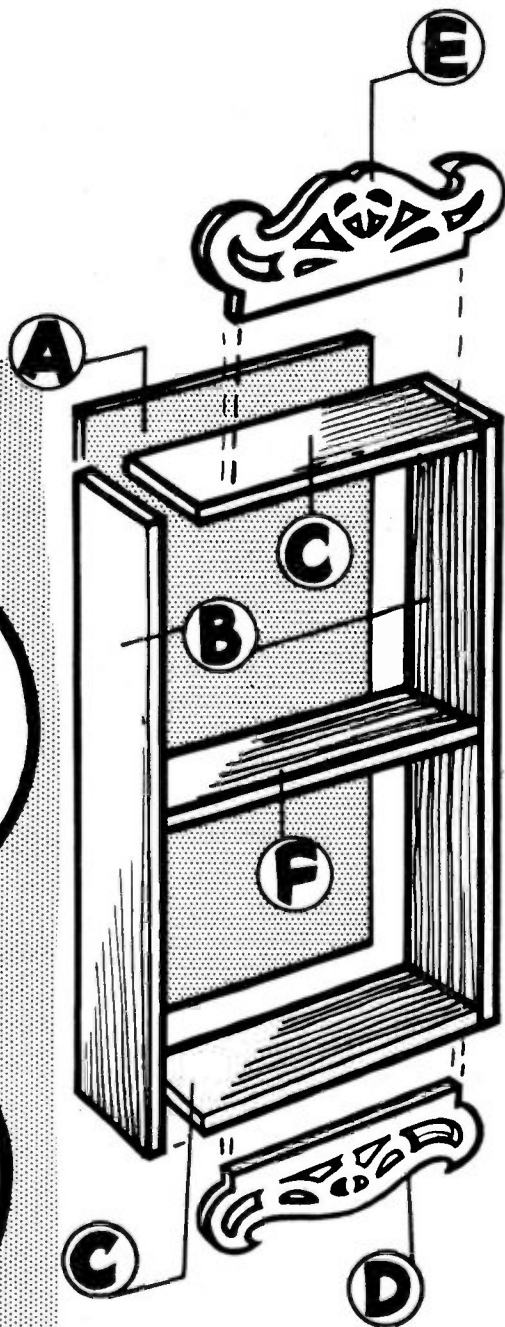
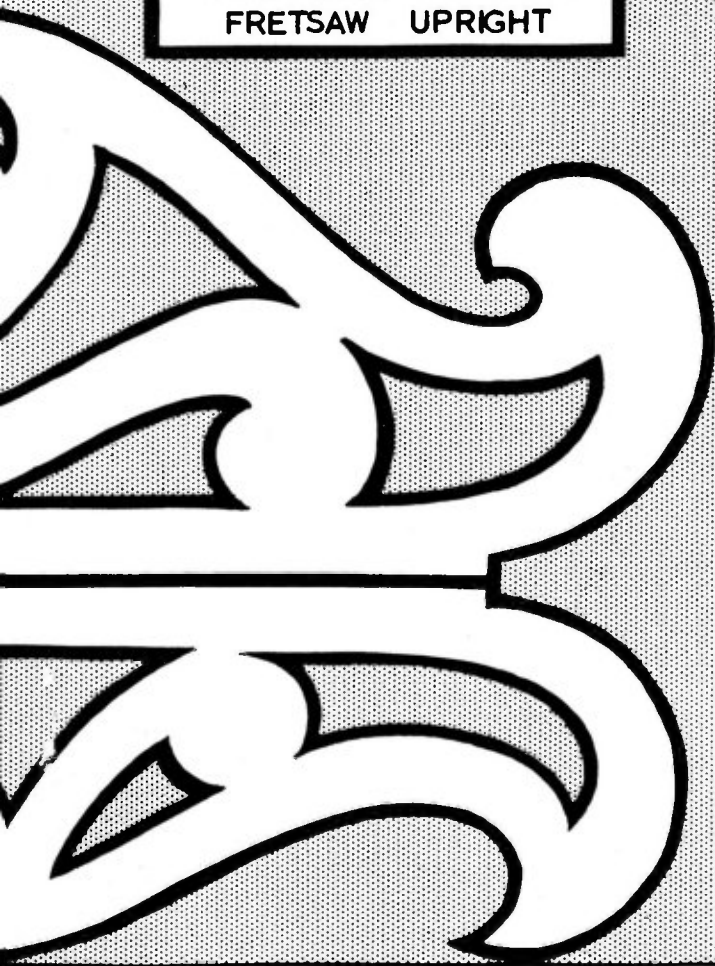
(E) CUT FROM $\frac{3}{8}$ " WOOD

