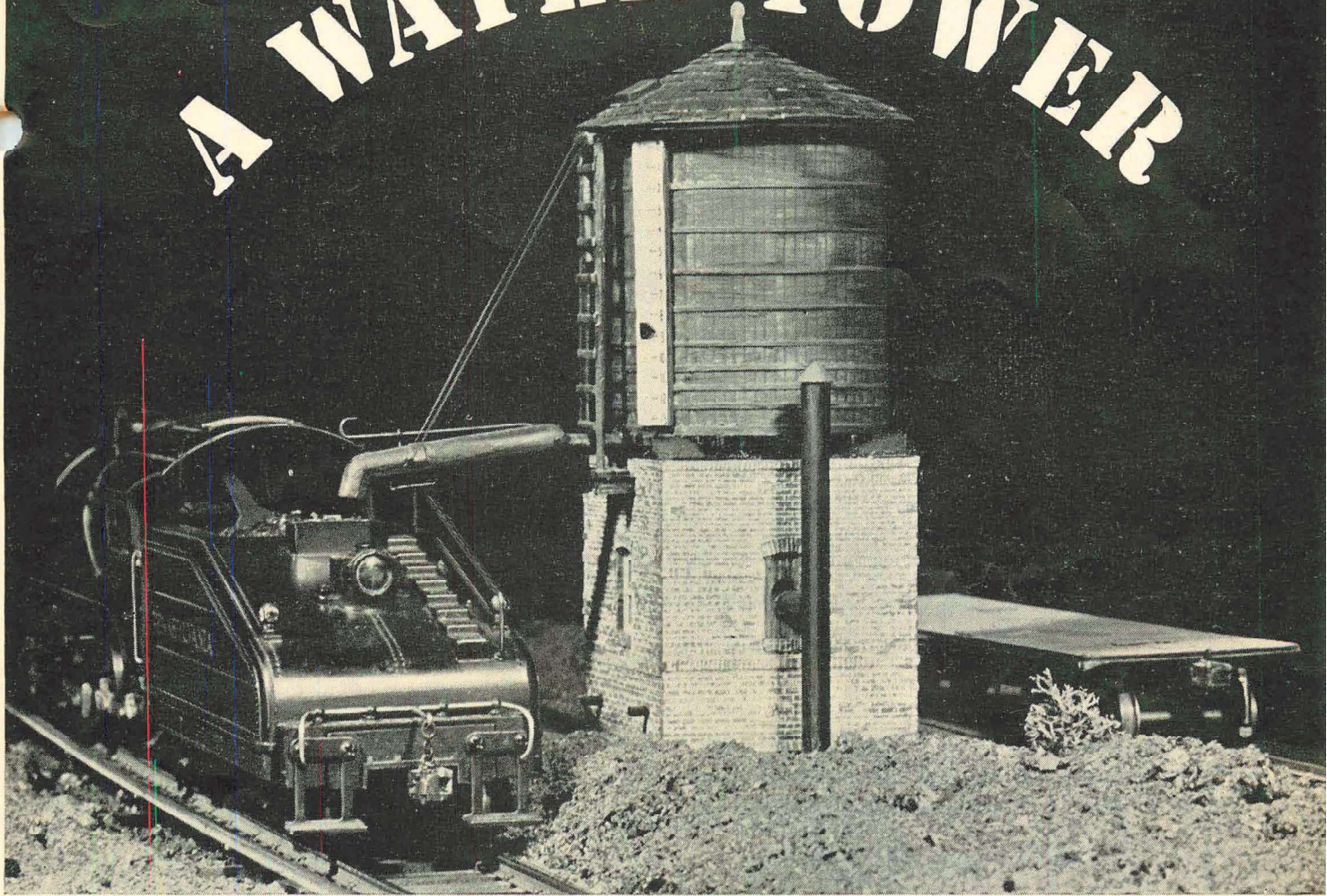


A WATER TOWER



Though water towers are a familiar sight this one is unusual

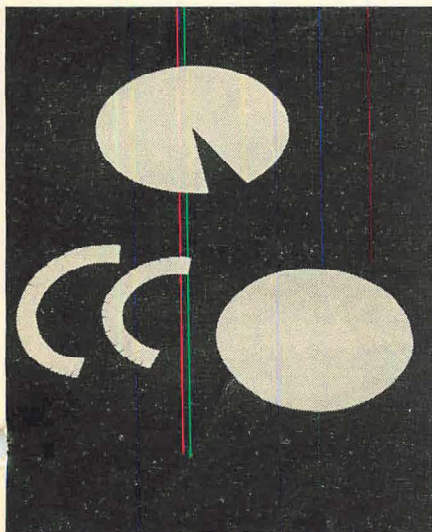
By Robert Sherman

A funny little brick house with a tank stuck on top of it is the water tower on the Sandy River Valley Railroad. This unique model, copied after a real railroad water

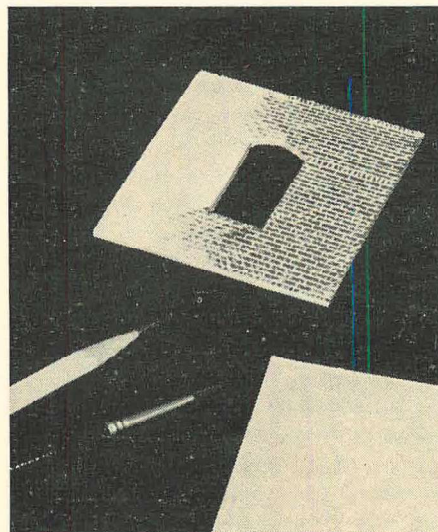
tower in New Jersey, makes a colorful miniature for your yards.

It would seem that the Sandy River consists of nothing but old junk. This antiquated structure is indeed unique and quite apart from the usual water tower. The lower portion, or brick house, is made of illustration board and the top is a tin can. All you need is a sheet of illustration board and a little Bristol