

Kinks for Car Owners



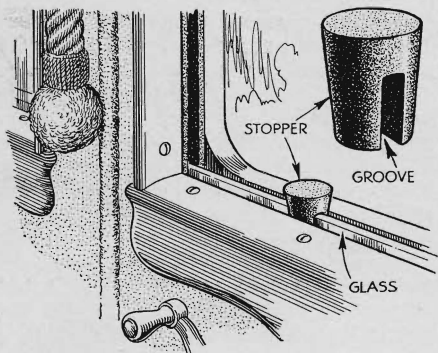
Wrapped around the intake manifold or carburetor, a bag of hot sand speeds up early-morning starts in icy weather

OUR READERS PASS ALONG HINTS THAT HAVE HELPED THEM TO KEEP THEIR AUTOMOBILES IN CONDITION

Hot Sand Bag Warms Cold Motor

ALTHOUGH starting cold motors generally can be made easier on icy mornings by pouring hot water over the intake manifold, the job of applying the water is cold and messy. A more convenient method makes use of a long, tubelike bag containing salt or sand. Placed in an oven, or on a radiator, and warmed, it will retain its heat for some time and can be wrapped around the intake manifold or carburetor easily and quickly. The bag, made from heavy canvas and partially filled with coarse ice-cream salt or sand, should be about three inches wide and three feet long. Salt seems to absorb heat faster and to hold it longer than sand. In warming the bag, care must be taken to prevent scorching the canvas cover.—A. H. W.

Bottle Stopper Silences Window Rattles

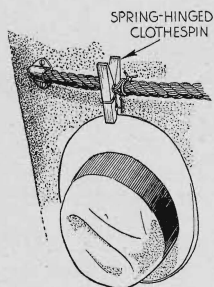


Grooved to take the edge of the glass, the stopper is wedged into the window opening

SEDAN and coupé windows that tend to rattle when they are down generally can be silenced with a grooved wedge made from an ordinary bottle cork or rubber stopper, as shown in the illustration at the left. Slotted to take the thickness of the glass, the cork is simply pushed down over the window and wedged between the edges of the opening. The cork will also help prevent breaking of the glass.—A. H.

Convenient Hat Holder Made from Clothespin

ON LONG drives, it is often difficult to know what to do with your hat when you do not feel like wearing it. I solved the



problem by tying an ordinary spring clothespin to the robe rope at the back of the front seat. The clothespin holds the hat securely and protects it from being crushed or smudged. When not used to hold my hat, the clothespin provides an excellent hanger for newspapers, road maps, or shopping lists. In the near future, I plan to install a second clip, near the other end of the robe rope. Then, in rainy weather, I'll have an improvised rack for the umbrella that now rattles around on the floor of the car.—A. McC.

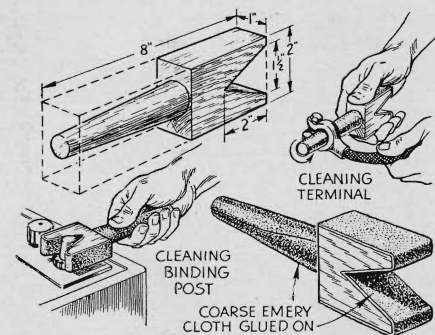
Bath Renews Old Gaskets

OLD VALVE-HEAD gaskets that have dried out often can be rejuvenated with a water bath. Simply place the shrunken gasket in a pail of warm water. After a short soaking, you will find that the cork has expanded sufficiently to make the unit fit perfectly.—E. J. N.



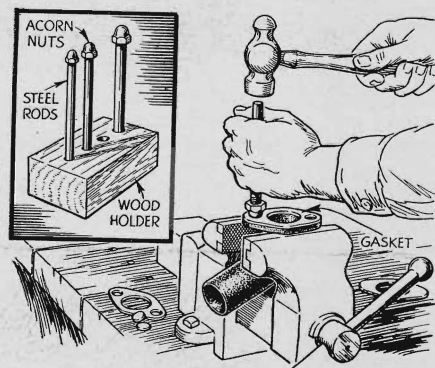
Odds and Ends form Handy Punch Set

FROM a selection of ordinary steel acorn nuts, the amateur mechanic can provide himself with an efficient set of punches for cutting stud holes in cork or composition gaskets. They need only be screwed on threaded steel rods, or on long bolts whose heads have been cut off. To punch the holes, the gasket is placed over the part, which serves as a pattern, and the punch held over the hole and hit with a hammer. Since acorn nuts are available in a wide variety of sizes, from three sixteenths of an inch to more than one inch in diameter, a punch for gasket holes of almost any size can be made. As shown in the illustration at the right, a wood block provided with holes forms a handy holder for the punch set.—H. W.



Homemade Battery Tool Cleans Terminal Posts

A HANDY tool for cleaning storage-battery terminals and cable clamps can be made from a scrap of wood and a few pieces of coarse emery cloth. Cut with a saw, whittled or turned to shape, and covered with the emery as shown above, the tool provides a V-shaped cleaner for the battery posts and a tapered emery stick for the inside surfaces of the clamps. Furniture glue or a cement of the transparent type can be used to hold the emery cloth in place.—W. A.



A set of acorn-nut punches, and how they are used to cut the stud holes in motor gaskets