(D) CUT FROM $\frac{3}{8}$ " WOOD



- A** ONE PIECE HARDBOARD 15" x 9 1/2"
- B** TWO PIECES 15" x 4" x 1/2"
- C** TWO PIECES 8 1/2" x 4" x 1/2"
- F** ONE PIECE 8 1/2" x 4" x 1/2"

TAKE CARE TO HOLD
FRETSAW UPRIGHT



MODERN DOOR FURNITURE

MANY householders give their homes a new look by removing old handles and finger-plates from their doors and then adding sheets of hardboard and a ball catch to give a flush, modern style.

A problem then arises in the choice of door furniture. True, there is a wide range of wood, plastic and chrome handles available but these do not always fill the bill when you are trying to give your home the most up-to-date appearance possible and yet harmonize with a particular colour scheme.

However, it is perfectly easy to make your own contemporary door-pulls which are both practical and in the latest style.

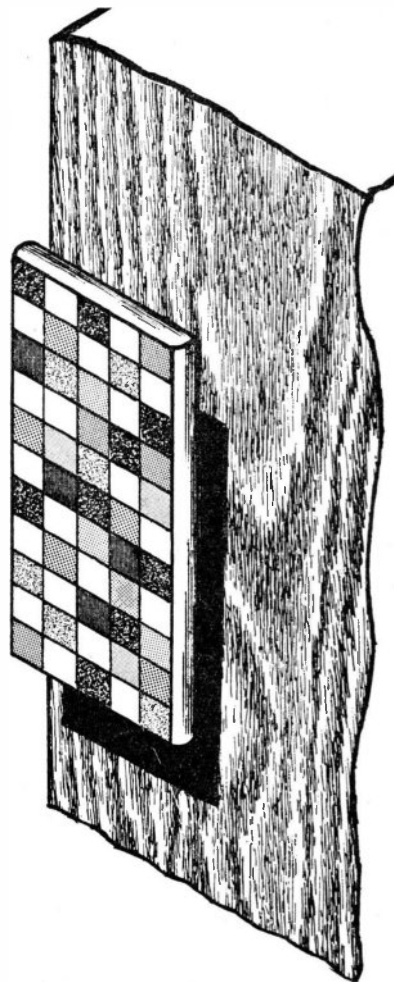
The materials needed are simple. They include a short length of narrow section

wooden door-runner, a small piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. plywood, a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood, some half-round beading and a few scraps of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. wood.

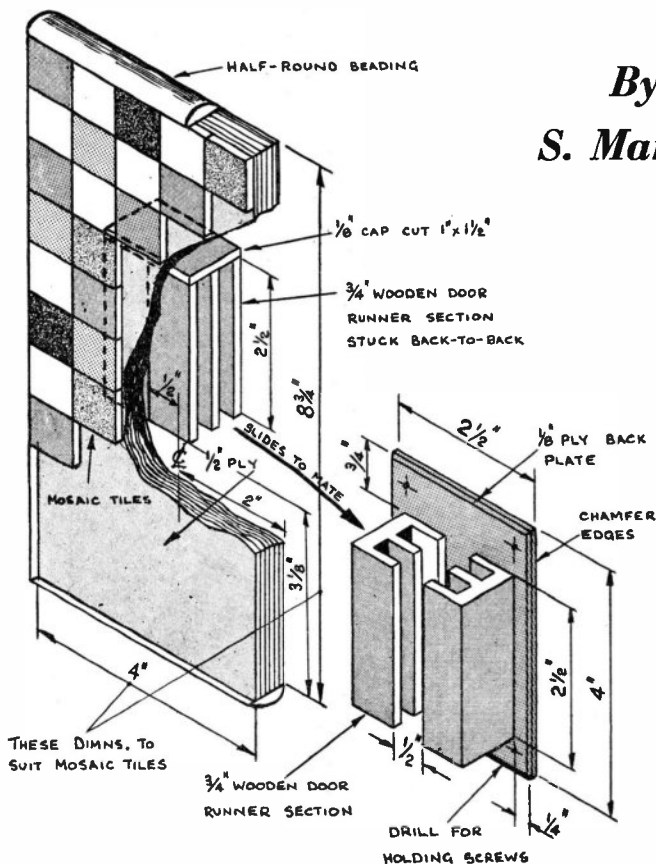
In addition you will require some mosaic tiles. These may be bought in a variety of patterns and colours. They are sold in sheets and may be plastic or of a ceramic nature, and the latter may be either glazed or un-glazed.

