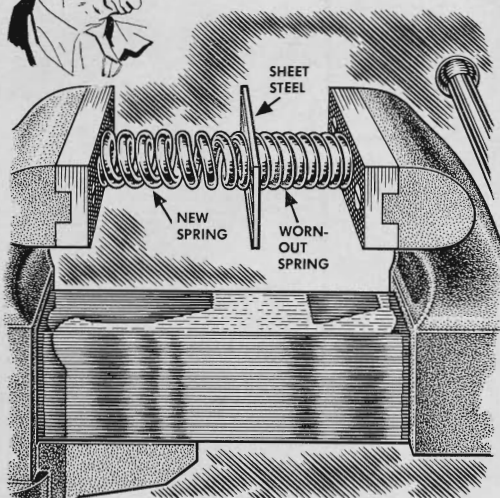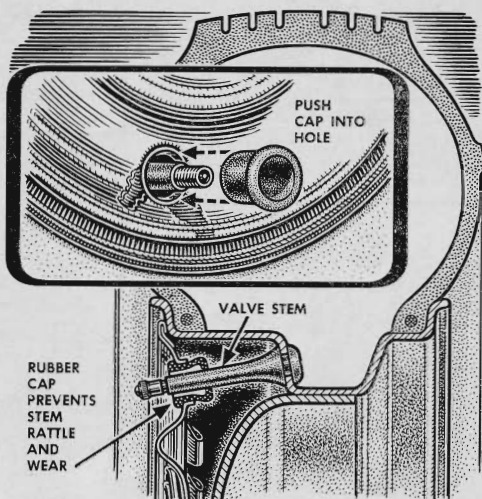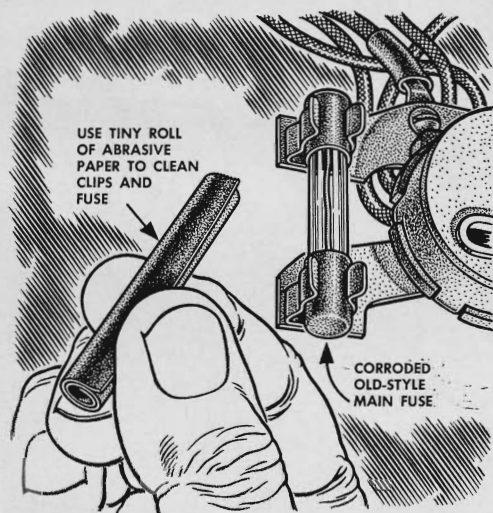# Hints from the Model Garage
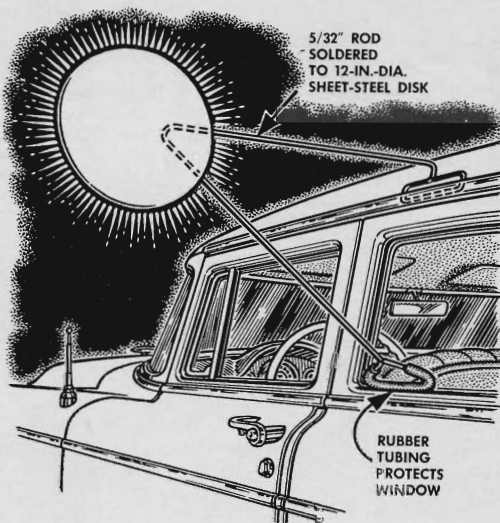
Spring check-up. To find whether a valve spring is too weak for further use, compare it with a new spring like this. Close the vise jaws just enough to support the two springs, then measure the length of each—the new one and the old one.

