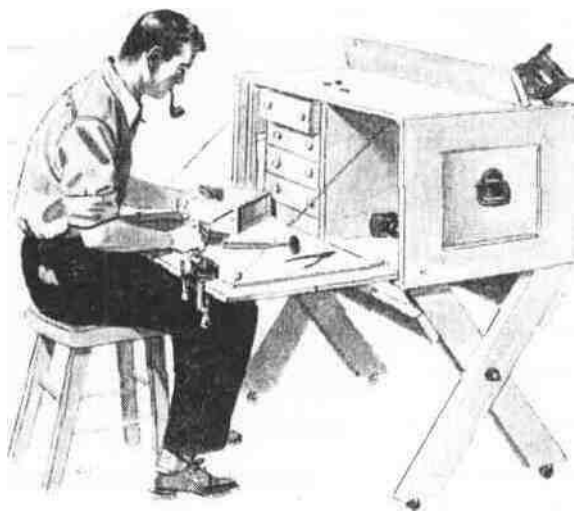


# APARTMENT WORKSHOP

By Joseph Whitehill

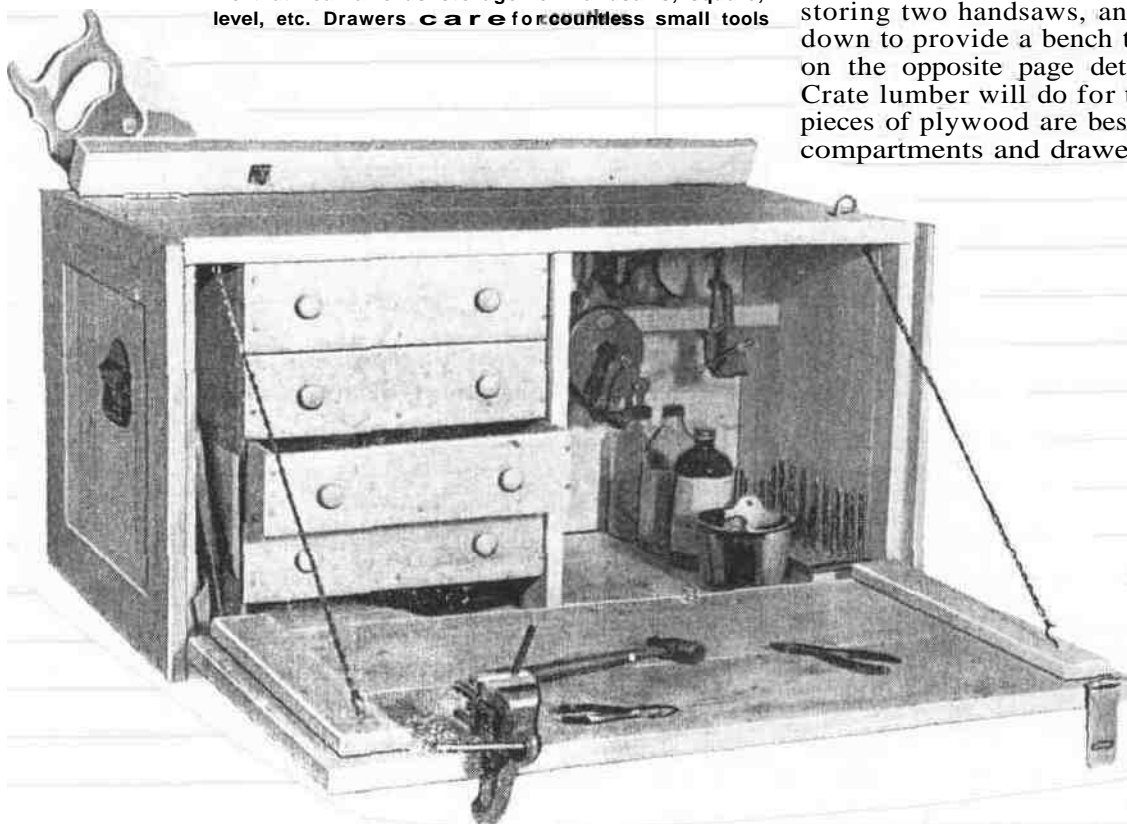


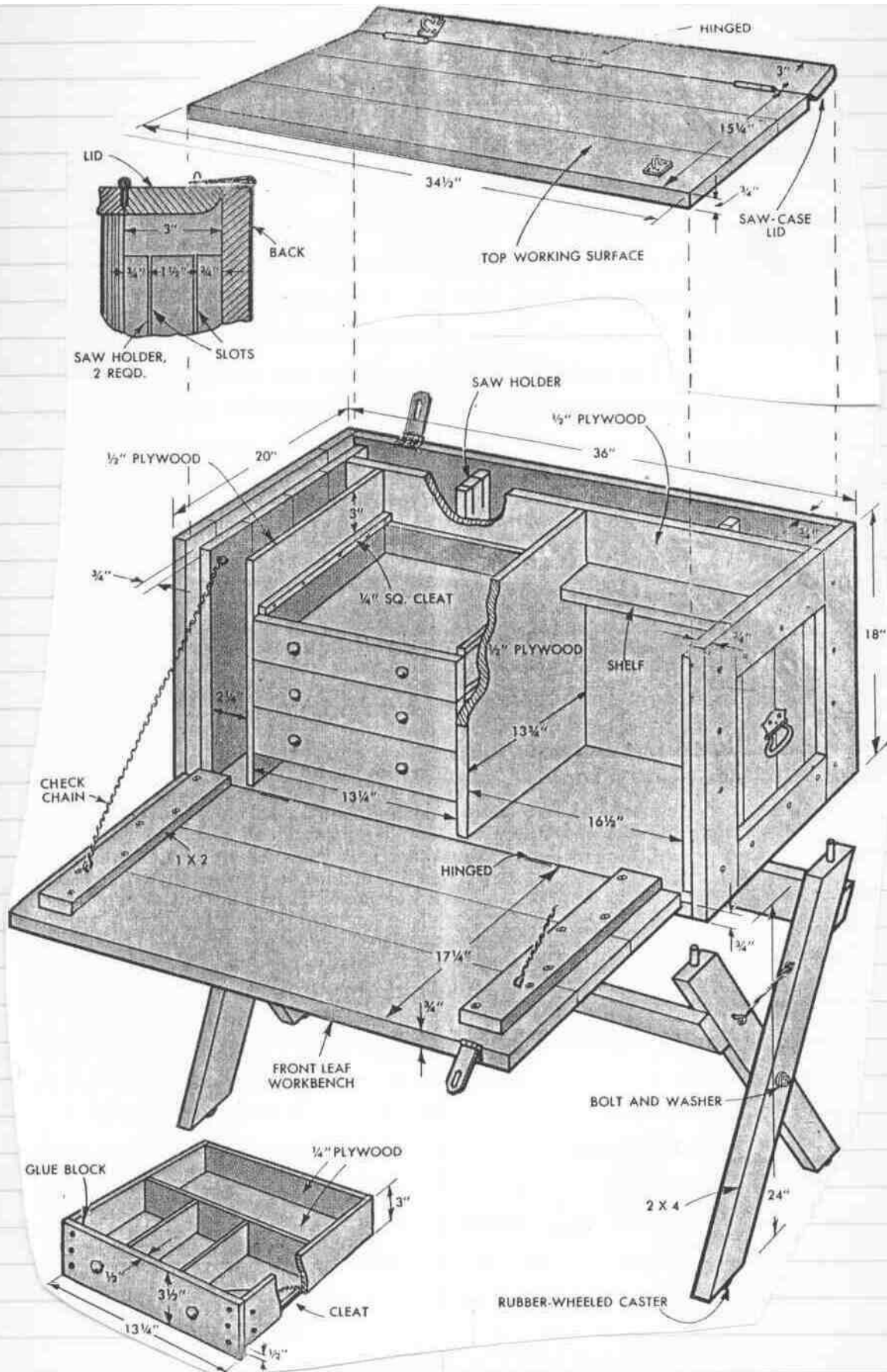
You literally "set up shop" when you roll out this compact little workshop. Combining a chest and bench in one, it's the answer to the apartment "crafter's" prayer for a convenient place to work and store tools

Chain-supported drop lid lowers to form a handy lap-type bench top when chest is open. Compartment at rear affords storage for handsaws, square, level, etc. Drawers care for countless small tools

DOES THE kitchen table serve as your workbench, much to the annoyance of your wife? If so, this article is especially for you. It shows how you can have a workbench and tool chest all in one within the confines of a compact trunklike box. Supported by a folding detachable sawbuck stand, both parts of this workshop can be stored in a minimum of space. It's the perfect setup for the man who resides in an apartment, or the owner of a basementless house who likes to tinker, build models or keep the household appliances in repair. Everything is at hand when you want to "set up shop" and, when you're through, tools can be quickly packed away for another day. It's as simple as that.

