

Build a 1:20.3-scale ice-cream wagon

Plan set #87

by Ted Stinson | Wiscasset, Maine

If you are modeling a railroad in the period prior to 1920, you will need a supply of horse-drawn vehicles. The ice-cream wagon was the “Good Humor truck” of its day. There is no comparable vehicle today.

Wheels for this wagon are made from laser-cut ply and basswood (see ordering information below). They are assembled using the instructions that come with the wheels. They should be sealed with clear lacquer when dry, then painted to suit.

Construction

Begin by assembling the frame. When finished, make up the front axle and shafts. When both of these assemblies are done they should be sealed with clear lacquer and, when dry, painted black. When the paint was dried for at least 24 hours, fit these two parts together with a pin through the A/B ply plates. Now make the wheels according to the wheel instructions. When finished, seal the wheels with clear lacquer. When dry, paint them bright red. When the wheels have dried for at

least 24 hours they can be fitted on the axles and permanently fixed in place with small eyelets glued to the ends of the axles. (Be careful to avoid getting glue on the wheel hub.)

Now make up the body. Begin with the sides shown on the plan. Use bass stripwood cut to length. Now make the floor from $\frac{1}{8}$ "-thick balsa. Glue the sides in place. Cut out the parts for the front and rear from $\frac{1}{16}$ " balsa. Fit and glue the front and rear walls in place. Use $\frac{1}{8}$ "-thick scrap to fill the section at the front where the roof overhang is located.

Make the roof from $\frac{1}{32}$ " plywood. Add the $\frac{1}{16}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ " drip edges over the side windows and the door opening. At this point, seal the body inside and out with clear lacquer. When dry, paint the outside of the main body flat white and the roof flat black. Use water base, brushable acrylic paint. When dry, cut, fit, and glue the heavy paper signs in place. Now give the whole body a very light coat of clear spray lacquer. Then make the steps, which should be sealed and painted before gluing them in place.

The body can now be glued in place on the frame. Add a 1:20.3-scale horse and an ice-cream salesman dressed all in white to complete the project.

This is an online supplement to the August 2008 issue of *Garden Railways* magazine. To purchase previously published paper plans, see the list of those available at www.sidestreet.info

A kit for the Ice Cream Wagon (#118) is available from Northeast Narrow Gauge for \$30 + \$6 s&h (to the US). Laser-cut wheels will be available until the October 2008 issue of *GR* comes out for \$8 + \$2 s&h. Order from Northeast Narrow Gauge, PO Box 191, Wiscasset ME 04578. Web site: www.nemodel.com

© 2008 by *Garden Railways* and Northeast Narrow Gauge. These drawings may be reproduced by individual modelers for their own personal use. Copying for any commercial use or for distribution is prohibited without written consent from the publisher.

Are you working in a different scale?

- If you are working in 1:32 scale, reduce these drawings to 63%.
- If you are working in 1:29 scale, reduce these drawings to 70%.
- If you are working in 1:24 scale, reduce these drawings to 85%.
- If you are working in 1:22.5 scale, reduce these drawings to 90%.
- If you are working in 16mm scale (1:19), enlarge these drawings to 107%.
- If you are working in $\frac{7}{8}$ " scale (1:13.7) enlarge these drawings to 148%.

