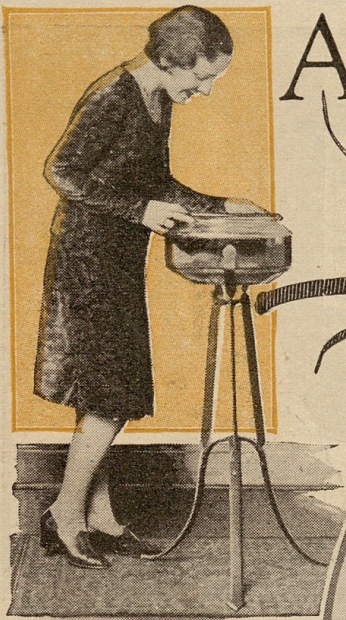


AQUARIUMS that

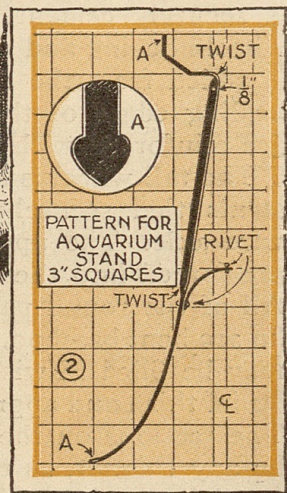
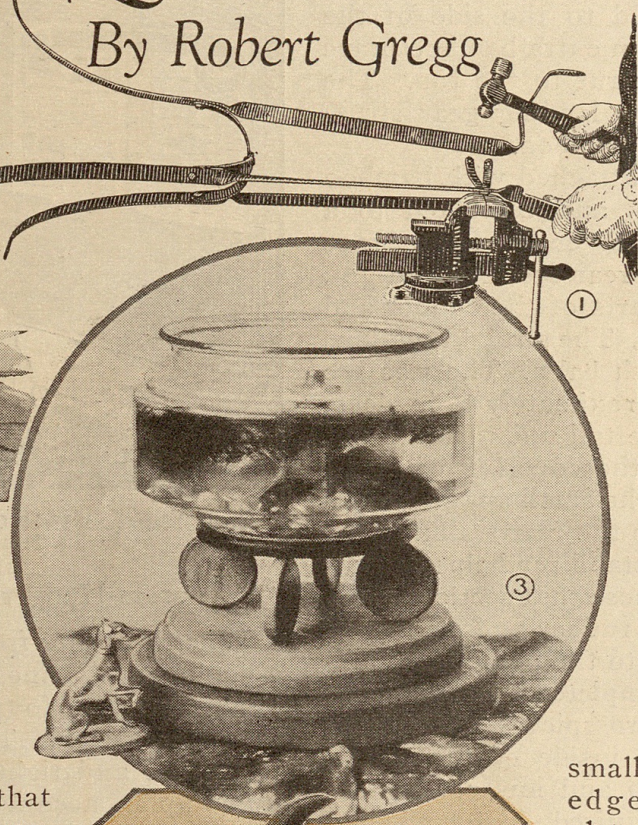
By Robert Gregg



ARTISTIC aquariums, placed on equally attractive stands or table pedestals, greatly improve the appearance of your living room. A stand like that shown above is quite ornamental in spite of its simplicity.

It is made from lengths of 1 by $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. wrought iron or mild steel. Fig. 2 gives the necessary dimensions in a blocked-off pattern. You will notice that each leg is given a twist at about the center to allow for the fitting of the middle braces, which extend inward to be joined with a single rivet in the center. The legs are again twisted at the top so that the upper parts may be fitted to the shape of the bowl. In addition to the center braces, the legs are clipped together at the top by means of three short pieces of light wrought-iron stock, riveted across from leg to leg, as shown in Fig. 1. The ends of the three uprights should be flattened with a hammer and filed to a tulip-shape, as indicated in the detail A.

