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Any numbers of the Scientific American SupplesMENT referred to in these columns may be had at the
office. Price 10 cents each. Correspondents sending samples of minerals, etc., for examination, should be careful to distinctly mark or label their specimens so as to avoid error in their identi
fication. .
(1) A. K. writes: On the evening of of a 20 light of the armature journals-Babsitted boxheated, melting the Babbitt, which after examination was found, as it were, welded to some portions of the journal and could only be removed by use of cold chisel
and file. The only apparent and usual thing to do was to true up the journal, which was badly cut, and pour a new boz. But owing to the location of the machine
this was difficult to accomplish, besides necessitating this was dificult to accomplish, besides necessitating
considerable delay. The idea thus suggested itself inserting a lining of sheet lead between journal and old box. After ranning the machine at a slow speed on
the old bearing, and being fully convinced that it would heat rapidly, I procured a piece of sheet lead-from the covering of a tea caddy-about one sixty-fourth of an inch in thickness-and inserted it under the journal, stirfell up the machine, and have been runhing it for the journal soon taking a good polish and being apparly as good as ever.
(2) A. M. V. writes: I have a handsome blued rifle barrel, which has become rusty from lying in a closet against the outside wall of the house. When I attempted to clean it with fine emery paper and oil, I
also took off the bluing. Will you tell me if I can realso took off the bluing. Will you tell me if I can r
blue it, and if so, how? A. The bluing of a gun bar done by carefully heating the barter. We recommen yon to have a gunsmith blue it for you. 2. Of what pad consist? A. Dissolve 1 part of methyl violet in 8 parts of water and add 1 part of glycerine. Digest th wkole for about one hour; then allow it to cool, and
add one-fourth part of alcohol. The black ink is made with nigrosin.
(3) E. A. D.-There is no satisfactory method of preserving rubber hose. The best cure is to
use pure rubber. The coating of hose with a solution of sodium silicate or water glass is recommended. Imparts is recommended as giving new elasticity to the (4) L. J. D. asks: Will you be kind enough o answer the following questions through the column of Notes and Queries in your valuable paper: I have a is of no use now. Can you tell me how to mix it with coal dust so that $I$ can press it into cakes about the size of brick, dry it quick, and break it about the size of
stove coal? Give methe amonnt of coaldust and other ingredients to be used with the tan. I would also like to know the quickest way to dry the tan wilen mixed,
and where to get machinery for mixing and pressing and where to get machinery for mixing and pressing the a linto tricks. I would also like to know how to make
a liquid to keep the polished work on evgine bright. Something that $I$ can use when the engine is running that is sold in liquid form in the stores. A. Spent ta bark can be dried in the air cheapest, or in a steam diry-
ing oven at the cost of handling and the heat, which is ing oven at the cost of handling and the heat, which is
probably more than the tan bark is worth as fuel. You can mix asphalt with the tan bark and coal dust an press warm into bricks. The quantities will have to be
ascertained by experiment. Those that make brick
machines can make the proper machines for your
purpose. The waste coal dust of the mines can be ree, we believe, by taking it away. Use oxalic aci
(5) A. T. S.-The difference in illuminat ing power in reffectors depends very much upon the fine ness of polish. As a general rule, 60 to 70 per cent is he value of a reflecting telescope as compared with refractor of the same aperture and focus. Both being able to see the companion to the pole star bright an clear; the companion to Rigel faintly. Among the close faint stars, Zeti Hercules, $a$, 3d mag., $b, 6$ th
mag., distance $1: 2$ seconds; No. 37 Pegasus, $a, 6 \mathrm{~h}$ mag., $b$, $71 / 2$ mag., distance $1 \cdot 1$ seconds; Lambda
Ophiuchus, $a$, 4th mag., $b$, 6th mag., distance 1 second Ophiuchus, $a$, 4th mag., $b$, 6 th mag., distance 1 second
f you can separate this, you have a first class telescope
(6) J. C. H.-For cast iron bells you will grain which will easily. This can often be done where you have a good or its equivaleni, by mixing Nos. 2 and 4, or Nos. 1 and 4 makes a good tone. No. 2 and good tough scrap make good misture. If you are casting general machinery
or agricultural work from all sorts of mixtures, and have a few bells to cast, then you may make a good alloy with tin-tin scrap, or copper, from 1 to 3 ounces metal is running then put in the ingredient, and tho roughly stir and pour. Antimony has also been used
for toning iron bell metal-one to two ounces of antifor toning iron bell metal--one to two ounces of antiaccording to the grade of iron you are using. You will need to make a few trials with a 20 or 30 pound
bell, so as to get a good tone and also to secure toughbell, so as to get a good tone and a
ness of metal to prevent cracking.