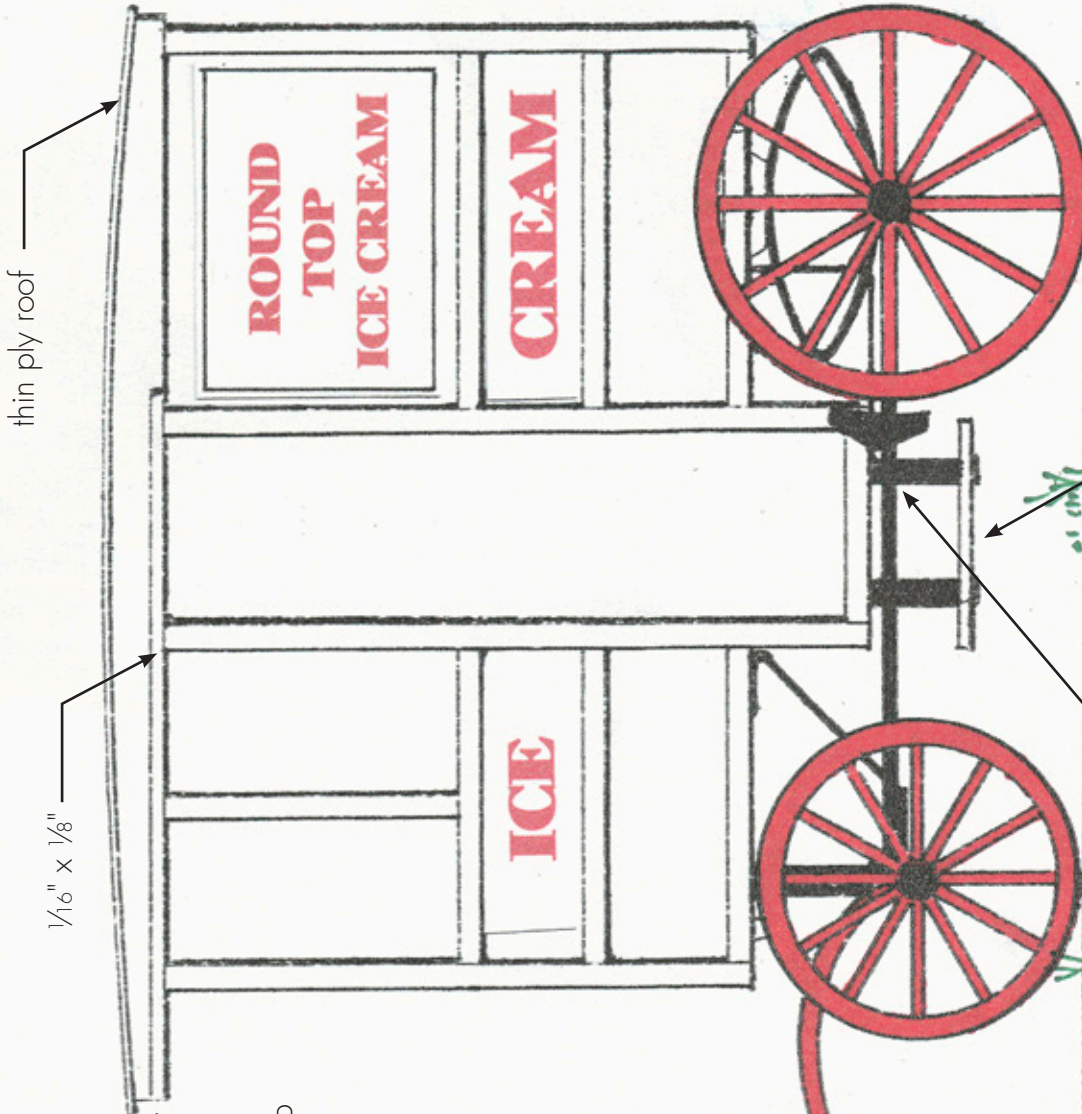
Rear signage



thin ply roof

1/16" x 1/8"

