

Handy Hints for Car-Owners

Simple Emergency Jack—Half a Dozen Other Useful Tips

BALLOON tires, because of their larger diameter, let the axle down much nearer the ground when they go flat than do ordinary high-pressure tires. A number of special jacks now are made for use with balloon tires. They are constructed so that they will get under a very low axle. If you happen to get caught with a flat balloon tire and an old-style jack, the stunt shown in Fig. 1 will enable you to change tires. Lift the axle as high as you can by the lever method shown in the illustration and then block the axle in position while you put the jack under it in the usual manner. This method also is useful to get a wheel out of a deep mud hole.

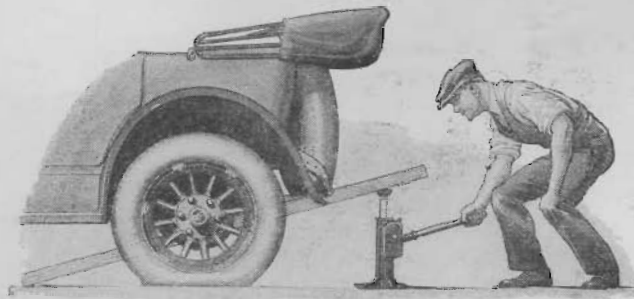


Fig. 1. How to use a wooden beam to advantage as a lever in jacking up a wheel equipped with balloon tire

MOST automobilists find it easy enough to get a demountable rim apart and mount the tire back on the rim, but the rub comes when you try to expand the rim sufficiently so that the locking lug will drop back into place. Study Fig. 2 and you will see that an ordinary auto jack fitted with a wooden base board can be used to exert pressure on three points at once. If you get the base board the right length to fit your particular rims, it is extremely easy to force a rim into the locked position by this simple method.

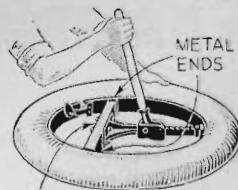


Fig. 2. Expanding tire rim with auto jack

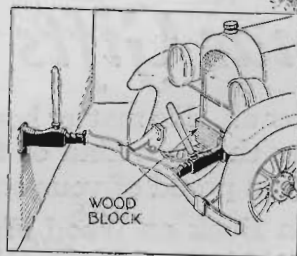


Fig. 4. Left: How to straighten a bent bumper with a jack

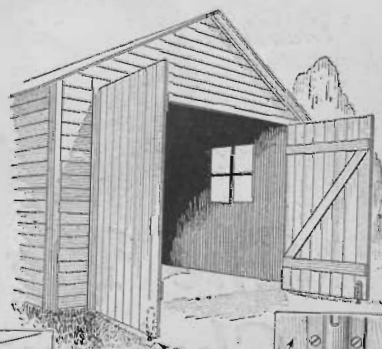
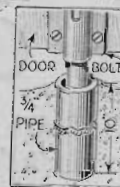


Fig. 3. Garage door bolts made from pipe driven into the ground



BUILDERS of small garages often find it necessary to economize as much as possible on garage hardware, and the items that almost always are crossed off the list in such cases are the standard door holders that keep the doors open while the owner drives in and out.

Simple but effective bolts to hold garage doors open are shown in Fig. 3. A couple of ordinary heavy door bolts can be fastened to the bottom edges of the doors, and the ends of the bolts locked into short pieces of pipe driven into the ground. In cases where the garage is fitted with an entry door at the back or sides, the bolts can be fitted on the inside and they then will serve also as door locks.

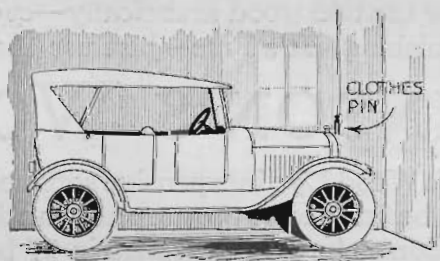


Fig. 5. A suspended clothes-pin serves as a guide in driving the car into the garage

A BENT bumper certainly detracts from the appearance of any car, yet most auto-owners hesitate about dismantling the whole bumper just to have the kink removed. Study Fig. 4 and you will see how an ingenious garage man has solved this problem. The most common bend is at the end, where a passing car has hooked on to the projecting end of the bumper.

As shown in the illustration, the way to take out such a kink is to get the end of the bumper at a convenient distance from a wall and then, after blocking all four wheels as solidly as possible, force the end of the bumper back into position with a jack braced against the wall.

Center bends can be straightened by bracing the base of the jack against the

frame and pushing the bumper outward as shown.

IN DRIVING a car into a small garage, perhaps the hardest part is to judge when the car has been driven in far enough so there will be no difficulty in closing the back door.

One simple solution of the problem is to get the car into the best possible position and then hang a clothes-pin from above so that it will just touch the radiator cap, as shown in Fig. 5. After that the owner need only drive in until the clothes-pin touches the cap and he will be absolutely sure that the back door will close.

A SIMPLE tool for the easy removal of felt packing can be made by bending a piece of heavy wire into the form of a corkscrew at one end, with a loop at the other end for a handle. As shown in Fig. 6, the wire end is screwed into the felt grease retainer and pulled out like the cork from a bottle.

THERE is one place where the tire gage does not belong, and that is in the toolkit, where it is sure to get clogged with dirt and damaged

by heavy wrenches and the tire jack. A good way is to buy a fuse clip the right size so that the tire gage will snap in tightly, as shown in Fig. 7. The clip can be fastened to the inside of the dash, where it will be protected, yet handy.

IF YOUR car is not used daily and consequently is idle for as much as a week or two at a time, it is a mighty good idea to turn off the gasoline at the valve which is always placed between the vacuum tank and the carburetor. Frequently, difficulty in starting can be traced to an empty carburetor and vacuum tank, caused by a slight leak in the needle valve which controls the supply of gasoline to the float chamber. A leak so small that it will not cause gasoline to drip, is sufficient to exhaust the supply stored in the vacuum tank.

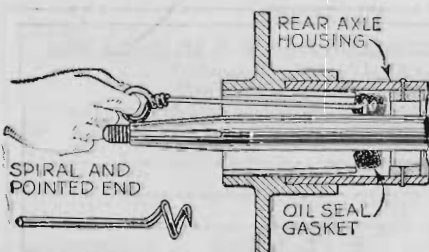


Fig. 6. This homemade corkscrew of heavy wire is useful in removing felt packing

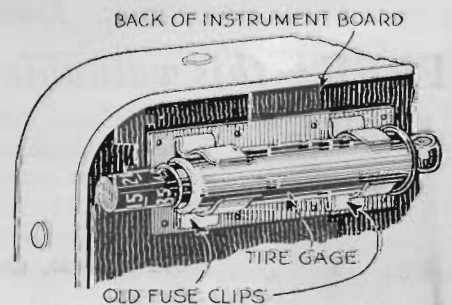


Fig. 7. A handy tire-gage holder on the dash, made from a correct-size fuse clip