

The Patrol Books No. 25

Scout Spare Time Activities

By Calamo

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Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

If you find them offensive, we ask you to please delete this file from your system.

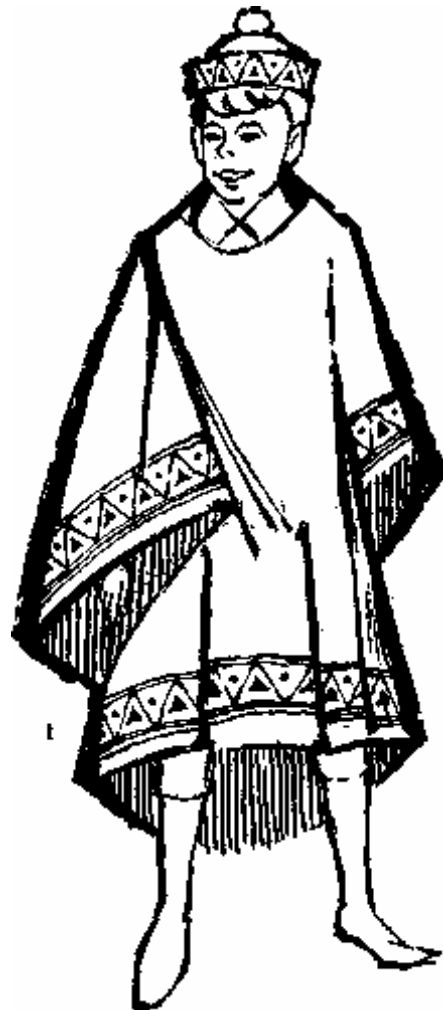
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MAKE A PONCHO

A Scout who likes camping enjoys the and of the day when he can sit around the Camp Fire, whether it's at Gilwell or a County or District Camp with perhaps hundreds of other Scouts, or just with three or four of his friends round their Patrol fire, chatting while they wait for cocoa. But In any case he'll need to "put something on", for British Summer evenings are usually chilly and it's now that some sort of Camp Fire Blanket comes in handy. Of course you can put on a pullover or a raincoat but neither of these gives quite the same backwoods I'm-a-real-camper feeling *as* does a special garment for the Job. And a blanket from your bed means that you've got to make your bed lust when you're ready to go to sleep.

One of the best and easily made Camp Fire Blankets is the Poncho. Worn originally by the cowboys of South America, It has three advantages of being easy to make, being warm, and leaving the arms free when you want them free. And of course you can decorate it with badges or cut-outs of felt and the like.

Lay out your blanket and make a slit about a foot long, oversewing the raw edges. Slip your head through, short length in front It may be worn loose or it may be brought from the back and the edges if the long length held together In front to keep warmer.



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Sew on your collection of County or Camp Badges, or diagrams in wool or cut-out shapes in brightly coloured felt or other suitable material.

MAKE A REFLECTOR OVEN

A Scout should be a good camper (some people say Scouts invented good camping!) and a good camper is certainly a good cook, and an ambitious cook, who isn't content just to fry sausages or boil potatoes but likes to be able to grill and bake and roast and to try out all sorts of varied and tasty menus. Cooking is tremendous fun and making a reflector fire will help you to become better cooks and have greater fun!

You need: A piece of sheet metal (aluminium or tin plate) 18 ins. x 24 ins., 6½ ft. of weld rod, ½ in. diameter, which should be of steel with a brass finish or solid brass.

If you're not sure how to get the aluminium or tin plate ask around your town—probably a plumber or an ironmonger will advise you.



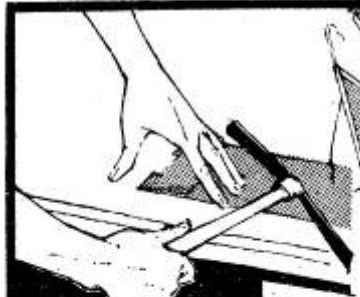
With a straight ruler and a pencil mark your metal according to plans. Cut along lines.



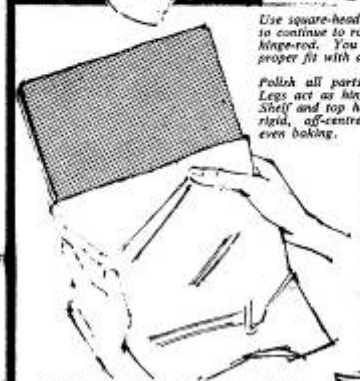
Use a file to smooth all edges. Inside angles must be sharp, while outside corners should be well rounded.