Fill with scrap



1/16" x 1/2" step

bracket

ICE

CREAM

**ROUND
TOP
ICE CREAM**

ICE

CREAM

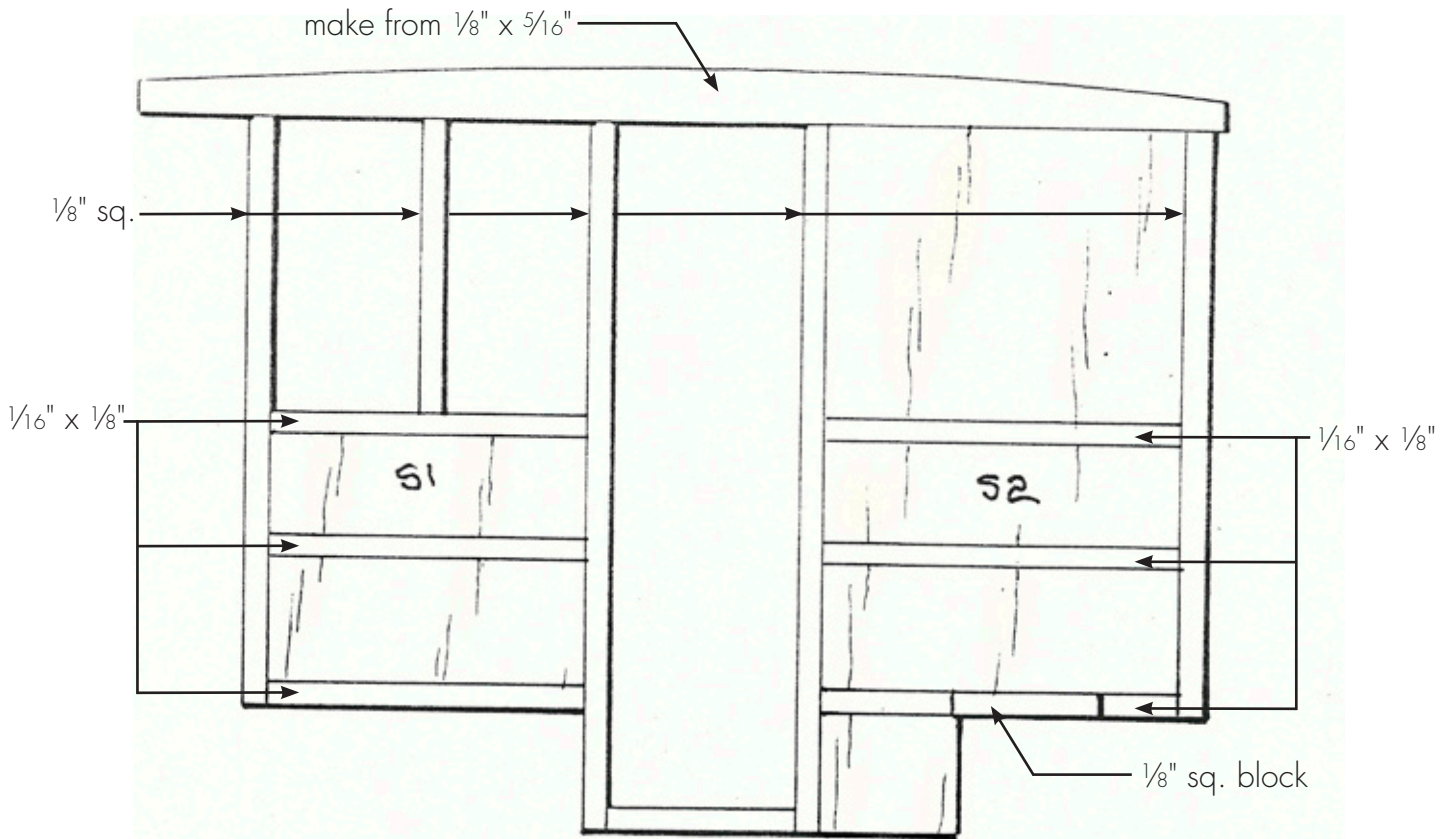
**ROUND
TOP
ICE CREAM**

**CONES
10 cents
a scoop**

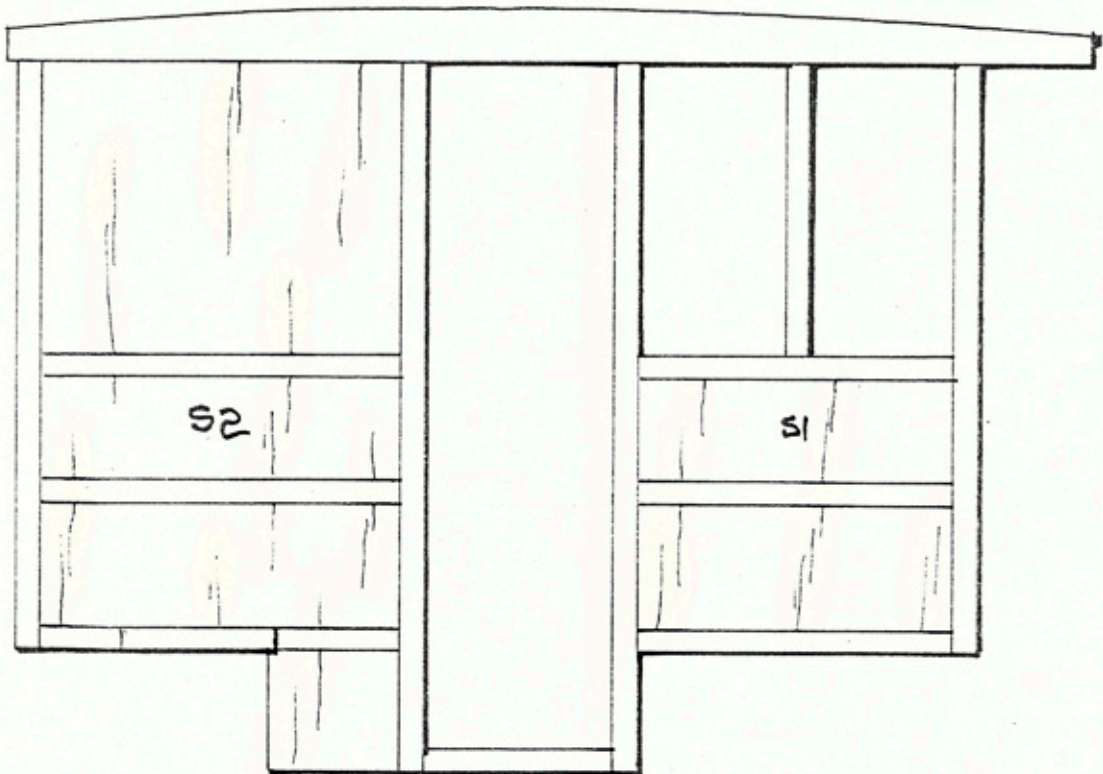