board (about 2-ply) and these, together with some scraps of wood, wire, and a tin can, will allow you to fashion a replica of it.

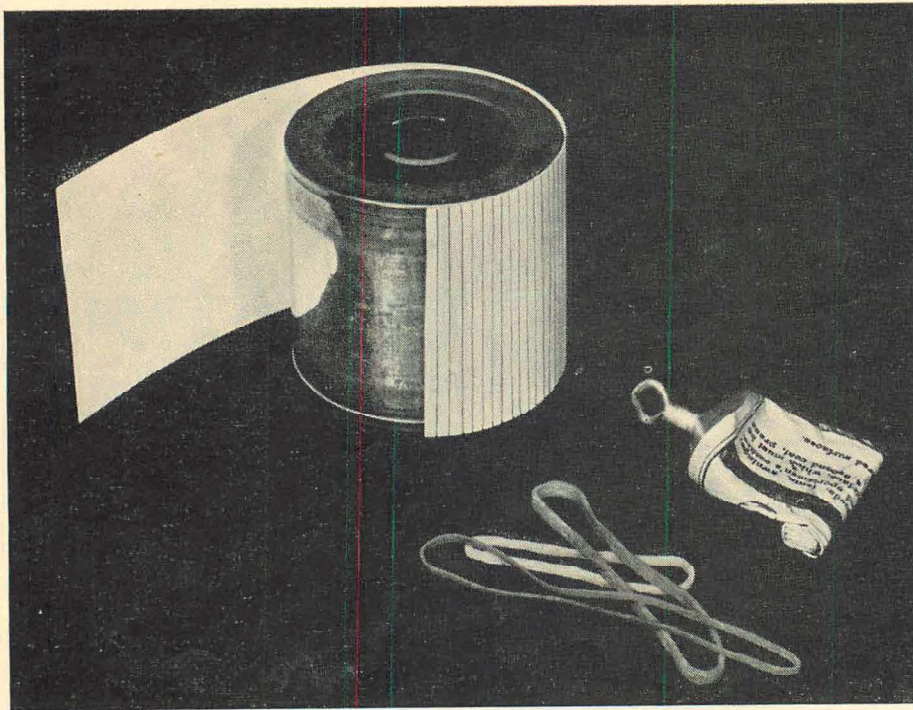
Before beginning the actual construction of the building, spend some time carefully looking over the drawings and photographs of the model. Construction rightly begins at the base and walls of the little brick building. Four sheets of illustration board are laid out with the positions of doors and windows pencilled in. Dimensions of the walls are specified on the drawings. These are for "O" gauge only. Use the accompanying scale if you are working in some other size. Sizes of the windows and doors can also be determined from the drawings with the aid of the scale. They are easy to figure out.