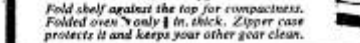
The hinges are easy if you work slowly and carefully. Start the roll by bending metal over edge of right-angle board.



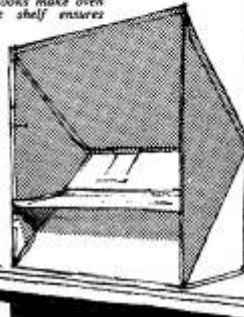
Use square-headed tack hammer to continue to roll evenly around hinge-rod. You can adjust to proper fit with a knife.



Polish all parts and assemble. Legs act as hinges, go on last. Shelf and top hooks make oven rigid, off-centre shelf ensures even baking.



Fold shelf against the top for compactness. Folded oven is only 1 in. thick. Zipper case protects it and keeps your other gear clean.



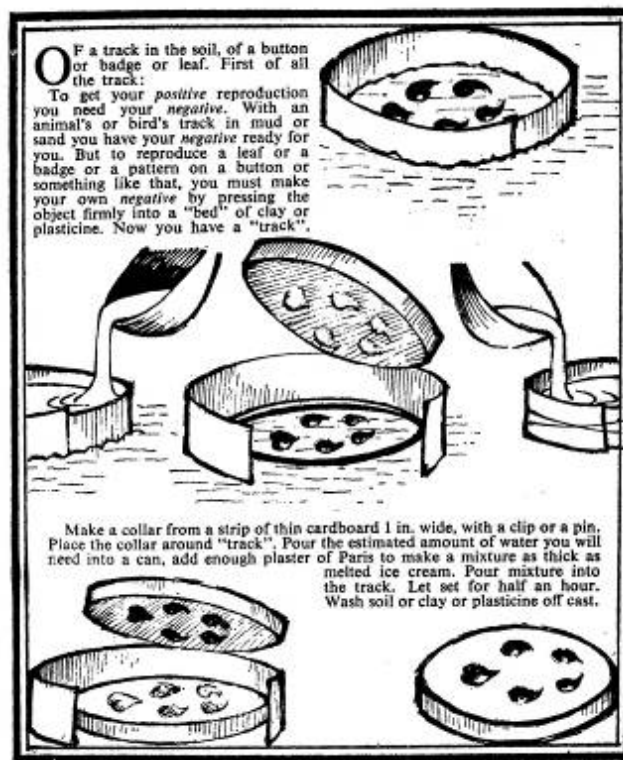
Scout Spare Time Activities

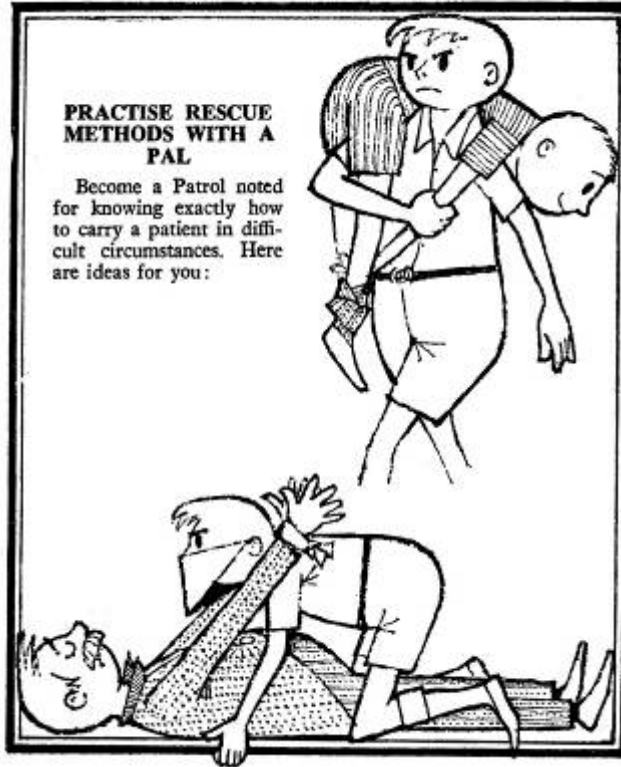
We made our oven of 20 gauge aluminium but it would be cheaper to use galvanised tin, or why not get an old, large biscuit tin which is 9½ in. deep: by reducing the length of the cooker's plan by 2½ in. we should have a cooker costing merely the cost of the biscuit tin!