The door-pull described here was made by the author using Pilkington's Byzantex mosaic tiles. These have a regular pattern of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ in. squares and have a matt finish which is very attractive.

Start with the attachment plate. This consists of a piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. plywood cut to the sizes shown and given a neat



By
S. Martin



chamfer on all four edges. Holes for the holding screws are then drilled in the corners.

Now the slide which holds the tiled door-pull can be added. This consists of two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wooden door-runner section $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. These two pieces are carefully glued to the attachment plate, open edges facing each other, and spaced so that two similar pieces placed back-to-back are able to slide between them. A glance at the sketch should make this point clear.

The next step is to cut a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood to the given sizes. This then serves as a base for the mosaic tiles which are now stuck in place. These should be fixed according to maker's instructions and one of two techniques is usually involved.

Most mosaic tiles are sold in sheets 12 in. square, the individual tiles being positioned ready for use on some form of backing material. In the case of glazed

mosaic tiles the backing material is on the underside and this face is stuck directly on the object to be covered.

Byzantex tiles are backed by brown paper however and it is the opposite face which is stuck down. Contact adhesive may be used for this operation and then, when the tiles are firm, the brown paper may be thoroughly soaked with water and peeled away.

The door-pull should now be edged with half-round beading which is cut to length and carefully mitred at the corners. Mosaic tiles vary slightly in thickness so it may not be possible to obtain beading the exact size to embrace both the tiles and the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood backing. If this is the case the edging strip should be positioned so that it is flush with the tiles at the front and any slight overhang at the back should be cut level with the back of the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood.

At this stage the other portion of the slide should be made and glued in place on the door-pull. This also consists of two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. door runner, each

$\frac{24}{2}$ in. long. These two pieces are glued back-to-back on the rear of the plywood door-pull. It will be seen from the diagram that this portion of the slide is off-set from the centre of the door-pull and the exact dimension will depend on individual cases. The purpose of this off-set is to ensure that the door-pull clears the door frame. The quoted dimension of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. is a reasonable figure and should be suitable in most instances.

When the slide has been stuck in place it is given a 'cap' to retain it when it mates with the slide on the attachment plate. The cap consists of a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. plywood cut to size and glued with contact adhesive to the top of the door runner section.

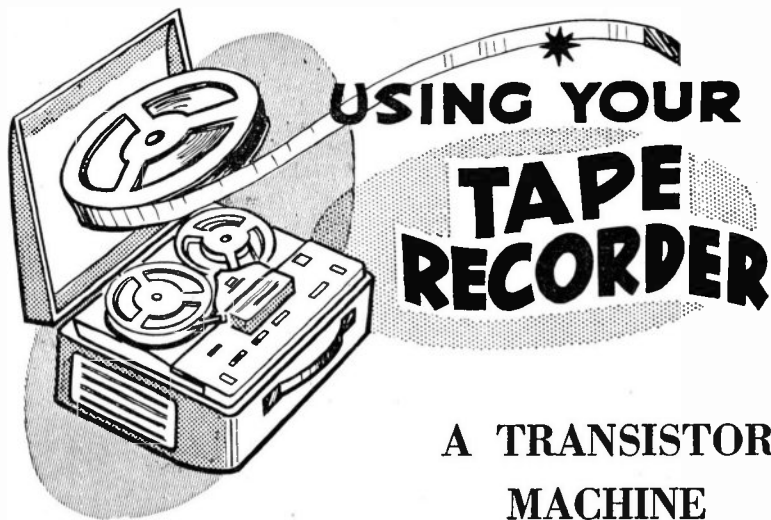
Now the door-pull and the attachment plate can be primed and painted, making sure that all surfaces have been well-rubbed down and properly filled in first of all. The painting of the beading around the door-pull should be done with care, ensuring that no paint gets on the mosaic tiles. This can easily be pre-

vented by masking along the edges with a strip of adhesive tape.