(7) A. W. M. asks how to wash rags that have become saturated with benzine, coal oil, and A. Soak the rags in a bath of naphtha or benzine and A. Soak the rags in a bath of yaphtha or benzine, and he driven off by exposure to the sun.
(8) C. D. \& Co. write: Will you please inorm us through the Scientific, the proper speed for drivinggrindstones with safety, for surface grind-
ing? A. There is considerable difference in the strength of grindstones. The soft, coarse kind will bear 700 feet peripheral velocity per minute up to 4 feet diameter. Hard stones fine and compact will bear a speed of 900 feet as above. These speeds are sometimes exceeded but we do not know that there is any advantage de-
rived. This will be from 60 to 75 turns per minute for
(9) F. A. G. asks: 1. What is the number of your paper in which you describe a new double revolving plate electric machine; and is the description minute enough to enable an amateur to construct one A. See page 71, current volume Scien rific American. tures of the Toepler-Holtz machine, also the best adhesive to use in applying it? A. Use drawing paper, spect do the Toepler and the Vose improved machines differ? A. Mainly in details of construction.
(10) G. H. W.-For case hardening large articles like locomotive links and blocks, pack the pieces in bone charcoal or bone meal such as is sold for
fertilizers, if you do not care about the smell, in an iron box-thick sheet iron or tank iron is the best, but
cast iron will do. Pack so that the faces required to e case hardened shall have the benefit of the carbonizng substance; the rest may be filled in with sand. Heat in a slow fire to a cherry red for from a half to two
hours according to size of piece or depth to be case hardened, and harden as with steel. Charcoal pulpotash is good.
(11) T. S. G. writes: I expect to burn screenings under my boiler; would there be any advan-
tage by taking the hot alr from chimney? If so, is there blower made for that purpose? A. We cannotrecomIf your combustion under the boiler is perfect, there is no free oxygen left in the gases of the chimney.
(12) J. H. Z. asks: Can you give me hrough your Screntific american a receipt for a
paste that will paste gum or leather soles ongum boots? A. Rubber cement is prepared by dissolving Indionts? ber in carbon disulphide, chloroform, or benzine; apply it to both portions of the soles. 2. Also, how canI keep lowers from withering when plucked from the bush, and kept out of water? Is there anything better than sprinkling them with cold water? A. Keep the stems
in water in which 25 grains ammonium chloride have
(13) H. R. E. writes: In using a 3 inch chromatic object in a telescone like the one described in Supplement 252, can I use the same eyepieces, and what power do I get with them? How can I make a
celestial eyepiece of high power for the above? What celestial eyepiece of high power for the above? What
is the best focal length for a 3 inch object- 36 or 48 nches? A. The $11 / 2$ inch and halt inch combinations will give you a power of 90 with a 36 inch or 128 with a 48 inch 0 . $G$. You can make higher or lower power by following the proportions as described in SUPPLEMENT 252 . The shorterfocus is the best, pro-
ided the form, definition, and achromatism are per
(14) D. H. writes: I have been watching our Notes and Queries column for a long time, for a liquid that will give a gloss to a black surface; it must Use an ordinary shellac varnish.
