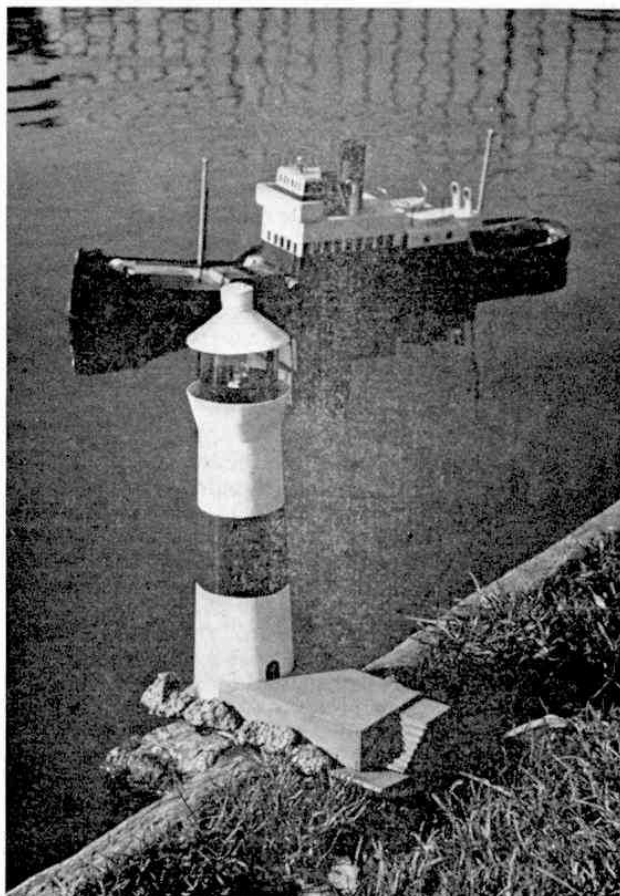
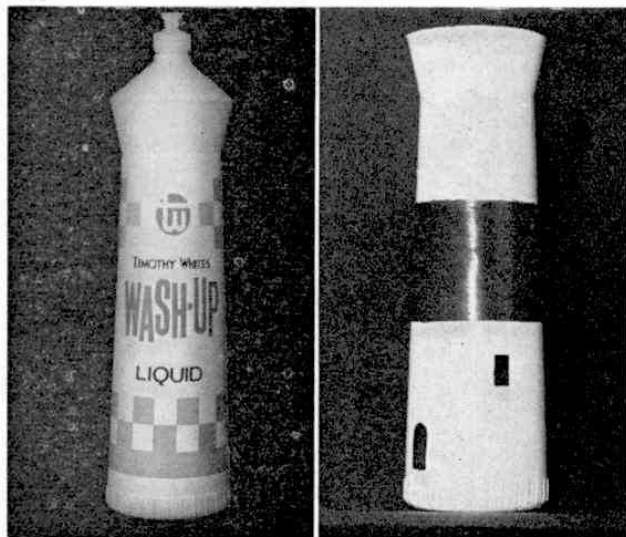


# A MODEL LIGHTHOUSE

A simple but effective model conversion from an idea by C. Redford

WE THOUGHT that readers would be interested in this simple model, especially all the boating enthusiasts and Radio 4-2 followers who have built or are building "Corker," and would find a use for it, either as a market buoy or just an interesting ornament. The idea for this amusing model must be credited to Mr. C. Redford of Basingstoke, Hants, who noticed the likeness between a "Fairy Snow" plastic bottle and a lighthouse whilst washing-up (he points out that the washing-up bit is not a rare occurrence).

Unfortunately the shape of the "Fairy Snow" bottle has recently been changed, and so we had to search around until we found a bottle of similar dimensions. The one we finally decided to use was the "Timothy Whites" washing-up liquid bottle which, as can be seen from the accompanying photograph, is very much like a lighthouse. The following text and illustrations give the necessary step-by-step instructions needed to build the model.



The finished model, complete with landing stage, is placed in its most natural position—by the water. It can be seen from this photograph, how realistic the model looks.

The first step towards construction is to cut the top off the bottle at the point shown in the diagram, thus forming the roof and the main body of the model. From the roof, remove the stopper tag and the nozzle, which will naturally leave a hole. This hole can be used to locate either an aerial or a weather vane, alternatively it can be sealed over with a heated knife blade or similar.

Construction of the gallery floor and lighting is the next step, and dealing firstly with the gallery floor, use either balsa or card. If card is used, it must be at least an  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick, preferably more. We used  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. balsa and found it ideal, as it was easy to use, and also provided a solid base. Put a small chamfer on the edge of the balsa so that it fits neatly into the neck of the bottle approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. below the surface. Do not fix this permanently for the moment. Lighting consists of a bulb holder obtainable from Woolworths for approximately 1/6d., and a small 3.5 volt flashing bulb. The holder is attached by two screws—another good reason for using balsa for the floor, in preference to card. Two other holes of approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. diameter, must be drilled into the floor to take the power supply wires, but more of this later. The lantern house is a length of celluloid 2 in. wide and 8 in. long with a green band roughly an inch wide along its length. Join the two together, with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. overlap, using any contact adhesive.

