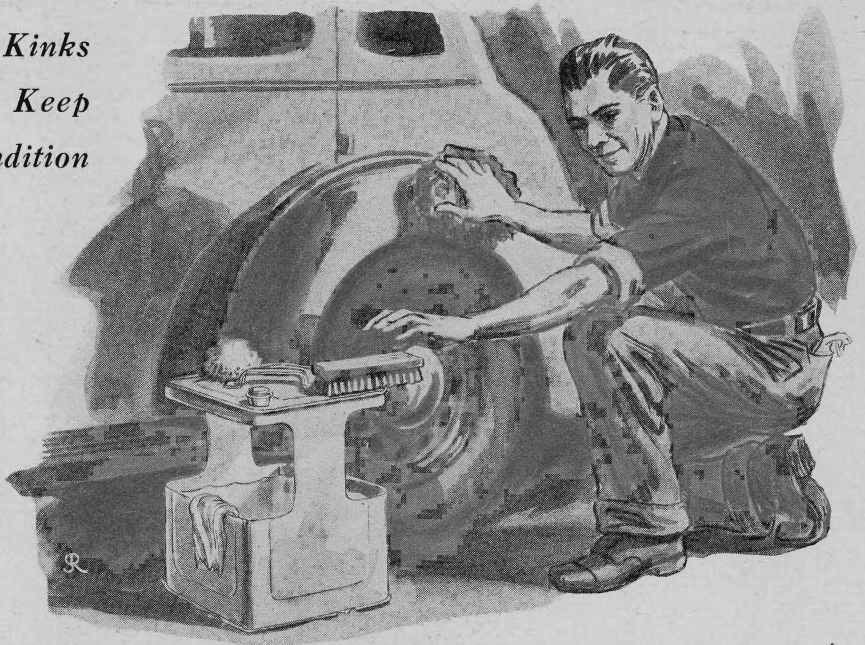


Short Cuts for Car Owners

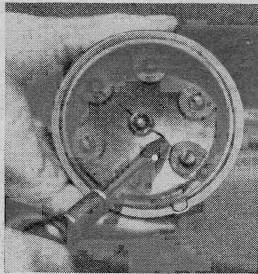
*Our Readers Pass Along Six Kinks
That Have Helped Them to Keep
Their Automobiles in Condition*

Portable Car-Washing Kit Made from Large Oil Can

FROM an ordinary five-gallon oil can, you can make a handy car-washing pail. Altered with a pair of tin snips, as shown at the right, it not only supplies a large container for water, but a convenient shelf, at just the right height, for brushes, chamois, cloths, and polishing equipment. The strong handle on the top of the can allows it to be moved from place to place easily. If desired, several coats of enamel can be applied to the outside of the can.—W. H.

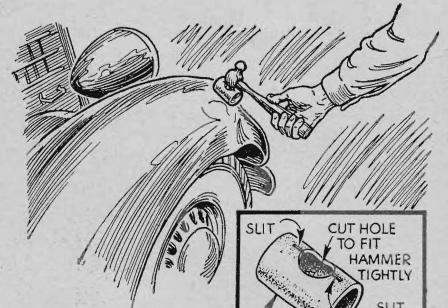


Repairing a Cracked Distributor Cap

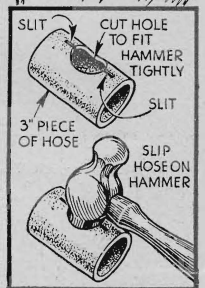


After scraping the crack, the cap is coated with oil

WHEN a cracked distributor cap causes a short circuit and stops your car on the road, an emergency repair can be made with oil and a knife or a screw driver. After scraping the crack clean, hold the cap upside down and squirt in enough oil to cover the inside with a thin film. Then turn the cap right side up and drain off the excess. When replaced, the cap will hold up for quite a few miles.—R. R. K.



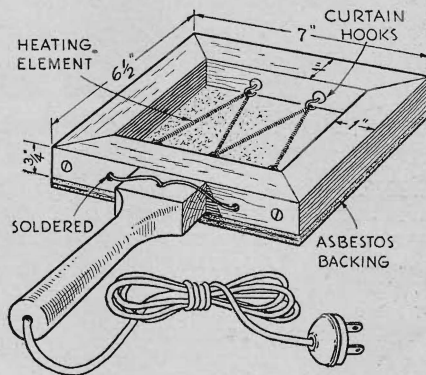
Improvised Hammer for Fender Work



A SOFT-FACED hammer for use in making fender and body repairs can be improvised easily by supplying an ordinary hammer with a rubber head cover made from a short length of garden hose. Simply cut a hole in the hose, supply two slits each side of the hole, as shown, and stretch it over the hammerhead. The elasticity of the hose will hold the cover in place.—H. A.

Heater for Lacquer Jobs

TO MAKE it possible to touch up the finish on my car during the winter when my unheated garage is so cold that lacquer will not flow freely, I devised a simple surface heater. Consisting of an asbestos-backed frame supporting several feet of heating-element wire, the heater, held against the underside of the spot to be finished, warms the metal just enough to make the cold lacquer flow so that it can be brushed on the surface easily and evenly.—M. G.

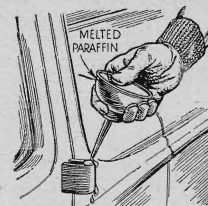


Castor Oil Sleetproofs Car's Windshield



CASTOR oil applied with a handy homemade applicator will keep your windshield clear of frost and sleet during winter storms. The applicator is made by forcing a tight roll of flannel or felt into a small screw-cap can or jar, as illustrated, and saturating it with the oil. The screw cap will protect the top of the cloth and prevent the oil from leaking out when the application is stored.—A. H. W.

Wax Silences Door Hinges



SQUEAKING car-door hinges that do not react to ordinary oil can generally be silenced effectively by lubricating the pins with liquid paraffin. The writer solved the problem of applying the paraffin in liquid form by partially filling an old squirt can with the melted wax and allowing it to cool. When it is to be used, the can is simply heated on a gas stove.—W.C.W.