If you have a bandsaw and a lathe, the making of the table stand, shown in Figs. 3 and 4, is easy. Even with hand tools,

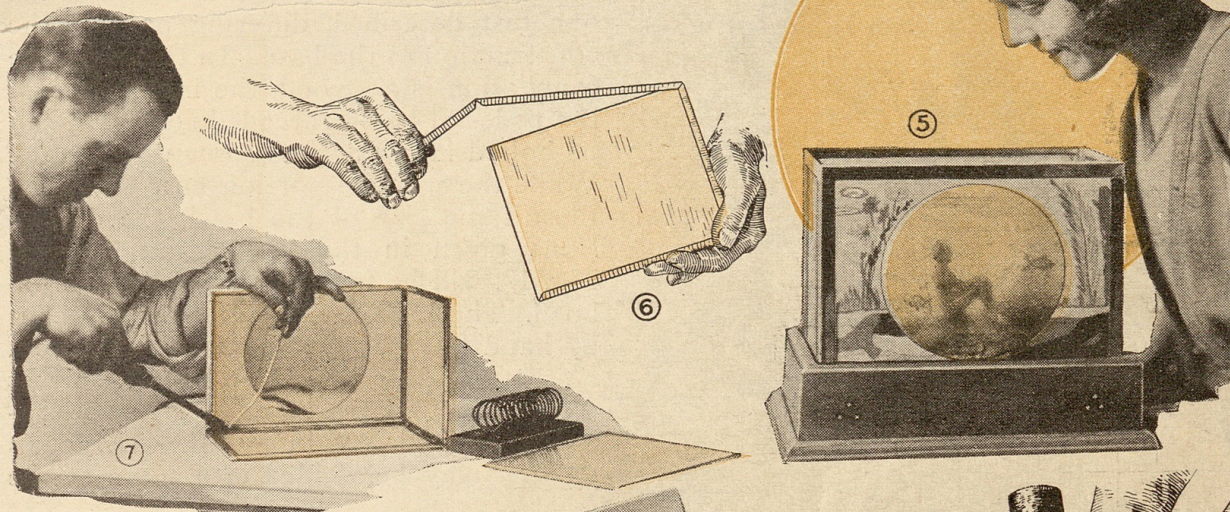


there is nothing difficult about this project. The whole thing is merely a matter of circular disks of diminishing sizes and four small ones that stand on edge, supporting a top plate turned out in the center to form a recess into which the bowl is fitted.

For a rather unusual aquatic effect, the lighted aquarium in Fig. 5 offers more than an ordinary splash of color. The rectangular bowl may be purchased in some localities, but the average home craftsman will usually find it necessary to make

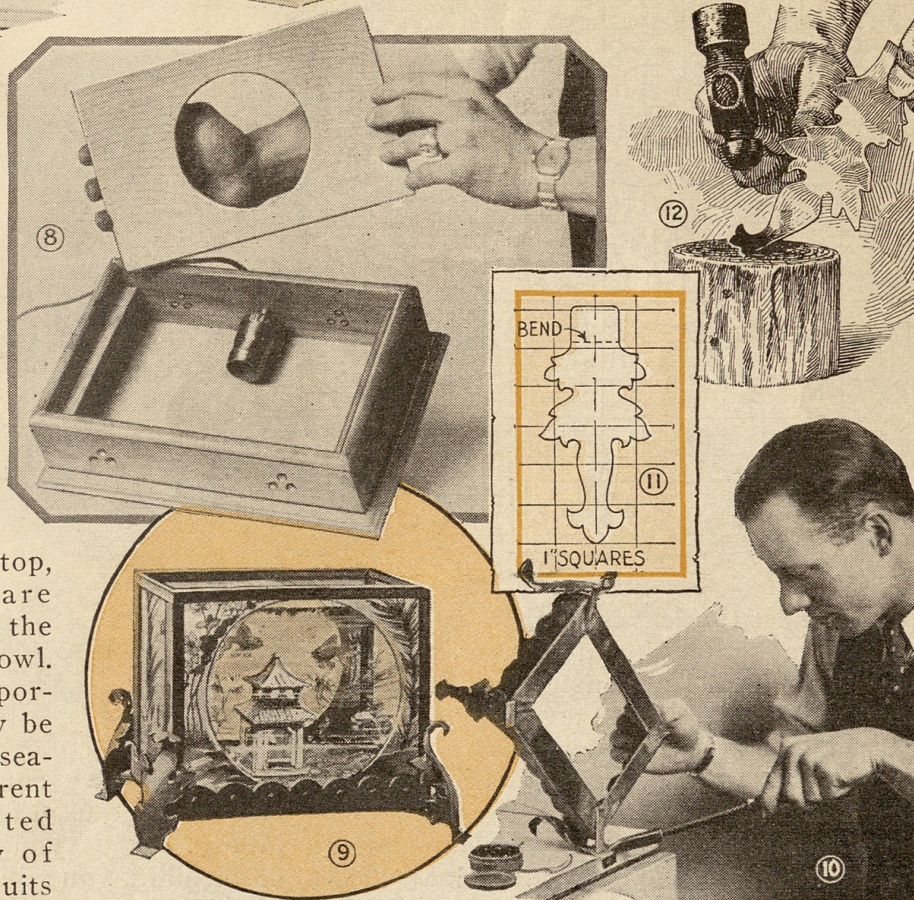
his own. This can be easily done by using clear panes of double-strength glass, cutting the various pieces necessary to form a glass box about 10 in. long by 7 in. deep and 6 in. wide. A ground-glass effect is given the two endpieces by rubbing with emery dust and water, using a small piece of glass as the tool. The same process is repeated for the side panes, after first pasting a disk of paper into position so that a clear circle of glass will be left in the center. Each piece, including the bottom pane, is bound with channels cut from light galvanized sheeting, brass or