(15) J. W. asks: Will you give directions that will enable us io dye feathers a "glossy jet black!" eathers with ammonium carbonate and wash them out. Steep over night in a bath of iron nitrate at $7^{\circ} \mathrm{B}$., then rinse them in water. Boil out equal parts of logwood
and quercitron bark, enter the feathers at a hand heat
and turn them frequently, raising the temperature seep in it till perfectly black, take out, and wash in warm water. Dissolve $31 / 2$ ounces potassium bicarbonate in a quarts of hot water and stir in 171/2 ounces of hive ough this at hand heat pro acea; take them openly draw all the wet out with the thumb and fingers, then well shake them till dry over a stove or in a well then well sha
(16) S. L. M. writes: Will you please give me recipe for making a good liquid glue from common
lue? A. Fill a glass jar with broken glue of best glue? A. Fill a glass jar with broken glue of best
quality, then fill it up with acetic acid, keep the jar in oot water fora few hours, until the glue is all melted, and you will have an excellent glue always ready.
(17) J. L D. asks for the best mode of detroying stumps of trees that have lately been cut, and which stumps are removed by petroleum consists in allowing the stumps to become completely saturated with petroleum, and then setting them on fire. The method by using saltpeter consists in boring holes into the head of the stump and putting into each 1 ounce of saitpeter, and after leaving it to become wet and pene-
trate the substance of the stump, the latteris seton fire,
(18) J. L. C. asks: Will you please give a recipe for mak ing good wine from cherries? Also, the
best cherries for making wine. A. Ripe fruit, 4 pounds; clear soft water, 1 gallon; sugar, 3 pounds; cream of artar dissolved in bolling water, $11 / 4$ ounce; brandy, 2 to 3 per cent; flavoring as required. A betler and stronger
article may be made by adding 1 or 2 pounds each additional of fruit and sugar.
(19) R. W. M. writes: 1. I have a rare old German coin with some curious designs upon it, and
some of my friends would like a copy of it as a curiosity. I made a plaster of Paris mould of it, and poured in, frrst lead and then type metal, but although the metal fills the mould it does not run into the fine crevices. it a success? how to proceed or what to use to make it a success? A. See ScIentific American Supple-
ment No. 17, page 272. 2. Please tell me how to dissolve gum copal in alcohol so as to make a good varnish for oil paintings. A. Fuse 8 pounds of very clean
pale African gum copal, and when completely fluid pale African gum copal, and when completely fluid
pour in 2 gallons of hot oil; letit boiluntil it will string pour in 2 gallons of hot oil; letit boiluntil it will string
very strong, and in about 15 minutes, or while it is very very strong, and in about 15 minntes, or while it is very
hot, pour in 3 gallons of turpentine. Perhaps, during the mixing, a considerable quantity of the turpentine the mixing, a considerable quantity of the turpentine
will escape, but the varnish will be so much the brighter, transparent, and fluid, and will workfreer, dry quickly, and will be very solid and durable when dry. After and will be very solid and durable when dry. After
the varnish has been strained, if it is found too thick, before it is quite cold heat as much turpentine and mix with itas willbring it to a proper consistence. 3. Please givea good receipt for "black heads " or "flesh worms?"
A. See page page 52 , vol. xlvi, Scientific Ampricas,January 28, 1882.
(20) J. J. B asks: Can you give the receipt of how to make imitation turtle shell? Can celluloid be softened and cast in moulds? A. The dark are produced by nsing a strong aqueous solution of silver nitrate mixed fwith gum arabic so as to flow properly from a brush. A little red lead may be mixed
with it to give body. After standing an hour soak in soft water for several hours before finishing. Pieces of horn may be united by softening the edges with hoiling water and then submitting surrounded with boiling water. For description, etc., of celluloid, see Scientific American Supplement No. 227, page 3617 .