The photo below shows how the box is divided into compartments and fitted with four drawers for regimenting small tools, parts and materials. Features of the box are a separate compartment at the back for storing two handsaws, and a lid that drops down to provide a bench top. The drawing on the opposite page details construction. Crate lumber will do for the box, although pieces of plywood are best for forming the compartments and drawers.





specifically a product called glazing liquid. This can be purchased ready made or can be made with varnish, 4 parts, boiled linseed oil, 2 parts, and turpentine, 1 part. Pigment colors in oil or japan are added as needed to obtain desired colors. The glaze coat is applied over a foundation coat of sealer or colored enamel. It is sprayed or brushed over the whole area and is immediately wiped with a cloth or blended out with a dry brush. It can also be applied with a cloth and wiped with the same cloth, a kind of rubbing-on process.

A soft-brown glaze on an off-white enamel ground (bone-white finish) is effective. The same on a cream ground gives a pleasing soft, shaded effect. For a clear finish, the glaze coat should be somewhat darker than the wood or the stained color of the wood. For colored enamel finishes, any of hundreds of color combinations can be used. An example is shown in the photos. For most work, the glaze should be

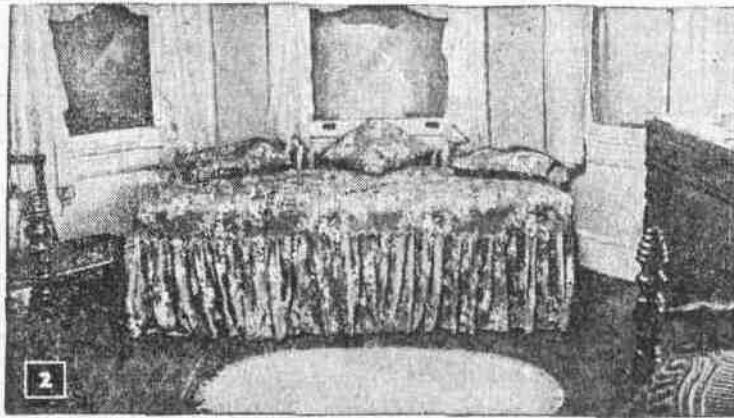
wiped rather thoroughly. Graining effects can be obtained by wiping the glaze coat with a dry brush, whisk broom, combs and other gadgets. You can use your finger for tricky texture effects and designs. If a glaze coat becomes too tacky for clean working, it can be wiped with a cloth moistened with naphtha.

**General technique:** Regardless of how you do this shading, highlighting or antiquing, the work should not be overdone. On clear finishes especially, any shading or highlighting should be soft. A combination of methods is sometimes useful. For example, it is nearly impossible to spray-shade carvings, but it is very easy to apply pigment stain or glaze and then expose highlights by wiping. On the other hand, the spray gun is excellent for shading panels and table tops. Turnings are best treated by wiping since a simple run-over with a rag from end to end will automatically highlight the bulbous portions.

