

Seven Useful Kinks for Your Car

How to Solder Tank Floats, Build Clothes Compartment, Plug Leaks

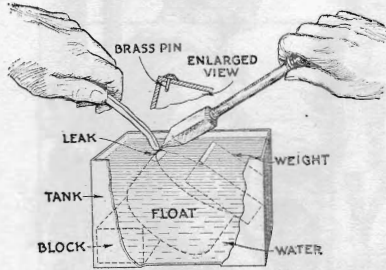


Fig. 1. Solder carburetor or vacuum tank floats in this way to make a tight seal

WHEN you attempt to solder up a leak in a carburetor or vacuum tank float, the heat of the iron causes the air inside the float to expand. The air pressure produced then forces bubbles of air through the hole you are trying to solder, making it very difficult to seal the hole. By immersing the float in a vessel full of water as shown in Fig. 1, this difficulty can be overcome. The water keeps the metal of the tank from heating up to any great extent, except at the point where the soldering iron is applied.

If there is a small hole in the tank instead of a crack at one of the seams, you will find that the soldering is much easier if you cut off an ordinary brass pin and push what remains of the shank through the hole as shown.

If the float is partly filled with gasoline, you can drive it out by supporting it with the hole down and heating the upper side of the float by holding the hot soldering iron close to it, without actually touching.

Protects Garage Padlock

ANYONE who has tried to unlock the padlock on the garage door after a freezing rainstorm, when the whole mechanism of the lock is frozen solid, will appreciate the simple method shown in Fig. 2 for keeping water and snow out of the padlock. An old section of inner tube can be cut in the shape indicated and tacked so that it covers the padlock. Note that the padlock is protected from the bottom by the folded and wired flap.

Ingenious Clothes Compartment

ON LONG motor tours or camping trips it is difficult to keep clothing in presentable condition because of lack of packing space. The space underneath the top of a closed car can be used as shown in Fig. 7. A piece of three-ply veneer is cut so that it fits loosely against the inside of the top. One edge is at-

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

TERRY W. BROWN, of Massillon, O., wins the \$10 prize this month for his suggestion of an auto clothes compartment (Fig. 7). Each month **POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY** awards \$10 in addition to regular space rates to the reader sending in the best idea for motorists. Other published contributions will be paid for at usual rates.

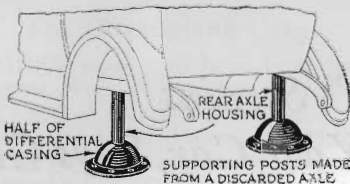


Fig. 3. Old axle supports frame when you have to remove rear axle

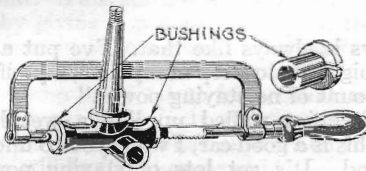


Fig. 4 (above). Hack-saw through side wall of your spindle body bushings and they can be driven out easily

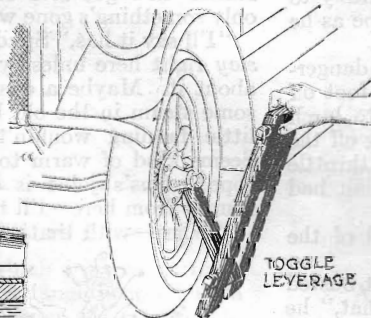


Fig. 5. Homemade wooden jacks that will keep tires off the floor

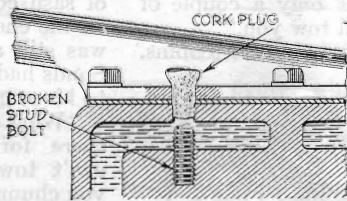


Fig. 6. A few corks in the tool box are handy if you break a bolt

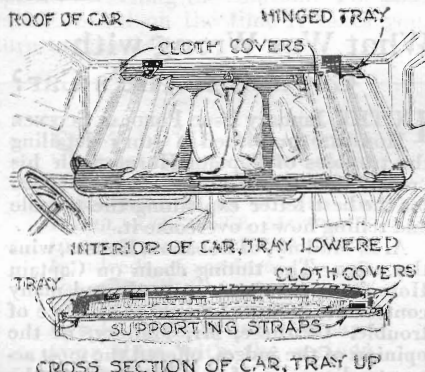


Fig. 7. Clothes tray for campers and tourists. It takes up little space under the top

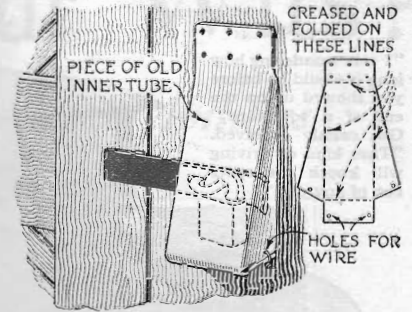


Fig. 2. This padlock cover will keep snow or sleet from jamming the padlock

tached by means of strap hinges as shown. On the underside of the other edge are fastened several large screw eyes. These act as buttons for short pieces of strap attached so that when the board is swung up there will be a space of two or three inches for clothes.

These Jacks Will Save Tires

FIG. 5 will show you how to make up simple tire-saving jacks so that you can get all four wheels off the ground in just a moment. A hole somewhat larger than the hub is cut in a piece of two by four, and a one and one-half-inch slot is sawed from one end to meet the hole. In this slot is fitted a short piece measuring slightly less than one and one-half inches wide. It should turn freely on the bolt. As you push the frame toward the car, the tire will be raised off the ground.

Removes Spindle Bushings

DRIVING out spindle body bushings is not so easy unless you have a special tool designed for this particular job. However, sawing through the sides of the bushings will greatly facilitate the work. Unclamp the blade from the back saw frame and pass the blade through the king-pin hole and then fit it to the frame as shown in Fig. 4.

Save the Running Board

THE common practice on light cars of supporting the chassis of the car on the running boards when the rear axle is taken out is rather risky. The running boards are not designed to support so much weight. The ends of the two halves of a rear axle housing can be cut off to the proper length to form substantial frame supports as shown in Fig. 3.

Cork Will Plug Water Leaks

IF YOU are unlucky enough to break off one of the water manifold bolts so that there is nothing to stop the water in the system from draining away, you can plug the leak with a cork as shown in Fig. 6. A spare cork or two in the tool box may come in handy as a substitute for a petcock in the oil or gas system.