

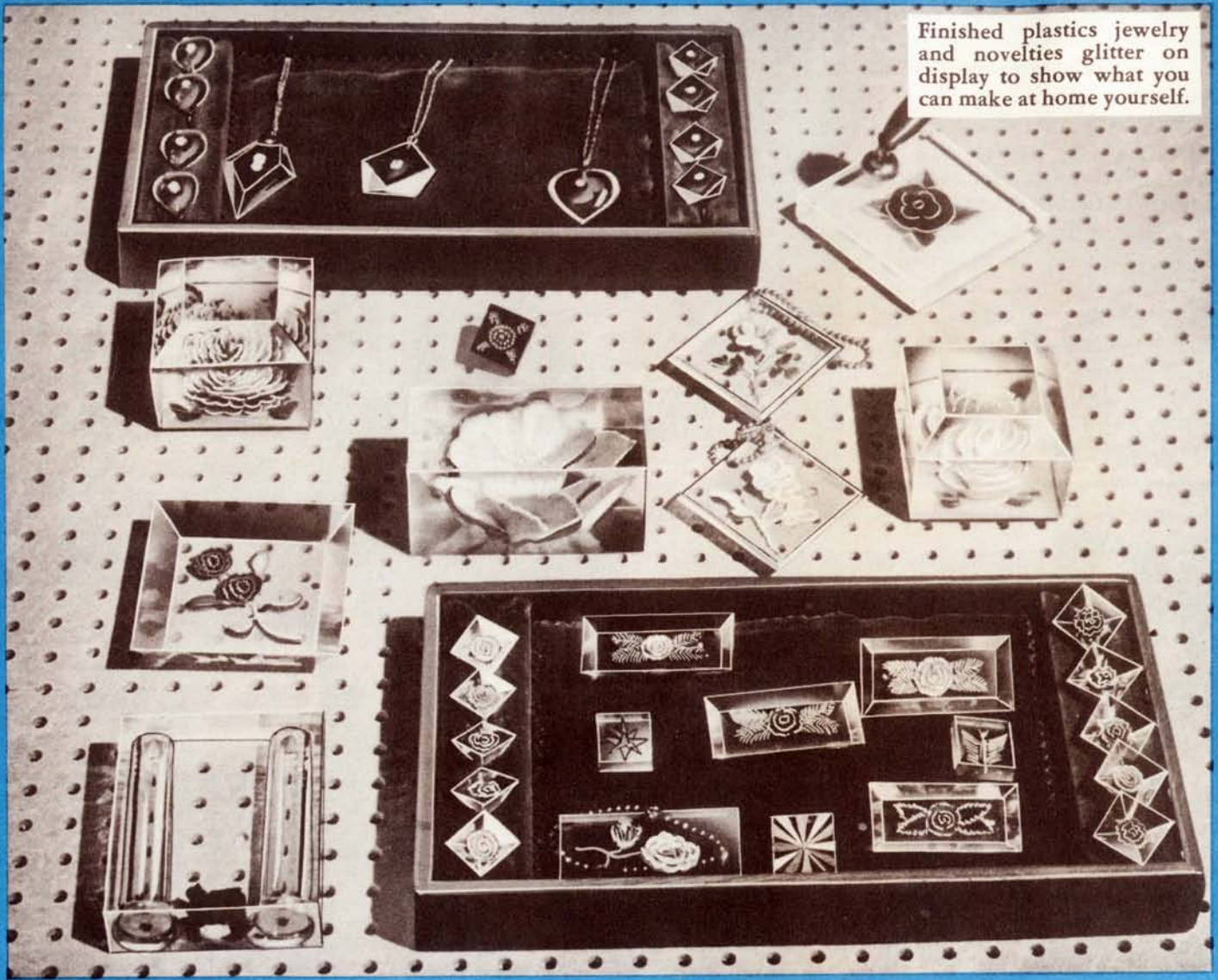
JULY • AUGUST
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ADVENTURES AHEAD

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

Finished plastics jewelry and novelties glitter on display to show what you can make at home yourself.



THERE'S PLEASURE
AND PROFIT IN

Plastics

A "How-to-Do-It" Feature that Relates How Teen-agers Can Learn by Doing Simple Projects that May Turn into Big Business

YOU don't need great skill to start making things from plastics. When you work in plastics, you can start out with simple things, learn as you work, and wind up with a great deal of pleasure—and possibly profit. If you do as Harry Kintz did, you'll wind up setting up a small business just to protect yourself from your friends.