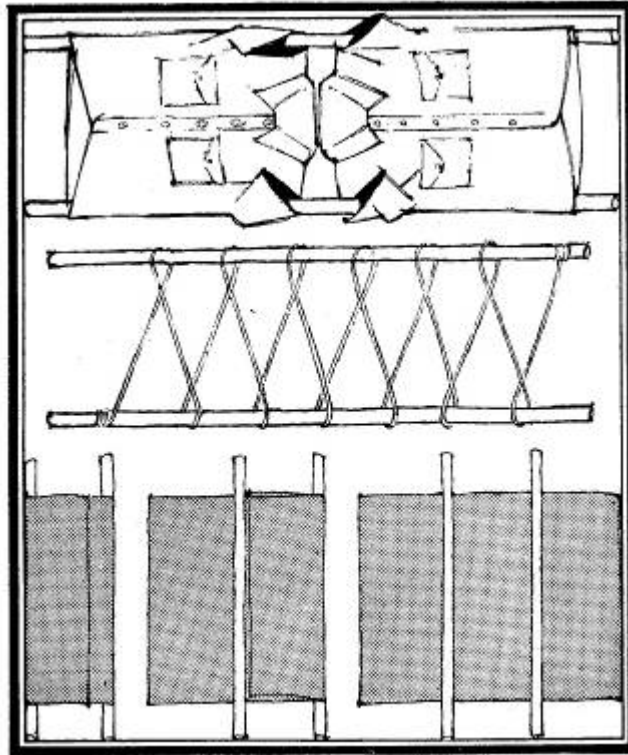
As for tools, you'll have to borrow from Dad or Skip; a hammer, a file, pliers, a board with a square edge and tin snips.

To use the oven, you need a good glowing fire of hard wood: your oven should face into the wind.

MAKE A PLASTER CAST

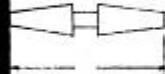






TOGGLE ROPE

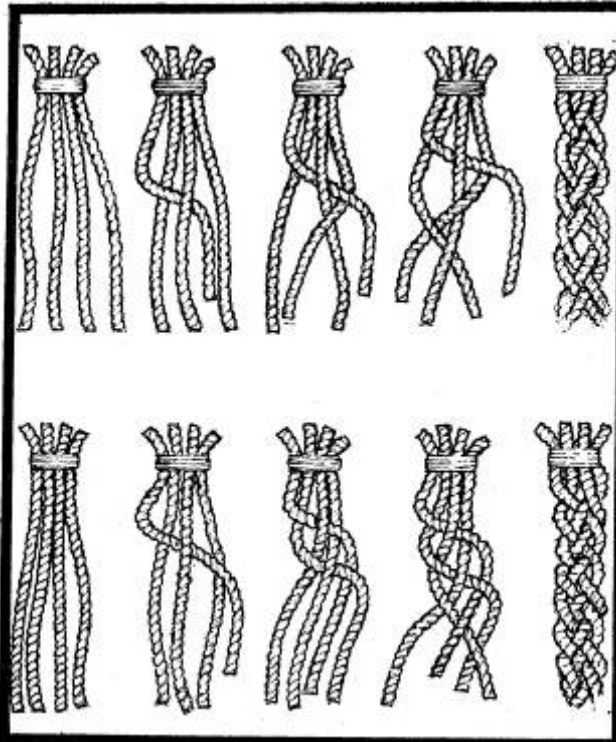
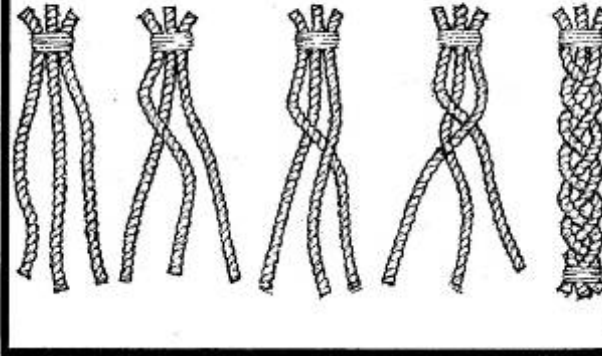
THE toggle rope came into prominence during the last war, especially with Commandos, who often in the course of duty had to scale walls, climb cliffs, cross deep streams. Most of the tasks required large quantities of bulky rope. Rather than burden a few men with such an awkward load, each soldier was given a piece of rope about six feet in length, and three quarters to one inch in diameter, with an eye splice on one end and a toggle on the other, secured by means of another eye splice. The open eye splice was large enough to allow a toggle to fit through with no danger of the toggle slipping.