When the painting has been completed the filling should be added to the joints between the mosaic tiles. This filling consists of Alabastine or Polyfilla which is mixed with water and then applied to the joints between the tiles. Surplus material is wiped away, leaving the joints with a clean, flush filling.

Now all that remains is to make your door-pull a permanent fixture. This is done by fitting the slide of the door-pull into the slide of the attachment plate. The fit between the two slides may be fairly slack due to the tolerances in the machining of the door runner section. This slackness can be made good by fitting a small wooden wedge between the two mating surfaces of the slide.

The wedge will have the effect of making the door-pull rigid on its attachment plate. Also, a smart tap with a hammer and the two items can be easily separated again when you need to take them apart to repaint your door.



FOR a long time the word 'transistor' has been to me like a red rag to a bull. I could not, and for that matter I still cannot, regard the typical transistor sound as true hi-fi. To my mind all transistor users were people who liked noise so much that they had to cart it about with them wherever they went.

However, I had to write on 'location recording' for a text book which was being considered. Hitherto, I had gone on location recording as one of a group, and I had never been really entrusted with the care of the portable. Now, I felt I had to get more experience of location recording. I could not afford an

expensive machine, so with much repudiation I bought myself a Grundig TK.1.

Even I had to acknowledge that this was the best transistor sound I had heard, but it was still a transistor sound. Going home I tried recording the underground train while I was in it. Between stations I played it back. It sounded a regular landslide!

I continued to fall further out of love with my TK.1. when I found that owing to its sunken deck I could not couple it with its big brother, the TK.14 mains machine, for echo effects.

At about this stage I was prepared to take it back but a small observation made me change my mind. I realized that the sockets were, after all, the same as my mains, and therefore the equipment I used for that would also do for the portable. So I did not *have* to have the tiny microphone for a start. I quickly plugged in my sensitive Telefunken D9A. On playback I realized that the sound was definitely a long step in the direction I like recorded sound to be.

I tried the direct recording from wireless¹ by cable. The sound I got was still a further improvement on that from the Telefunken microphone. Even so, the sound was not quite right; and besides, the advantage gained by the cable was no consolation to one bent on location recording.

Rather wearily I came home from a day on location. Could my sound panel, that little group of friends who decide what the sounds are supposed to be, really be expected to pronounce on anything short of hi-fi? As I rested my machine on the sideboard, I observed the cable box. I had forgotten to put it away. Suddenly it dawned upon me. Why not transmit by cable through the wireless speaker? No sooner said than done.

I sat back and listened. Was this my TK.14 or my TK.1? If I did not have eyes, I doubt if I would have known.



Gardener's Notebook

A PERMANENT COMPOST BIN

even old timber roughly nailed together, but these will undoubtedly need renewing in time. By far the best method is to use bricks upon a foundation of concrete, making low walls to contain the compost, and leaving an entrance for the barrow if necessary.

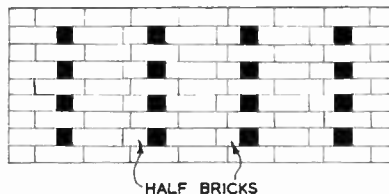
The overall size will, of course, depend upon individual requirements, but allowance should be made for at least two heaps so that plenty of time can elapse for each heap to rot thoroughly.

Select a site which will be as inconspicuous as possible, screened by shrubs or fruit such as raspberries. If it can be in semi-shade, so much the better.

Mark out the site and excavate a trench for the footings, making it about 9 in. deep and 9 in. wide. Broken rubble

can be placed in the bottom, levelling off with cement to form a base upon which the wall itself will be built.

The walls should be of one brick thickness and half bricks should be used to give ventilation spaces as shown in Fig. 1. Nine courses of brickwork will be sufficient, giving four rows of ventilation spaces.



The floor of the bin should not be concreted over since a plain earth floor will encourage the worms to work in the compost.

Use a compost accelerator and make the heap according to the instructions. The most convenient type is a powder which obviates the necessity of watering and turning. To use the heap when ready, the sides are chopped off with a spade and put on the next heap and the rest is taken away for the garden. It is an advantage to cover the heap with a sheet of polythene to prevent it becoming saturated with rain. (M.h.)

THE value of compost cannot be over-emphasized. Grass clippings, weeds, kitchen waste, tea leaves, straw and soft prunings can all be rotted down to make rich compost which will provide valuable humus for the garden. If the compost heap is properly made the heat will be sufficient to kill perennial weeds and their seeds.

