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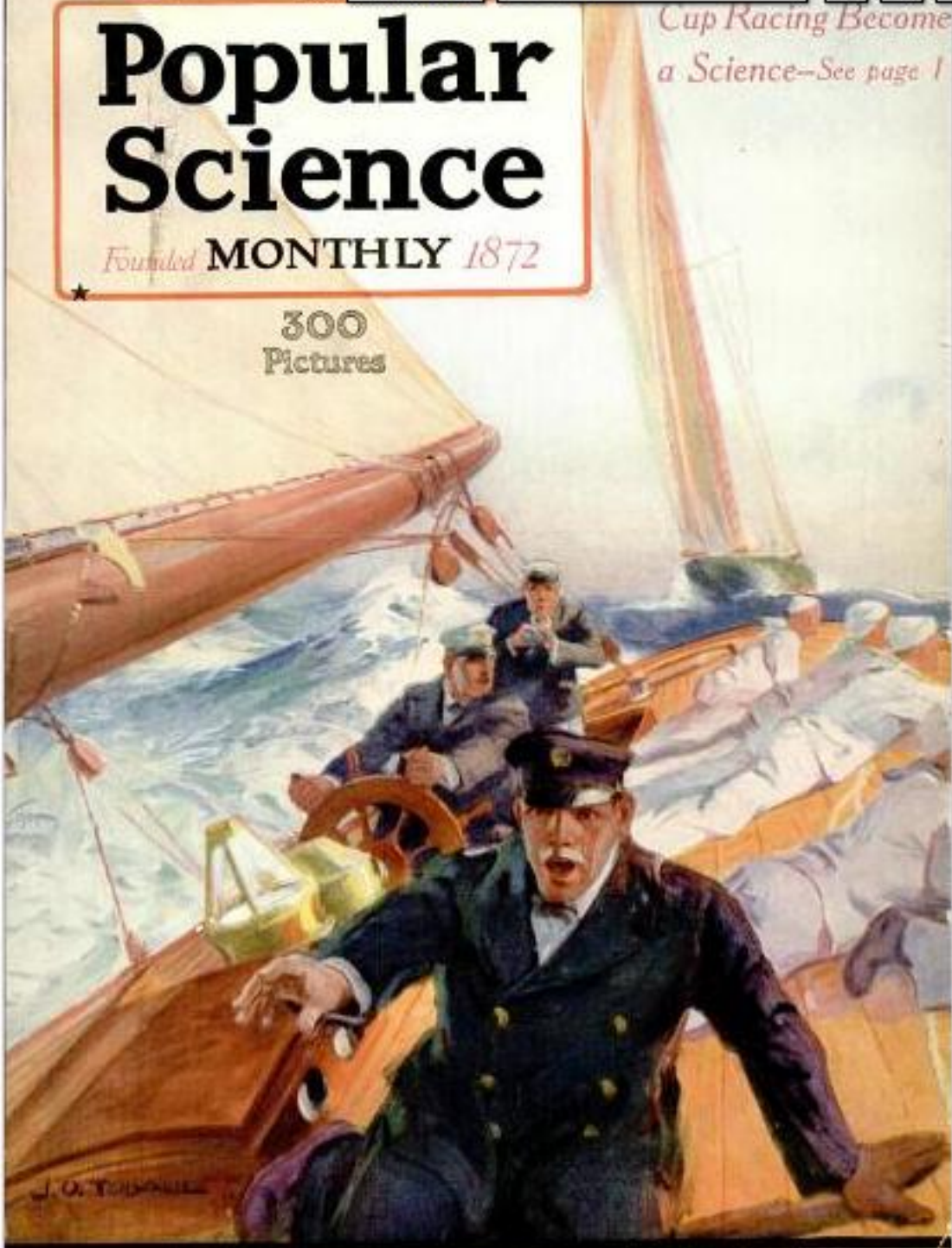


Popular Science

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How to Make a Jazzolin from a Broomstick

THIS instrument is a source of great amusement to the music lover and is one that can be easily played by anyone as it embodies only one string.

Frets or marks may be made at the proper intervals on the fingerboard to guide the novice in placing his fingers. They may be copied from those on a



Here is the way the jazzolin will appear when finished. Anyone can play it with but little practice

guitar or mandolin or made by finding the scale on the instrument itself.