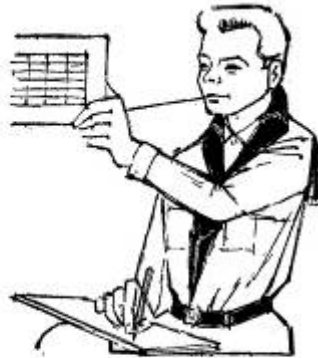
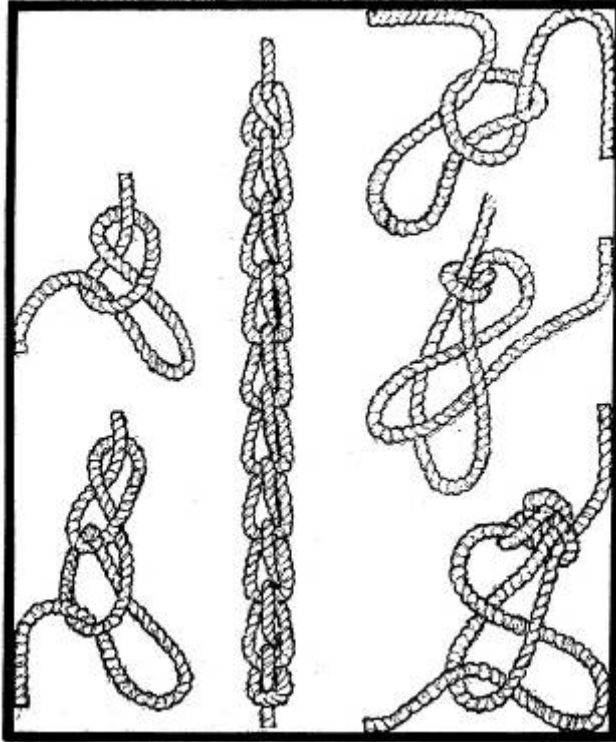


Just imagine the many and varied uses of the toggle rope on hikes, in pioneering, or for emergency measures such as life saving or restraining crowds.

SENNITS

SENNITS are plaits and braids made from cord and can be used for lanyards or tent "spiders" or belts or dog-leads or in any way when a decorative cord would be appropriate. The drawings below should make it clear to you how to "work" four of the simpler sennits. The different cords can of course be of different colours and by "cords" can be meant any handicraft material which will braid. Made with these, "boondoggles" as the American Scouts call their lanyards can be a wonderful selling line for your Patrol or Troop funds.

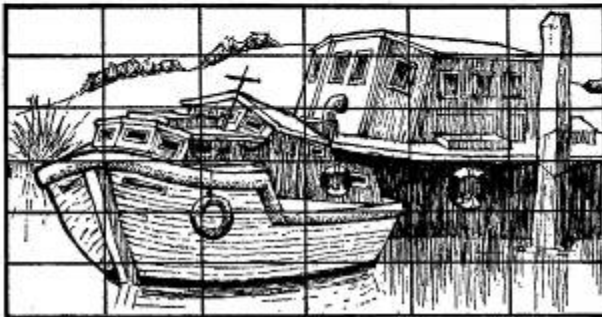
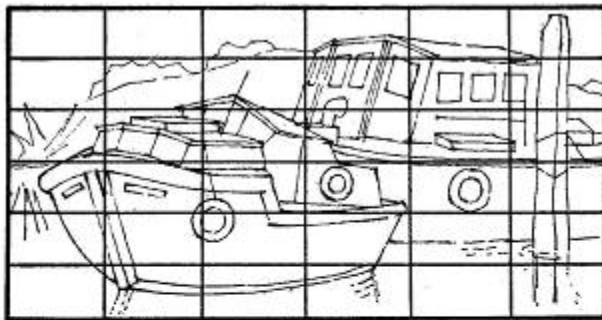
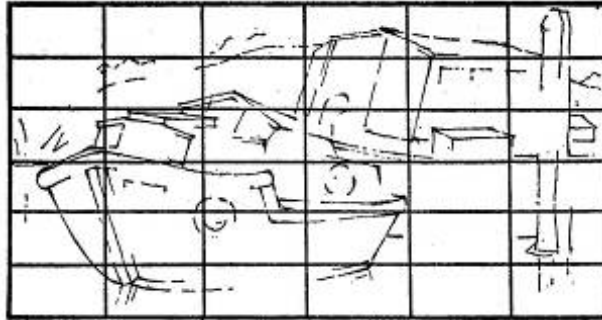




PANORAMIC SKETCHING

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EVERY Scout should practise panoramic sketching. To help make yourself a “sighting frame” you’ll need either strong cardboard 4 in. by 8 in. out of which the “windows” are cut so that a thin grating or net results, or a wooden frame, strung with string to form a lattice work. The cord which is fixed to the bottom corners and which passes round the neck, controls the regular distance of the frame from the eye and this determines the section of the landscape which you want to sketch. A little plumb line (small blobs of lead fixed to cord) at the two bottom corners helps, too. The grating lines are copied on to the sheet of paper and now our drawings will show you how you proceed.