Shown here are parts of tank roof. Cone is formed from disc with slice out, cemented to disc below. Shingle strips also shown.



Side walls of house are cut from illustration board, scribed and painted with little paint on your brush, in diagonal strokes.

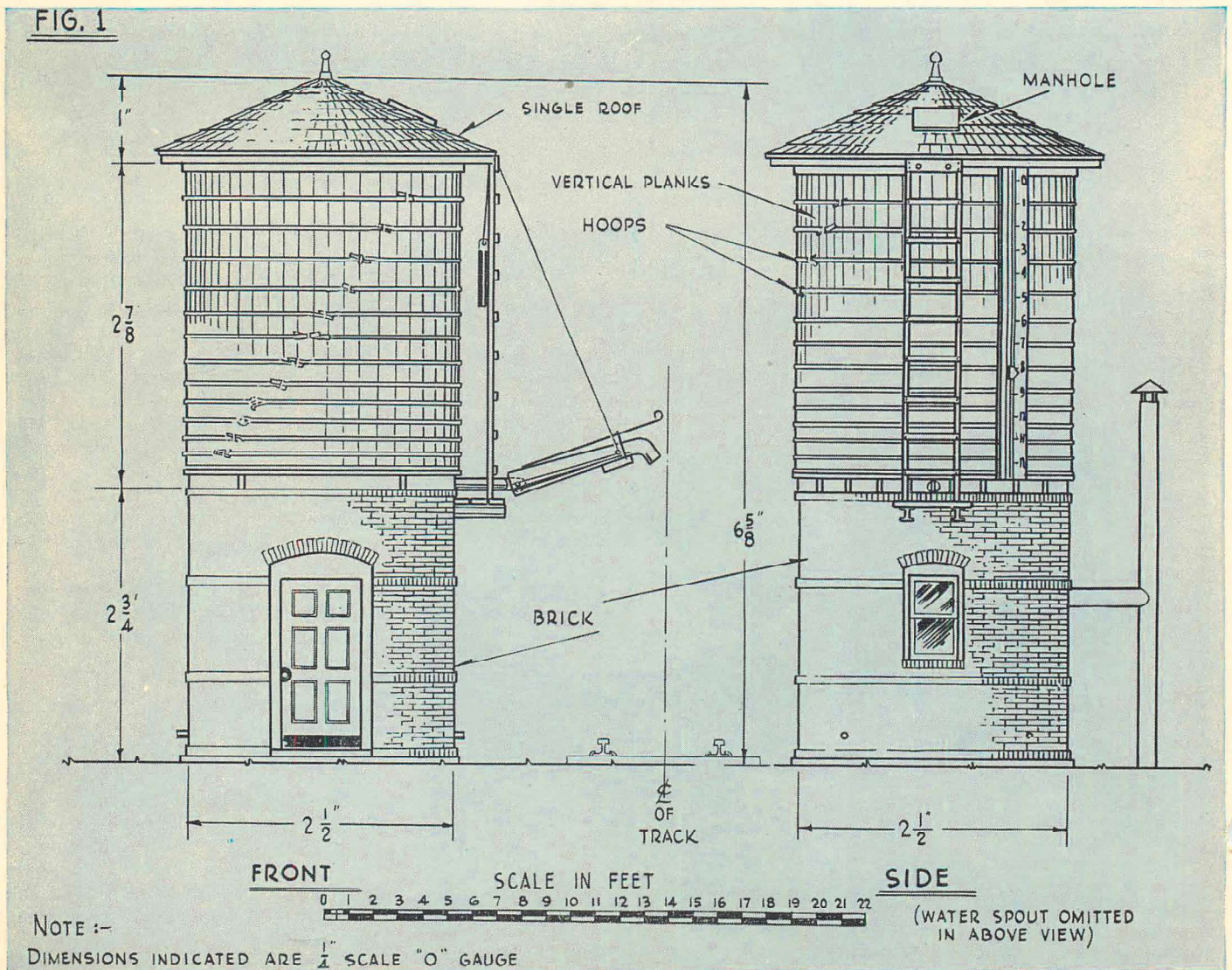


A milk can, or soup can, with a scribed Bristol board wrapper forms the tank. Wrapper is cemented to can and elastic bands hold it firm until cement is set. Here's all you need.

Brick work is scored on the surface of the illustration board with a blunt instrument. After the lines are scored, door and window openings can be cut out. Paint lightly over the surface of the bricks with a well wiped out brush.

A slight variation in color is suggested by using faint touches of red, orange and yellow with your brick color (burnt sienna). Whole bricks, left white, will represent lime covered bricks. Vertical brick bands are used at the top and bottom of the walls, just below the windows, at the top of the windows, and in arches over the door and windows. The curved brick "courses" are cut on a curve, scribed, then applied to the walls.

The window in the back wall, out of which extends the stove pipe, is not entirely cut out. Cut about half way through the cardboard and peel off the surface so that you have a deep recess. A piece of Bristol board is scribed to represent vertical boards and cemented into the recess.



This makes the boarded-up window.

Having finished the walls, cut out the base board and foundation board. The foundation board is slightly larger than the walls and represents the concrete base on which the building is constructed. The base board is cut smaller, cemented over the foundation board, and the four walls butted up against it. Hold the walls squarely to the foundation board with generous amount of cement applied inside. Then set it aside to dry. Three or four strong elastic bands, wound around the walls, will hold them tightly in place until the cement is dry. Make sure all parts are squarely set as the cement dries.

