

More PRACTICAL IDEAS

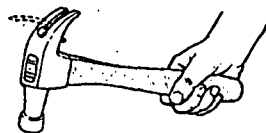


Portable Platform Helps Wash Insulators

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC Co had problem of removing dust and debris from city power-pole insulators before start of rainy season. To do a fast, thorough job, the company bought a telescopic ram from a tree firm. Ram has a small platform; rig is set on a tank truck, which carries 2000 gallons of water.

Now, with a hose and 60-psi pump, a workman rides the rig along the streets, raises and lowers himself at will, and squirts the insulators clean by a jet of water from a hand-held nozzle. Water is tested to be sure its electrical resistance is high enough to prevent danger to hosemen up on platform.

G F BURNLEY Oakland, Calif.

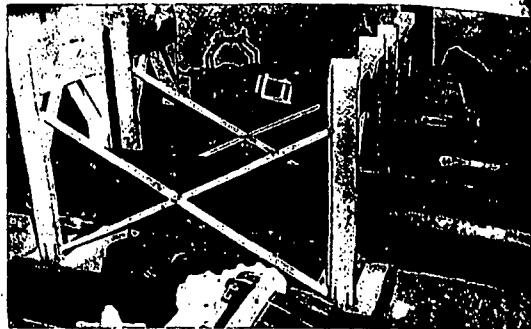


Nail-Pulling Kink

IN PULLING NAILS, work is often slowed down because they wedge into claw slot. Then you have to remove each nail from claw by hand.

Simple way to prevent wedging is to jam one nail into place "upside down," sketch. Snip off point. You can then pull nails without any hitch. If right-sized nail is wedged, the next nail being pulled falls out of claw by itself.

S V WORTH New York, N. Y.

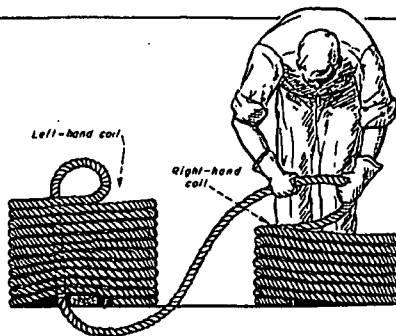


Condenser Stands Must Be Rigid

It's no use doing a first-class job of hooking up heat exchangers, condensers and receivers if they are not supported on a solid stand. Photo shows welded channel iron stand, with cross pieces, bolted to concrete foundation. I've found these stands to be as light yet as durable as any for air-condition-

ing equipment. A good welder can cut out channels, flat iron and angle iron cross pieces in a hurry. Cross pieces need not be heavy, yet they hold vertical parts rigid. Then piping connections won't leak, because of sagging condensers, or what have you.

MIKE BRANNICAN Kansas City, Mo.



Handy Trick Unkinks Rope

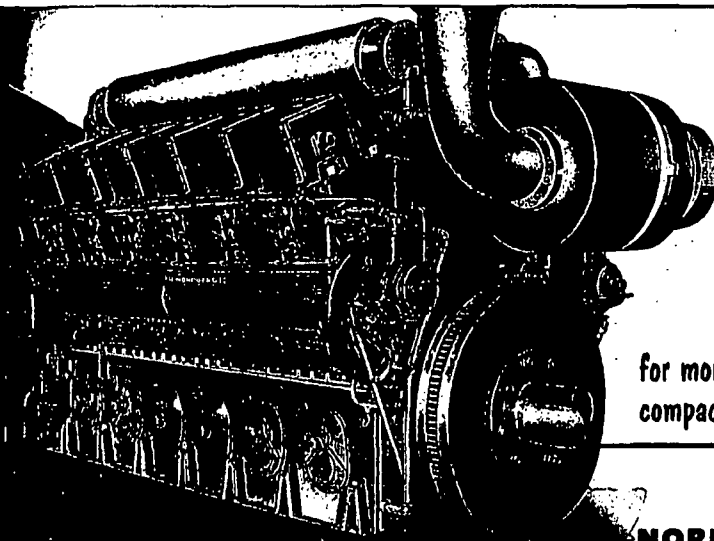
HERE'S ONE WAY to get kinks out of new rope when preparing a hatch for service. It has these advantages: (1) It's done quickly in a small space. (2) Rope is unharmed, dry, and ready for immediate storage or service.

When novices try this job without being shown how it's done, they usually snarl rope badly.

I have seen 1200 ft of new rope towed behind a boat in water until kinks came

out. But that's a rough way to treat good line. Some hang rope out a high window by the bight till the rope decides to behave. That takes a high building to treat a bale at a time, as rope is shipped in 1200-ft bales. Method shown is one I learned from a saltwater sailor. I have since used it many times with success. It's the handiest I know.

H B McDermott Long Beach, Calif.
(Continued on page 132)



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