The body consists of a small-sized cigar box, the front cover cut as shown in the illustration, measuring $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. from each corner and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. down on the sides.

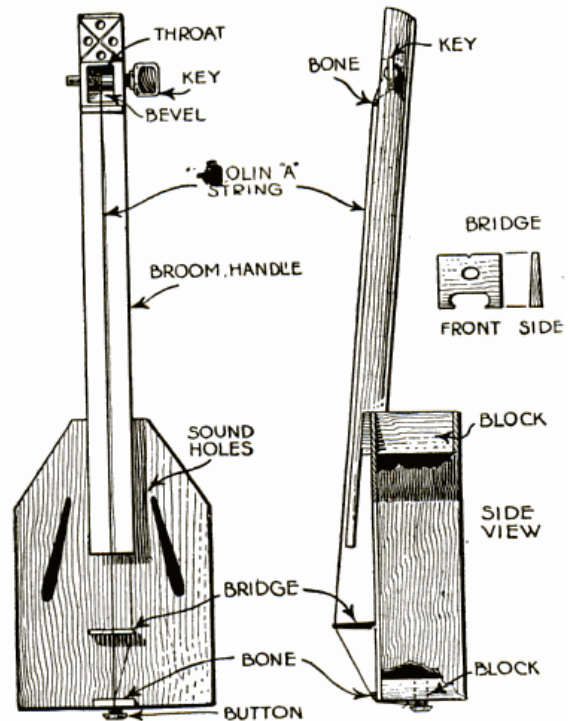
The sound holes are shaped like the warrior club, or the conventional *F* hole may be substituted, the length being 3 in., the width $\frac{3}{16}$ in. on one end and widening to $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on the other. Set them in or on an angle as shown, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in on front and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on the back. The side view gives the position of the inside blocks—front and back—that in front being $1\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. while the back one is $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. The height will vary according to the depth of the box.

Bevel the top of the front block $\frac{1}{8}$ of an in. to form the slant for the fingerboard. Bore holes in the back of the block for the button peg. Clamp the broom handle in a vise and plane off the top until the width is a trifle over $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Now measure in 4 in. on one end, and down $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the top of the end. Saw on this line to the 4 in. mark, cutting out with a fret saw. The length of the whole will be 15 in. Now measure in $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the other end and drill holes $\frac{3}{4}$ in. the depth of the handle, $\frac{7}{16}$ in. wide and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. A small strip of bone is fastened upon this end as well as one on the back of the box. These should have small grooves filed in the center of the top for the string. The key is made from hardwood and must taper like a violin key. The design may be varied to suit the ideas of the builder.

The design on the end is made with a three-cornered file and a small drill. The bridge is 1 in. in height and 1 1/4 in. wide. Cut in 1/4 in. on the bottom to form the feet. Taper the thickness of the height from 3/16 in. to 1/8 in.

Make a small peg and insert it in the rear block. Glue strips on the top inside edges and after fastening the fingerboard through the front block set in the top and glue it securely. Now bore a hole through the top of the fingerboard into the block, and countersink the screw which holds it. If desired the bridge may be rounded slightly on top while the two pegs are made for the front and back. This will allow the use of two strings tuned in fifths or five tones between their pitches, preferably *E* and *A* violin strings. Use only silk or gut strings as a steel string will sound much too tinny. Cut the grooves for the strings about 3/8 in. deep—if more than one is to be used. This will allow plenty of drop for the bow.

Purchase a cheap bow from some music store or pawn shop but be sure



The diagram above sets forth in detail every part of the construction and you should encounter no difficulty in making the instrument

that the hair is in good condition, and it should be kept well rosined. Decorate the edges and corners of the instrument with narrow strips of colored paper and give it two coats of white shellac, rubbing down the fingerboard after each coat.

For a more finished instrument a hole can be bored in the back block under the peg, and in it a round stick about 25 in. in length may be inserted to give a substantial rest for the instrument. When finished this way it resembles the 'cello.

The jazzolin somewhat resembles the ukelele except for the fact that it is played with a violin bow instead of a pick. Several of these instruments in conjunction with a piano will render very pleasing music. The popular "jazz" music becomes easy, once one is accustomed to using the bow.—FRANK W. VROOM.

Vroom, Frank W. "How to Make a Jazzolin from a Broomstick." *Popular Science* July 1920: 110-11. Print.