(21) W. C. asks if there is any process whereby beef bones can be softened so as to be used in moulds. The bones can be softened by placing in di(22) F. J. R. asks: What would be the eof a boiler (of the same construction as that shown in Supplement No. 158, January 11, 1879. built by H . feet 41 ) that I need for a steamboat, 16 feet long, 3 run it at least 10 miles an houre, the engine being inches bore and 3 inches stroke? What size, shape, pitch, and weight of a propeller wheel would I need
A. To make 10 miles per hour yon will require a screw 2 feet in diameter, 4 blades. Pitch $45^{\circ}$ on edge, making over 300 revolutions per minute. This would be hard work for your little cylinder. If you conld be content with 6 or. 7 miles per hour, a wheel of 18 inches diametel would require 250 revolutions of engines per minute
which could be possible with 60 pounds steam and a which could be possible with 60 pounds steam and a good boiler of 20 square feet heating surface.
(23) T. B. asks: Is the expansion of metal lengthwise the same in all thicknesses, say for instance
in two pieces 24 inches long, one 16 wire gauge and the other half an inch round. In the raising of the tem perature from $32^{\circ}$ Fah. to $90^{\circ}$ Fah. will the longitud nal expansion be the same in each, or will the
half inch expand more, in proportion to the larger amount of metal in it? A. The wire No. 16 gange and the half inch round iron should expand exactly the same, provided they are both annealed and are the
same quality of iron. A hard drawn wire cannot be expected to expand exactly in unison with a hot rolle iron rod. The differences in lateral dimensions should not make an appreciable difference in longitudinal exand un til the difference becomes so great as to
(24) E. J. K - A boiler that is just large enough for your work with fresh water is too small for the same work with salt water. Your boiler should be below the point of saturation. It requires the same kind of care that is given to marine boilers. Again, an upright boiler is unfit for salt or brackish water unde any circumstances.
(25) S. W. asks when that motion commonly called "kicking" is given to a gun. Whether
charge leaves the gun. A. The kicking or recoil of a pattern of dark paper, pasteboard etc., is laid upon the gun commences at the instant that the ball begins move. The impulse lasts until the ball eaves the muzze, momentum generated by the first impulse
(26) J. inquires: 1. How to prepare a rust cement for iron? A. Wrought iron filings, 65 parts: sa ammoniac, $2 \frac{1}{2}$; sulphur (flowers), $1 \frac{1}{2}$; sulphuric acid, 1. The solid ingredients are mixed dry, sulphuric acid cement dries after two or three days, and unites wit the iron, making a very resisting and solid mass. 2 Also an iron cement for high temperatures? A. (1.) Iro flings, 20 parts; lime powder, 45 ; borax, 5 ; common salt 5; permanganate of potash, 10 . The borax and the saltt
are dissolved in water, and are then mixed with the two are dissolved in water, and are then mixed with the tw This cement changes at a white heat to a glassy mass which is perfectly airproof. (2.) Permanganate, 25 parts; zinc white, $25 ;$ borax, 5 . These are treated with a solution of soluble glass, and used at once. This cement must be left to dry slowly, and then it will resist
(27) G. H. asks for the process of preparin a bichromate solution for a small electric light battery. A. M. Trouve in his improved electric battery takes 150 grammes of bichromate of potash powder to a like 450 grammes of sulphuric acid 450 grammes of sulphuric acid. The liquid warms and the salt dissolves, while no erystals are formed on cool-
ing, Dor arc chromue a ume crystals deposited in the ing, Dor are chromee anani crystals deposited in the cell. inc, the latter being so placed that it can be drawn from the solution. With 12 elements and the solution above described, it is stated that 10 incandescent lamps can be kept at work for five honrs, each lamp giving
10 candles. There is thus 100 candle power for five hour
(28) J. H. writes: Please inform me if there is a method known to ascertain whether there is
any moisture left in kiln dried timber, or in other words any moisture left in kiln dried timber, or in other words
to find out when timber used in carriage building or any equal mechanical branch is dry enough. Is ther any cheap chemical test to detect the presence of water
in timber, warm yet from the kiln? If so, what is the agent, and how is the test performed? Can timber like hickoryor oak be dried too much, and if so, is the original tenacity lost for good, or will exposure to the atmosphere restore it again? A. There is a way of as-
certaining the quantity of water left in timber after kiln drying, first by putting a known quantity by weight, as a sample,into an iron retort and subjecting it to a heat that will discharge all the water, and then weighing the remainder for ascertaining the amount discharged. The and experience, as to the heat of the kiln and time make it brittle, or kill its tonginess. Overdried wood works crisp under the tools. Exposure to moisture only partially restoresit.
