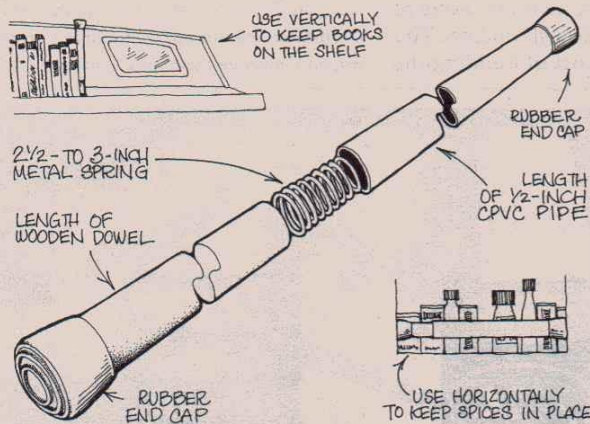


WORKBENCH

EDITED BY DEBORAH BENNETT. ILLUSTRATED BY MARYA BUTLER.

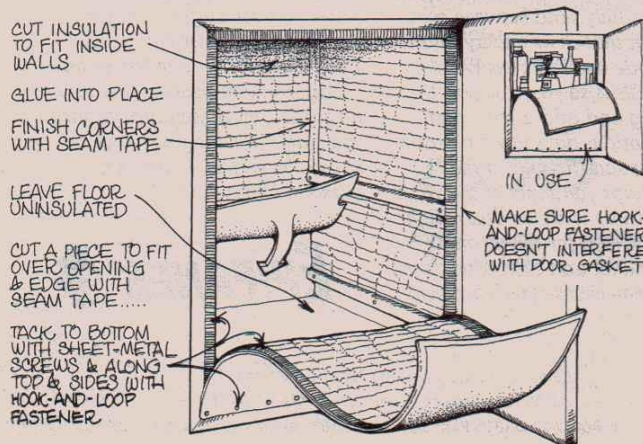
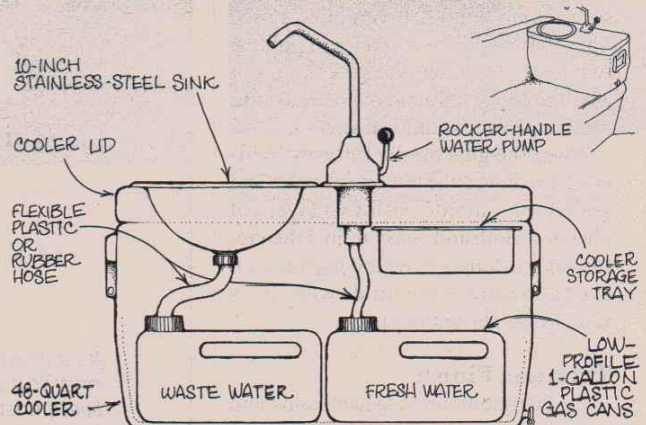


Handy Spring Rods

LARRY AND ANGIE HUNTER, FROM STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, Canada, who are circumnavigating aboard their steel-hulled Goderich 37, *Tao 8*, use spring rods vertically and horizontally to keep dishes in place and books on the shelf. Finding it difficult to find rods of the right size, they now fabricate them quickly and inexpensively. All you need is 1/2-inch CPVC pipe, a wooden dowel a bit less than half an inch in diameter, a 2 1/2- to 3-inch metal spring, and two rubber end caps. First, cut the pipe 1 to 1 1/2 inches shorter than required; cut the dowel the same length as the pipe. Fit a rubber end cap over one end of the CPVC tube, then insert the spring inside the tube, followed by the dowel. Finally, fit the remaining end cap over the end of the dowel.

Portable Potable-Water System

JOSEPH K. WALTENBAUGH OF NEW CASTLE, PA, OVERCAME SINK envy by equipping his Precision 18, *Kalapana*, with a potable-water system made from a 48-quart Coleman cooler. Cut a 9-inch-diameter hole, offset to the left, in the cooler lid. Seal in place a 10-inch sink inside the hole. Cut a smaller hole in the lid to the right of the sink and install a rocker-handle water pump. Position some wood inside the lid to support the water pump. Inside the cooler, place two 1-gallon plastic gasoline cans. Label one "Fresh Water" and one "Waste Water." Through the cap of each can, slip a length of flexible plastic hose. Then connect the free end of the waste-water hose to the sink-drain plug fitting and the unattached end of the freshwater hose to the water pump hose-barb. Reattach the lid and start pumping.



Reinsulate Your Front-Loading Reefer

DOES YOUR BOAT HAVE A FRONT-LOADING REFRIGERATION system that spills out cold air and food every time it's opened? If so, Heidi Ann Kotas, from Gig Harbor, WA, who lives aboard *Cetus*, a Fantasia 35, has this advice: Line the refrigerator with Reflectix insulation, found at most home-repair stores. "Reflectix is basically bubble wrap coated with space-blanket material," says Kotas. "It's effective, inexpensive, easy to work with, and forgiving." All you need is some hook-and-loop fastener, waterproof adhesive caulking, the Reflectix insulation, and the special seam tape that comes with it. Then follow the simple instructions in the illustration. Once the project is finished, pull down the front flap a few inches to access the top shelf and all the way down to access the bottom shelf.

If you have a unique idea that improves cruising comfort, efficiency, or safety, let your fellow sailors know by sending it to **Workbench, Cruising World** (5 John Clarke Rd., Box 3400, Newport, RI 02840-0992). We'll pay for the ideas we publish.