

# New Ideas for Auto Workers

Simple Wiring Scheme That Outwits Thieves

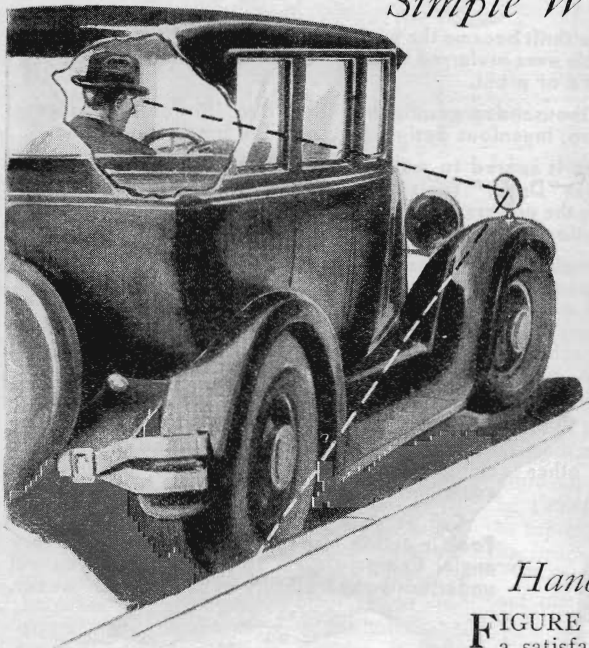


Fig. 1. Rear view mirror set on front right fender will prove helpful in parking the car

**M**ANY motorists have difficulty in telling how far the rear wheel is from the curb when attempting to back into a parking space. A neat way to eliminate this trouble is to fit a rear-vision mirror on the right front mudguard and set it so that it gives the driver a view of the road surface near the right rear wheel. On some cars with exceptionally high hoods and relatively low mudguards, it may be necessary to mount the mirror on an extension rod to make it visible from the driver's position. Testing will tell how long to make the rod.

## Dustpan For Garage

**M**OST owners of home garages have an old five-gallon can on hand. Use this to make the useful dustpan shown in Fig. 2. With a pair of tin shears, cut away the top half diagonally and then fit a wire bale handle. Place the holes for the handle close to the open end so that when you lift on it, the open end will swing up and allow the debris to slide toward the closed end of the container.

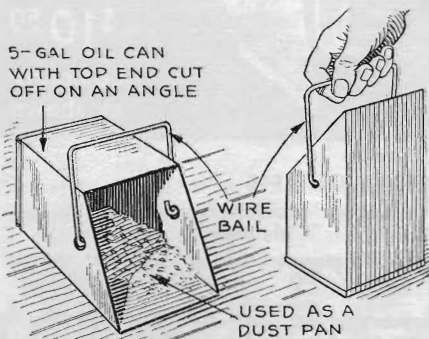


Fig. 2. Cutting away the top half of old oil can and fitting on handle makes a dustpan

## Handy Watch Holder

**F**IGURE 3 shows a simple way to make a satisfactory watch holder for use in a car. It permits any standard smooth-backed watch to be held at any desired position on either the dash or the windshield. Remove the rubber vacuum cups from two of the various novelties so fitted and fasten them, back to back, by means of a screw and nut as indicated in the cut-away view. Moisten both cups and press on in the usual manner. The watch can be easily set or wound without removing it from the cups.

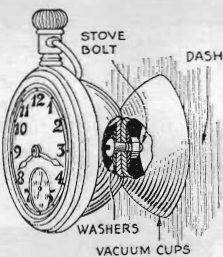


Fig. 3. Vacuum cups hold watch to the dash

## Stops Oil Waste

**O**N SOME cars, especially if the piston rings are not as tight as they might be, the gases escaping from the oil filling pipe carry a certain amount of oil in fine drops. This oil gets all over the engine and also represents a waste. Figure 5, at right, shows a simple type of home baffle arrangement that will serve to catch the droplets of oil and return the waste to the crankcase. It is made from a tin can of suitable size into which have been soldered two or more cheap tin funnels as shown in the illustration.

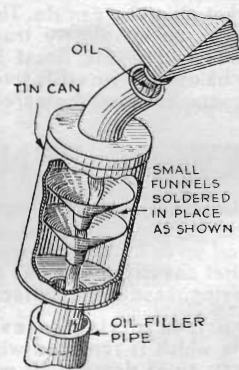


Fig. 5. Tin can with funnels in it makes baffle to catch waste oil

## Muffling the Exhaust

**W**ITH modern motors, the snappy valve action causes a loud exhaust. The noise of the exhaust itself is reduced by the muffler, but there are vibrations produced in the steel walls of the muffler and pipe that cause drumming effects in the car interior.

A way to reduce these noises by damping the vibrations is shown in Fig. 6. Cover the muffler and pipe with asbestos starting at the motor end and working back toward the rear as far as may be necessary.



ASBESTOS COVERING ON MUFFLER AND EXHAUST PIPE STOPS DRUMMING NOISE

Fig. 6. Drumming from exhaust is muffled by covering pipe and muffler with asbestos

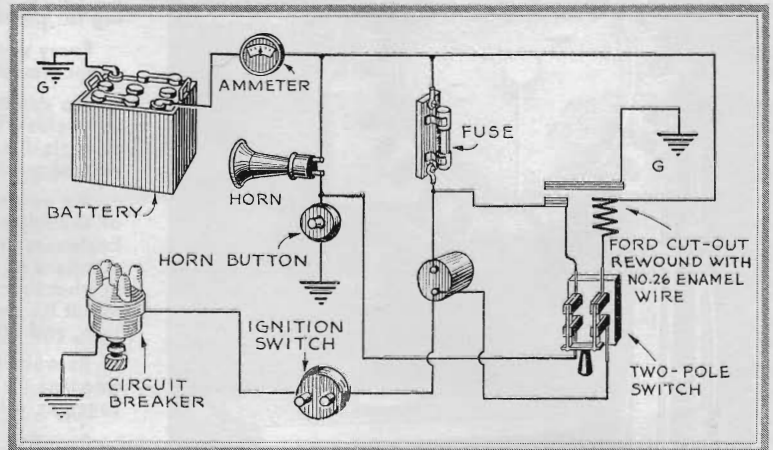


Fig. 4. Diagram shows how to wire car to sound horn and blow fuse if tampered with

## Beating the Thief

**F**IGURE 4 shows a way to wire your car that will fool even the expert auto thief. The circuit is quite simple to install, but its electrical operation is most ingenious. When the double-pole, single-throw switch is in the closed position, a thief attempting to start the car will turn on the ignition and step on the starter. As the motor turns over, the circuit breaker will close. This allows current to flow through the cut-out, closing it, and this, in turn, burns out the fuse to cut off the ignition. At the same time the horn will blow until the secret switch is opened. A new fuse repairs the ignition system.

## WIN A \$10 PRIZE

Each month we award \$10 for the best idea sent in for motorists. This month's prize goes to Fred G. Mehnert, Chicago, Ill. (Fig. 4). Contributions are requested from all automobile mechanics and if published will be paid for at regular space rates.