Valve-stem guard. Valve stems may rattle against the edges of the hole in a wheel cover. Also, the cover itself may shift, cutting the stem. To avoid both annoyances, slip a distributor-terminal nipple over the valve stem.
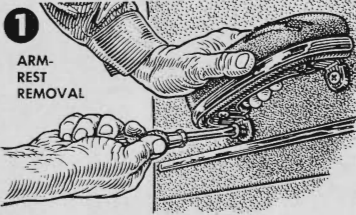
Light brightener. On an older car where the main fuse has been in place for years, corrosion may be reducing output from the head lamps. Cleaning the clip and fuse with abrasive paper will often make the lights much brighter.
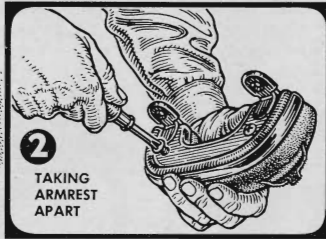
Emergency signal. For night breakdowns along the highway one motorist carries this warning signal in his trunk. The disk can be coated with reflective paint or covered with reflective tape. A pie plate could be used as the disk.
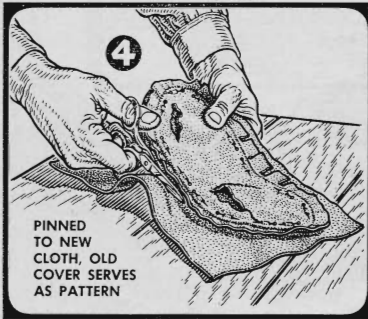
More Hints from the Model Garage
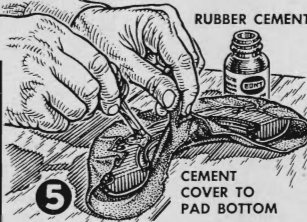
① ARM-REST REMOVAL

② TAKING ARMREST APART

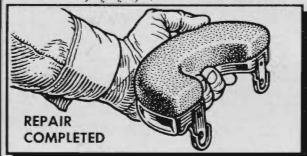**③** STRIPPING WORN-OUT COVER FROM SPONGE-RUBBER ARM PAD

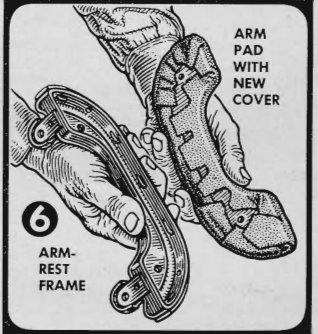**④** PINNED TO NEW CLOTH, OLD COVER SERVES AS PATTERN

RUBBER CEMENT

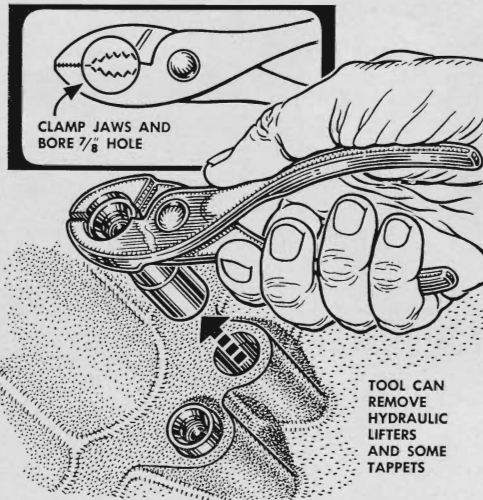**⑤** CEMENT COVER TO PAD BOTTOM

REPAIR COMPLETED
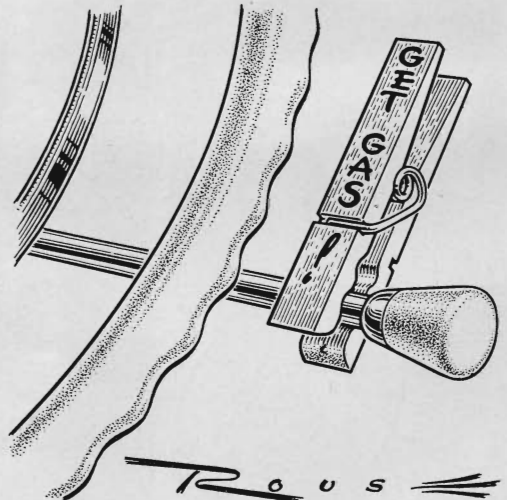
⑥ ARM-REST FRAME

ARM PAD WITH NEW COVER

Armrest repair. As a car grows older it's natural that the armrest on the driver's door should wear through on the top. When this happens, a new cover can be put on easily, using material that either matches or contrasts with the original upholstery. The normal sequence of operations is shown here. After applying cement as in Figure 5, shape the material to the pad, carefully smoothing it on the upper surface. Reassemble the armrest and the cover will remain taut.

CLAMP JAWS AND BORE 7/8 HOLE

TOOL CAN REMOVE HYDRAULIC LIFTERS AND SOME TAPPETS

GET GAS

Rouse

Lifter remover. One mechanic has converted an old pair of pliers into a tool for removing hydraulic lifters. The tool can also be used to remove tappets in those cars where it isn't necessary to approach them from below.

Get-gas reminder. When gas is low, remind yourself and other drivers in the family to refuel next time the car is out. Snap a market clothespin on the shift lever or steering wheel. Keep it on the sun visor when it's not in use.