

Ever Drive into the Garage Wall?

How to Build a Timber Stop That May Save a Costly Crash—Other Ideas Car Owners Have Found Useful

MOST home garages are lightly constructed. While strong enough to resist ordinary strain, the entire back wall of the garage may be wrecked by a blow from the car bumper so light that the bumper itself is not damaged.

Figure 1 shows how to make a stop to avoid such trouble. A six by six timber long enough to extend ten inches on each side of the wheels can be bolted permanently with lag screws into a wooden floor or into expansion shields in holes in a concrete floor. To make the stop removable, ten-inch pieces of one-inch diameter pipe can be set into the floor to form sockets into which three-quarter-inch pieces of pipe will fit.

The three-quarter-inch pieces of pipe will make a drive fit in an $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch hole drilled through the timber. Be sure to plane off the sharp edge of the timber toward the garage door so that the tires will strike against a flat surface instead of a sharp edge. If the floor space is somewhat restricted, make the bumper removable so as to facilitate tire changes and work under the rear of the car.

Repairing Broken Brush Springs

SOMETIMES a break in a spring that presses a brush against the commutator on the starting motor makes the starter inoperative. Figure 2 shows a temporary repair. Cut a strip of rubber from an inner tube and pass it through the openings in the motor frame as shown. Pull fairly tightly and tie a knot. The rubber band will press the brush against the commutator and permit the motor to start the engine in normal fashion.

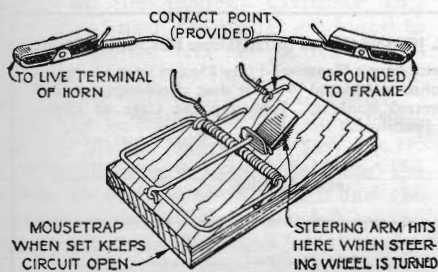


Fig. 3. How mousetrap alarm is set to blow the horn if thief moves the steering wheel.

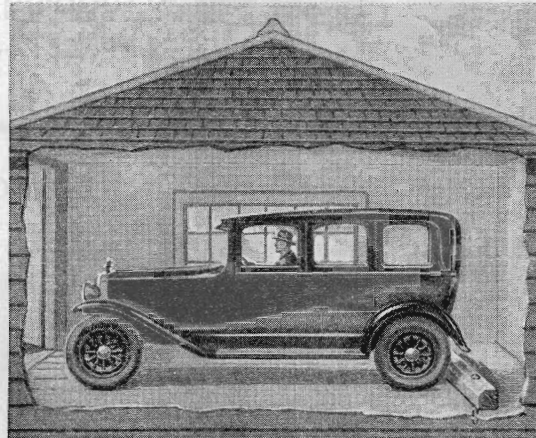


Fig. 1. A timber stop, bolted to the floor at rear of the garage, prevents ramming the rear wall when driving in.

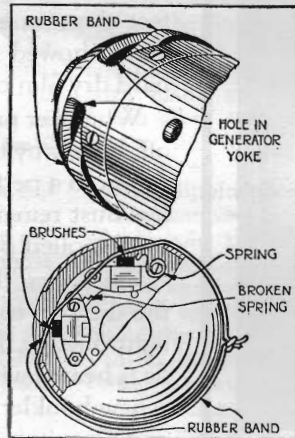


Fig. 2. Broken brush spring is repaired with rubber band.

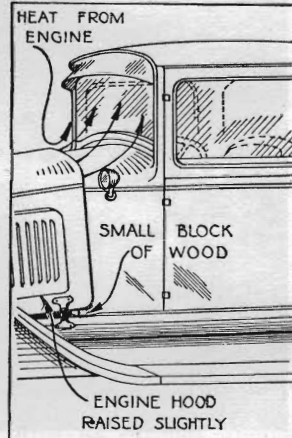


Fig. 4. A wedge under hood sends hot air to windshield.

Mousetrap Burglar Alarm

AN ORDINARY mousetrap (Figure 3) can be converted into an effective auto burglar alarm. Two wires with spring clips attached to their outer ends are attached as indicated. One clip is attached to the live terminal of the horn and the other to the metal frame of the car. When the trap is set the circuit is open. When sprung, the circuit is closed and the horn blows continuously. The

Each month POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards a prize of \$10, in addition to regular space rates, for the best idea for motorists. This month's prize goes to Harold Beedle, Clear Lake, Ia., for his suggestion for keeping the windshield clear (shown in Figure 4).

trap can be placed so that moving either the steering arm or clutch pedal will spring the trigger.

Clearing the Windshield

A CONSTANT stream of warm air can be directed against the windshield to prevent fogging and frosting (Figure 4). Raise the rear edge of the engine hood on each side enough to insert a small block of wood. This will produce an opening along the top rear edge of the hood through which heated air from the engine flows and strikes the glass. If trouble is experienced with rattling, an extra block of wood of the right size should be placed directly under the edge of the hood near the hinge. Experience will show what size block to use for best results.

Simple Hood Rest

FIGURE 5 shows an easy way to make a rest for the hood when it is opened. The only mechanical work needed is the hack-sawed slot in the edge of the cowl and two holes for bolts that hold the angle pieces to the dash. The straight piece and the two angle pieces are stock items from standard toy mechanical construction sets.

Cut the slot in the cowl first and then locate the angle pieces so that the perforated straight piece will swing into the slot in the up position or hang down out of the way when not in use. At least two hood rests will be required, one on each side; some hoods will require four.

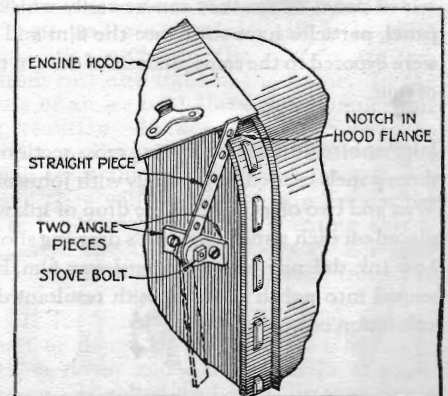


Fig. 5. A simple and easy method of constructing a rest for the engine hood when it is opened.