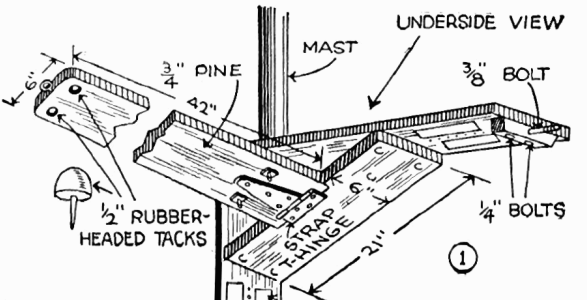
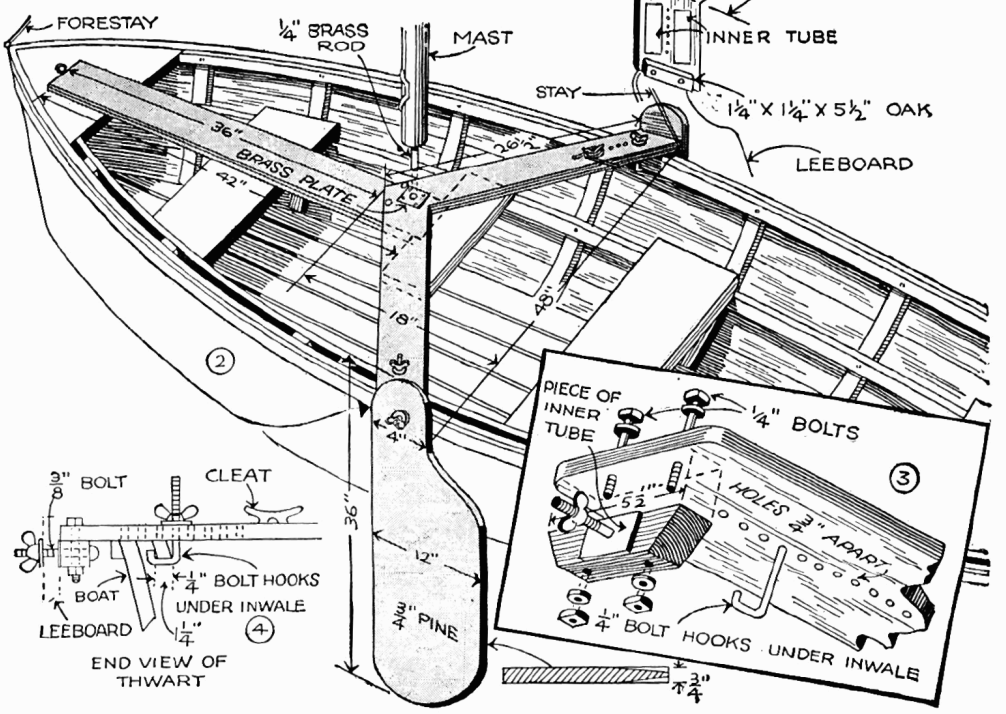
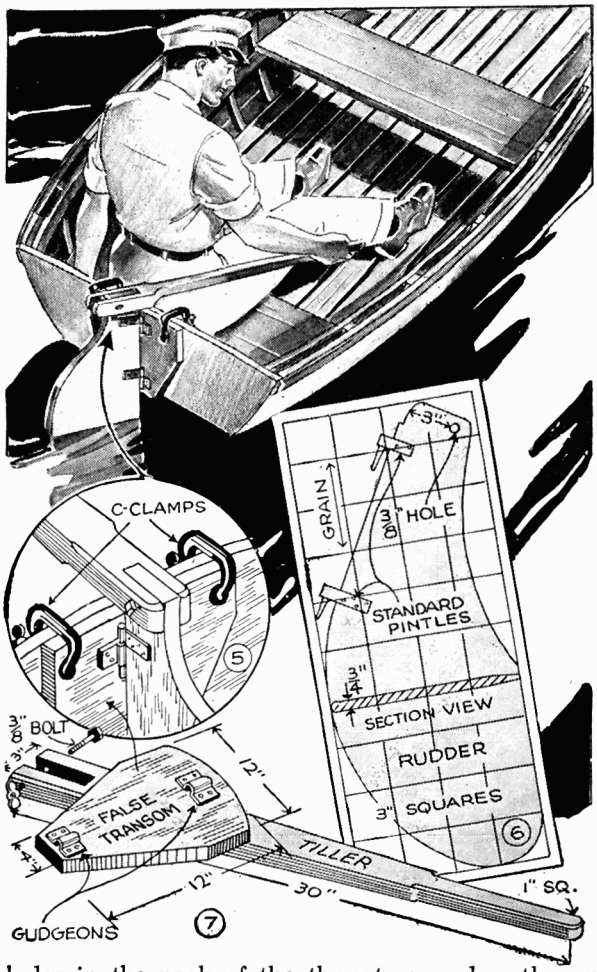
A ROWBOAT goes Sailing