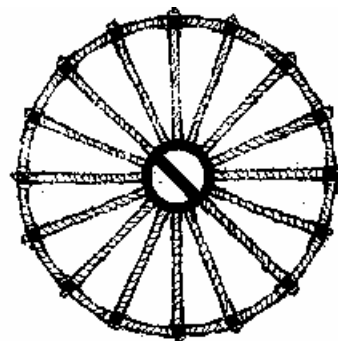


THE HINDU CRINOLINE

Get your Patrol or Troop making these and by constant practice you can put on a wonderful display. To make: –

(i) **The Hoop.**

This can be either of wood or tubular alloy. If you decide on wood you cannot do better than purchase a child's play hoop. Supposing however, that you use tubular metal, then something in the region of a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter is most suitable. The method used for jointing is to force a metal dowel (an ordinary nail is suitable) into first one end of the tube and then the other, thus forming a hoop of the desired diameter. A tight-fitting dowel is essential in order to produce a first-class hoop. The dowel can be eased in by first heating the ends of the tube.



(ii) **The Cross-Bar.**

This is made of wood, the most suitable size being approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x $\frac{1}{2}$



in., with all sharp edges carefully smoothed off. If you are using a wooden hoop then the fixing is simply a matter of a fairly tight-fitting handle (but not so tight as to distort the circle) held at each end by a screw through the hoop and into the end of the bar. Small angle pieces can be fixed to the joints to prevent any tendency to twisting.

If you are using a metal hoop then the length of the handle should equal the outside diameter of the hoop. A V-shaped notch is cut in each end of the bar and the hoop is sprung into the two notches, thus forming a tight joint.

Whether you use a wood or metal hoop the junctions of the bar and hoop should be padded with a liberal covering of cycle handlebar tape, special care being taken to ensure that there is a smooth curve at each joint.

(iii) **The Strings.**

Fine picture cord is suitable. If a wooden hoop is used pass the string through a hole drilled in the hoop and secure by a stopper knot. With a metal hoop, the string must be securely tied round adhesive tape on the hoop.

(iv) **The Bobbles – or Blocks.**

These should be 1¼ in. cube and of softwood with a hole drilled through the centre to take the strings. Place the bobbles on the strings before fixing the outside rope.

(v) **The Outside Rope.**

Braided cord is better for this purpose than a laid rope. Ordinary white sash line is very suitable. It is fixed to each block by two staples, and where the ends meet they should lie side by side for an inch on the block. It is particularly important to see that the correct distances between bobbles are observed.

(vi) **Painting.**

For outdoor daylight performances some bright colouring is suitable, but for stage or arena shows where coloured lighting can be brought to bear it is better that the whole crinoline should be painted white.

To use:

Having made your crinoline the next job is to learn to spin it. To start, lean forward in the starting position of B.-P.'s second exercise (see Camp Fire Yarn 17). Hold the loop horizontal with the left hand in the centre of the crossbar. Give the bar a twist clockwise with the left hand and pull it round with the right hand. As soon as the crinoline is spinning horizontally (but not before) gradually work the cross-bar up into a vertical position so that the crinoline is spinning in front of you. With practice it will be found that the left hand in the centre of the bar will be able to twist the crinoline a complete turn, the right hand pulling it round on alternate rounds. Right from the beginning it is best to learn to spin in both directions. You will soon find that supple wrists and a sure eye are necessary to success.

Spinning mastered, you can proceed to a variety of manipulations.

Here are some suggestions: –

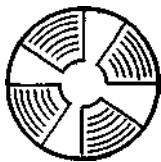
- (a) Spin in front of body. Raise crinoline over head. Sit down, He down and get up again.
- (b) Either from front or overhead position, throw up and catch. The throw is by means of a strong push with the right hand on the centre of the cross-bar.
- (c) When the crinoline is spinning well, keep spinning using the right index finger in a rotatory motion. Its position is at the junction of the cross-bar and hoop. Hence the need for reinforcement at this point.
- (d) In front or overhead while spinning push crossbar to and fro.