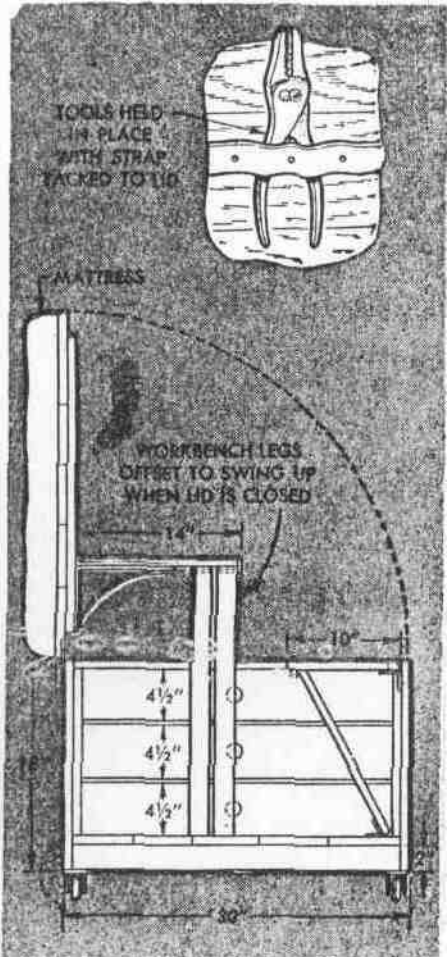
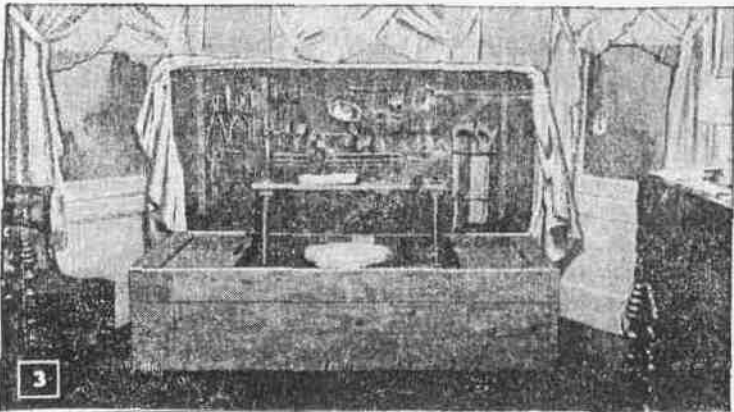
## APARTMENT WORKSHOP

**A**FTER having had a complete basement workshop for many years, I was like a fish out of water when we moved into

an apartment. Trying to carry on by using the kitchen table as a workbench and having to stow away everything each time



No one would suspect that this studio couch houses a complete "workshop." Just lift the cover and presto!—there it is all before you—everything in readiness to begin work. No time is wasted putting things away



led me to build the portable, self-contained workshop pictured in Figs. 1 and 3. Not only does it solve the problem of a place to work with everything at finger tips, but it can be transformed quickly into a comfortable and attractive studio couch by simply closing the cover as shown in Fig. 2. There's really nothing to making it. Fig. 4 will give you a good idea of the construction which amounts to making a large box with a hinged cover and upholstering it with a mattress and slip cover. I used inexpensive, common-grade lumber, although 3/4-in. fir plywood could be used. This would eliminate the work of building up the sides, top and bottom with battens. Notice that the bottom of the box rests on 2 by 2-in. sills, equally spaced, and that a caster is fastened to each corner.

Each end of the box is fitted with a removable three-drawer cabinet, which is made separately and slipped into place. For these you may be able to purchase a ready-made chest of the unpainted variety, such as is sold in large department stores, and adapt it to fit the box, or the drawer compartment of a discarded piece of furniture might do. It wouldn't be necessary for them to extend the full width of the box either. Regardless, the cabinets should simply set in place so that the whole thing becomes a knockdown affair to facilitate

moving. I used flathead screws in assembling the box, and loose-pin hinges in attaching the cover so that it could be dismantled without too much trouble. The side view in Fig. 4 shows how both the workbench and seat are hinged to fold compactly. Regular metal shelf brackets support the bench top rigidly at right angles to the cover, and the legs are hinged offset to allow them to nest side by side when folded. Midget-type power tools such as a lathe, saw, drill press, etc., are ideal for use in this "shop." Mounting can be such as to allow the machines to be quickly interchanged, and there's ample room to store them in the bottom of the box. A piece of linoleum on the floor of the box will prevent sawdust from seeping through the joints of the boards.

The top is fitted with a standard cotton mattress, 30 by 74 in. This was spot-tacked around the edge to hold it in place and then covered with a slip cover having a pleated flounce. Note the hand holes that are cut in the top edge of the box at the front. This allows you to get a grip under the cover to raise it. Although not shown, a cleanout drawer in the bottom of the box, or a trap door, would facilitate removing shavings and sawdust. This necessitates raising the box higher off the floor to provide access for removal of the sweepings.

