Helpful Hints for Your Car

Windshield Sleet Wiper—Ending Cold Drafts—Other Useful Kinks

EVERY motorist quite frequently encounters the peculiar combination of atmospheric humidity and sudden temperature change that results in heavy fog forming on the inside of the windshield. The ordinary wiper, either mechanical or hand operated, wipes only the outside of the windshield and the driver continually has to wipe the fog from the inside of the glass in order to obtain clear vision.

Then there usually is trouble in winter with sleet freezing on the glass, in spite of the operation of the wiper. Fig. 1 shows how to eliminate both fog on the inside of the glass and freezing sleet on the outside. Remove the regular rubber wiper and substitute a tubular piece with a strip of felt let into a slot in its side as shown. A mixture of alcohol and glycerin

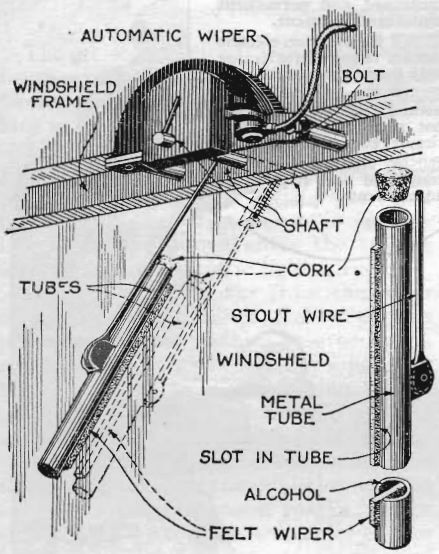

Fig. 1. Adjustment of a felt wiper to take sleet from outside or fog from inside of windshield

poured into the tube will allow the wiper to keep the glass clear in a sleet storm. A duplicate tube fitted to a special arm will take care of the inside of the glass in the most severe weather.

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

WALTER S. ESTBY, of Buhl, Minn., wins the $10 prize this month with his suggestion of a windshield wiper improvement (Fig. 1). Each month POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards $10, in addition to regular space rates, to the reader sending in the best suggestion for motorists. Other contributions published are paid for at the usual rates.

A Good Remedy For Cold Feet

WHILE it would be possible to fit the floor boards of an automobile so carefully that there would be no space around the pedals for air to blow through, most cars aren't made that well, and consequently there always is a blast of cold air coming up around the brake and clutch pedals in winter.

The result is cold feet and discomfort. The remedy is to fit a supporting plate covered with a piece of sponge rubber on each pedal at a point where it will press lightly against the underneath side of the floor board when the pedal is in the up position, as shown in Fig. 2. The idea is equally useful in summer to keep the heated air under the hood from burning your feet.

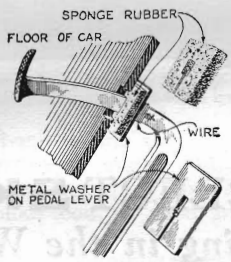

Fig. 2. A plate covered with sponge rubber, fitted on a pedal, keeps the cold air from chilling the feet

Putting a felt pad under the floor mat in both the front and rear compartments also helps to keep the car warm and also makes the car more silent, absorbing the rumbling and rattling noises.

For Use on Steep Hills

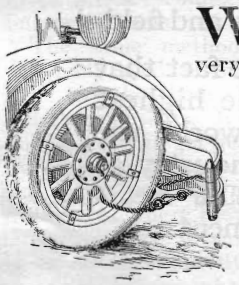

Fig. 3. A simple brake is made with a rope, ring and snaffle hook that fastens wheel and front bumper

WHEN you park your car on a very steep hill there is always the chance that some mischievous child will throw off the emergency brake and allow the car to coast down the grade into a serious accident. There are times, too, when you have to change a rear tire on a steep hill and you have to release the emergency brake in order to turn the wheel. On such occasions, you will find that a short piece of rope fitted with a ring on one end and a snaffle hook on the other will prove useful. As shown in Fig. 3, the rope is snapped in place around the rim of one wheel and the bumper. It will keep the car from coasting even if the brake is released.

Waterproof Glue for Tops

THERE are a number of waterproof cements on the market, but if you cannot secure any in your locality, a satisfactory waterproof glue can be made at home by taking an ordinary small bottle of glue and stirring in a teaspoonful of water to which has been added five or ten grains of potassium bichromate. The glue must be hot. After this mixture has dried and been exposed to the sun for a few hours, it will not dissolve or soften in water. It is fine for painting into small cracks in the top of a closed body and to repair a leak, and it looks much neater than a patch. On open car tops a neat repair can be made by using this waterproof glue to attach a patch to the inside of the fabric.

Wires Brace Garage Door

IF THE garage doors are sagging so that they no longer close properly, the best remedy is to have them taken down and repaired by a competent carpenter, but a temporary job can be done that will actually pull the doors back in place and prevent any further sag by drilling holes as shown in Fig. 4. Then a piece of stout galvanized wire is looped through the holes as indicated, and a bolt or spike used to twist the wire to take up the slack. Considerable tension can be obtained in this way—enough to pull the door into shape.

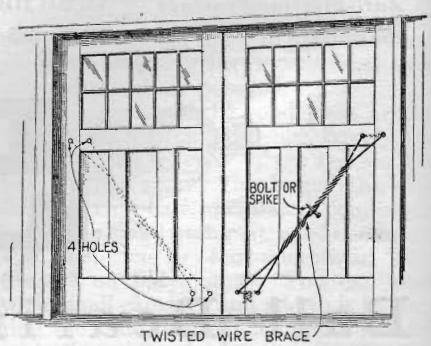

Fig. 4. Sagging garage doors are temporarily made right by drilling holes, running wire through them and then twisting it with an iron spike or heavy bar until the wire is as taut as possible