HINTS, TIPS AND GADGETS.

THE COLLAPSIBLE SIEVE.

by J.CROCKER.

The collapsible sieve described is convenient to carry and a useful aid to litter sorting. The design is based on an original model produced by Dr.M.G.Morris, with various modifications. After field trials with the new prototype, drawings (Figs. 1 to 5 on facing page) were made, from which subsequent sieves have been produced. These have proved very successful.

The main use has been in sifting woodland litter over a white ground sheet, to extract spiders. Of course, a conventional sieve can be carried into the field together with a white enamel tray to give the best performance, since such a sieve is quite rigid and the tray with its raised sides prevents the faster moving spiders from running off the edge. However, on occasions when a lot of walking is involved, weighty or cumbersome equipment must be kept to a minimum. The advantage of the collapsible sieve is not only that it can be folded away but that it is very light in weight. Sufficient stiffness is afforded by the curtain rod and the reinforced corners to keep the sieve top open.

The sieve is easy to make and most of the items required will probably be found around the house or garden shed. Even if material is purchased for the job, the sieve should not cost more than 7s-6d.

The following materials will be required: a) small mesh plastic netting ($\frac{1}{2}$" sq. "netlon") size 12$\frac{1}{2}$" x 9$\frac{1}{4}$" overall, available from ironmongers; b) tent canvas or sail cloth, 6" wide x 45" long; c) plastic-covered flexible curtain rod, 48" long; d) linen button thread.

The drawings should be self-explanatory, the only difficulty will be in sewing the canvas if heavy grade material is selected. A thimble and an extra long darning needle with a large eye and long tapering point will make sewing easier. Needless to say, the heavier the canvas, the stronger the finished job.

Fig. 1 shows the finished skirt, sewn up ready for attachment to the base. Two vertical slots are cut in the inside of the top hem, 1" apart, to allow the flexible rod to be threaded. The hem detail is shown in Fig. 2. The "netlon" base, Fig. 3, is trimmed with a sharp knife to present a smooth and continuous edge all around, care being taken not to cut or snick the periphery as this is required for sewing to the skirt. Fig. 4 shows the completed sieve. Each of the four corners are stitched as indicated to give additional stiffness and finally the flexible rod is threaded through the top hem, the ends being left free inside the hem diagonally opposite the threading holes.

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