Six Kinks *for* Car Owners

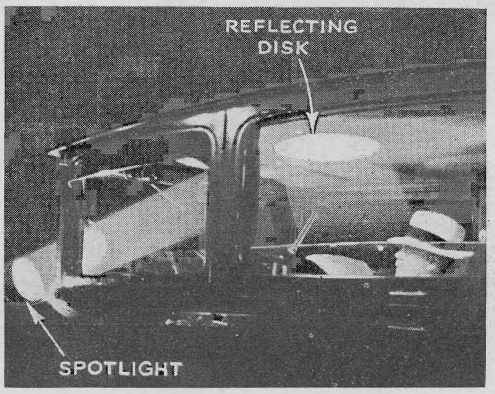
One of These Timely Suggestions, Contributed by Other Readers, May Help You To Solve a Vexing Problem In Driving or Caring for Your Auto

If the filter casing warms up promptly, the filter is not clogged

BECAUSE its inner workings are completely concealed inside a metal cylinder, it is difficult to tell whether a car's oil filter is too badly clogged to operate properly. However, a simple test that will give some idea of its condition can be made by feeling the filter casing after the motor has been run for several minutes to insure a steady flow of oil. If the filter is warm, it is working properly; if not, the probability is that it is partly clogged and a trip to the service station would be advisable. This test should be made shortly after starting the motor and before the engine heat has warmed the filter.—W. C. F.

Reflector Gives Light for Reading

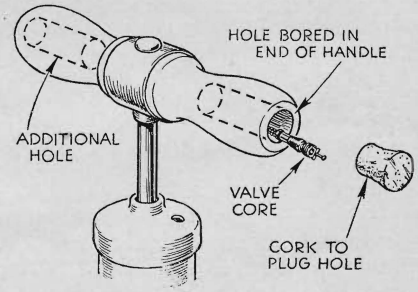
FOR READING, making repairs, or studying a map at night the usual car dome light affords poor illumination. To overcome this, I cut a fifteen-inch metal disk from the bottom of a five-gallon oil can, painted it white, drilled a hole in its center and mounted it over the center of the front seat with a screw driven into one of the wooden bows in the car top. When I need light, I simply turn the car spotlight so its beam comes through the windshield, strikes the disk, and is reflected downward.—K. F. K.



A metal disk fastened to the ceiling of the car reflects a beam of light thrown by outside spotlight

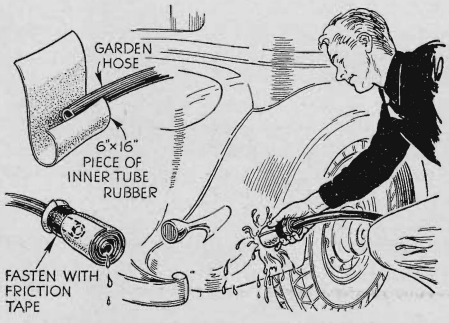
Holes in Pump Handle Hold Valve Parts

BY DRILLING small holes in each end of your tire-pump handle, you can provide yourself with a handy storage place for spare tire-valve cores. The holes, drilled about a half inch deeper than the overall length of the valve cores, can be plugged with small corks as shown in the illustration below.—E. J. N.



Rubber Hose Nozzle Aids in Car Washing

CAKED mud can be removed from a car body and fenders without danger to the finish by using the easy method illustrated. Cut a sheet of rubber about six inches wide and sixteen inches long from an old inner tube and, after removing the nozzle from your garden hose, wrap the rubber strip around the hose so that it overlaps the end about three inches. Fasten it with a strip of friction tape. With a small amount of water running through it, the rubber coil will take off the mud easily.—A. H. W.

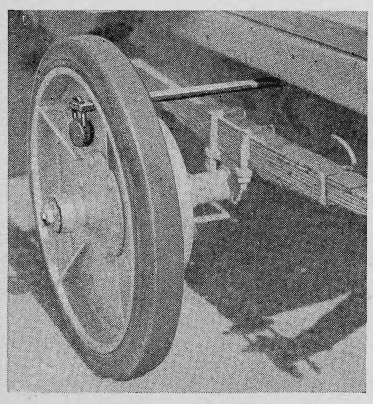


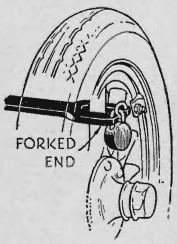
Tube rubber rolled around hose removes mud

Metal Bumper Shields Protect Car Finish

TO PROTECT the rear body surfaces and fenders on my new car from pebbles thrown up by the rear wheels, I have installed sheet-metal shields under each end of the bumper. These shields, made of the same weight metal as the fenders and painted to match, deflect any sticks or stones to the road.—C. B. P.

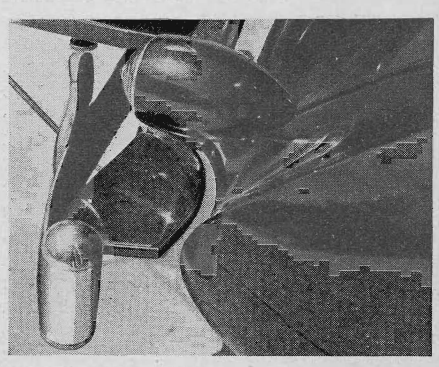
Long Iron Bar Locks Trailer's Wheels





Trailer wheels are locked securely by this simple device. The drawing shows how it is adapted for spoke wheels

FROM a long iron bar and two heavy padlocks you can make an effective lock for a trailer. Passed between the body and the springs, through the wheels, and padlocked at each end, the bar will make it impossible to move the trailer more than a few inches. If the trailer has solid disk wheels, a narrow slot can be cut through each wheel to receive the bar. For spoke wheels, a forked bar, similar to that shown in the drawing, can be used.—H. S.



Shield attached to bumper deflects pebbles