At this point the basic construction of the model is complete, and all that remains to be dealt with is the wiring and construction of the landing stage.

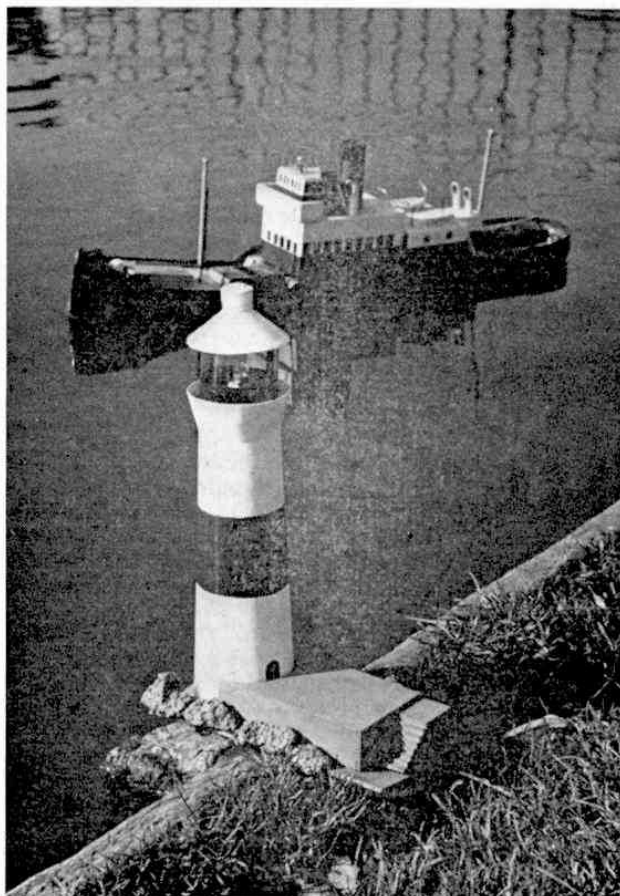
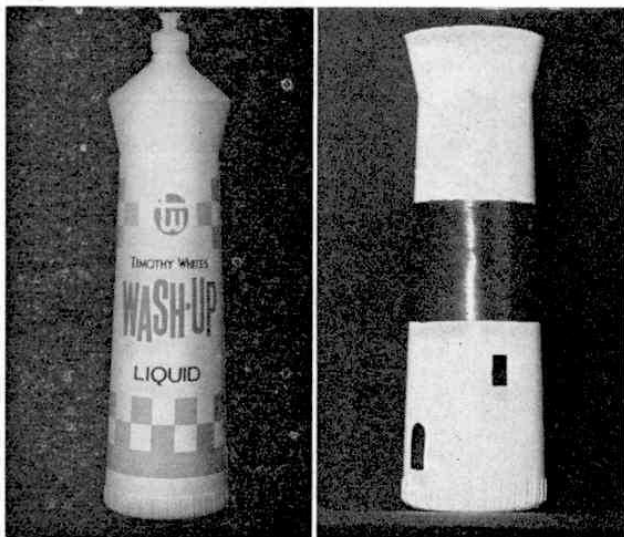
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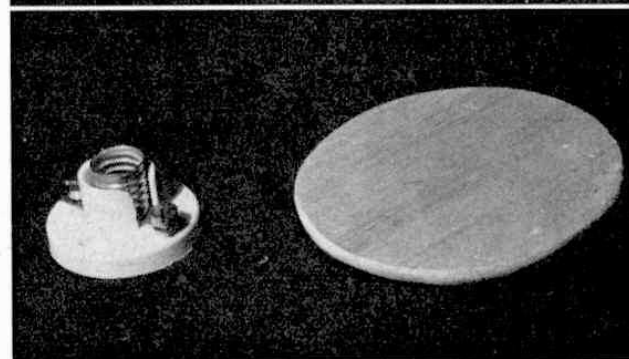
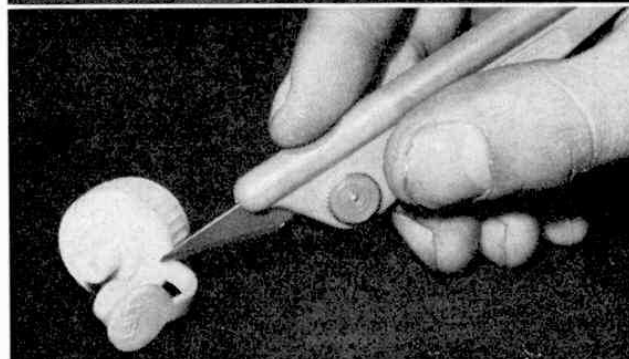
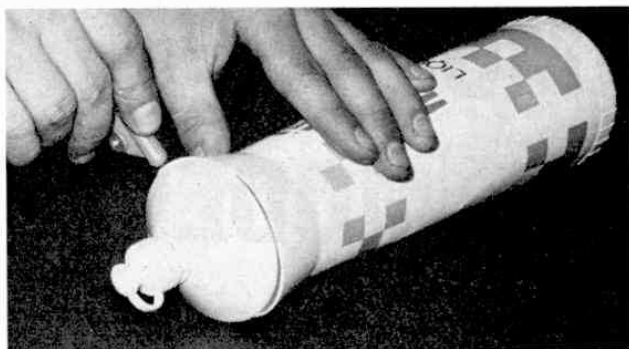
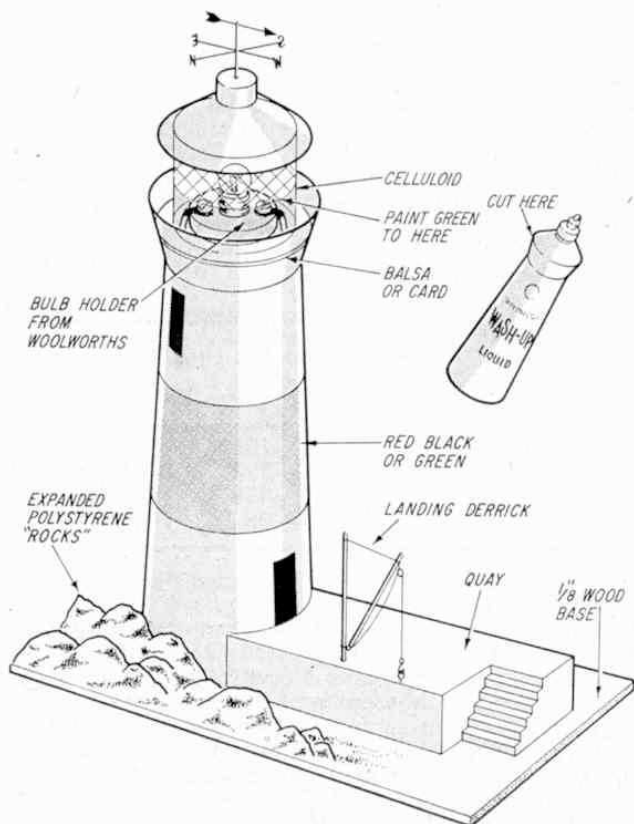
lighting flex and attach each wire to a terminal on a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  volt flat battery. Cut a small hole in the lighthouse, just below the door, for the wires to go through. Push the wires up the lighthouse, through the two holes in the gallery floor, and attach one wire to each terminal on the bulb holder.