Harry's beginnings really have little to do with his hobby of plastics. It's

only to show how little relation they have that we'll recount that he was born in Wyoming, spent his youth in the West before being appointed to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, was graduated from the Navy's officers' "trade school on the Severn" with a degree in mechanical engineering, worked for the American Locomotive Company, and then—and currently—for General

Electric in Schenectady, New York.

The Annapolis girl he married was a major contributing factor to his interest in plastics, really. As 1948 began, Harry began to play around with plastics. He made some earrings for his wife, Virginia. "Different" earrings of the sort his wife wanted cost a great deal in stores. But making them involved only time, patience, not too much skill, and a few pieces of plastics which

weren't too costly if they were spoiled in the trying period.

A Business in Earrings

While his wife wore her first pair of earrings, Harry continued to damage material, stick his fingers with a drill as he tried interior carving, and to endure heartache and disappointment over dyes and damage. Friends of the Kintzes saw the earrings, liked them, wanted some. When Harry found there were more women interested than he had ever thought, he made up quantities for sale. He could no longer afford to make them for nothing. Besides, charging gave them added value. When he went commercial on a hobby, that marked the beginnings of the Harva Company of Schoharie, New York—*Har* for Harry and *Va* for Virginia. The Schoharie came naturally because that's where they live.

Then Came Pins

Just as naturally, pins joined earrings. Because Harry liked to carve after improving his technique, everything was given the internal carving treatment.

But with Harry busily engaged in Schenectady at General Electric with large and small motors in the Apparatus Department, Virginia took over a great deal of the work, including training and directing some of the women and teen-agers who are called in from time to time to help with rush orders.

When he was asked how teen-agers could work with plastics, Harry said, "They work plastics just as they would

wood. When I started out I had just the woodworking tools anyone'd need for general repairs at home. These were good because plastics have generally the same characteristics as wood, except grain. You can saw them, drill them, thread them, and sand them.

Here Are Some Tips

"There are several tips you want to bear in mind when you start out with plastics. When you saw—with a hand or power saw—allow a little extra space for a finishing area.

"Sanding is important because it removes rough edges and makes the plastics sparkle when they're finished. Use regular No. 1½ sandpaper for the first rough sanding. Then use No. 320 grit, garnet, Wetordry sandpaper on the flat surfaces of the previously sanded areas to finish. This second sanding removes the deep scratches you may have made with the first sanding.

"When you've finished the second sanding, you'll see that your piece of plastic looks like ground glass without scratches.

About Buffing

"In buffing, which is an important finishing step, you'd find a power-driven wheel ideal. It should be one with a wheel ⅛ inch thick for small, narrow pieces, used in conjunction with Tripoli or all-purpose buffing compound you can buy at any hardware store. You'd use a larger wheel



The young Kintzes—Judy, Win, and Susan—have their hands in the business, too. They remove paper from sawed plastics squares.

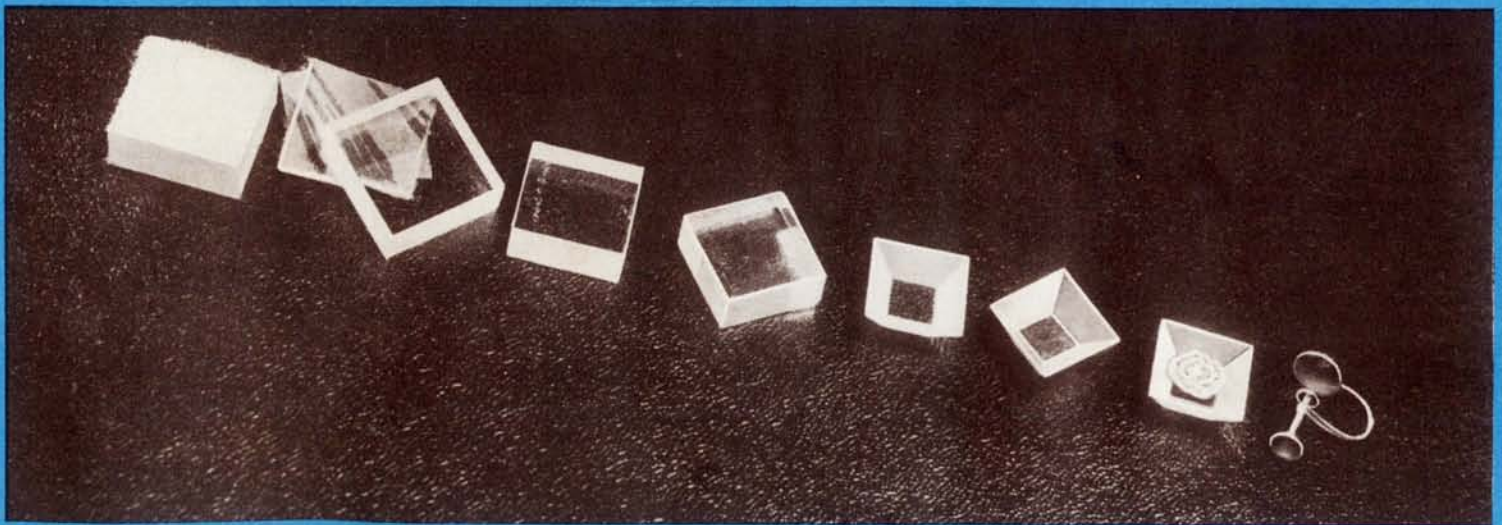
for larger pieces. But if you don't have a power-driven wheel to buff, use toothpaste or paste silver polish such as your mother uses on a piece of flannel That takes elbow grease and time."