It is possible to make a bin from corrugated iron, 2 in. wire netting, or

REARING A GIANT ATLAS MOTH

WHICH is the largest moth in the world? Quite a number of people seem to bestow this title on the Giant Atlas of the Himalayas, which sometimes sports a wing span approaching 12 in. There is, however, an even larger moth found in Australia, at least one specimen of which has been recorded measuring 14 in. across the wings.

This outstanding but little known insect is called the Hercules Moth and is believed to be the largest of all. It lives in the moist coastal region near Cape York in Queensland, whilst a closely related kind inhabits New Guinea.

The wings are golden brown with transparent 'windows', those of the smaller male tapering away to long 'swallowtails'. The caterpillars are quite colourful, with green heads, blue-grey bodies striped with red, and as if that was not enough, they also have purple

legs. They feed on the foliage of trees and the moths on emerging from their cocoons are said to emit the fragrance of these.

The aforementioned Atlas Moth is certainly a giant and can be obtained from a dealer and reared in this country. Artificial heat may be helpful but it is

By J. W. Norbury

not really essential as long as the larvae are kept at a fairly even temperature and the pupae away from frost. The food plants include privet, plum and rhododendron.

In my own attempts at rearing the Atlas I have so far been unlucky. On one occasion a consignment of pupae was

lost in the post and another time my one and only moth emerged a cripple.

Thirdly, although I kept them warm, a batch of eggs failed to hatch and I could not understand what was wrong. Then I learned that these outside moths inhabit humid places and that dry heat hardens the casing of the eggs, making it impossible for them to hatch. The same also applies to the cocoons; because I had failed to simulate the steaming atmosphere of their jungle environment my Atlas Moths were doomed. Nevertheless I intend to 'try, try again'.

The third largest moth is probably the Great Owl or Agrippa Moth of South America with a wing spread of 10 in. The beautiful Indian Moon reaches 7 in. and there are quite a number of species with a 6 in. span.

Yes, there are some large moths in the world but as far as we know, Hercules is the greatest.

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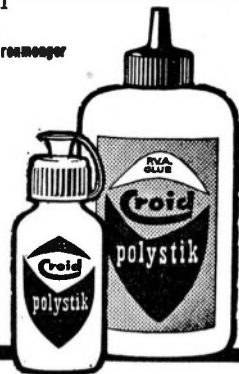
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BILL ODDIE

DID you see the West End show 'Cambridge Footlights'? If so, you will already know something about Bill Oddie — for he wrote about half of that revue and also played in it. Not only that, he also wrote most of the Millicent Martin TWTWTW material, and some of the sketches for that series.

Bill is the singer of *Nothing Better to do* (Parlophone R5153), his first record for EMI. The song is a TWTWTW-styled dig at the 'mods and rockers' for their part in the seaside-town wreckings, — and Bill wrote it.

Bill Oddie is now 22. He was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, and when he was 18 left school to go to Cambridge University and eventually get a BA in English.

While at Cambridge he frequently took part in the writing of scripts for student shows. One of these was 'Cambridge Footlights', which proved to be such a success that it eventually went to the Arts Theatre in London and then to the Lyric, running for a total of five months.

It was through a show at Cambridge that Bill Oddie met David Frost, who saw one of the revues which Bill had written. He asked whether some of the material could be used on TWTWTW. Bill readily agreed and went on to offer David Frost more material.

When Bill is not writing songs and scripts, he likes to get away to a deserted island and study bird-life. He loves the small islands, like Fairisle, and is not content unless he is entirely alone.

Bill doesn't enjoy the conventional social-life. 'I can't stand big, extrovert parties. Neither do I like performing off-stage. I find any form of exhibitionism intolerable. If getting on in show-business means going to big parties, just to meet useful people, then I'H never get on.' But 'getting on' Bill certainly is. He is working full-time on scripts and songs, and now that he has entered the 'pop' business has increased his responsibilities considerably.

