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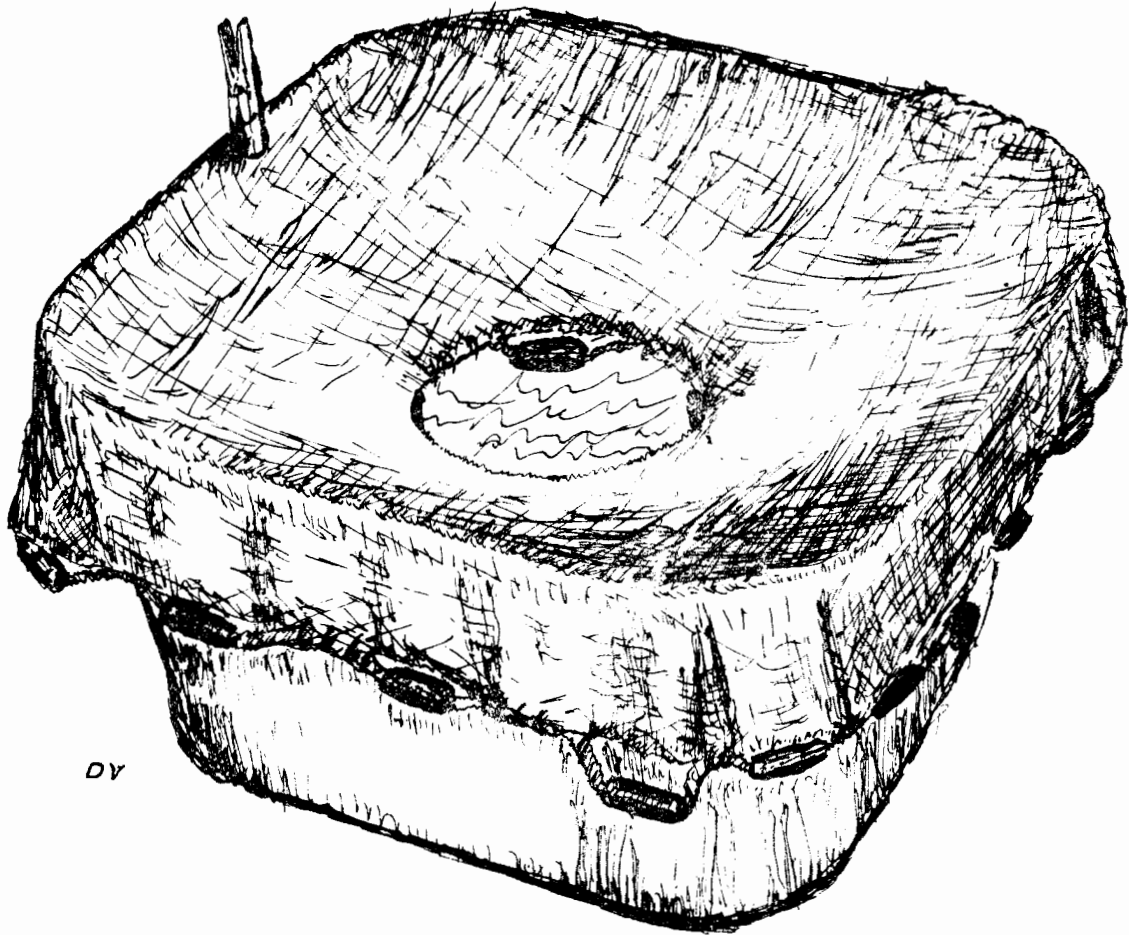
A COVER FOR CONTAINER TO HOLD LIVE FISH

By Raymond E. Fitch

Covers are often required to prevent fish from jumping out of tanks and vessels used to hold them. A cover we have developed has proved highly convenient, especially in situations such as population studies on streams. This cover (see figure) was designed for a wash tub, but the plan could be used also to make covers for fish-holding receptacles of other shapes and dimensions. Also, it could be made either with or without an opening for the passage of fish into the container.

The cover is made of knotless, fine-meshed nylon netting. This material is cut to the shape of the container's top, but somewhat larger; for example, in fitting a wash tub with a cover that will have an opening, there should be approximately 4 inches of overhang around the sides. If there is to be an opening, cut a circular hole in the center of the material. The diameter of the opening will be determined mainly by the size and shape of the fish to be handled. Reinforce the edge of the opening and the perimeter of the netting by weaving No. 12 seine cord through the mesh. Then encircle both borders with No. 84 seine cord, stringing 2-ounce seine leads on it at intervals as it is secured to the netting with No. 12 cord. The leads are spaced about 6 inches apart on the perimeter. For

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an opening about 6 inches in diameter, four leads evenly spaced should be sufficient.

If this cover is provided with an opening, it can serve also as a funneling device and a splash deterrent when fish are tossed onto it or dropped from a dip net. Under such use it tends to slip inward over the sides of the container. Slippage on thin-edged receptacles such as tubs and pails can be prevented by clipping with spring-type clothespins. Elastic shock cord conceivably could be used instead of the non-elastic cord for dressing the outer border. Neither clips nor outside leads would be required with this arrangement.

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