Eager to tell young people what he has learned and is learning about the fascinating hobby of plastics, Harry said also, "When I started with plastics, I began by bending it. You can too. The only heating equipment I had was a kitchen stove; you want to heat plastics only hot enough to bend.

Be Sure to Wear Gloves

"You'd do well to wear gloves to

A plastics square becomes an earring: from sawing, sanding, buffing, carving, to point where Glyptal holds ear wire.





Dyeing gives color to the internally carved flowers the Kintzes favor.

save your hands from the heat and also to keep your finger prints from the plastics.

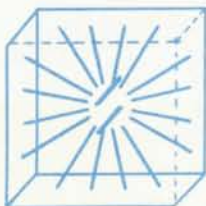
"After you've heated it, you can bend it easily and form it around simple wooden forms. For instance you can take a stick with a circumference of about five inches (diameter about one and a half inches). Use that as a form around which you bend heated plastics to form a napkin ring.

How to Make Buttons

"Plastics hold their heat for quite a while so you can form them carefully, taking your time."

Harry related that after "I got out of the bending stage and started doing interior carving with a high-speed hand drill, I tinkered with book ends, salt and pepper shakers, key rings, bag pulls, and paper weights." All of these, he says, were simple and could be done without power tools, although those make the task easier.

If you want, for instance, to make some buttons for your mother's new dress which is predominantly blue, take as many small squares of plastics as you need. Drill two holes through each square to serve as thread holes.

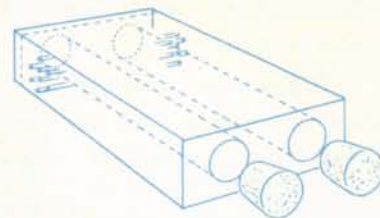


Then drill a series of holes into the sides of the square to make a pattern. Drill these with a hand drill almost into the center of the square. Then, take some blue ink, fill the holes with it to dye them, and then plug the holes up with plaster of paris. You'll have buttons of which you and your mother will be proud.

Making a Key Ring

To make an interesting key ring, use a square or rectangle of plastics, polish it and buff it, drill a hole in one end and thread a chain through. The same idea can be used for a woman's bag pull.

To make a combination salt and pepper shaker, you take a rectangular block of plastics, drill two large holes



in the ends. Then, bore a series of holes through which the salt and pepper pour. Plug up the bottoms with corks.

Biology Uses Plastics, Too

One of the most interesting things Harry has been called upon to make was a permanent exhibit for a high school biology class, studying one- and two-celled forms of life. Harry made a model from plastics, etched it and mounted it. Classes still are using it, seeing what they'd see in a microscope but without squinting or without equipping the whole class with expensive equipment.

Asked for a more specific list of things teen-agers could make with plastics; Harry said, "There are umbrella handles, boxes, picture frames, earring and jewel boxes—well, almost everything. And you can get the plastics material from your local hobby shop."

A firm believer in the old adage that you can do whatever you set out to do, Harry feels there is virtually nothing you can't do or make with plastics if you put your mind, your skill, your time, and your hopes on it. With his suggestions and hints in mind, you may start out in a small way to branch out into a big plastics enterprise.

Teen-agers group around Harry in his home workshop to study his methods.