The door and the two window frames and sashes can next be cut out of Bristol board. Figure 2 shows how the door is built up of three layers of board. The top layer is the door frame, the second has the panel openings, cut out, and the third forms the actual panels. After cutting out these parts and assembling them, they can be cemented in place inside of the walls. The two windows are made the same way and a piece of cellophane or celluloid makes the "glass." The door and windows are painted white before being put into place.

The roof is just a flat top and the simplest thing to do is to cut a piece of illustration board and fit it down tightly inside the walls, flush with the top, cementing it down. After the roof is in place, cut out a piece of fine sandpaper to entirely cover the seams around the edges and cement it to the roof. When dry, paint it a flat black.

Cut out a piece of illustration board for the step in front of the door. The entire model may, at this time, be cemented to a piece of wood, forming a base for the ground. When the model is set on your layout, finish the groundwork around it.

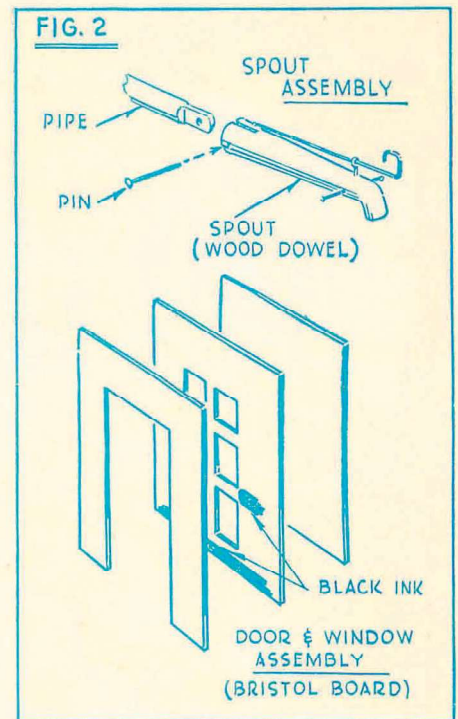
Before starting the tank, make the base or beams upon which it rests. These consist of strips of illustration board, representing beams about 4" by 8". Refer to Figure 1; make sure that they extend from side to side along the roof of the brick house. About 8 or 10 of them should be cemented on. They must all be upright and parallel. The end ones on each side are shorter than the others and short beams run at right angles inward to the next beam.