Miscellaneous Advertisements

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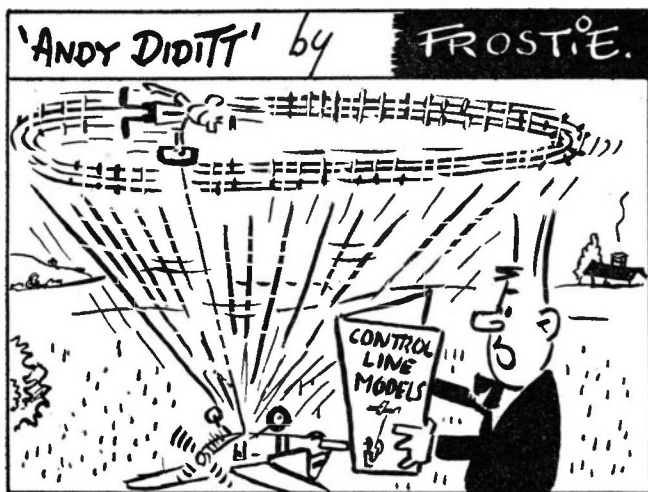
PENFRIENDS home and abroad, all ages. S.a.e. for details. European Friendship Society, Burnley, Lancs.

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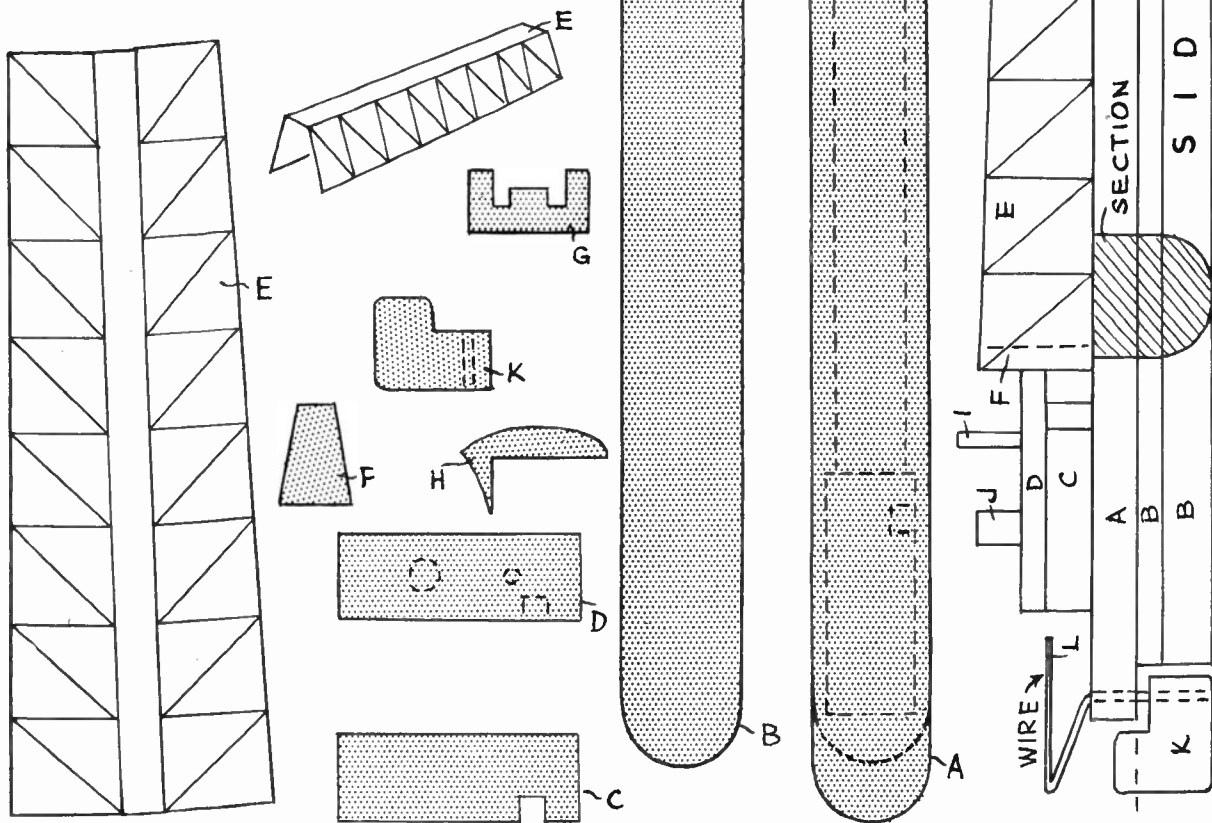
THE Narrow Boats which still operate on some inland waterways are colourful and picturesque, and the model shown here embodies their main features. It is made from oddments of Balsa wood, cut to shape with a fret-saw or sharp modelling knife.