(29) R. R. C. asks: Will you inform me of the nature of the composition or the kind of metals used for the regulation of the heat, by reason of the expan-
sion or contraction of the metal, in artificial hatching mach ines, hot houses, or for other purposes where standard degree of heat is desired? A. Metallic regulalors should be made of metals having the greatest difference of ospansions if possible such as steel and zinc,
combined in a spr'ng. Iron and brass make good regulators by making the strips one or two feet long, soldering together, and coiling up like a clock spring.
(30) W. W. M. asks: 1. Will you inform me what will make hoof and horn material pliable, so
that it will not get hard and brittle, and how may it be welded? A. Horn may be welded or joined by heating the edges until they are quite soft and pressing them together until they are cold. It may be softened, after sa wing it into plates or sheets; by exposing it to power-
ful pressure between hot iron plates. Before pressing, the pitch must be removed, and the horn softened, first by soaking for some days and then boiling in water. 2. What will prevent sulphuric acid from destroging woody and fibrous materials? A. Nothing; sometimes a coat of varnish or paramin may be applied with ad-
vantage, but it is very difficult to prevent the acid from getting through. 3. In making an electrical machine, as in SUPPLEMENT 1oi, could the electromagnets be made similar to an ordinary horseshoe magnet? A. Themachine may be made in the manner described. 3. Will the electrical forcegenerated by one dynamo run
(31) A. E. S. asks: 1. How can flowers be preserved in their natural form and color? A. Insert
their stems in water in which 25 grains ammonium their stems in water in which 25 grains ammonium chloride (sal ammoniac) have been dissolved. Flowers can be preserved in this way for 15 to 30 days. To preserve them permanently for several months, dip them drain. The gum forms a complete coating on the stems and petals, and preses their shape and color after they have become dry. 2. What is a cheap after they have become dry. 2 What is a cheap
and effective disinfectant for outside use about house and barn, etc. $\%$ A. Carbolic acid or zinc sulphate, both of which are poisonous.
(32) A. S. writes: W. R. asks how to use charcoal in casting brass, in No. 14 of Notes and him to make a flame of the outer bark of the birch tree and thoroughly smoke the mould in every part, and he will get a perfect casting.
(33) W. M. H. asks: 1. What process will enable me to letter or stencil letters and figures upon
glass, such as glass signs for advertising purposes, that may be done cheaply and quickly? A. Etch with hydrofluoric acid. See Scientific Amerioan Supplement, No. 313. 2. By what process can I drill holes in glass? A. Make a circle of clay or cement rather arger than the intended hole; and use a drill formed
(34) E. M.-The following method of etchingon silvered glass is given by Leclere, of Paris. Glass which is thinly silvered is coated with a very thin coat
of asphalt. A photographic cliche or a properly cut
attern of darkpaper, pasteboard etc., is laid upon th the rays of the sun, which will render the asphalt, whenever the latter is exposed, insoluble. The prozine, and :he silver coating beneath $1 t$ is etched with nitric acid, while the drawing or patterns will appear in silvered lines and figures upon the glues.
(35), A. C. F.-The following inks afford

1. (Black).


Glycerine
13 ounces.
13 ounces.
