

The Month's Best Auto Ideas

Handy Kinks That May Save You Trouble or Get You Out of It—An Ingenious Opener for Garage Doors



Fig. 1. Incision in radiator, after the shell is removed, gives access to obstructing particles.

THE "neck of the bottle" in an automobile radiator is at the top of the cooling fins or tubes. Any foreign matter that floats around with the water always gets stuck at this point and the result is retarded circulation and a tendency for the motor to overheat.

Ordinary flushing will not remove serious obstructions. But you can get them out by the simple method shown in Fig. 1. Remove the radiator shell and with a sharp, strong knife make a curved incision. Then fold out the flap thus formed. Pick out the obstructions with a pointed instrument, push the flap back in place, and solder it. Radiators are made of thin sheet brass so this is easier than it looks.

A Tool Compartment Lock

A COMMON location for the tool compartment in the sedan or coach is under the front seat. Usually it is neces-

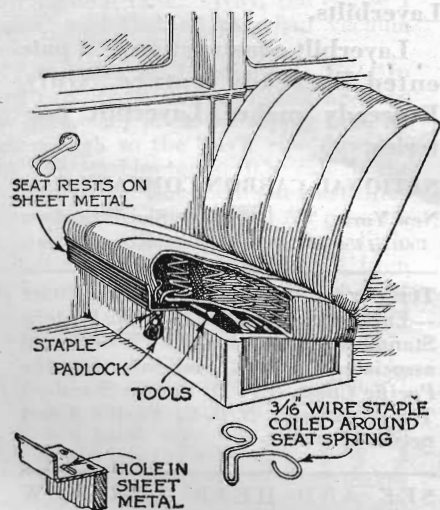


Fig. 2. By preventing lifting of the seat, this lock safeguards the contents of your tool compartment.

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

G. Solomon, of Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, wins this month's ten-dollar prize for his suggestion of a garage door opening device (Fig. 3). Each month Popular Science Monthly awards \$10, in addition to regular space rates, for the best idea sent in for motorists. Other contributions used are paid for at the usual rates.

sary to raise the front of the seat cushion and pull it forward in order to lift it out to get at the tools.

You can fit a lock, as shown in Fig. 2, that will prevent lifting the front edge of the seat cushion and thus prevent the theft or unauthorized use of your tools when the car is stored in a public garage.

Both Doors Open At Once

FIGURE 3 shows a novel fitting for any double garage doors. It is designed so that when you open or shut the door at

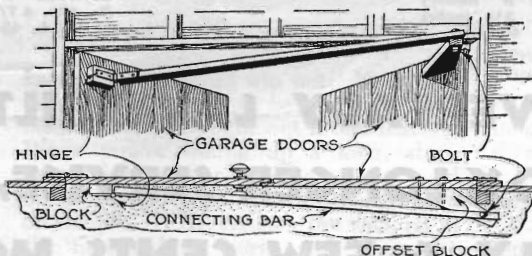


Fig. 3. Side and top views of the ingenious device for making double doors open at the same time.

the left in the illustration, the other door will open or shut automatically. The material you need consists of a board of sufficient length, three bolts, a strong iron hinge, and wood screws.

As you open the door at the left, a connecting bar, pulled along with it, opens the door at the right by pulling on the end of the offset block. In closing, the thrust of the connecting bar closes the door at the right.

Blowing Starts Siphon

AN INGENIOUS way to siphon gas from the tank of your car is illustrated in Fig. 4. Insert one end of a rubber tube deep into the gas tank; the other into a container. Then, wrapping your fingers around the tube where it enters the tank so as to make as air-tight a connection as possible, blow into the tank. The pressure will force the gasoline out.

You may find that a tighter connection can be made by wrapping your pocket handkerchief around your fingers.



Fig. 4. Blowing into the auto gas tank forces gasoline through a siphon tube into a container.

When the Battery Is Dead

IF THE battery is so low that the car won't start, even with the hand crank, a couple of flashlight batteries will do the trick. Fig. 5 shows how to connect them. Remove the ignition coil wire leading to the ignition switch, and replace it with a wire from one end of the two flashlight batteries connected in series (you must have at least four cells). Then connect the other end of the two batteries to the metal crank case.

Crank the motor, and when it starts, speed it up to send a charge through the storage battery. A few minutes' run will put enough charge in the battery so you can start the car again with the crank.

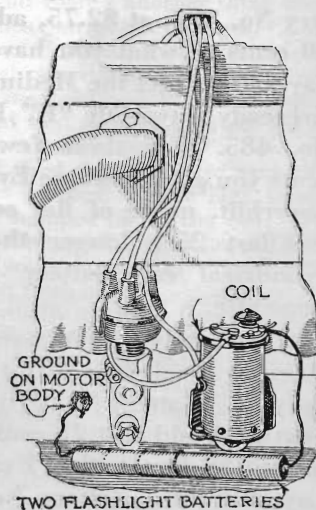


Fig. 5. How to wire two flashlight batteries to start the motor when storage battery is discharged.