You will need one piece A ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) and two pieces B (one $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and one $\frac{1}{8}$ in.) to form the hull. Glue these together as shown in the side view. To the hull add pieces C ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.); D ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.); two pieces F ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.) and one piece G ($\frac{1}{16}$ in.). Pieces F should be trimmed to fit in the ends of the hatch cover (E) which is cut from thin card. Add the stem H ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.) and the rudder K ($\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

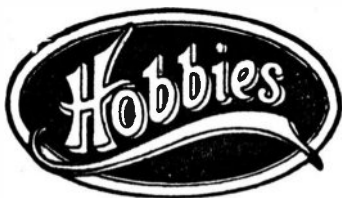
The rudder is fixed to the tiller L which is a piece of wire bent to shape. Pieces J and I are rounded off from scrap wood.

The boat should be painted black up to deck level, with bright red stern and cabin sides. Cabin top and piece G are bright yellow and the deck buff. The hatch cover is pale grey lined in black. A few round head screws on the underside will provide ballast. (M.P.)

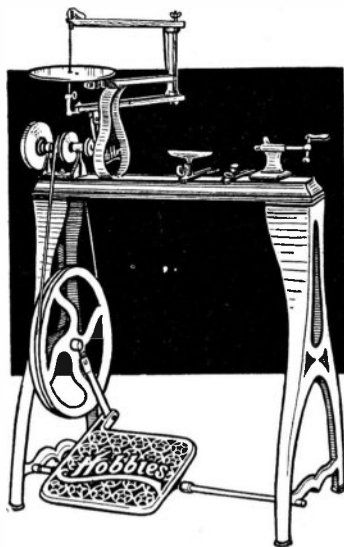
Modelling a Narrow Boat



63



WOODWORKING LATHES FOR THE KEEN AMATEUR



The 'Companion'

The 'Companion' Treadle Lathe. A marvellous combination for the amateur. Obtainable with or without fretsaw attachment shown. The larger driving wheel has two grooves of varying depths to give a change of speed. The headstock is provided with a 2 in. faceplate, a spur centre, and a screw centre for turning cups. It has also a solid emery wheel. The tailstock has a screw feed centre. The lathe is 14 in. between centres and is provided with two rests, designs, saws, etc. The fretsawing attachment is secured to the lathe bed by one bolt, and can be put on or taken off as desired. It is fitted with 19 in. arms and an 8 in. diameter tilting table. A well illustrated book on Wood Turning is included with each lathe.

Cash Price: £16 5s. 0d. (as illustrated) or without fretsaw £12 0s. 0d.
Easy Payments: £4 7s. 6d. down, and 6 monthly payments of £2 3s. 6d.
Without fretsaw, £3 5s. 0d. down and 6 monthly payments of £1 12s. 1d.

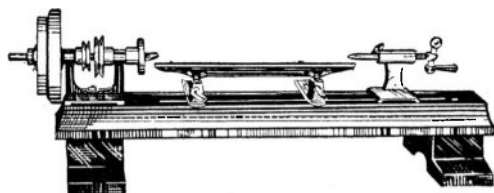
The 'Hobbies' Lathe. This lathe has similar features to the 'Companion' but is built for larger work. It stands 6 in. higher, and the distance between centres is 20 in.

Cash Price: £18 10s. 0d. complete. Without fretsaw £14 5s. 0d.
Easy Payments: £4 17s. 6d. down and 6 monthly payments of £2 9s. 11d.
Without fretsaw £3 17s. 6d. down and 6 monthly payments of £1 18s. 0d.

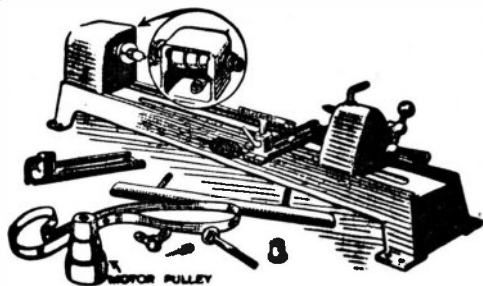
Handy Bench Lathe. This machine is similar to the 'Companion' Treadle Lathe but without the legs, treadle, etc. The headstock spindle has two small 'V' groove pulleys for drive by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter round leather belt. The balance wheel is similarly grooved, so that three speeds are thus provided. An emery wheel, a spur centre and a screw centre are also included.

20 ins. between centres

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Handy Bench Lathe



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