ROUND TOP

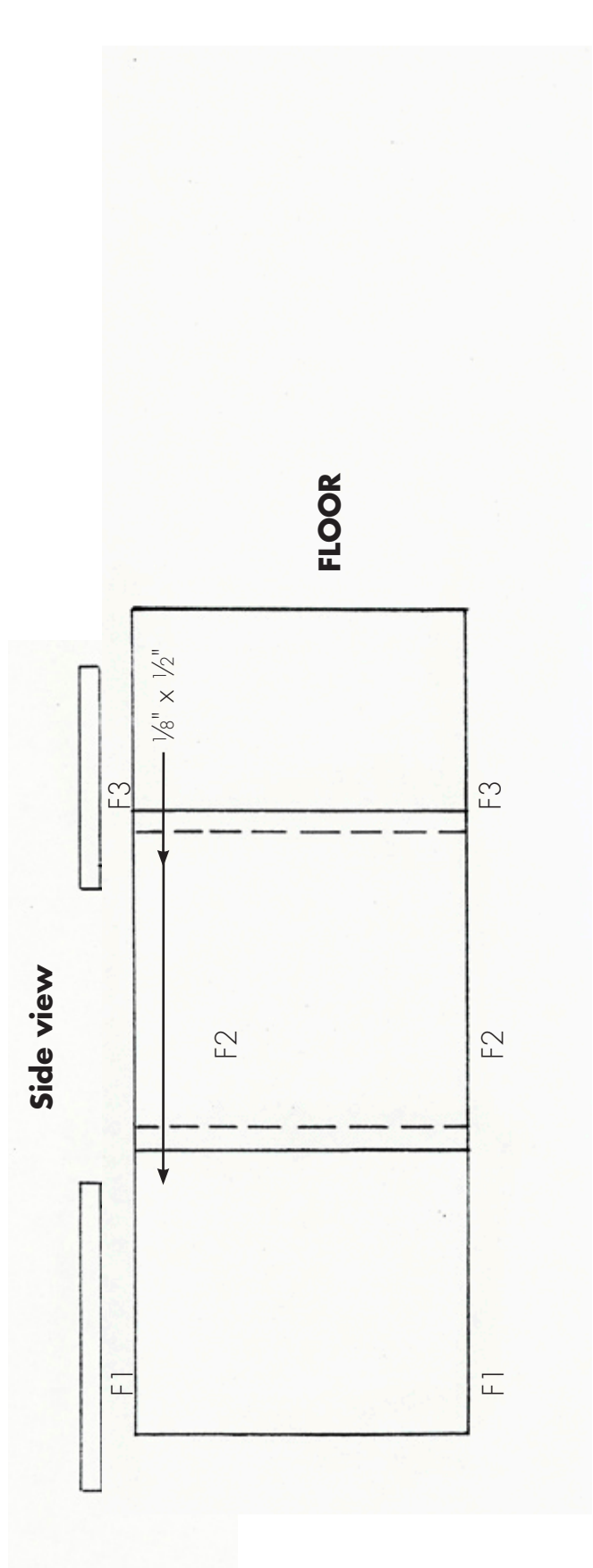
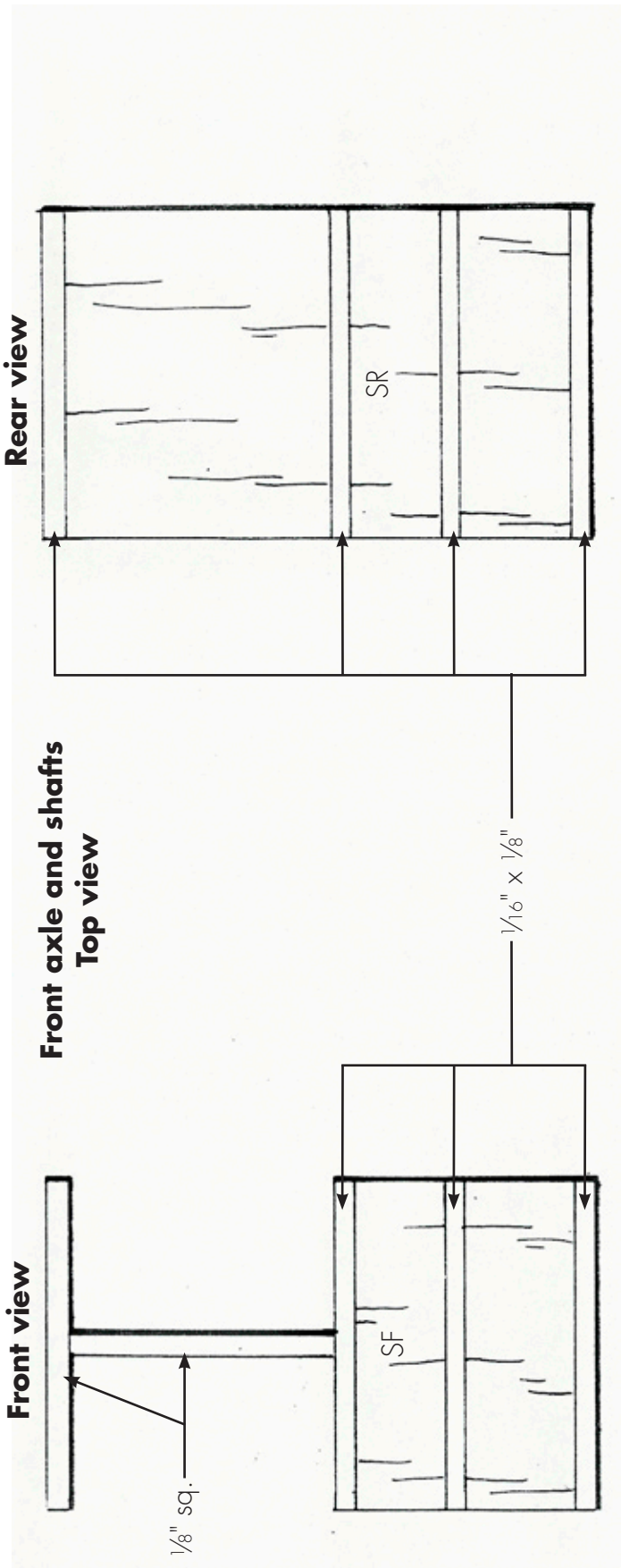
ICE CREAM