are DISTINCTIVE

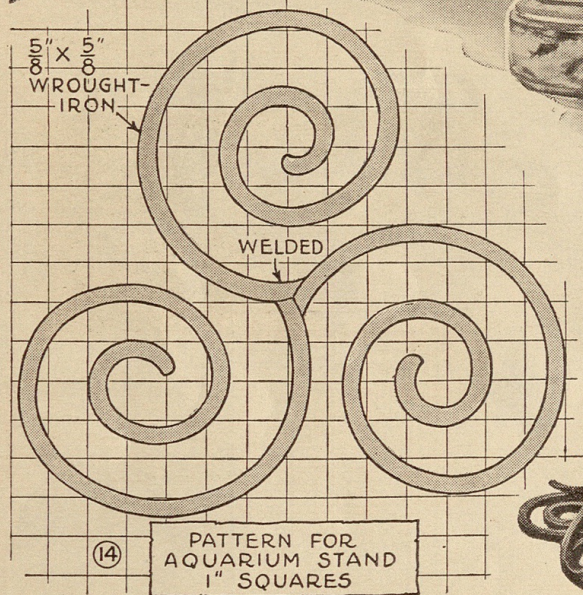
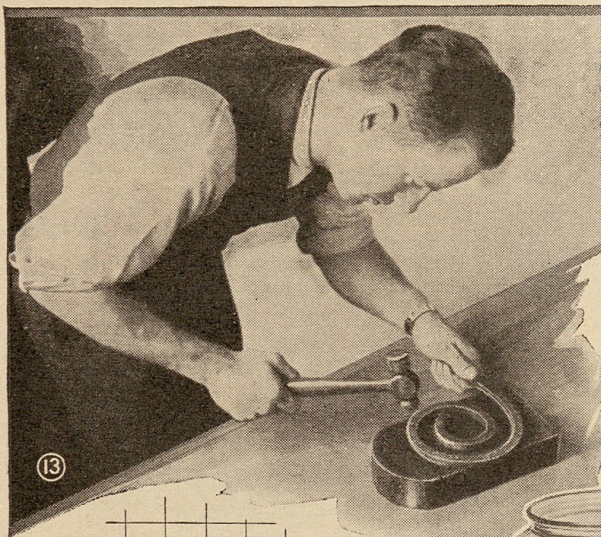


copper, as shown in Fig. 6, thoroughly bedding the edges in aquarium cement or seam composition to prevent leakage. Once the panes have been framed in this manner, it is a fairly simple proposition to solder the various sections together, as in Fig. 7. Channel stock is fitted all around the top, and angle pieces are lightly tacked over the corners to finish the bowl. The ground-glass portion of the sides may be left plain, painted a sea-green with transparent oil colors or decorated with a wide variety of marine foliage as suits your taste and artistic abilities. Double panes of glass may be used throughout, and butterfly wings and fern leaves mounted between the two if desired.