The landing stage is a rectangular box measuring  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in.  $\times$  3 in.  $\times$  1 in., with the shape of the lighthouse cut out at one end (see photograph). The steps are made up out of 8 lengths of balsa all an inch wide cemented on top of each other, the top piece being an  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. shorter than the piece below it, and that an  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. shorter than the one below that, etc. A landing derrick, as in the diagram, can also be added if the builder wishes. The landing stage thus complete very conveniently conceals the excess wire and the battery.

The model and the landing stage can then be mounted on an  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. wood base, either ply-wood or balsa wood is suitable. For added detail, expanded polystyrene can be broken up and made to look very much like rocks.

As far as painting is concerned we painted the lighthouse white with a red band around the middle. Remember when painting in the door and windows, that they are stepped up around the lighthouse (they follow the position of the spiral staircase), and do not go straight up the front. Before painting the landing stage and the base, you must give them at least two coats of sanding sealer, otherwise the paint will just soak into the wood. Ideal colours for these are dark grey, dark green or black, all matt. The rocks can also be a mixture of these colours.

Everything should now be fixed into position, except the landing stage, which should be removable for access to the battery, and the roof, for access to the bulb. To turn the lighthouse on and off, simply screw and unscrew the bulb.



Far left: A comparison between the original bottle and the half-finished model.

Above top: The first step is to cut the top off the container. A Humbrol craft-knife is ideal for this.

Centre: Remove the tag and the nozzle from the stopper.

Bottom: This shows the Woolworths bulb holder and the balsa wood gallery floor— $\frac{1}{4}$  in. balsa is ideal.

Left: This detailed diagram gives a clear indication of how the finished model should appear, and shows exactly where the top should be cut.

Below: A dismantled view of the model showing the battery and wiring. Note the polystyrene rocks.

