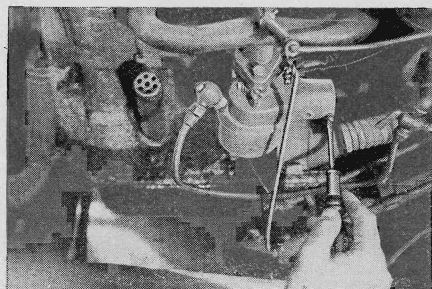


# Ideas for Car Owners

*Ingenious Suggestions Made by Our Readers That Will Save You Both Time and Trouble When Doing Repair Jobs on Auto at Home*



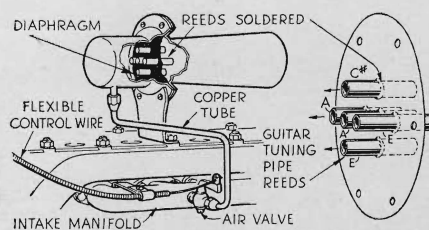
**A**FTER several discouraging and unsuccessful attempts to tighten the tie bolt on a car spring after replacing one of the leaves, I hit on the idea shown in the illustration. It not only eliminates the necessity of fighting the combined power of the spring but it also makes it possible to tighten the nut with the full assurance that none of the threads have been stripped in the process. The method consists simply of placing the head of the tie bolt in the vise so that its shank projects up. Then, starting with the largest spring, the leaves are dropped over the bolt and fanned out like the spokes of a wheel as shown. When all of the leaves are in place, it is a simple matter to run the nut up on the bolt with your fingers. All that remains then is to push the leaves into place one above the other. This can be done by forcing them around as far as they will go by hand and finishing the job with a rubber mallet. The spring can be placed on the flat top of a bench and pounded until the leaves line up. If no rubber mallet is available, cover the springs with a protecting layer of heavy cloth and use a mallet of the wooden variety. The bolt then can be tightened.—C. M. G.



## Stopping Vapor Lock by Cutting Out Preheater

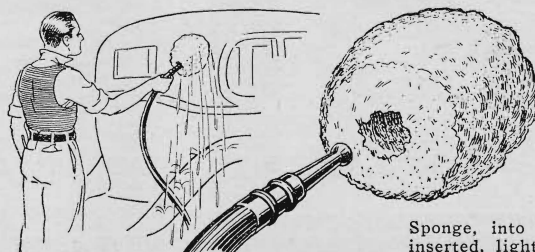
**I**F YOU drive an old-style car and are bothered with chronic vapor lock, it will pay you to inspect the air intake on the carburetor. On many of the models brought

out a number of years ago, a heater on the exhaust serves to warm the air entering the carburetor. This system worked out very well with old-style gasoline, but with the modern fuels it has a tendency to supply more preheating than is desired. The remedy, however, is a simple one. Merely unhook the flexible tubing that connects the heater to the carburetor by loosening the set screw that holds it in place and pulling the end of the tube free. This change has not only improved the general behavior of the writer's car but has given greater pick-up and a higher speed. Now, even in hot weather there is not the slightest indication of vapor lock.—L. Van T.

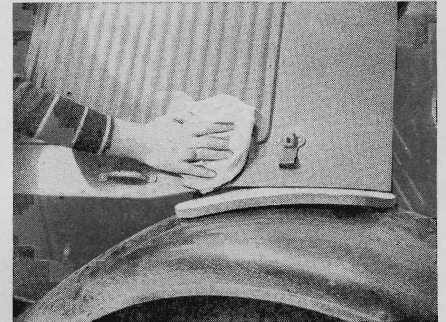


## Musical Vacuum Horn Made of Odd Parts

**B**Y COMBINING an old horn casing, a guitar tuner, some flexible copper tubing, an air valve, and a few other odds and ends, the amateur mechanic can assemble a novel musical horn for his car. Being connected to the intake manifold, the horn is operated by vacuum. As shown in the illustration, the tuner reeds, selected to form a musical chord, first are soldered in small holes drilled in the diaphragm. Then, when the rear horn chamber, which originally housed the fan motor, has been made air-tight, one end of the flexible tube is soldered over a hole drilled in the side of the casing. The other end of this tube leads to a lever-handled air valve (cock) mounted on the motor's intake manifold. Finally, a push rod leading to a convenient point on the dash board can be arranged for opening and closing the valve. When the valve is open, the air will be sucked through, and the reeds will sound their musical notes.—C. A. L.

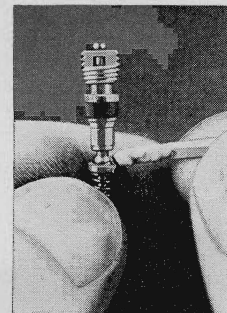


Sponge, into which nozzle of garden hose is inserted, lightens the job of washing your car



## New Suggestion for Polishing Car's Hood

**T**O ELIMINATE the back-breaking from hood polishing, the writer follows the method illustrated. The hood is lifted and then rested on a rubber or cloth pad placed on the front mudguard. Incidentally, the inexpensive sponge-rubber kneeling pads sold in most five- and ten-cent stores form a fine protection for the finish on the fender.—R. P.



## Use Soap to Seal Air Valve

**W**HEN the valve on an automobile tire refuses to close properly, causing a slow leak, it can be repaired with soap. Select a piece of soap that is soft from recent use and, after removing the valve from the tire stem, smear a bit of the soft soap on the rubber insert or seat and also on the rubber plug. The film of soap will form a perfect air-tight seal unless the valve is too badly worn.—K. M.

## Sponge on Garden Hose Speeds Car Washing

**A**N ORDINARY sponge, with a hole cut in it to take the nozzle of a garden hose, will form a handy addition to your car-washing equipment. The sponge, which can be wired in place or held with your hand, will prevent the water from splashing. Also, because fresh water is always being applied, the sponge will not smear or smudge. One rinsing is all that is required.—H. A.