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A HANDY DRUM-TIPPING CRADLE

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THE tipping cradle described in this article provides a useful method of handling and emptying 44-gallon drums used as containers for petrol, oil, kerosene, water or other liquids. It was designed during the 1953-54 Argentine ant campaign when large numbers of drums were used to supply water to the spraying teams and it was necessary to evolve a method of filling the spraying outfits from the drums without loss of time and without waste of labour and materials.

The semi-rotary and other types of pumps commonly used for drawing off small quantities of liquid from the drums were too slow in operation but the cradle, when used in conjunction with large-sized taps screwed into the bungholes of the drums, proved most effective. It enabled filled drums to be handled easily by one man.

The cradle illustrated here weighs 45 lb. and is constructed from ¼ in. x ½ in. angle-iron and ½ in. pipe or steel tubing. It could be constructed easily by any farmer who can operate a welding plant.

CONSTRUCTION

The two angle-iron side-members are 3 ft. 6 in. in length and the two angle-iron cross-members which complete the top frame are 1 ft. 9 in. long. The first cross-member is welded into position across the ends of the side-members. The other is placed in position the length of the drum (about 2 ft. 11 in.) from it.

Four 4 in. lengths of piping are welded to the ends of the side-members and curved lengths of piping to serve as rockers are welded to these short uprights.
Six lengths of piping are then welded to form two H-shaped stays which are welded into position between the rockers to ensure rigidity. The vertical distance from the centre of the rockers to the side-members should be 16in.

Two more lengths of piping are bent at the ends to form side-rails about 2ft. in length and these are welded in position on the side-members so that when the drum is on the cradle it rests on the side-rails and on the inner flanges of the angle-iron cross-members.

The drum is held in position by a length of trace-chain which has its end link welded to one of the side-members. The other end of the chain is secured by slipping one of the links through a slot cut in a short piece of angle-iron welded to the side-member.