Left side view

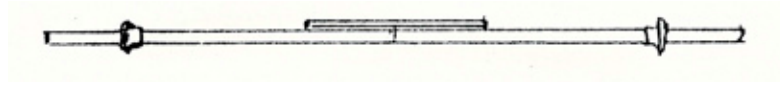


Right side view

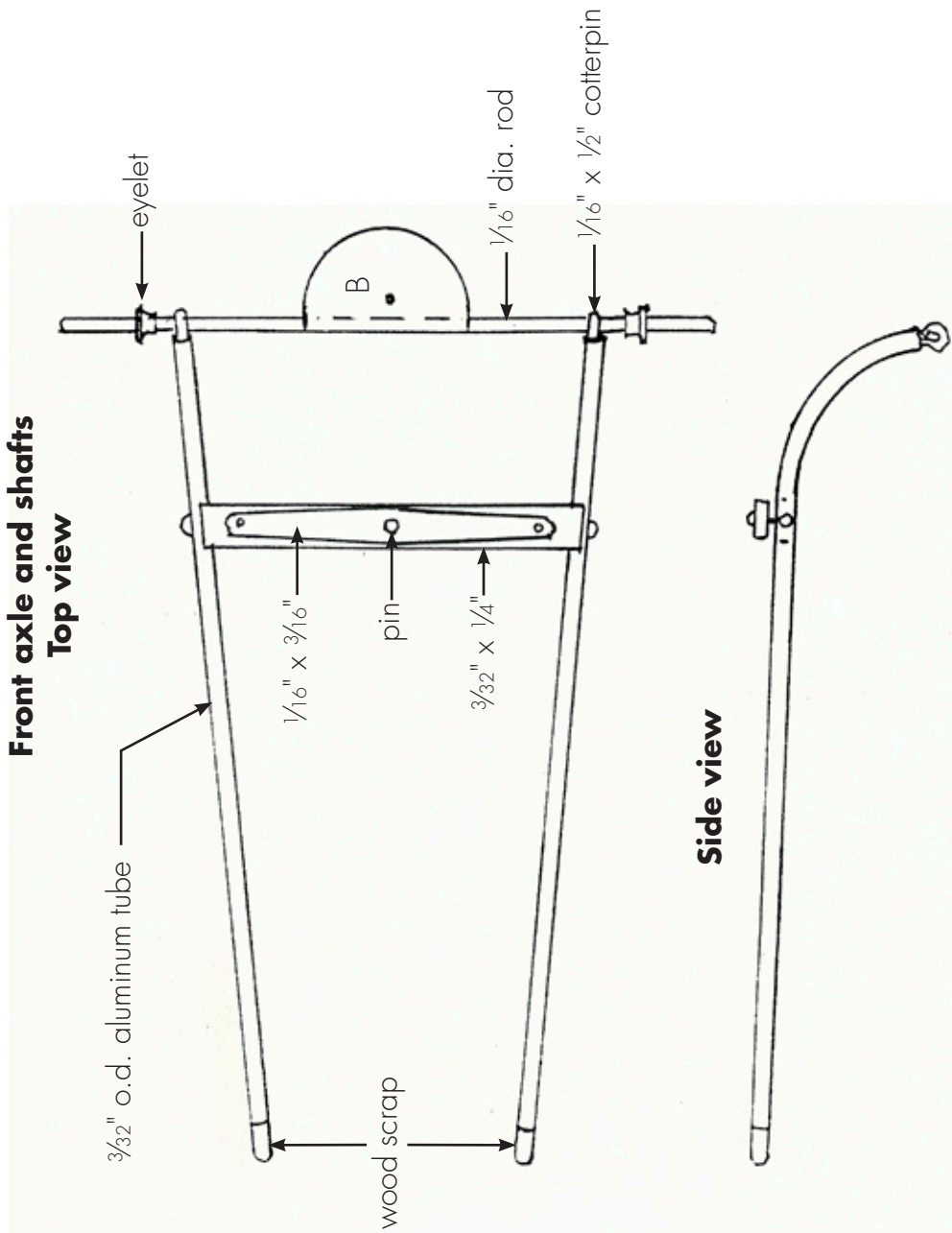




Front axle



**Front axle and shafts
Top view**



Side view

FRAME

Front spring omitted from top view for clarity