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- (e) Single finger hi front or overhead position. Let the crinoline slip back over wrist. Almost lose the spin and then recover on to one finger.
- (f) Single finger in front. Lower crinoline till it just touches ground and run along with it.
- (g) While spinning, rock the cross-bar gently. This is specially effective if two or more crinolines are spun together.
- (h) While spinning the crinoline vertically with one hand, performer turns right round once.
- (i) One Scout passes spinning crinoline to another. More elaborate, one Scout spinning three crinolines, another takes them from him one at a time.
- (j) One Scout spinning either forward or overhead throws crinoline to another.
- (k) One Scout spinning overhead stands feet astride. Another places head between first Scout's legs and lifts him, then spins own crinoline in front.
- (l) One Scout hangs down in front by knees from another's shoulders. First Scout spins overhead, second hanging upside down, spins forward. But as you become really skilful you can make up more display pieces for yourself.

AN INDOOR CAMP FIRE

FIRST you need a few logs, which can be bought or obtained from a friendly fanner or forester at camp. For the next stage, you will require the following items: – one baseboard, fairly strong, slightly larger in area than the base of your framework; one batten lampholder (that's the type that has three holes for screwing down on a flat surface); a suitable length of electric light flex; one dried-milk tin (or equivalent) with lid: a piece of thin or thick foil the same diameter as your tin; one two-inch small diameter bolt with nut, and one 100-watt electric light bulb. Attach the flex to the lampholder. Screw the lampholder to the centre of the baseboard. Don't forget to gouge out the wood on one side of the lampholder so that the flex isn't trapped when you screw it down: failure to observe this precaution may mean replacing fuses the first time you try it out. Cut out a hole in the base of the tin the same diameter as the threaded portion of the lampholder. Now punch some holes about an inch in diameter all round the bottom of the sides of the tin to about a third of the way up. Next take the lid of the tin and cut out as much of the tin as will safely come away and still leave you something in the middle to attach your pivot to. Punch a small hole in the middle of the lid, slide the bolt through and screw the nut up tight. File the end of the bolt to a point. That's your pivot. Try the lid on the tin now to see if it still fits. Now for the fan and the drawings describe this better than words: –



Mark the centre of the fan and make a depression to balance the fan on your pivot point. Now you can assemble it all. Attach the tin to a lampholder with the shade ring, put in the 100-watt lamp, put the lid on, place the fan on the pivot point, plug in your supply to the lamp, switch on. If the lamp lights, you can now approach it. Let the lamp get nice and hot. Then you can adjust the angle of the fan blades to your satisfaction, and snip off bits here and there to get it nicely balanced. It should revolve merrily around. Now take your framework of

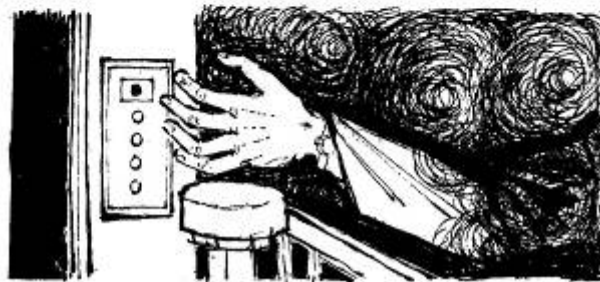
logs. Fix firmly to the baseboard, and you can put in all those bits of coloured gelatine if you want to. But make sure that you leave room for an uninterrupted flow of air through those holes in side of your tin, and a clear outlet above the fan. Hot air rises, and in doing so has to pass through the fan, the fan revolves and reflects the light, giving the flickering light associated with a fire. *This idea came from Tony Ross of the 1st Cowlings (Suffolk).*