The box into which the glass tank is set is shown in Fig. 8. A standard light socket is fitted to one side of the stand to take a 15-watt bulb, and round vents are provided in the sides to allow ventilation. An all-metal base for the same bowl is



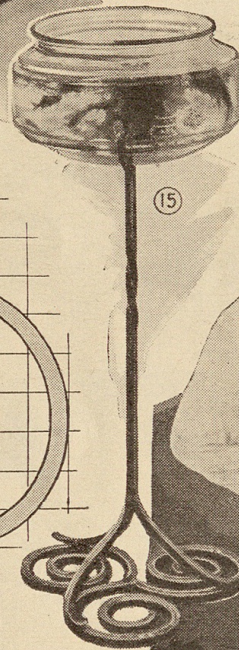
pictured in Fig. 9. It consists of a shallow pan of light copper, to which are soldered four acanthus leaves hammered from $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. metal, as shown in Fig. 10, each leaf being cut according to the pattern in Fig. 11, and then hammered to the proper shape, cupping the extreme end of the leaf inward, as in Fig. 12, and then turning the metal over to cup the rest of the leaf outward. Short straps of $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. cop-



per connect the leaves to the stand. The attractive stand shown in Fig. 15 is a welding job, as the construction does not lend itself to a riveted assembly. If you can handle a torch, however, the necessary steps are quite apparent. Fig. 14 gives the dimensions for the base, comprising three separate curls welded together after hammering each piece individually, as shown in Fig. 13, to give an antique finish. Three pieces of the same stock are twisted to shape to form the legs, and then welded to the circular base, as shown in Fig. 16. The whole stand should be made about 33 in. high, the dimensions given being for a bowl 12 to 15 in. in diameter which is held in place by three prongs of $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. square stock welded to the top of the stem piece.

A stand more within the range of the

average home craftsman is the combination wood-and-metal pedestal in Fig. 18. This is approximately the same size as the one just described, differing only in the construction of the base. In this case, the foundation is all-wood, the metal stem of the pedestal being threaded so that it can be bolted into place, as shown in Fig. 17. While the wooden portion may be varied to suit the size of the bowl, the dimensions given in the blocked-off pattern, Fig. 19, will be found suitable for a 14-in. bowl. The metal curls can be easily bent by hand from $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. wrought iron, graduating the size of the pieces to give the more or less modernistic effect indicated. The curls may be welded into place at the

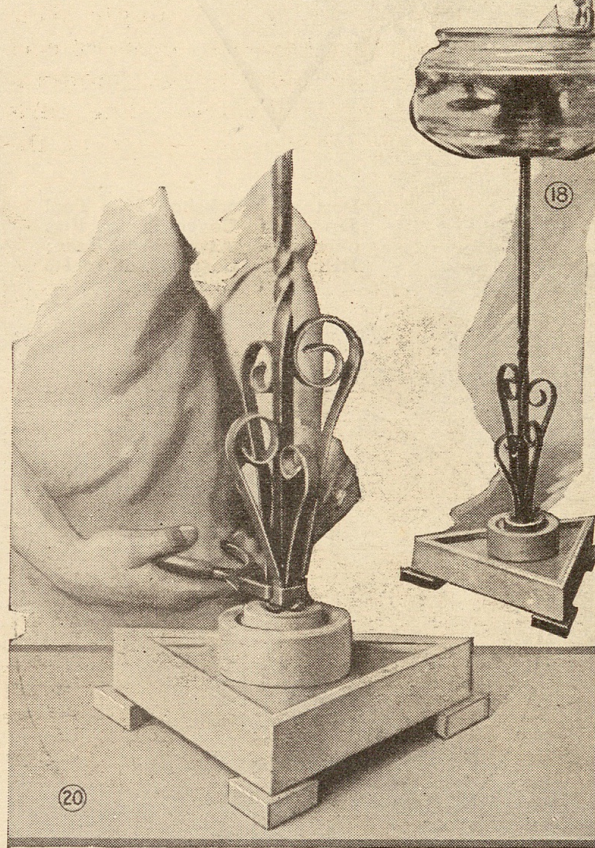


eight necessary contact points, or metal clips may be used as a binding, as shown in Fig. 20. If you have the facilities to do welding, you will undoubtedly use this method throughout, but if you are not so equipped, the clip is the logical choice. Almost any finish can be used with success. A japanned stem, with the base in silver leaf, burnished, would be very attractive, but a simpler painted finish will look almost as well.

