

1964

Events and Dates to Remember

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Portable Darkroom

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If your lab lacks a photographic darkroom, here is a partial answer—a portable model that you can store under the demonstration table.

The outfit shown here is one that I made from scrap lumber and a couple of oatmeal boxes. Even though our department boasts a walk-in darkroom, this portable unit saves a lot of time. It permits loading film holders and developing right in the classroom. In making micrographs, close-ups of insects, and such, it is particularly important to know right away how a shot turns out.

The outfit is essentially a light-proof box with a lid on top and arm-holes in front. The front is angled as shown in the photograph for a comfortable working position of the arms. An inner lid fits over a hole 15 inches in diameter at the top. Then an outer lid fits over the wall, assuring light-proof construction. The arm holes consist of six-inch sections of oatmeal boxes over which 10-inch sleeves are tightly fitted. The sleeves are double layers of black chamois, with elastic sewed in so they fit tightly around the arms at both ends of the tubes. All inner surfaces are painted non-glossy black.

The developing tank sits in a shallow tray inside the box. After I have exposed a sheet (or roll) of film, I merely push my forearms into the light-trap holes and go to work. One of my colleagues claims that I keep my class notes on top of the lid and that I lecture while developing films. He's wrong. I can't lecture unless I have at least one hand free to scratch my head.

Events and Dates to Remember

Eastern Iowa Science Fair, Cedar Rapids, April 4-5. Address inquiries to Box 441, Cedar Rapids.

Hawkeye Science Fair, Des Moines, April 10-11, Dean C. Stroud, Director.

Northeast Science Symposium (replacing the Northeast Science Fair), State College of Iowa March 13-14, Clifford G. McCollum, Dept. of Science, State College of Iowa, Director.

"A manufacturer of experimental natural gas fuel cells predicts a commercial unit within three years. It would be about the size of a clothes dryer, sell for about \$500.00 and produce electricity for 1/2c per KWH."

PEOPLES NATURAL GAS

