

Handy Kinks for Motorists

Easy ways to oil springs and stop curtains flapping—Other useful ideas for your car

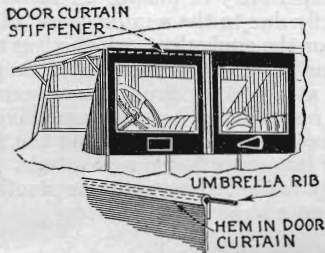


Fig. 1. How an old umbrella rib will stiffen window curtains and keep them from flapping in the wind

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

DR. J. W. AUSTIN, of San Jose, Calif., wins the \$10 prize this month for his suggestion of the whistle attached to the overflow pipe (Fig. 2). 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.

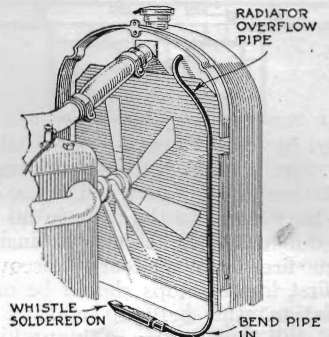


Fig. 2. Whistle soldered on the end of the radiator overflow pipe will give warning of overheated motor

WHEN the door curtains on your car begin to get old and floppy you probably will find that they sway in or out with each gust of wind and consequently afford little protection from the weather. An ingenious way to stiffen them is to open the end of the hem along the top and insert an old umbrella rib, as shown in Figure 1.

Whistle Indicates Boiling

YOUR motor always seems to over-heat and start boiling the water, if you have the misfortune to have it happen at all, at night when you can't see the thermometer on the radiator, or when, in the daytime, your attention is concentrated on the road or the scenery.

Of course, if you are going slowly in traffic the escaping steam will rise to warn you of trouble, but when you are traveling fast, you may not notice that something is wrong until serious damage has been done. A good way to make an infallible steam indicator is to solder a small whistle to the end of the overflow pipe, as shown in Figure 2. Day or night, the shrill blast of the whistle blown by the escaping steam will warn you to stop and investigate. A warning signal of this type is particularly valuable if your car is fitted with an automatic or hand-controlled radiator shutter. With the hand-controlled type, the whistle will blow and warn you to open the shutter if you happen to forget it.

hammer. Pressing down on the lever lifts up on the claws inserted under the cable clamp, and presses down on the post to which the clamp is stuck.

A Simple Spring Oiler

AS SHOWN in Figure 4, you can make an efficient spring oiler out of a piece of sheet iron, a broad lamp wick and a bolt. After you have cut a strip from the sheet iron long enough to reach a half inch or so below the edge of the spring on each side, place the strip on a piece of wood and with a center punch make a number of holes in the section that will cover the top of the spring. Then drill two holes, one at each end, fit the lamp wick in place over the spring, and bend

the sheet iron as shown in the illustration. Oil squirted on the top of the oiler will settle through the small holes at the bottom of the dents made by the center punch, and the wick will carry the oil down to the edge of each leaf.

Best results will be obtained if you fit two oilers on each spring, one on each side of the center fastening. If the springs are badly rusted, it is a good idea to mix a little kerosene with the oil.

An Emergency Hose Clamp

IF YOU happen to strip the threads on a hose clamp bolt so that it will no longer hold tightly, you can make a substitute out of a piece of wire and a large cotter pin, as shown in Figure 5. As you will note from the illustration, turning the cotter pin by means of a nail tightens the wire by winding it around the cotter pin. Ordinary galvanized iron or even copper wire will do.

In fitting a hose connection, it is a good idea to coat the end of the pipe with thick shellac before pushing the end of the hose on it, as shellac is insoluble in water, gasoline or oil and consequently will help make a tight joint.

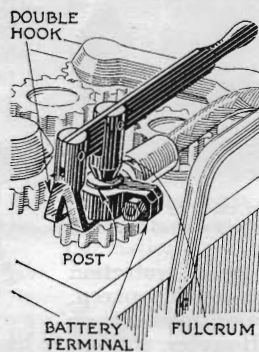


Fig. 3. Lever and hook device above is useful in removing corroded battery cable terminals

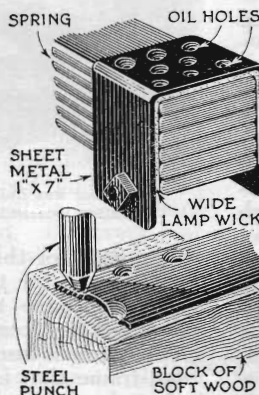


Fig. 4. Ingenious spring oiler made from a strip of sheet iron and lamp wick

New Battery Terminal Tool

FIGURE 3 shows a home-made tool that will prove effective in removing a battery terminal that is stuck fast to the lead post because of excessive corrosion. The device is a lever arrangement fitted with claws somewhat like those of a

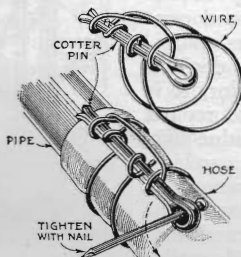


Fig. 5. Piece of wire and cotter pin makes hose clamp in an emergency

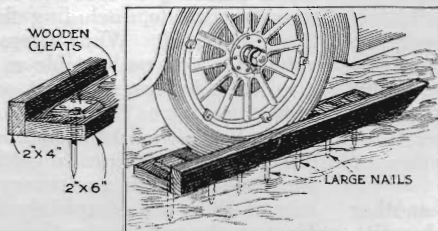


Fig. 6. A cleated and spiked board, with a guide rim along one edge, will help in getting your automobile out of mudholes

Spiked Board Pulls You Out

ORDINARILY only one rear wheel gets stuck in a mudhole in the road. If the mud is very soft, even chains may not prove of much use. However, you will find that a length of board fitted with wooden cleats, and through which a number of long spikes have been driven, as shown in Figure 6, will provide a path for the wheel out of the hole. Another board nailed along the edge will prevent the wheel slipping off. When not in use it can be strapped under the running board.