The wood itself can be given the appearance of iron by hammering it lightly with a ball-peen hammer, then treating the surface with three coats of aluminum

paint and a top dressing of slate-black. Touching up with a file will remove the black coating from the surface, exposing the aluminum paint below—a close imitation of the hammered wrought iron.

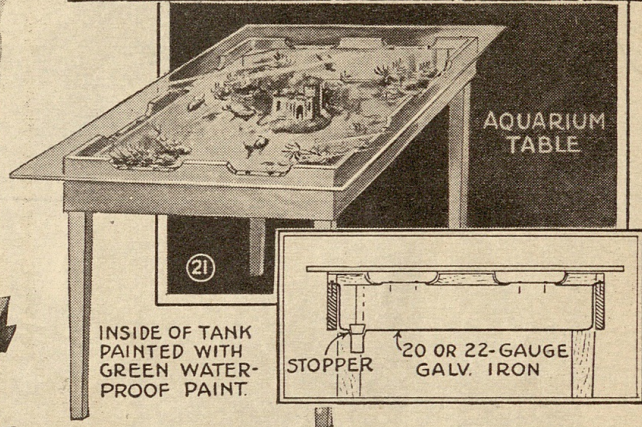
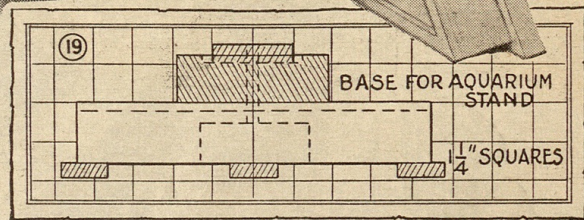
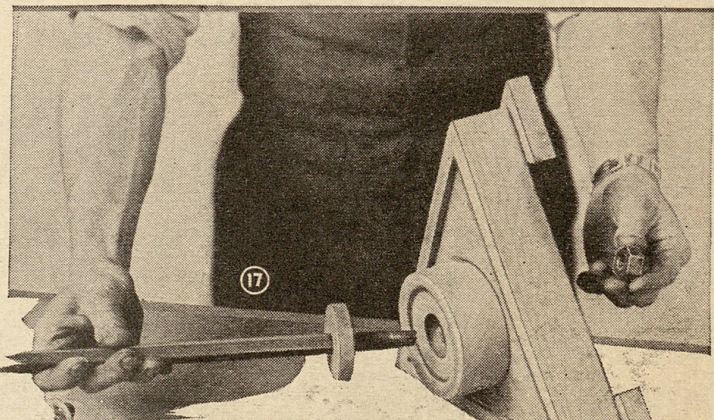
If you like something radically different in an aquarium, try the table type shown in Fig. 21. The wooden frame is first built, which is lined with galvanized sheet copper coated with green water-



proof paint, and a large plate-glass top is then provided. Notches, cut along the upper edge of the tank, allow sufficient air circulation, and a stopper in the bottom makes drainage easy. No dimensions are given, as these may be varied to suit the builder. This aquarium has considerable space and offers possibilities for an attractive layout of aquatic plants.

Gelatine to Repair Cracked Photos

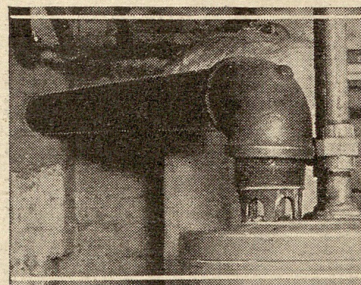
When the gelatine surface of a glossy photographic print becomes cracked, coat it with a solution of gelatine, and squeegee it to a ferrotype plate or a waxed piece of



glass. After the print has dried, it can be removed and the cracks will no longer be evident.

Long-Life Flue Pipe for Gas Heaters

Pipe used as a flue on a gas heater will last much longer than sheet-metal tubing. Nipples and elbows can be used to form



the necessary bends to reach the chimney. Although the cost of the pipe is greater than that of tubing, the installation is far superior to one using the

latter, and the danger from escaping fumes is practically none.—John A. Masek, Chicago.