.
hen add the other Ingredients and strain through a piece of silk. If too thick when cold, dilute to the pro
2. (Blue).


Glycerine............................1/4 1 ounce.
Hot water .. .................... 2 pints.
Proceed as directed for black ink (above). In prepar ing these inks it is essential that the water should be kept quite hot while the operation of trituration is percormed. The trituration should be continued until al ing must be performed hot, otherwise the filtering cloths quickly become clogged. In purchasing nigrosine and aniline blue, obtain if possible the purest quality. Cheap grades of these dyes are almost inariably heavily adulterated with dextrine.
(36) P. F. S.-The following varnish is re mmended for coating the stalks of flowers for th

## Isinglass

Concentrated glycerine.
The isinglass to be softened by first soaking it in cold water, and then dissolved in the glycerine by di-
gestion and agitation with the latter heated to $212^{\circ}$ Fah. over a water bath. When properly prepared this var nish is colorless, and when cold resembles rubber in all but color. Another varnish recommended for this purose is prepared from:
Bleached gutta percha........ ....... 1 ounce.
Deodorized benzole.......... ... .... 7 ".
The gutta percha is cutinto fine shreds and gradually added to and agitated with the solvent kept hot or warm over a sand hath-away from fire. The whole lower may be dipped into this varnish, shaken. and exposed to the air to dry. Another preparation sug third and mixed with two per cent of camphor, also dissolved in a small quantity of ether and alcohol.
(37) C. W. N. K. writes: Would you kindly inform me through your paper the size screw it would take to run a boat 12 feet long by $3 \frac{1}{3}$ feet beam, a three, supposing it revolves at the rate of 375 a minute? A. The diameter will depend somewhat on
the draught of water. We think 15 inches or 16 inche diameter, two blades, best.
(38) G. B. asks: Can you inform me how mo saicsare made $?$ A. The enamel used is a kind of glass, can be drawn out into threads, small rods, or oblong sticks of varying degrees of fineness, slightly resem lingthe type used by compositors. These polychroma tic rods are kept in drawers properly numbered, so tha the artist always knows to which case to repair when When the picture is place on the easel a slab of marble, copper, or slate, of he size fixed upon ; and this slab is hollowed out to depth of about three and a half inches, leaving a flat border all round which will be on a level with the com pleted mosaic. The excavated slab is intersected by ransverse grooves or channels, so as to hold more te naciously the cement in which the mounts of ename "gesso," or plaster of the hollowed slab is filled with gesso, or plaster of Paris, on which the propose The artist then proceeds to scoop out a small portion of the plaster with a little sharp tool. He fills up th cavity thus made with wet cement or "mastic," and into this mastic he successively thrusts the "spi-
cule"" or the "tessers." "as the case may be according culx," or the "tessere," as the case may be, according
to the pattern at his side. In the broad folds of dra pery or in the even shadows of a background, or a clea sky, his morsels of enamel may be as large as one of a
pair of dice; in the details oflips, oreyes, or hair, orfoliage, or flowers, the bits of glass may be no larger than pime,finely-powdered Tiburtine marble, and linseed oil and when thoroughly dry is as hard as flint. Sometime the mastic which fills the cavily is smoothed and painted infresco with an exact replica of the pattern, and into
this the bits of glass are driven, according to tint, by means of a small wooden mallet. If the effect produce wounds the artist's eye,he cay easily amend the defect by
withdrawing the offending piece of enamel and driving withdrawing the offending piece of enamel and driving serving proper precautions, it can be kept damp fo serving proper precautions, it can be kept damp for
more than a fortnight. When the work is completed any tiny crevices which may remain are carefully plug ged with pounded marble, or with enamel mixed with wax, and the entire surface of the picture is then
ground down to a perfect plane, and finally polished ground down to a
with putty and oil.
Minerals, etc.-Specimens have been reeived from the following correspondents, and vamined, with the results stated:
F. A.-The specimen is simply mica in clay, of no
alue at all.

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