For the tank itself, select a tin can about 2½" in diameter and 2¾" high. Remove the paper label if it has one. Prepare a Bristol board wrapper scribed on the outer side to represent the vertical planks out of which real tanks are made. Roll

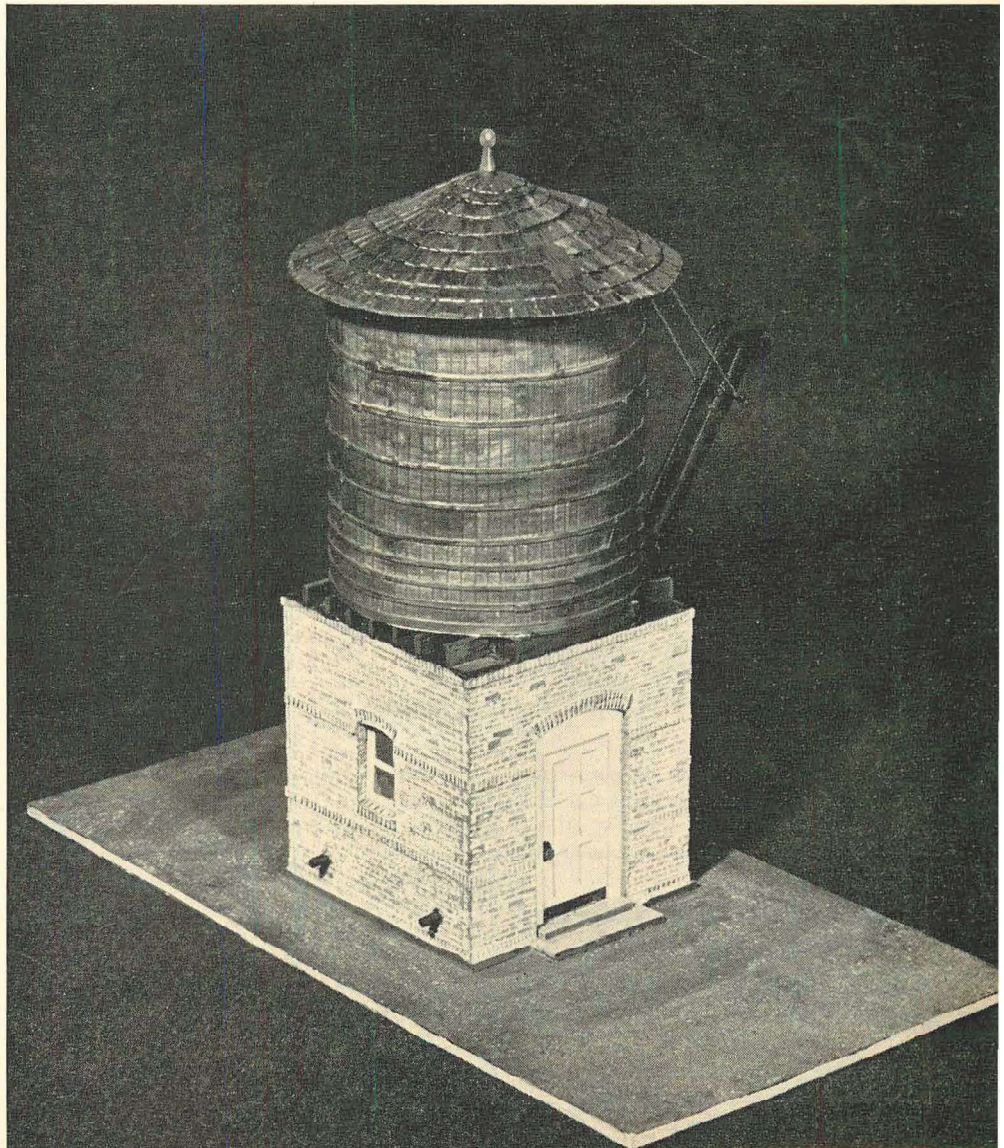
the wrapper around a smaller can, about 1½" in diameter, until it stays rolled up. This will make it easier to apply to the can you are using for the tank. Put plenty of cement on the can, paying special attention to the edges, and then apply the wrapper. Wrap 4 or 5 elastic bands around the can and put a strip of illustration board, about ¼" wide, at the seam where the two ends of the wrapper meet. This will serve to keep the seam smooth and is removed after the cement is dry. In bending and handling the wrapper, avoid creasing it so that you may obtain an even bend.