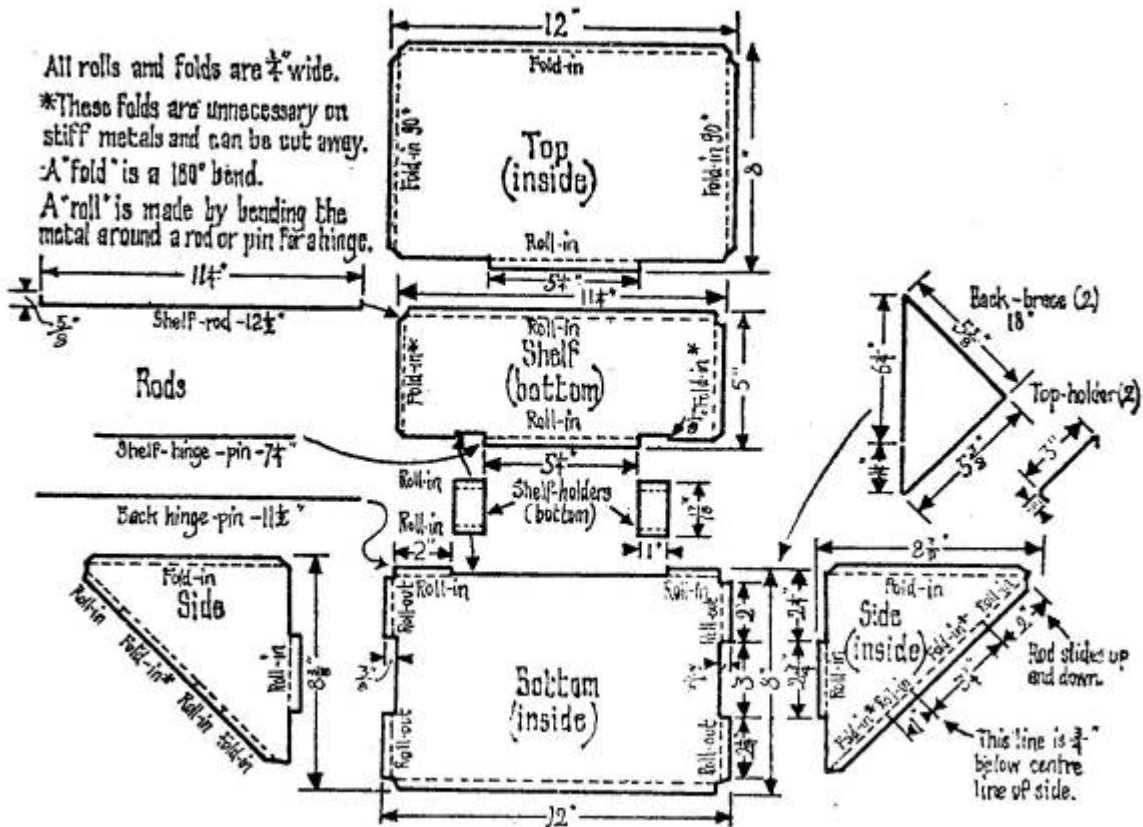
IN CASE OF FIRE

Six hundred people are killed every year by fire and twenty thousand injured. If you see a fire, however small, call the fire brigade. And, if caught in a fire, don't panic.



In a smoke-filled room it may be possible to escape by crawling on the hands and knees.





MAKE A PACK BOARD

This is a plan that came from a Scouter friend in New Zealand.

List of Materials.

A. 1 board 14 in. x 6 in. x ½ in. | Cut from a packing case.

D. 1 board 24 in. x 6 in. x ½ in. |

C and E. 1 100 lb. Tea Chest and three sugar bags.

B. 1 board 14 in. x 2 in. x 1 in.

4 x 1¼ in. rings or “D” rings.

G. 16 x 5/8ths No. 6 Brass round head screws.

16 x 5/32nd Brass washers.

H. 28 x 5/8ths No. 6 Brass flat head screws.

J. 18 x 1 in. No. 6 screws.

5 feet of sash cord.

Cut the 24 in. board down the middle and make D. Then cut the 14 in. in the same way and make A.

From the Tea Chest cut one piece of three ply – E and get C from the chest

Screw A to B and A to C

Screw AB to D and AC to D | With J screws

Screw E to C and B to E with H screws.

Give all of the wood two coats of paint.

Open out one sugar bag to measure 36 in. x 36 in. and cut strips 12 in. x 36 in. making three.

Each strip fold the edges into the centre and then fold again, hiding the raw edges, and then sew firmly making F.

On two of these fold back one end three inches and sew firmly.

Slide F between B and E and screw with H screws.

Cut the remaining F in half and screw to D at X and Y, using three G screws and washers in each fastened end.

Open out another sugar bag and cut one piece 30 in x 24 in. Fold in half making 15 in. x 24 in. and sew round the edges.

