

Ingenious Helps for Motorists

Eight Useful Kinks That Save Time and Annoyance

WHEN traveling in sections where gasoline stations are miles apart, it is wise to carry an emergency can of gasoline. Pouring from many styles of these cans is, however, not easy because of the location of the filler cap on the main tank. A simple solution of the problem is to use a section cut from an old inner tube, Fig. 1. Near one end of it cut a slit just large enough so that the nozzle can be forced into the opening. Tuck the other end of the inner tube into the filler opening, and the gasoline can be transferred from the emergency tank to the main tank without spilling it all over the rear end of the car.

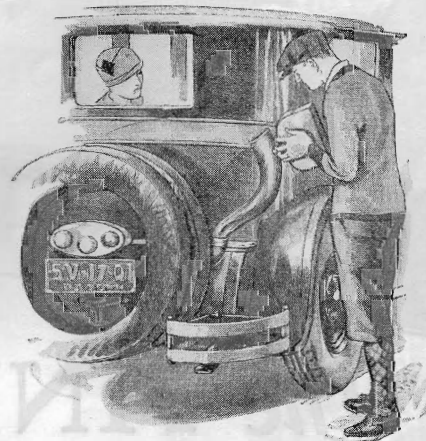


Fig. 1. New way to transfer gasoline from emergency to main tank

if it is not fitted with a loop. Set the opening so that the collar of the coat can be forced between the hooks.

IT IS becoming almost standard practice on low and medium priced automobiles to place the storage battery underneath the floor boards where it is hard to get at, and, as a consequence, thousands of motorists allow their batteries to go for long periods of time without adding water or cleaning the terminals. Such treatment is not good for the battery. To eliminate this difficulty, cut a square opening in the floor boards directly over the battery, nail two cleats underneath as shown in Fig. 2, and cut out a piece of board the right size to fit in the opening. Bore a finger hole so that you can lift out the board.

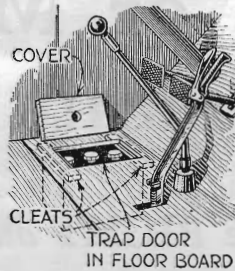


Fig. 2. This trap door makes it easy to inspect a battery or add water

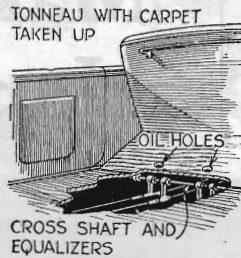


Fig. 3. Here is an excellent way to oil all the brake mechanism

AFTER an automobile spring shackle bolt has been in use for some time, wear takes place and allows some play between the parts. The result is rattling noises every time the car strikes a bump in the road. It is possible to eliminate the trouble by the proper use of heavy spring washers. The sharp corners should be ground off and a washer fitted under the bolt head, as shown in Fig. 5, on each shackle that has worn loose. Be sure that the hole in the washer is large enough to slip over the shoulder on the bolt, and be careful not to set the nut up too tight. Cotter pins are absolutely necessary in this arrangement, so be sure to drill a new hole for the cotter pin if the nut covers the old one.

JUST because a moving part of an automobile is out of sight does not mean that it can work for long periods of time without lubrication, even if it does not move continuously while the car is in motion. The rods and lever used to operate the brakes are in this class, and, because they cannot be lubricated without crawling under the car, they are frequently never oiled at all. Considerable wear takes place and after that they rattle most annoyingly. Instead of crawling under the car, lubricate them through holes bored in the floor boards as shown in Fig. 3. By locating the holes, oil dropped through the center of each hole will strike the right point if the car is level.

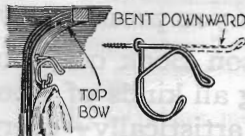


Fig. 4. This coat hanger will hold your coat even if loop is broken

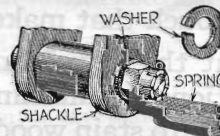


Fig. 5. Spring washers eliminate noise by taking up play in shackle

STUMBLING over a can of oil or barking your shins on some of the garden tools can be eliminated by fitting the ceiling light in your garage with a chain pull type of socket and then running one pull to each point at which you enter or leave the garage either on foot or in the car. As shown in Fig. 6, a good arrangement is to put a screw eye in the ceiling a short distance from the light and then run three cords through the opening and tie them to the end of the chain. Supported by another screw eye, one cord can be dropped by the back entrance door and the other two to each side of the main doors, where they can be reached easily from the car.

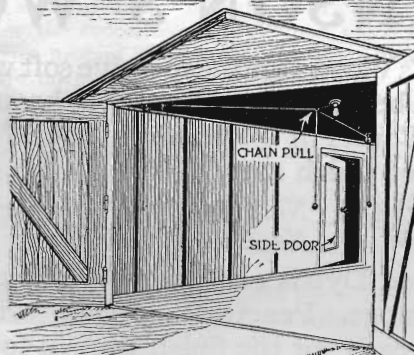


Fig. 6. A helpful arrangement for garage light

IN HOT summer weather, especially when driving with the wind, many drivers desire to take off their coats. Ordinarily, the coat is thrown over the back seat, where the jouncing soon throws it down on the floor. And if the car is crowded, some one is sure to sit on the coat and get it full of wrinkles. The simplest remedy is to buy an ordinary coat hanger and screw it into one of the bows of the top, as shown in Fig. 4. By bending the top hook down close to the lower one, the hanger will hold a coat even

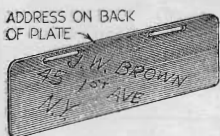


Fig. 7. Name scratched on back of license plate may bring it back to you

LICENSE plates on automobiles often work loose and drop off the bracket. You will find it worth while to scratch your name and address on the back of your new license plates with a sharp instrument so that if you lose a plate, the finder will be in a position to return it.

THE common method of deflating a tube is to screw out the valve, but this method often results in rolling the packing ring out of place or in destroying it completely so that the valve cannot be used again. To construct the special cap shown in Fig. 8, remove the inner rubber washer, drive a nail through the top just far enough so that it will open the valve and file a notch in the top to allow the air to escape. Be sure to file off the point of the nail so it will not slip off the valve stem.

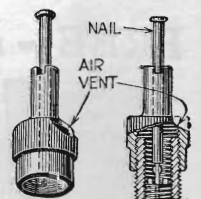


Fig. 8. Altered cap saves time in deflating tube, prevents injury to valve seat or washer

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

ERIC B. ROBERTS, of Regina, Saskatchewan, wins the \$10 prize this month for the brake shaft oiling idea in Fig. 3. Each month **POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY** awards \$10 besides space rates for the best idea for motorists. Other published contributions will be paid for at usual rates.