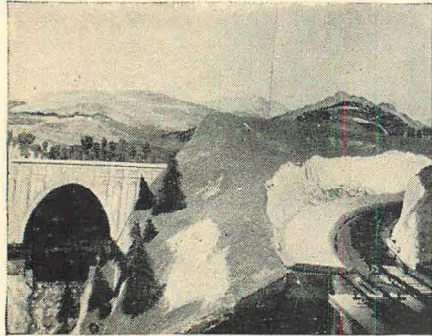
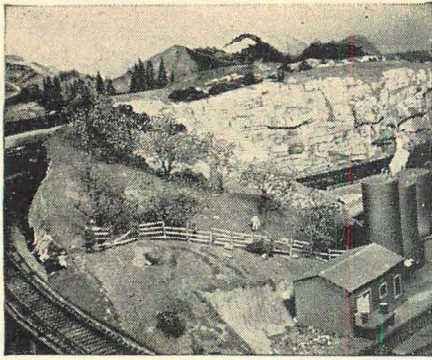
When the cement has set—preferably overnight—thin strips of Bristol board, about 3/64", can be cut out and applied to the wrapper to imitate the hoops. Note that they are spaced closer at the bottom than at the top. A pin pushed into the seam will hold the two ends together until the cement is set. A tiny piece

(Continued on page 36)



Pictured here is the assembled model after it has been painted. Note hoops around tank, made from thin strips of Bristol. These are spaced closer at the bottom than at the top.





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Water Tower

(Continued from page 35)

of wood, placed over each band, represents the turnbuckle of the hoops.

Now the tank can be cemented to the top of the brick house and thus the model begins to take more shape. To make the roof of the tank, cut out a disc of Bristol board 3" in diameter and cut out a slice as you would a piece of pie. This piece should be about 1½" wide at the edge of the circle. Make another disc from illustration board, 3½" in diameter. Form a cone with the disc that has the wedge out. This makes the roof. The cone is then cemented to the other disc, making the base for the roof. Cut rings from Bristol board, about ¼" wide (outside diameter) varying in size from the diameter of the roof down to about ½". These are snipped with scissors from the outer edge toward the middle for about 3/16". These, then, are our shingle strips. They are cemented to the roof, each one overlapping the other by about 1/16".

When the roof is finished, the little finial or ornament on top can be turned out of a piece of dowel and cemented in place. A little manhole cover can be cemented on the roof. After the cement has thoroughly dried, the roof assembly can be cemented to the top of the tank.

The ladder up the side of the tank can be made from fine wood. Build the ladder before applying it to the model. The bottom of the ladder is supported on a little platform easily made of wood and illustration board.

The water spout is turned from 3/16" diameter wood dowel. The end, with its downward spout, is a short piece cemented on. File and sandpaper to the shape shown. The other end of the spout has a slot and a hole is drilled through it at right angles. Note the drawing in Figure 2 of the spout assembly. Use 1/8" dowel for the short pipe coming out of the bottom of the tank. A small pin holds the spout to the pipe and allows free vertical movement of the spout. The handle and pull bar on the spout are made of wire. Two nails with one end filed flat and drilled, are the counterweights for the spouts. You may not hit upon the right size for these at first, but make them of sufficient weight so that the spout can be moved up and down and will stay in any position it is placed. Black thread can be used to tie the weights to the end of the spout.

The water gauge is made of cardboard strips and is white.



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