Tank indicator gauge

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A MOULYINNING farmer, Mr. K. M. Atkins, has forwarded details of an attractive and effective gauge to indicate the level of water in an overhead tank. He used a length of transparent plastic piping to make a gauge that is positive in action, easy to read and pleasing in appearance.

Mr. Atkins writes:—"Some time ago I noticed your replies to a Journal reader who asked for advice on constructing an indicator to show the level of water in an overhead tank. The indicator on my tank is my own brainchild and it might interest others.

"Most of the tank indicators in use are of the type you illustrated and consist of a float and pulley with the indicator itself working in reverse—in other words the indicator falls as the water-level rises. The gauge I made shows the actual level of the water in the tank on an outside indicator and has no pulley or other gadgets to get out of order.

"Our soak water, although it is crystal-clear and excellent for either drinking or washing purposes, is apt to corrode metal pipes in about 10 years, so I decided to use rigid transparent plastic piping underground from the mill to the tank at the house about 700 yards away. After the installation was completed I had a length of about 6ft. of the 1in. plastic piping left and decided to use it as a tank gauge.

"My 1,000-gallon tank, which I put up on a 10ft. stand, had originally done duty as a rainwater tank and was fitted with a ½in. tap.

"I removed the tap and screwed in a ½in. M and M elbow bend in its place. To this I screwed a ¼in. to 1in. socket to take a plastic screwed connector and the 6ft. of plastic piping.

"The piping was in a vertical position and this meant that when water was pumped into the tank it would rise also to the same level in the pipe outside the tank.

"Next I obtained a cork that would fit easily into the pipe, weighted it with a blob of solder so that it would float upright, and painted it bright red. This was dropped into the pipe to serve as an indicator and it is clearly visible at a long distance from the tank.

"Probably a better float could be made from one of those long narrow pill-bottles of suitable diameter, partly filled with red ink or red enamel and then tightly corked and sealed with waterproof cement.

"To finish off the gauge I obtained a length of galvanised iron ridge-capping, cut a notch out of the bottom so that it fitted snugly over the elbow bend and screwed two lengths of 2in. x 1in. jarrah to the back of the two flat portions of the ridge-capping to give extra rigidity.

"The inside of the groove in the ridge-capping was painted cream, and the flat portions given two coats of pillar-box red.
The ridge-capping was then slid into position behind the plastic piping which fitted snugly into the cream-painted groove. The flat portions were pressed back against the tank. A ¼ in. strip of 24-gauge galvanised iron was soldered to the tank at each end so that it crossed over the front of the ridge-capping holding the whole thing rigidly in position and holding the plastic piping in the groove.

"The red cork shows up plainly against the cream background and the assembly has now been in position for four years and is giving excellent service."

![Diagram of tank and ridge-capping installation](attachment:diagram.png)
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