

Handy KINKS for Your Car

Hooks for Tire Irons, Fender Tool, and Other Ideas

MANY a motorist has wished he had three hands when he tackled the job of changing tires. The third hand would be mighty useful for holding one tire iron in place while the second was applied, keeping the unruly tire from moving across the floor. An ingenious way to make up for the lack of a third hand is shown in Fig. 1. The ordinary type of tire iron, or one made from sections of old automobile springs, is drilled with a large hole at one end. A number of hooks are bent up from quarter-inch iron rod. By making these hooks of various lengths, the tire iron can be held at the point desired without fear of slipping.



Fig. 1. An ingenious way to improve tire irons—the hooks hold the tire in place, preventing it from slipping out of your grasp

careful to keep the rollers and the surface of the fender scrupulously clean, as a grain of sand or grit may cause the roller to slide and scratch the finish.

Hood Lock Prevents Tampering

IF YOUR car is stored in a public garage you will appreciate the advantage of locking your hood so that no one can experiment with the setting of your carburetor or tamper with the ignition. As shown in Fig. 3, a piece of strap iron is bent up, drilled and riveted to the hood. The slot for the U-bolt can be made by drilling a row of holes and filing. The U-bolt should be bent up and riveted to the frame.

Simple Syphon Starter

IT'S easy enough to start the gasoline siphoning out of a tank into a near-by can with no other apparatus than a length of rubber hose. But applying the necessary suction with the mouth generally results in getting a mouthful of gasoline, and gasoline these days is far from being a pleasant form of beverage. The difficulty can be eliminated by making up a small suction pump from a discarded bicycle tire pump, as shown in Fig. 2. The washer is reversed and an outlet pipe soldered on near the cap. One stroke of the pump will start the gasoline flowing steadily.

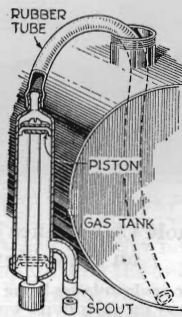


Fig. 2. Simple siphon starter, made from a discarded bicycle pump

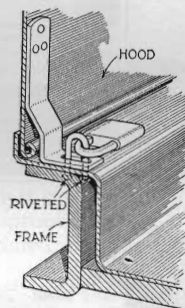


Fig. 3. Efficient lock for auto hood made of a piece of strap iron bent up and riveted in place

Notches Hold Choker Rod

ON COLD mornings it is a nuisance to have to hold the choker rod out until the motor gets warmed up. If your car is fitted with a choke device that snaps back when released, you can fix it so that it can be set at any desired point by filing a series of notches in the stem as shown in Fig. 5.

Snap-on Radiator Covers

SNAP fasteners of the type used to hold auto curtains in place are equally good for holding the radiator cover. They can be applied at any point on the front surface of the radiator as indicated in Fig. 6. If you put in two rows and make two sizes of radiator covers, the smaller one could be used in mild weather and the large one when the thermometer gets down around the freezing point.

The spout should be attached to the pump barrel far enough from the end so that the plunger will pass by it and leave an unimpeded path for the gasoline to continue flowing.

Use a New Gasket

WHEN you replace the cylinder head after scraping out the carbon, it is desirable to use a new cylinder-head gasket. If you are very careful in removing the head the old gasket may not be damaged, but the safest way is to use a new gasket, and so avoid chance of leakage.

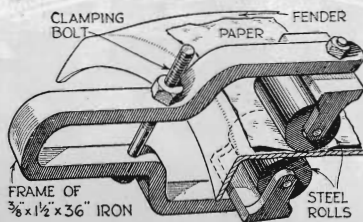


Fig. 4. This novel device will iron out dents in your fender without marring the finish at all

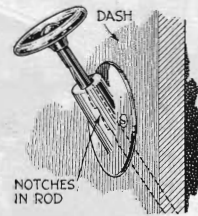


Fig. 5. A notched choker rod proves a great convenience on winter mornings

A Veneer Sun Vizard

FIG. 7 shows how to make a simple sun vizard. Three-ply veneer is excellent, as it is light and warps little. After you have bent the brackets out of $\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch iron, cut the veneer to the right size and fasten it in place. Two small strips of molding along the front edge, as shown, will greatly improve the appearance, and dark green lacquer makes an excellent finish.

Irons Out Dents in Fender

WHILE it is possible to remove small dents in your fenders by means of a sand bag and a leather hammer, the novel device shown in Fig. 4 will iron them out

in fine style without damaging the finish. The frame is bent up from heavy iron as illustrated, and fitted with a clamping bolt and two rollers of the type used as casters on factory hand trucks.

Strong brown paper should be placed between the rollers and the enameled surface of the fender. Pressure is increased by turning the nut as the rollers are moved back and forth over the dent. Be

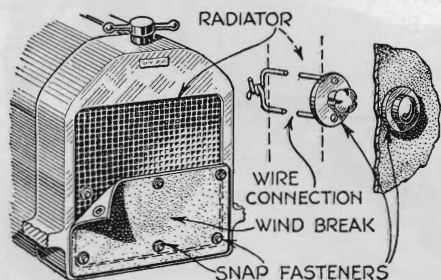


Fig. 6. Snap-on radiator covers are neat in appearance and eliminate dangling flaps

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

WELLS E. TUCKER, of St. Louis, Mo., wins the \$10 prize this month for his suggestion of hooks to improve tire irons (Fig. 1). Each month POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards \$10 in addition to regular space rates to the reader sending in the best idea for motorists. Other contributions that are published will be paid for at usual rates.

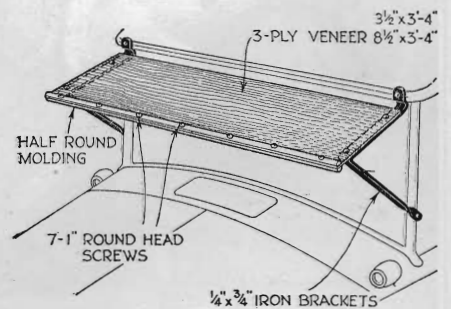


Fig. 7. A sun vizard you can make yourself out of materials that are not hard to obtain