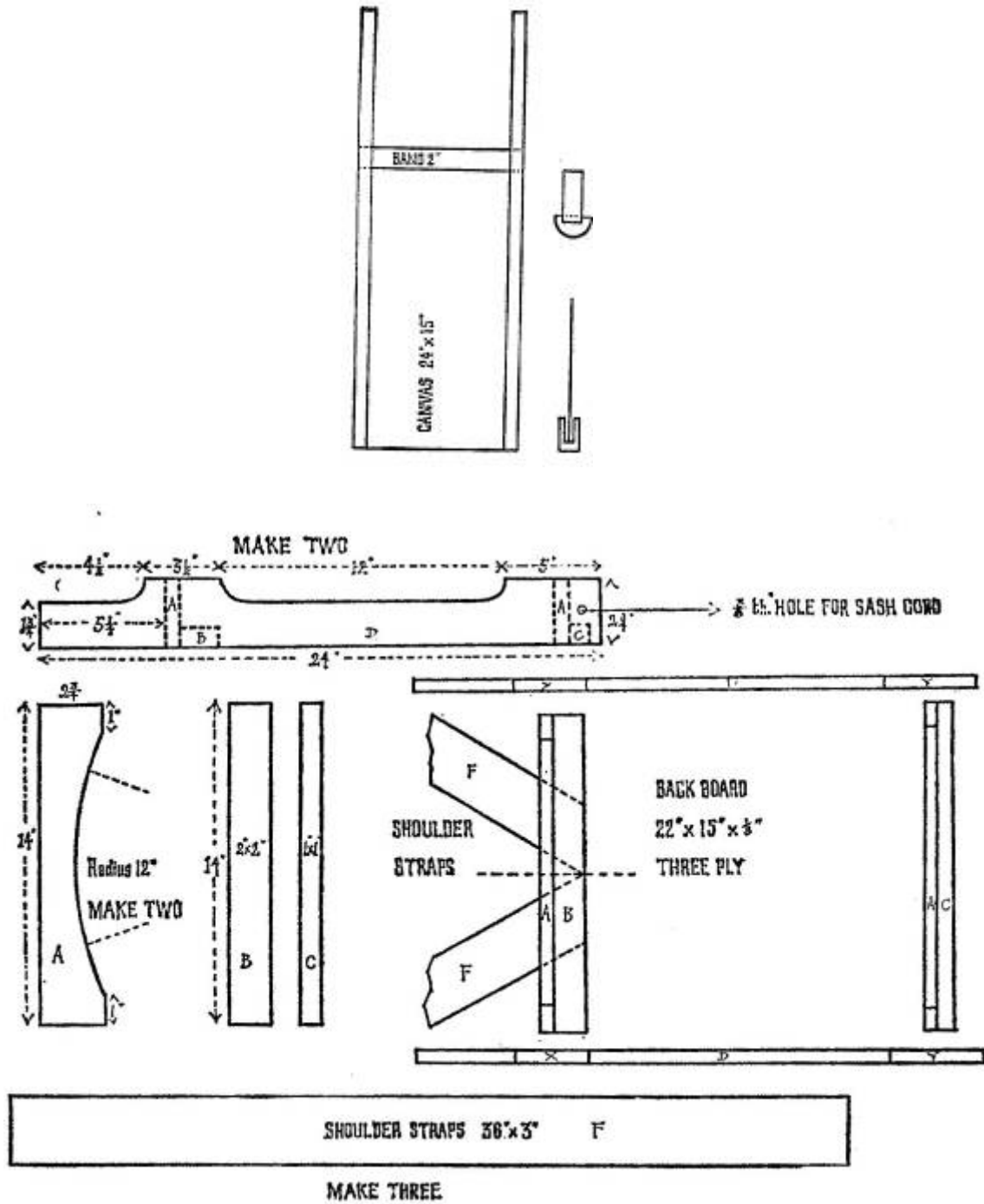
Cut a strip 8 in. x 15 in., fold into the centre and over again (2 in. x 15 in.) and sew over one end of 15 in. x 24 in.

Open out the third sugar bag and cut two strips 36 in. x 4 in. Fold the edges into the centre and over again and sew over the 24 in. sides – continue the sewing making two straps which fit into the 1¼ in. rings.

Cut one strip 12 in. x 24 in. and make into a strip 12 in. x 1 in. as above. Cut in half and slip the rings on. Fold and screw to end of D with two G screws and washers.

Cut the sash cord in half, slip through loops in F and tie with a bowline.

Thread through holes in D and adjust for comfort. Then tie with a Fisherman’s Knot. (See Camp Fire Yarn 8.)



Re-plaiting or making a plaited woggle.

Many an inquisitive Scout has unplaited one of these attractive three-plait woggles and played for hours trying to get it back again. Well, here is one method you might try. You can, of course, take a strip of leather, slit it as in diagram 1, and make your own woggle.

In each diagram the shaded portions indicate the front. The plain parts are the back.

1. Fold the centre strip behind the right strip.

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2. Pass the bottom from the front through the gap marked A.
3. You now have a weird-looking plait as in diagram 4.
4. Make another plait as shown in diagram 5 and again pass the bottom from the front through the gap marked B.
5. Straighten up the completed plait and your woggle is as good as new – or almost!

