Small Bench Anvil Made from Scrap Rail

*By C. A. Cox*

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A SMALL bench anvil for light shop repairs was made out of a scrap piece of 85-lb. rail about 12 in. long. The surplus metal was removed by sawing.

A small bench anvil can be fashioned out of a scrap piece of old rail with a hack saw and the point was forged to proper shape, using as a pattern a standard blacksmith anvil. Holes can be drilled into the base of the rail for fastening the anvil permanently to the bench.

Straightening Press for Storage Battery Plates

*By W. J. Scharff*

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STORAGE battery plates that have become buckled can be straightened in the field by the use of the press illustrated. Frequently it is not possible to take a battery to headquarters and in such cases the press illustrated can be used in the field. Two wooden boards 13¾ in. thick, 9½ in. wide and 18 in. long, were used for the top and bottom members of the press. To prevent warping and splitting the edges of the boards were chamfered and reinforced with angle iron ¾ in. thick and 1½ in. wide. These were applied with ¾-in. flat head wood screws. The ½-in. bolts were of a length suitable for the size and number of plates in the group to be straightened. Cross-arm spacing bolts will be found satisfactory for this press. In assembling the press, the bolts are held rigidly by the upper and lower nuts on the bottom board, the top member is then placed over the two bolts and the large square cross-arm washers and nuts applied. Before placing a plate group into the press, boards must be inserted between the plates. For this purpose boards 13¾ in. thick, 10 in. wide and 12 in. long will be found satisfactory. After the plate group is inserted in the press the two nuts on the top board are tightened down simultaneously to exert a uniform pressure on the plate to be straightened.

A Carrier for Small Tools

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CHANNEL pins, chisels, punches and other small tools used by signalmen can be carried conveniently in the metal box illustrated herewith. The box part can be made from heavy galvanized sheet iron or a box of this shape can probably be obtained without any trouble. The handle is made from two bond wires which are twisted in the middle and taped and fastened to the four corners of the box.