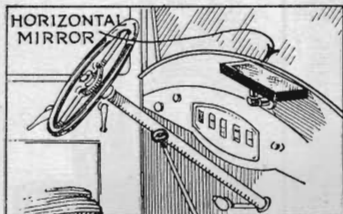


Helpful Hints for Motorists

Mirror Keeps Traffic Lights in View—Tool Compartment That Locks—Handy Spouted Can—Light Tells When Brake Is On



Traffic Light Mirror

THE combination of high-swung traffic lights and low closed car tops has resulted in a difficult problem for the motorist. When you pull up to the indicated white line on the pavement because the red "stop" light is on, you usually find that you can no longer see the light without bending forward and squinting upward. Sometimes, of course, you can watch the traffic light a few blocks farther on, and occasionally you can keep tabs on them by watching the light two or three blocks behind you by means of your rear vision mirror. A simple way to eliminate the need for bending forward and looking upward is shown in Fig. 1. Any standard type of rear vision mirror can be mounted at any convenient point on the dash and so adjusted that it will reflect to your eyes the traffic light you find it necessary to watch.

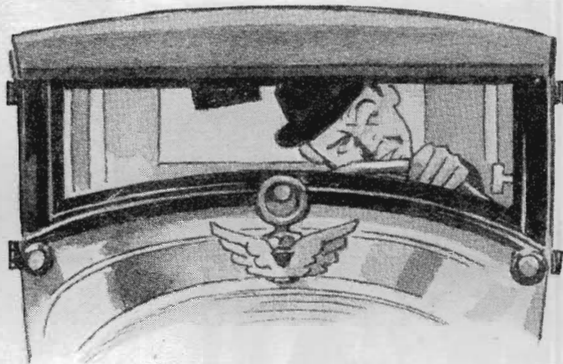


Fig. 1. In order to avoid squinting under the sunshade to determine when the traffic light changes, mount a mirror as illustrated in the drawing at the left

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

JOHN ODILL, of Norway, Mich., wins the \$10 prize this month with his suggestion for a brake position indicator (Fig. 4). POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards \$10 each month, in addition to regular space rates, for the best suggestion sent in for motorists. Other contributions published are paid for at the usual rates.

A Locked Tool Compartment

WHILE many motorists have no scruples about borrowing tools from a near-by car if the tools are not locked up, relatively few auto owners will break open a lock to get at the tools. Therefore, any kind of lock is better than leaving the tool compartment without any protection. The drawing in Fig. 2 shows a simple tool compartment built into the door. The usual fabric, cardboard or veneer covering on the inside of the door is removed and replaced with a

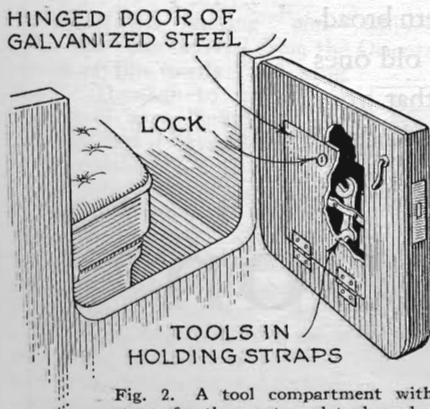


Fig. 2. A tool compartment with straps for the most used tools and a galvanized steel door fitted with a good lock will keep the tools safe



Fig. 3. An old oil or varnish can is easily fitted with a spout made of a funnel. It will prove a timesaver and save spilling when adding oil to crank case

sheet of galvanized sheet steel with a door fitted into it. Loops of leather are arranged to hold the tools that you are most likely to need in a hurry. The hinges of the door should be held in place with rivets, and if carefully fitted and equipped with a good lock it will resist the efforts of any but a determined crook.

Handy Spouted Can

POURING oil or any other liquid from a large can without spilling is extremely difficult, especially when the can is nearly full. Then, too, a funnel that stands around the home garage catches a lot of grit and dust that is carried into the motor crank case each time the funnel is used. Fig. 3 shows how to arrange a large oil can to eliminate these troubles. A hole is cut in the side with a can opener and a small funnel is soldered in place over the hole. The handle on the top of the can is unsoldered and resoldered in place on the side of the can opposite the funnel, making pouring of oil easy.

Light Shows Brake Position

IT IS safe to say that practically every driver of an automobile occasionally attempts to start his car with the emergency brake set. Ordinarily, the driver notices something is wrong at once and so no damage is done, but there have been many cases where propeller or axle shafts have been snapped off or transmission gears seriously damaged. And there are many otherwise excellent drivers who never seem to get over the habit of forgetting to release the emergency brake. Fig. 4 shows a novel way to prevent this trouble. A special lamp automatically indicates when the emergency brake is on, but it lights only if the ignition also is turned on, and therefore does not stay lit when you leave the car with the emergency brake set.

An excellent lamp for this purpose would be one of the red or green jeweled indicating lights sold for use on the panels of radio receivers. Another simple arrangement would be an ordinary flush type socket with a two-candlepower bulb, colored red or green. The wiring diagram for this indicator is shown below.

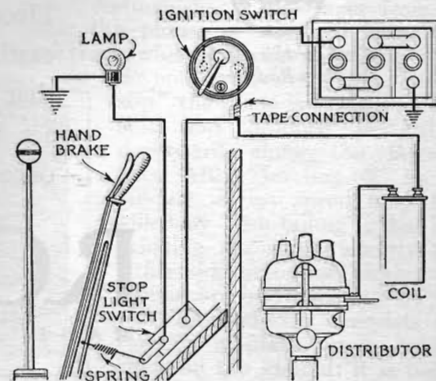


Fig. 4. An indicator light fastened to the dashboard and wired in this way will save you from attempting to start the car with the emergency brake set