By David Swartwout

EQUIPPED with this inexpensive portable sail rig any rowboat becomes a sailboat. While dimensions given in Fig. 2 are for a small boat having a beam of 4 ft., the length of the thwart may be varied to suit the boat at hand. With the exception of the rudder and tiller, which should be made of oak, ¾-in. pine will do for the leeboards and thwart. Begin by making the thwart. Two pieces of 6-in. stock, cut to the proper length and mitered 22½ degrees, are held together with a notched cleat fastened to the underside with 1¼-in. brass screws as in Fig. 1. The forward piece which rests on the breast hook, is attached to the thwart with a large T-hinge. The barrel of the hinge should be fitted with a removable pin so that the assembly may be taken apart easily for storing. Two bolts passing through





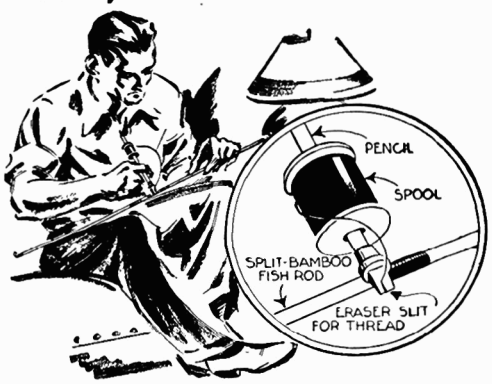


holes in the peak of the thwart securely clamp the forward member in place. To make the rig adaptable for use on several boats whose beam may vary slightly, a series of ¼-in. holes spaced ¾ in. apart, is provided at each end of the thwart for adjusting the two hook bolts which are bent from a ¼-in. brass rod, threaded and fitted with wing nuts as in Fig. 3. Fig. 4 shows how these bolts hook over the boat inwales. Oak blocks are next bolted to the extreme ends of the thwart and are fitted with ⅜-in. bolts for attaching the leeboards as in Fig. 3. Pieces of inner tube slipped over the bolts serve as rubber washers to keep the leeboards vertical. Strips of rubber as well as rubber-headed tacks are also fitted to the underside of the thwart to protect the finish of the boat. Next, the leeboards which provide lateral balance to the boat when under sail, are cut from 12-in. pine stock, following the design given in Fig. 2. The after edge of the board is tapered as shown in the sectional detail. A 1/16 by 3 by 3-in. brass plate with a ¼-in. hole made in the center to receive a brass pin driven up into the end of the mast, is screwed to the top side of the thwart at the center. The mast is held upright by two shrouds and a forestay. See Fig. 2.

Details of the rudder, tiller and false transom, and the method of clamping the assembly to the stern with a pair of C-clamps are shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. Standard pintles and gudgeons are used to hinge the rudder, after which the tiller is pivoted at the top by a single bolt fitted with a wing-nut. A small lanteen sail, similar to a canoe or kayak sail, of 50 or 60 sq. ft. area, is recommended.

Fishing Rod Wrapped With Aid of a Pencil and Eraser

To apply a tight, smooth wrapping of thread when making repairs on a split-bamboo fishing rod, one angler suggests the use of a pencil and eraser. The pencil carries the spool of thread so that it may be rotated easily around the rod, and the eraser is slit to receive the thread and hold it tightly during the operation.



¶A horseshoe cast in a block of cement forms a good anchor for a boat. The rope should be tied to the projecting curve of the shoe.